

Dear Reader

as the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development enters in its final phase, its successor programme 'Horizon 2020' is already in preparation.

Horizon 2020 strives to provide major simplification through a single set of rules. It will combine all research and innovation funding currently provided through

- the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development (currently FP7),
- the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and
- the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

[Find out more...](#)

3-Day International Conference: 'Challenges and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Horizon 2020'

The main topic of the conference will be the future of international cooperation under 'Horizon 2020', the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation from 2014 to 2020. Among others the event addresses INCO NCPs, and FP7 Project Coordinators with international partners.

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Exchange with Central Asia and the Caucasus region: More than 200 international scholarships available from Göttingen University

In the coming years, the University of Göttingen will be able to assign a total of 226 international scholarships to scientists, students, and staff of universities in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus region. The university's International Office took over the coordination of three international exchange programmes.

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Scientific Community of the Republic of Moldova joins the European Research Area

On 1 January 2012, the Republic of Moldova became the first country in the Eastern Partnership to be associated to the Seventh Framework Programme. On January 27, the Academy of Sciences of Moldova organised an official launching event to mark Moldova's association to FP7.

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EU news

Horizon 2020: EU S&T cooperation with third countries

On 30th November 2011 EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn presented the EC's official proposal for the new European Framework Programme to boost research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe. 'Horizon 2020', with an overall budget of €80 bln, will follow the current FP7 and run from 2014 to 2020.

The international dimension – EU cooperation with third countries:

Funding for international cooperation will be more focussed to:

- promote competitiveness;
- target 'Societal Challenges' identified in Horizon 2020; and,
- support external European policies.

The new international cooperation strategy will differentiate between three country groupings:

- industrialised and emerging economies
- enlargement and neighbourhood countries and,
- developing countries.

International cooperation in research and innovation is considered an essential element for meeting the objectives of Europe 2020. Recognising the global nature of producing and using knowledge, Horizon 2020 is meant to build on the success of international cooperation in previous framework programmes and will be fully open to participation from third countries. While being open to participation to the world, funding will be more focused, allowing participants who bring exceptional cooperation skills and resources, and those from less wealthy countries, to benefit. There will be further emphasis on mutual access to research programmes. The association of countries to the programme, where participants have identical rights to those from Member States, will continue to include some of EU's closest partner countries.

A key part of international cooperation in Horizon 2020 will be developing partnerships with Member States through coordinated or joint ventures with third country partners and international organisations. As all the funding schemes allow the participation of international partners in consortia, and can be tailored to the specific requirements of the research and innovation being supported, no specific international cooperation funding schemes are foreseen in Horizon 2020. There will, however, be a mechanism for supporting joint calls and the possibility of programme co-funding with third countries or international organisations.

Further information: [Factsheet 'International participation in Horizon 2020'](#)

Source: [European Commission/ Horizon 2020](#)

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3-Day International Conference: 'Challenges and opportunities of Inter- national Cooperation in Horizon 2020'

The 3rd INCO Conference 'Challenges and opportunities of International Cooperation in Horizon 2020' and the annual NCP meeting will take place from **18 – 20 June 2012 in Bonn, Germany**.

The main topic of the conference will be the future of international cooperation in Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation from 2014 to 2020. Furthermore, a regional focus on South East Asia will provide a particular insight into international cooperation in Science and Technology.

Objectives of the conference:

- share information on international S&T cooperation
- examine experiences of international S&T partnerships
- collect the views of third countries towards international cooperation
- discuss chances & challenges of international cooperation in Horizon 2020
- outline the frame for international cooperation in Horizon 2020

Participants:

- INCO NCPs
- Representatives of EU member states
- EU Commission (DG RTD, DG DEVCO), EEAS
- FP7 project coordinators with international partners

Agenda:

18/06/2012

- In the afternoon – open to project members only: INCONTACT consortium meeting, SEA-EU-NET consortium meeting, IncoNet EECA meeting
- in the evening – open to all stakeholders interested in international scientific cooperation: Welcome drink and poster exhibition

19/06/2012

Main day of the conference - open to all stakeholders interested in international scientific cooperation

- During the day: 3rd INCO Conference
- In the evening: Joint dinner

20/06/2012

open to the INCO NCPs only

annual INCO NCP meeting and INCO NCP training session

Venue:

Universitätsclub Bonn e.V. , Konviktstr. 9, 53113 Bonn (Germany)

Contact person: [Ms Cornelia Schneider](#)

Source and further information: www.ncp-incontact.eu

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The fight for influence in the South Caucasus - what role for the EU?

The Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), in cooperation with the European Policy Centre and the Robert Bosch Foundation held an international seminar about the EU's role in the South Caucasus in Brussels, Belgium on 14 December 2011.

Gunnar Wiegand, director for Russia, the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia in the European External Action Service (EEAS), said adopting EU norms and standards could improve the prospects of South Caucasus countries. Cooperation with Brussels also focuses on mobility (via visa liberalisation), trade and investment, he added.

EU action in the region is bearing fruit in that European companies are already the largest trading partners of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. 'This is the reality. We do not always work in headlines,' the EEAS official said.

Zaur Shiriyeu, a research fellow at the Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, suggested that the EU did not have a clear vision for the South Caucasus region.

The [full report on the event](#) is available from the website of the European Policy Centre. EPC is an independent, not-for-profit think tank. Members of the EPC comprise companies, professional and business federations, trade unions, diplomatic missions, regional and local bodies, as well as NGOs.

Additional information: [EPC Report 'The EU's role in the South Caucasus'](#)

Source: www.epc.eu

Armenian and Uzbek reserachers will visit 4th European Networking Event 'Successful R&D in Europe'

The EU funded IncoNet CA/SC project will award a travel grant to four researchers from Armenia and four from Uzbekistan to facilitate their participation in the networking event 'Successful R&D in Europe', which will take place in Duesseldorf, Germany, from 8-9 March upon invitation of the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Enterprise Europe Network.

The series of events has been a great success with over 750 participants since 2009. It is one of the tasks of IncoNet CA/SC to support the participation of researchers from Central Asia and South Caucasus in brokerage events in the EU.

Source and information about the grant winners: [IncoNet CA/SC project](#)

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Exchange with Central Asia and the Caucasus region: More than 200 international scholarships available from Göttingen University

In the coming years, the University of Göttingen will be able to assign a total of 226 international scholarships to scientists, students, and staff of universities in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus region. Last autumn, the university's International Office took over the coordination of three international exchange programmes within the EU-funding line 'Erasmus Mundus Action 2'. The application period for two of these programmes has already begun. It will be open until 15 March 2012. Funding by the European Union for the two programmes amounts to a total of 5,3 million Euros over the next four years.

The scholarships have terms of three years each and are available to bachelor, master and Ph.D. students, as well as to postdoctoral researchers and staff members. The funding is not restricted to specific subjects; the first exchange will take place in the autumn of 2012. Partners in the exchange are nine universities in Central Asia (in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan), eleven universities in the Caucasus region (in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia), as well as universities in ten countries of the European Union.

'Central Asia and the Caucasus are new regions of interest for the University of Göttingen,' emphasizes Professor Hiltraud Casper-Hehne, Vice President for Research and Internationalisation. 'We aim to collaborate with the universities there on several different levels. Furthermore, we already have established collaborations with more than 65 universities all over Asia.' This November, the project partners from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Europe came together in Göttingen for a kick-off meeting. 'There, we developed and agreed on application and selection criteria as well as quality assurance,' says project initiator and coordinator Dr. Uwe Muuss, head of the International Office at Göttingen University. In addition, the University of Göttingen is a partner in eight more international projects that also enable collaborations with universities in other regions of the world.

[More detailed information](#) about the respective projects, as well as application forms and deadlines are available online.

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Source: www.uni-goettingen.de/de/goettingen-international/784.html

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Boosting Social Sciences in Central Asia to help enhance Stability and Development

Boosting the research capacity of central Asian countries in the area of social sciences and humanities can contribute to regional stability and even attract tourism to the region. An EU-funded project worked towards setting the base for achieving such goals.

Central Asian (CA) countries are today experiencing a period of rebirth and nation building. However, ongoing border disputes, issues of ethnic diversity, diverse religious beliefs and economic reforms dominate their inhabitants' daily reality. This notwithstanding, their rich history and culture promise to make the region an attractive tourist destination in the near future.

Building on the positive aspects of the relatively new nations necessarily calls for improvements in their research capacity as related to the social sciences and humanities (SSH). The turmoil of recent decades resulted in huge losses to CA research and development (R&D) and an outflow of researchers. This has gradually been reversed; with efforts focused on modernising and reforming the region's research and education systems, prospects for the future are good.

'Fostering the rebirth of social sciences and humanities in the Central Asia' (Phoenix) is a project aimed to enhance the knowledge of the SSH community with regard to researchers and the level of R&D in the CA countries. Project partners planned to expand the area of action through workshops, seminars and other information gathering events. This will help to identify and promote potential collaboration as a means of boosting the acquisition of knowledge regarding new trends in SSH and its role in the European Research Area (ERA).

Project partners relied on the expertise of Member State (MS) partners as well as that of relevant EU-funded projects and collaboration networks to support the integrated set of Phoenix's networking and training measures for the CA SSH community. Against this backdrop, Phoenix members aimed to develop the potential for research partnership and networking across national boundaries with a view to encouraging the development of the area's resources without hindrance and reinvesting the resulting profits into development of the region as a whole.

To achieve this, research infrastructures, researcher salaries and the living standards of university staff must be improved. With the efforts of projects such as Phoenix and recognition of the importance of reforms, it is expected that national governments will work to accomplish this and thus also enhance the standing of the region's already existing first-class research centres.

Source and contact for further information:

Result from the EU funded Phoenix project , provided by Ülle Must/ARCHIMEDES

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Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan – will investments push agricultural development?

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO) organised a podium discussion titled: 'Agricultural Investments in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan – "Land Grabbing" or Development Opportunity?' in the frame of the 'International Green Week 2012' in Berlin, where experts from science, policy and private sector met to exchange their views at the 'Global Forum for Food and Agriculture'.

Agricultural land has become a highly demanded resource. Media attention and research about the recent wave of investments in farmland (or "land grabbing") has concentrated almost exclusively on Africa, but significant investments in farmland can also be observed in the post-socialist countries. Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan already attracted significant large-scale investments in their agricultural sector, but the consequences of these investments on the rural economy and the rural population are far from clear. While such land accumulation can bring important and much-needed stimuli for agricultural and rural development, it might also lead to land conflicts between investors and local farmers. For example, spill-over effects to the local population in terms of job creation may be limited, because large-scale investments into agricultural production often concentrate on labour-saving technologies.

The session on 20th January 2012 brought together perspectives from science, policy, and the private sector. It provided a multifaceted view on both foreign as well as domestic investment in farmland and its likely future impacts on the agricultural sector and rural economies in three agriculturally important post-soviet countries.

After an introduction by **Prof. Dr. Alfons Balmann**, Director of the IAMO and Head of the 'Department for Structural Development of Farms and Rural Areas' ([download presentation](#)), **Dr. Oane Visser**, scientific member of the 'Department Cultural Anthropology and Development Studies' at the Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands) presented the results of his research on land investments in Eurasia ([download presentation](#)). **Stefan Duerr**, founder and owner of EkoNiva, a German-Russian group of companies, shared his first hand experience as an investor. **Oleksandr Vasylyovych Sen**, Vice-Minister of Agriculture in Ukraine and **Gulmira Issayeva**, counsellor to the Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, as well as **Elisa Manukjan** from the 'Division of International Food and Agriculture Organizations, World Food Affairs and Sustainable Development' of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection ([download presentation](#)) added a political viewpoint to the discussion. **Dr. Martin Petrick**, Deputy Head of Department Agricultural Policy at IAMO, hosted the session.

The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture was jointly organised by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) and several partners in the frame of the International Green Week 2012.

Source: [IAMO](#)

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White Paper on Chances and Challenges in EU-EECA Cooperation – consultation process

The 'White Paper on Opportunities and Challenges in View of Enhancing the EU Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and South Caucasus in Science, Research, and Innovation' is a comprehensive strategy document compiled by the IncoNet EECA and IncoNet CA/SC projects and first presented to the public at the Policy Stakeholders' Conference in Warsaw in November 2011 in a draft version.

The White Paper is the result of a wide stakeholder consultation building on the conclusions of previous Policy Stakeholder Conferences and EU-EECA experts' meetings, as well as on dedicated information gathering missions to all countries in Central Asia and South Caucasus.

The document provides a picture of the S&T landscape in EU and in EECA and, moreover, on a series of Challenges and Recommendations to address jointly in the frame of the EU-EECA International S&T cooperation.

To further consolidate the White Paper, a consultation round has recently taken place.

In a first step the interested public was invited to submit their comments or suggestions on the document. These were taken into consideration for shaping a final version.

The document was also discussed at a Project Coordinators' Meeting, which was held as a web conference on 24 February 2012: In a fruitful discussion, experienced EU-EECA Project Coordinators and Project Managers from diverse thematic backgrounds shared their views on the 41 recommendations listed in the White Paper. The results of this web meeting will be compiled in an online annex to the document, which will be published on incrEAST.

The White Paper will soon be finalized and distributed to a wide range of stakeholders.

Source: IncoNet EECA and IncoNet CA/SC

Conclusions of the 4th EU-EECA Stakeholders' Conference, Warsaw 2011



Source: IncoNet EECA

This document presents conclusions drawn at the 4th EU-EECA Policy Stakeholders' Conference in Warsaw, 15-16 November 2011.

The event brought together policy makers and S&T stakeholders from the EU and Eastern Europe/Central Asia to exchange their experiences. The conference was organised by the IncoNet EECA project and titled 'EU-EECA Cooperation in Research and Innovation: The way towards 2020'.

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Where will Belarusian science be presented in 2012?

On 30 December 2011, the Government of Belarus approved a plan of national exhibitions (expositions) abroad for 2012.

According to this plan, Belarus joint science and technology expositions will be presented

- in March – at the Indonesian International Exhibition 'Heavy Duty Vehicle and Equipment', Jakarta,
- in April – within the national exposition of Belarus in Hanoi, at International Exhibition 'Vietnam EXPO 2012'
- in April – in Germany, at Hanover Industrial Fair,
- in June – at International Commercial and Economic Fair in Harbin, China,
- in July – at Ural International Exhibition 'INNOPROM' in Yekaterinburg, Russia,
- in November – the year will be finalized with participation in the Indian International Trade Fair which will be held in New-Delhi.

The State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus is in charge of developing the S&T expositions and supports research centers, universities and innovative companies for taking part in these exhibitions and promoting their products globally. The funds are provided from the special budget line 'International Science and Technology Cooperation'.

Department of S&T events and marketing, Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere is entrusted with organizing of joint S&T expositions.

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Source: *Olga Meerovskaya, Belisa*

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Joint Belarusian-Polish call for research projects for 2013-2014 launched

A joint call for research projects has been launched by the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus and Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland within the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Science and Technology Cooperation of 18 November, 1992. The applications submitted to the call will be supported in 2013-2014. In Belarus, the order of applications submission and consideration is determined by the Regulation on S&T projects carried out within the framework of international treaties of the Republic of Belarus approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of 13 August, 2003 № 1065. When considering the nature of the projects, their potential applicability will be taken into account, as well as a written confirmation about the possible practical application of research results.

In Belarus, applications should be submitted to the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus within the period from 15 February to 15 April 2012.

Responsible agency in Belarus: State Committee for Science and Technology
Mr Gregory Lyashuk

Responsible agency in Poland: Ministry of Science and Higher Education
Ms Agnieszka Kiriłło

Source and further information in Russian: Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research provided by Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa

Call to support joint Belarusian-French scientific seminars in 2012-2013

The Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR) and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) have launched a call to support joint Belarusian-French seminars in 2012-2013.

Seminars have to be organized in Belarus and France according to research priorities of the two countries or in topics mutually interesting for the research communities. The overall aim of the call is to support networking and to strengthen bi-lateral collaboration between Belarusian and French researchers.

The seminars should be organized within the period starting from June 2012 to June 2013.

The support will be provided to Belarusian and French organizations and institutions engaged in basic research. The maximum number of participants in a seminar is 20, 10 from each party. From each party, minimum 2 different organizations should be represented in a seminar. The total duration of a seminar should not exceed 3 days.

Agreed applications according to appropriate forms have to be submitted by Belarusian co-chair of a seminar to BRFFR, by French one – to CNRS until 15 April 2012.

Source and further information in Russian: Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research provided by Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa

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State budget support for international cooperation in science and technology in 2012 approved in Belarus

On 30 December 2011 the Law № 331-3 'On the republican budget for 2012' was approved. According to this document, the expenditures and revenues will be equal and are fixed at the level of 92 772 bln. rubles.

1 389,5 bln rubles or 1,5% of the total budget expenditures will be spent for science, technology and innovation. Of them, 3,6% (50,6 bln. rubles or over 6 mln. USD for 1 January 2012) will be used for developing the international cooperation.

Expenditures for international cooperation in science, technology and innovation may include:

- Support for international bi- and multilateral research programs and projects;
- Support for international scientific conferences, seminars, symposia and exhibitions, as well as for participation of research organizations and companies in them;
- National contribution to the budget of calls for proposals carried out by international or foreign organizations, as well as co-funding of such calls;
- Reimbursement of expenditures for hosting foreign delegations and seconding Belarusian researchers and experts abroad within international agreements in science and technology;
- Membership fee of the Republic of Belarus in international research organizations it takes part in.

Source: [Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa](#)

National Center of Genome Biotechnology opened in Belarus

The Center for genetic labeling and certification of plants, animals, microorganisms and humans (National Center of Genome Biotechnology) was opened in the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on 27 December 2011.

Dr. Alexander Kilchevsky, Director of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology informed that the Center would provide services in the field of genome biotechnology to institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Sport and Tourism Ministry and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, as well as to companies and natural persons, including those from abroad. The National Center of Genome Biotechnology is a unique multi-field innovation organization which has no analogues in the CIS.

The National Center of Genome Biotechnology has been created on the basis of the certified Center of DNA biotechnology of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology and the Center for Collective Use 'Genome' within the State Program of Innovative Development of the Republic of Belarus. The mission of the Center is to determine the presence of genetically modified ingredients in food raw materials and food products, agricultural products, feeds and seeds, as well as to identify DNA-markers for certification of crop varieties. The Center can also identify the genes responsible for economically valuable characteristics and hereditary diseases in animals, and also for individual human characteristics.

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National Center of Genome Biotechnology ... (continued)

The Center has successfully passed the certification for ISO 9001-2009 quality management standard. The Center will reach the designed capacity in December 2013, which means not less than 6,944 tests per year. This will solve the problem of commercialization of genome developments in the country, and lay the ground for developing of the domestic market of genome biotechnology.

Source: *BelTA provided by Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa*

Intergovernmental agreement on S&T cooperation between Belarus and Italy comes into force

Belarus and Italy will develop a cooperation in science and technologies. The decision was approved by Council of Ministers' Resolution No 1764 of 29 December 2011. The document approves an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in science and technologies between the two countries signed in Trieste on 10 June 2011.

The agreement provides framework conditions to build up long-term contacts between scientific and production companies of the two countries, including opportunities and conditions for sharing sci-tech information. The two sides also plan to set up a joint commission for cooperation in science and technologies.

Source: *BelTA provided by Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa*

Strategy to attract foreign direct investment adopted in Belarus

The new strategy targets promoting foreign direct investments aim at economic restructuring and innovation development. Priority is given to foreign direct investment into hi-tech sectors of the economy, as well as the creation and development of technological clusters.

The strategy is meant to ensure an annual increase in foreign direct investment and help to achieve \$ -7.5 billion in FDI in 2015. It should also enable Belarus to enter the top thirty countries with the best business climate in the World Bank "Doing Business" rating, as well as higher positions in the reports of international rating agencies. The full text and linked documents are available online (see link below, in Russian only).

Source: *Government of Belarus provided by Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa*

Researcher from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus awarded George Grover Gold Medal

Prof. Leonard L. Vasilyev, Head of the Laboratory of Porous Media, Institute for Heat and Mass Transfer named after A.V. Lykov, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, doctor of technical sciences and the founder of heat pipes scientific school in Belarus has been awarded George Grover Gold Medal. This Medal is awarded by the permanent Committee on International Heat Pipe Conferences to scientists who make significant contribution in developing the two-phase heat transfer devices (heat pipes) and technologies of their fabrication. The Medal is named after George Grover who initiated research in the field of

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Researcher from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus awarded George Grover Gold Medal... (continued)

heat pipes in 1960. It will be awarded to the Belarusian winner in May 2012 in Lyon (France) at the 16th International Conference on Heat Pipes. In 1973, in Stuttgart (Germany) the first conference of leading experts in this area took place. Since then, it is held in different countries bi-annually.

Leonard Vasilyev, the winner from Belarus is the author of 14 monographs, including 3 collective ones in English, about 600 articles and reports, 218 certificates of authorship, 12 international patents. Prof. Vasiluev is a Belarus State Prize laureate. Also, he has USSR Council of Ministers Prize, the international prize named after academician A. Lykov awarded by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the award after the outstanding Indian researcher A. Ramachandran and other awards, including those for his outstanding contribution to the development of science and technology of heat pipes.

Heat pipes are heat superconductors which are capable to transfer the heat from one point to another without losses: heat flows from a few watts to several kilowatts at different orientations in the gravitational field, as well as in zero gravity without using any additional energy sources.

Currently, heat pipes have been successfully used in thermal systems of space installations, for cooling computers, electronic and electrical devices, for heating various objects, in refrigeration, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, heat exchangers, heat pumps, air conditioners, power supplies, etc.

Source:

National Academy of Sciences of Belarus provided by Olga Meerovskaya, Bellisa

Results of joint Belarusian-Latvian call for research projects announced

The State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus has announced the results of the call for research projects conducted jointly with the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia. With its order of 30 December, 2011 № 488, the SCST approved 4 research projects to be supported in 2012-2013. 8 research centers and universities (4 from each side) are involved in their implementation.

The topics of the projects include development of nanomaterials with novel properties, creation of new biological preparations for agriculture, study of environmental aspects of transboundary river basins and improving the economic and legal framework of bilateral cooperation in the effective use of mineral raw materials.

Support for Belarusian performers of joint projects will be provided by the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research.

A list of the projects approved for 2012-2013 in Russian is available [here](#).

Source: National S&T Portal of Belarus provided by Olga Meerovskaya, Bellisa

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Kazakhstan and Germany deepen cooperation in energy efficiency and renewable energies

Katherina Reiche - Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Dr. Philipp Rösler - German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, and Aset Issekeshev - Kazakh Minister of Industry and Trade, signed a joint declaration on intensifying the cooperation in energy efficiency and renewable energies on 8 February 2012. The signing took place in Berlin in the frame of the state visit of the Kazakh President, Nursultan Nasarbajew.

After the event Katherina Reiche declared that the BMU intends to support Kazakhstan via joint projects in its efforts for a climate friendly and energy efficient alignment of the Kazakh economy. Project related cooperation in environment and climate protection has been gradually enhanced over the recent years. Thus, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety supports Kazakhstan in establishing a national system for emission trading. In addition to that consultations on renewable energies and on incentives to foster energy efficiency investments will be deepened.

The political goal was set by the Kazakh President himself: Kazakhstan aims to become the regional spearhead to boost Green Growth and to intensify the development of energy efficiency and renewable energies. Kazakhstan is especially interested in Germany's know-how in setting the respective administrative and legal framework and in German environment technologies.

Source:

www.bmu.de/int_umweltpolitik/bilaterale_zusammenarbeit/doc/48328.php

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Scientific Community of Moldova joins the European Research Area

Starting on 1 January 2012, the Republic of Moldova became the first country in the Eastern Partnership and the second in the European Neighborhood Policy to be associated to the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development of the European Community (FP7).

An official launching event on 27 January 2012 was organised to mark Moldova's association to FP7, a status that will offer new opportunities to cooperate and compete as an equal partner in all calls announced within FP7, become a part of the European network of scientists and benefit from the scientific European potential in solving national problems.

HE Dirk Steffen Shuebel, Head of the European Union Delegation to Moldova, Mr Laurent Bochereau, Head of Unit for International cooperation policy, European Commission, Mrs Kamila Partyka, Policy Officer - Marie Curie Actions, European Commission, Mr Hasan Turgay Tursun, International Relations Officer - Joint Research Centre, European Commission, and from Moldovan side Mr Chiril Lucinschi, President of the Parliamentary Commission on culture, education, research, youth, sport and mass-media, and Mrs Natalia Gherman, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration participated in the event, which was organised by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova in partnership with the DG for Research and Innovation of European Commission.

In his opening remark, acad. Gheorghe Duca, president of ASM, expressed words of gratitude to all those that supported ASM in preparing the association, especially to the Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Union Delegation in Moldova and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, for the support and assistance during the process of negotiations and association to FP7.

'I'm very glad that we managed to turn our aspirations into reality, creating new opportunities for scientists from our country,' said the President of ASM in his speech. Academician Gheorghe Duca added, that to increase participation in FP7 programs and get the most out of the new statute, the Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development of the ASM has recently adopted Moldova towards Horizon 2020, an Action Plan on the implementation of FP7 associated country status, also the 'European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers'.

In this context, Natalia Gherman, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration said that the association to the FP7 represents a right step

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Scientific Community of Moldova joins the ERA... (continued)

in establishing efficient and long-term RM-EU relations. 'Due to the association, the scientific community, business and civil society will have more access to opportunities for cooperation in the field of science and technology and to increase the role of research and innovation on the national public agenda,' said Mrs Gherman.

Also, at the launch event, the European guests presented more information about possibilities for researchers from Republic of Moldova to participate in the Marie Curie Actions and the Joint Research Centre, suggestions related to the drafting and application procedure, details of new recent launched calls, etc.

We want to mention that on 11 October in Brussels, Acad. Gheorghe Duca, President of ASM and Márie Gheorghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, signed the Memorandum Of Understanding between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on the association of the Republic of Moldova to the the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstrative activities (2007-2013).

Please visit the [event's photo gallery](#).

Source: [Sergiu Porcescu](#), [Academy of Sciences of Moldova](#)

Moldovan energy and environment researchers seek EU partners

The 3rd edition of the catalogue of Moldovan researchers, research centres, non-governmental organizations, and companies active in the fields of Environment and Energy research has been issued. It contains current and detailed information on contact persons, expertise or project ideas, experience of participation in international and national projects etc. It is a useful tool for finding appropriate partners for R&D activities. The organizations and the researchers featured in this catalogue are looking for partners and consortia for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and other international cooperation research projects.

High Quality Partner Search for International users:

Environment & Energy Research Moldova is the source for finding high quality research institutions and companies in Moldova. This Catalogue offers the opportunity to gain current and detailed information on numerous Moldovan Environment and Energy research entities.

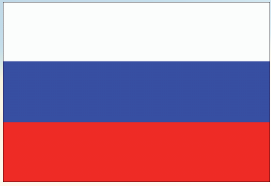
[Download the catalogue \(PDF\)](#)

Source: [Veaceslav Boldescu](#), [Energy & Environment NCP, Moldova](#)

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Putin calls for adopting ten year research programs

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has demanded 10 year research programs from scientific institutions and pledged to increase multifold the financing of research funds by 2018.

'Ten year programs of fundamental and basic research should be approved for the Russian Academy of Sciences, leading research universities and state-run research centers,' he wrote in his article published in the Vedomosti daily on Monday.

At the same time he noted that 'such programs should be defended and regular reports on the programs' implementation should be made not to officials of the Education and Science Ministry, but to tax payers and the scientific community through attraction of authoritative international experts,' Putin said noting that the authorities should be directly reported on defence-related developments.

He assured that the government 'will raise the financing of state research funds that support research teams' initiatives several times - to 25 billion roubles in 2018.'

'Research grants should be compatible to those provided to scientists in the west,' Putin said.

The head of government noted that 'it is necessary to take further efforts to include Russia's research centres, universities and enterprises into international mechanisms of research result capitalization.'

Putin stressed the need for 'overcoming inertness of the big domestic capital that - let's have it straight - became disaccustomed to innovation projects, research and development efforts.'

'Now 47 companies with state participation adopted innovation programs. However, private corporations should get accustomed to injecting 3-5 percent of their gross revenues to research and development as well,' he said. 'It is necessary to develop relevant tax instruments, but the main thing is for private business owners to realize that without this they will not be simply perceived as equal participants on the global market.'

Source: *ITAR-TASS* provided by *Alexander Mazurin*, *HSE*

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New document: 'Russia - Modernisation through Innovation and Research'

Titled 'Russland – Modernisierung durch Innovation und Forschung' (Russia – Modernisation through Innovation and Research) a comprehensive document, jointly compiled by the International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research and the VDI Technology Center, provides interested parties with an overview of the current research and innovation policy trends in Russia. It highlights a wide range of aspects concerning R&D cooperation between Russia and the EU, with a focus on German-Russian relations.

The documents contains articles in German and in English language, depending on their respective source.

Source:

Kooperation International provided by the International Bureau of the BMBF

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BP, Skolkovo Foundation, Boreskov Institute and Imperial College London to work together on Energy Efficiency Research Programme

BP Russia and the Skolkovo Foundation announced an agreement to set up a major research collaboration with Russia's Boreskov Institute of Catalysis, one of the world's largest research centres, specialising in catalysis, and Imperial College London, one of the world's leading universities. The parties will now work together to define a three to five year GBP 9.3 million energy efficiency research programme which will, subject to the conclusion of the collaboration agreement, be co-funded by BP Russia and the Skolkovo Foundation.

The partnership will focus on improving efficiency in the use and recovery of thermal energy in the oil and gas industry, with a particular emphasis on refining processes. The programme will consist of research and technology development in a number of areas, including heat exchange equipment and processes, novel catalysts, fouling mitigation technologies in heat exchanges and pipelines, energy recovery and waste heat recycling. The agreement was signed in Moscow on December 2011 by David Peattie, Head of BP Russia, and Vasily Belov, Executive Director of Skolkovo Foundation Energy Efficiency Cluster.

Source: Skolkovo Foundation provided by Alexander Mazurin, HSE

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UCAB signs agreement with IAMO at International Green Week in Germany

In the framework of the International Green Week (Berlin, Germany), the Association «Ukrainian Agribusiness Club» (UCAB) together with the Ukrainian Embassy in Germany and the Eastern Committee on Economic Relations organised an Evening on Ukrainian Agribusiness. The reception, in which the Ukrainian Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food, Mykola Prysiachnyuk, participated, was held at the Ukrainian Embassy in Berlin on January 20.

During this event an agreement on mutual cooperation between UCAB and the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO) was signed.

'Both our institutions have been closely collaborating for many years. And now we understand that it is time to formalize our relations in order to strengthen our common activities such as exchange of information and personnel, initiation of joint scientific projects, career advancement etc.,' Alex Lissitsa, the President of UCAB, said.

Source: [UCAB website](#)

More information in German language: [Kooperation International](#)

BILAT-UKR Final Conference

The Final Conference of the FP7 funded BILAT-UKR project (September 2008 – February 2012) took place in Kiev on January 31st and February 1st, 2012.

The main results and achievements of BILAT-UKR, examples of tools for enhanced EU-Ukraine cooperation and other key issues were presented.

The introductory note by Project Coordinator Martine Bonin (CNRS, France) was followed by a presentation of the network of Ukrainian FP7 National Contact Points and, in parallel, a Policy Round Table at the State Agency for Science, Innovation and Information of Ukraine.

In the afternoon of the first day, four parallel sessions took place. On the second day, a National Contact Points Round Table was held.

Source and further information: [BILAT-UKR](#)

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International Institute for Solar Energy is opening in Tashkent

On February 16 the first Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Uzbekistan, Rustam Azimov, and the president of the Asian Bank for Development, Harukiko Kuroda, signed a Memorandum on the creation of a new Research Centre for Solar Energy, which will allow Uzbekistan to become a hub of international knowledge and an expert in solar technologies in the future.

As reported in the press release of ABD, the International Institute of solar energy (IISE) is meant to become an internationally recognized source of experience in the sphere of education, study and technologies of solar energy.

The researches carried out will promote the development of innovation, technology transfer and the effective and economic usage of solar technology.

'The usage of solar energy for the development of the fuel industry is not only an option but a necessity,- said Harukiko Kuroda in the ceremony of signing of the memorandum,- ABD supports the commitment of Uzbekistan to accumulate experience, implement research and develop infrastructure, technologies and practices of clean energy'.

The stocks of carbon, gas and oil are limited. Solar energy is one of the promising alternatives. The creation of IISE will support Uzbekistan to gain experience in generating electric power at the expense of solar resources.

ABD is supporting the program 'Asian Initiative for Solar Energy' aimed at the promotion of development, financing and bringing in generators of solar energy of 3000 MB capacity to the exploitation in the developing countries.

The Asian Bank for Development, with its headquarter located in Manila, was founded in 1996 and comprises 67 countries, 48 of which are located in the region.

Source: www.gazeta.uz/2012/02/16/solar provided by *Dudona Komilova*, IUCP-T

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Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers adopts arrangements on the optimization of the structure of the Academy of Sciences

With the aim of increasing the effectiveness of the activity of scientific organizations in compliance with modern requirements, the development of scientific potential of Higher Educational Institutes of the country and enhancement of science and production integration in accordance with the Governmental Decree, some scientific organizations of the Academy of Sciences will be liquidated and some of them will be reorganized.

The liquidated institutes include the Samarkand Regional Department of the Academy of Sciences and the Scientific Research Institute 'Algorithm – Engineering'.

Also liquidated will be the Andijan-NAmangan Cientific Centre, the Bukhara and Fergana Scientific Centre, and the South Regional Scientific Centre. Their properties and projects will be given to Andijan, Bukhara, Karshi and Fergana State universities.

Projects and properties of the Institute of Philosophy and Laws will be given to the National University (philosophy block) and to theTashkent State Legal Institute (law block).

Besides, the Institute of Heat Physics is liquidated and its properties and projects will be given to the reorganized Institute of Ion-Plasmous and Laser Technologies. The Institute of Biochemistry and Institute of Physiology and Biophysics are being liquidated, too. Their properties and projects will be given to the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry.

The Institute of Electronics will be reorganized and – in compliance with the decree – will be amended to the Institute of Ion-Plasmous and Laser Technologies and Scientific Productive Association “Akademprigor” to the specialized constructive-technological bureau under this institute.

In the basis of the of the Institute of Zoology and Scientific Productive Center 'Botanika' (including the Karakalpak branch) is the creating Institute of Genofond of plant and animal world.

The Samarkand Complex Scientific Research Institute of Regional Problems will be reorganized to The Problems Laboratory on Ecology Issues at Samarkand State University.

The Institute of Water problems will join the Scientific Productive Organization Central Asian Scientific Research Institute of Irrigation and in the basis of these two Institutes the Scientific Research Institute of

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Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers adopts arrangements on the optimization of the structure... (continued)

Irrigation and Water Problems under Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration will be created.

The Scientific Research Institute of Mathematics and Information Technologies will be divided into two blocks, in the basis of which The Institute of Mathematics under National University and Center for the Development of Program Products and Hardware Complexes under Tashkent University of Information Technologies will open.

The Institute of Bioecology, the Complex Institute of Natural Sciences, and the Institute of Social-Economic Problems of the Karakalpak Regional Department of the Academy of Sciences will be merged to create the Karakalpak Scientific-Research Institute of Natural Sciences.

The Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography and The Institute of Language and Literature of the Karakalpak Branch of the Academy of Sciences will join with the Karakalpak Scientific-Research Institute of Humanities.

As it is noted in the document these changes will promote the enhancement of activity effectiveness of scientific organizations in compliance with modern requirements, development of scientific potential of the Higher Education Institutes of the country and strengthening of science and production integration.

As foreseen in the Decree a Working Group in the lead of vice-prime minister Abdulla Aripov was created, to implement measures of optimization and to increase the activity of the scientific institutes of the Academy of Sciences.

This working group will focus on the concentration of scientific research by setting thematic priorities on the social-economic development of the country with the aim to define concrete measures and practical directions to increase the results.

Source:

<http://news.olan.uz/nauka/7573.html> provided by Dudona Komilova, IUCP-T

country news

'Follow the Innovation: Participatory Testing and Adaptation of Agricultural Innovations in Uzbekistan'

The Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn recently published the document 'Follow the Innovation: Participatory Testing and Adaptation of Agricultural Innovations in Uzbekistan'.



With these guidelines, ZEF wants to share its experience with a participatory research approach to the development and implementation of innovations, which was gathered within the interdisciplinary project 'Economic and ecological restructuring of land and water in the region Khorezm (Uzbekistan)'. The project was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and implemented in collaboration with local partners.

Source: Center for Development Research (ZEF)



Conferences and Exhibitions in Turkmenistan 2012

A compilation of exhibitions and conferences, which will take place in Turkmenistan in 2012, is now available online.

- CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS in 2012 (English)
- КОНФЕРЕНЦИЙ И ВЫСТАВОК на 2012 год (Russian)

Source: Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan

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Новости на русском языке

В Узбекистане создается Международный институт солнечной энергии

16 февраля первый заместитель премьер-министра и министр финансов Узбекистана Рустам Азимов и президент Азиатского банка развития Харухико Курода подписали в Ташкенте меморандум о создании нового исследовательского центра по солнечной энергии, который со временем позволит Узбекистану стать международным хабом знаний и экспортером солнечных технологий.

Международный институт солнечной энергии (МИСЭ) станет международно признанным источником опыта в сфере образования, обучения и технологий солнечной энергии, говорится в пресс-релизе АБР. Проводимые здесь исследования будут способствовать разработке инноваций, развитию передачи технологий и стимулированию эффективного и экономичного использования солнечных технологий.

«Использование солнечной энергии для развития топливной промышленности уже не просто один из вариантов – а необходимость, – сказал Харухико Курода на церемонии подписания. – АБР поддерживает приверженность Узбекистана накоплению опыта, проведению исследований, внедрению инноваций и развитию производственного потенциала, эффективному инвестированию в развитие инфраструктуры, технологий и практики по чистой энергии».

Запасы угля, газа и нефти ограничены. Солнечная энергетика – один из многообещающих альтернатив. Создание МИСЭ будет содействовать Узбекистану в накоплении опыта в генерации электроэнергии за счет солнечных ресурсов.

АБР, поддерживающий программу «Азиатская инициатива по солнечной энергии», нацелен на содействие развитию, финансированию и введения в эксплуатацию генераторов солнечной энергии мощностью 3000 МВт в развивающихся странах-членах до середины 2013 года.

Азиатский банк развития, штаб-квартира которого находится в Маниле, был основан в 1966 году и сегодня объединяет 67 стран, 48 из которых находятся внутри региона.

Источник:

www.gazeta.uz/2012/02/16/solar provided by [Dudona Komilova](#), IUCP-T

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Новости на русском языке

Кабинет министров Узбекистана утвердил меры по оптимизации структуры Академии наук, включающие ликвидацию и реорганизацию ряда научных учреждений

В целях повышения эффективности деятельности научных учреждений в соответствии с современными требованиями, развитию научного потенциала вузов страны и усилению интеграции науки и производства согласно постановлению правительства, ряд научных учреждений Академии наук (АН) будет ликвидирован и ряд других - реорганизован. В число ликвидируемых учреждений вошли Самаркандское региональное отделение АН и Научно-исследовательский институт "Алгоритм-инжиниринг".

Ликвидации также подлежат Андижан-Наманганский научный центр, Бухарский и Ферганский научные центры, Южный региональный научный центр. Их имущество и проекты передаются соответственно в Андижанский, Бухарский, Каршинский и Ферганский госуниверситеты.

Проекты и имущество ликвидируемого Института философии и права передаются в Национальный университет (блок философии) и в Ташкентский государственный юридический институт (блок права).

Кроме того, ликвидируются отдел теплофизики, чье имущество и проекты передаются вновь создаваемому Институту ионно-плазменных и лазерных технологий, а также Институт биохимии и Институт физиологии и биофизики - их имущество и проекты перейдут в Институт биоорганической химии.

Институт электроники, в соответствии с постановлением, преобразуется в Институт ионно-плазменных и лазерных технологий, НПО "Академприбор" - в специализированное конструкторско-технологическое бюро при этом институте.

На базе Института зоологии и НПЦ "Ботаника" (включая Каракалпакский филиал центра) создается Институт генофонда растительного и животного мира.

Комплексный научно-исследовательский институт региональных проблем Самаркандского отделения АН преобразуется в Проблемную лабораторию по вопросам экологии Самаркандского госуниверситета.

Институт водных проблем сливается с НПО САНИИРИ минсельводхоза и на их базе создается НИИ ирригации и водных проблем при Ташкентском институте ирригации и мелиорации.

НИИ математики и информационных технологий разделяется на два соответствующих блока, на основе которых открываются Институт

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математики при Национальном университете и Центр разработки программных продуктов и аппаратно-программных комплексов при Ташкентском университете информационных технологий.

На базе Института биоэкологии, Комплексного института естественных наук и Института социально-экономических проблем Каракалпакского регионального отделения АН путем слияния будет создан Каракалпакский научно-исследовательский институт естественных наук.

Институт истории, археологии и этнографии и Институт языка и литературы Каракалпакского отделения АН объединяются в Каракалпакский научно-исследовательский институт гуманитарных наук.

Как отмечается в документе, это должно способствовать повышению эффективности деятельности научных учреждений в соответствии с современными требованиями, развитию научного потенциала вузов страны и усилению интеграции науки и производства.

Постановлением создана рабочая группа во главе с вице-премьером Абдуллой Ариповым для осуществления мер по оптимизации численности и повышению эффективности деятельности научных учреждений АН. Особое внимание рабочей группе предстоит обратить на сосредоточение научных исследований на приоритетных направлениях социально-экономического развития страны с определением конкретных мер по усилению их практической направленности и повышению результативности.

Источник:

<http://news.olan.uz/nauka/7573.html> provided by *Dudona Komilova*, IUCP-T

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