



## INCO-NET EECA

S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries  
[www.inco-eeca.net](http://www.inco-eeca.net) / [www.increast.eu](http://www.increast.eu)

<p><b>Project budget</b> 3.550.000 €</p> <p><b>Project duration</b> 01.01.2008 – 30.06.2012</p>	<p><b>Project coordinator</b> Dr. George Bonas International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS, Greece) <a href="mailto:gbonas@eie.gr">gbonas@eie.gr</a></p>	<p><b>Contact person</b> Dr. Barbara Wick International Bureau of the BMBF (DLR) <a href="mailto:Barbara.Wick@dlr.de">Barbara.Wick@dlr.de</a></p>
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### CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

1. International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), Greece - Coordinator
2. International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research-German Aerospace Center (DLR), Germany
3. Higher School of Economics (HSE), Russia
4. Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Austria
5. The National Information Centre for Ukraine-EU S&T Cooperation (NIP), Ukraine
6. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Turkey
7. Independent Expert Consulting Board to Pro-mote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan (InExCB-KZ), Kazakhstan
8. Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA), Sweden
9. Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology Development (IUCP-T), Uzbekistan
10. Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

#### Background

The partnership between the countries of the European Union and Eastern Europe/Central Asia (EECA) is of utmost importance for the political, economic and social development of both regions. Linking the scientific potential and resources has a huge impact on economic growth, social prosperity and welfare as well as public stability. The EU and EECA countries have significant potentials both in terms of the strong academic community and of worldwide leading S&T institutes in a variety of scientific disciplines.

In order to make optimum use of each others academic strengths, to share respective resources and to prepare the ground for a joint transfer of academic results to national, regional and worldwide markets there is a strong bi-regional interest in enhancing S&T cooperation. Although the S&T cooperation between the EU Member States, Associated Countries and the EECA partner countries is quite developed, there is still much room for its further development addressing each others priorities as well as global challenges and building on national, bilateral and Community instruments. The IncoNet EECA project will facilitate a coordination of S&T policies building on common interest and aiming at mutual benefit in order to strengthen the cooperation between EU and EECA.

The main objectives of IncoNet EECA are:

- To support and facilitate a bi-regional EU – EECA S&T policy dialogue and, in the case of Russia and the Ukraine, a complementary bilateral S&T policy dialogue involving stakeholders from policy making, science community and industry. The dialogue will address national S&T potential, policy goals and demands in order to define common priorities and to develop respective joint scenarios and implementation strategies in order to strengthen the S&T cooperation. During this project, three S&T Policy Dialogue Platforms will be established and supported through the creation of a knowledge base and a variety of other concrete activities.
- To address other EU policies and their Instruments from which S&T cooperation with EECA could benefit. Emphasis will be given to the European Neighbourhood Policy – ENP and the Four Common Spaces with Russia (External Relations), the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation (DCEC), the Education Policy (Life Long Learning Programme - LLL) and the Innovation policy (Competitiveness and Innovation Programme – CIP)
- To strengthen the participation of EECA in FP7 with emphasis on the

11. Centre of Ideas and Technologies (CIT), Armenia
12. Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas-Help Forward Network (H-F), Greece
13. National Academy of Sciences of Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAS), Azerbaijan
14. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), Bulgaria
15. Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM), Moldova
16. Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway
17. Archimedes Foundation (Archimedes), Estonia
18. Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Science & Technology Sphere Information Support (BellSA), Belarus
19. National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (NSPSPA), Romania
20. Georgian National Science Foundation (GNSF), Georgia
21. National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU (IPPT-PAN), Poland
22. Academy of Finland (AKA), Finland

### MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY NETWORK FORUM

The Advisory Network Forum will be maintained and the EECA FP7 NCPs mentored by the following project partners:

- International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research – German Aerospace Center, DLR, Germany
- Austrian Research Promotion

'Cooperation' Programme but addressing other Specific Programmes, such as 'Peoples', 'Ideas', 'Capacities – SMEs', as well. In parallel, concrete recommendation for future Specific International Cooperation Activities (SICAs) will be presented to the European Commission and to the responsible Programme Committees.

- To raise the capacities of the EECA countries, through particular activities that will address the institution building and human potential development of the existing National Information Points/National Contact Points.
- To implement strategic analyses that will provide a knowledge base and scientific evidence for the bi-regional/ bilateral dialogue.
- To monitor and review the activities performed in the context of IncoNet EECA in order to assess the quality of the overall process (SWOT analysis) and to ensure the sustainability of these activities beyond the 4-year duration of this project.
- To build a public 'EU-EECA S&T Web Portal' and to setup a Central Information Office to widely disseminate information and to raise awareness of the potential of and the framework for enhanced EU-EECA S&T cooperation.

#### The specific objectives of INCO-NET EECA are

##### WP1 Enhancing bi-regional S&T Policy Dialogue:

- Setting up a secretariat to organize and support a series of Policy Stakeholder Conferences with the EECA countries and working groups.
- Facilitating a dialogue of policy makers with other stakeholders from the scientific community and industry.
- Supporting the process of drafting and adopting an 'EU-EECA Action Plan in S&T' and recommendations for strategy papers for the cooperation with EECA countries taking into consideration specific political framework conditions as the Four Common Spaces for Russia.
- Providing guidance and support for *ad-hoc* working groups on topics identified during the Stakeholder Conferences.

##### WP2 Coordination with other EU policies:

- Explore synergies of the respective Community policies and instruments.
- Identify priorities for S&T based economic and social development in Eastern Europe.
- Develop the framework for S&T cooperation with EECA through other community programmes: exploiting options for financing of activities towards S&T infrastructure and human capacity building, reform of the higher education sector, networking of the innovation partners (education, research, industry, administration) and technology transfer.
- Develop respective S&T related recommendations for future bilateral, regional and multilateral activities in other Community instruments to be addressed to responsible EU and EECA stakeholders.
- Contribute to the coherence of the various EU policies.

The focus will be on the EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and respectively the Four Common Spaces with Russia, the Development Cooperation Instrument with Central Asia (DCI), the Life Long Learning Programme (LLL), as well as on the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

Agency, FFG, Austria

- Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, VINNOVA, Sweden
- Hellenic Project for Wider Application of R&D - "PRAXI" in Greek, PRAXI/HELP-FORWARD Network, Greece

## ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

The **International Bureau of the BMBF** (short: IB) has responsibilities in several work packages (WPs) of the project:

- Within **WP1** the IB is responsible for the organization and support of a series of Policy Stakeholder Conferences with the EECA countries
- Within **WP2** the IB holds responsibility for the analysis of S&T as part of ENPI/Four Common Spaces
- In **WP6** the IB coordinates the cooperation with other „Coordination and Support Activities“ addressing EECA countries.
- Within **WP7** the IB's first task was to establish a project website and additionally a web portal that would provide information about S&T activities in the EECA countries beyond the lifetime of the project. As a part of this activity the project's "Central Information Office (CIO)" was established in Bonn.
  - The project website ([www.inco-eeca.net](http://www.inco-eeca.net)) has been online since February 2008. The website provides general information about the project.
  - The web portal incrEAST ([www.increast.eu](http://www.increast.eu)) has been online since August 2008. IncrEAST is a central information portal for S&T activities in the EECA region that aims at enhancing the networking between stakeholders from the EECA and the ERA

### WP3 Strengthening the participation of EECA in FP7:

To increase the participation of research teams and institutions from EECA through targeted actions addressing main activities of FP7, as follows:

- Better achieve the FP7 goals and address specific problems of "Third Countries/Regions" through proposing Specific International Cooperation Activities of mutual EU-EECA interest addressing the strengths and needs of the partner countries;
- Raise the full potential of the cooperation with "Third Countries" in the "core activities" of FP7 (with emphasis on collaborative research);
- Increased participation of the EECA countries in the Specific Programme "People" with particular emphasis on fostering the outward mobility from EU to leading EECA S&T institutions and investigating opportunities in the 'Ideas' and 'Capacities – SMEs' Programmes.

It is expected, that similar activities will be supported through the BILAT Call of the "Capacities" programme addressing the S&T Partnership Agreements with Russia and the Ukraine and through dedicated "Coordination and Support Actions" along the themes of the "Cooperation" programme.

A coordination of the aforementioned programmes and calls at Commission is foreseen. Attention will be paid to ensure synergies and complementarities between project activities and other relevant actions funded under FP7.

### WP4 Supporting the NCPs/NIPs in EECA countries:

- Increase the capacities of the NCP's and NIP's in the EECA to implement FP7.
- Increase regional networking in the EECA.
- Increase the integration of the NCP's and NIP's in the EECA into the European NCPnetworks.
- Support to the EECA NCPs/NIPs for optimum information dissemination building on existing tools (CORDIS, EU NCPs, etc.) by the task leaders.
- Continuous consultancy for the EECA NCPs/NIPs of the region on demand by the task leaders in order to raise the number of successful participants from their respective countries.

An additional goal is to assure the complementarity of the IncoNet EECA activities and other CSA activities targeting NCP networking and capacity building funded within FP7.

### WP5 Analyses, Monitoring and Review:

To address key factors influencing the scientific cooperation between the EU and the EECA countries, in order to identify needs, to propose solutions and to feed the policy dialogue at the level of the Platforms (WP 1).

### WP6 Quality, Links and Sustainability:

- To ensure the quality of the overall process;
- To exchange information and experience with other S&T coordination and support activities addressing EECA countries and exploiting synergies;
- To ensure the sustainability of the activities that are undertaken in

– In addition the CIO set up a web-based and password protected Communication Platform for the internal communication of the project consortium.

The WP7 task of organising EECA sessions with major European science events was retroactively also assigned to the IB. The CIO organised the participation in ESOF 2010, ICT 2010 and BIOTECHNICA 2011.

order to allow their continuation beyond the limits of the project, wherever applicable.

#### WP7 Communication, Dissemination activities and Conferences:

- To ensure the communication and exchange of information within the project; and
- To make the results of the project widely visible to the various EU and EECA stakeholders and to the scientific community, in order to enhance their exploitation and implementation.

#### WP8 Management:

- To organise and coordinate the entire flow of activities, in such a way as to meet the project objectives.
- To ensure the proper implementation of the contract (reporting, administration, cost statements).

#### WP9 Pilot Evaluation Exercises

- Planning, organization and implementation of a pilot policy mix review exercise of the national STI systems in Moldova and Kazakhstan
- Planning, organization and implementation of a pilot benchmarking exercise of research institutions in four EECA countries

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**15-16 November 2011**

- Policy Stakeholders' Conference: "EU-Eastern Europe/Central Asia Cooperation in Research and Innovation: The way towards 2020", Warsaw

**Feb/March 2012**

- Workshop on S&T as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENPI), Chisinau

**March/April 2012**

- Thematic Workshops on Health, Energy and Global Challenges (Climate Change), Bucharest

**April 2010**

- Policy Stakeholders' Conference, Kiev

**May 2012**

- NCP Meeting, Brussels

**June 2012**

- Workshop: Presentation Results of Policy Mix Review, Chisinau & Astana

**June 2012**

- Workshop: Presentation results of Benchmarking, Vienna

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

**10-13 October 2011**

- EECA Session at BIOTECHNICA 2011:



*8 experts from Eastern Europe and Central Asia presented the biotechnology situation in their countries and highlighted chances and challenges for international cooperation at a specialised EECA session at the Innovation Forum. This event was organised by the International Bureau of the BMBF.*

**5-6 October 2011**

- Last regular General Assembly of the IncoNet EECA project, Bucharest

**20 June 2011**

- Information Day on "Energy" and "Environment (including Climate Change)", Kiev  
*The National Information Centre for Ukraine-EU S&T Cooperation jointly with the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences held an Information Day on FP7 priorities "Energy" and "Environment" (including "Climate Change") in Kyiv in the premises of E.O.Paton Electric Welding Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.*

**15-17 June 2011**

- IncoNet EECA Workshop on Innovation in the wider Black Sea region, Athens  
*The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) organised a Workshop on Innovation policies and structures in the wider Black Sea region.*

**15-17 June 2011**

- EECA session at ICCI 2011 – The 17th International Energy and Environment Fair and Conference, Istanbul



TUBITAK organised an EECA session with 8 experts from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The researchers introduced their work and discussed energy and environment relevant issues. Their presentations were published in the ICCI 2011 Precedings Book.

**23-24 May 2011**

- International Training Workshop: "R&D and Innovation Statistics", Moscow  
*The event aimed to promote recent international experiences in R&D and Innovation Statistics – with a special emphasis on Eastern European and Central Asian Area. The Workshop was jointly organised by HSE Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge and the Centre of Social Innovation.*

**11-15 April 2011**

- FP7 Training for Central Asian NCPs, Bonn  
*This training for National Contact Points was organised by the International Bureau of the BMBF.*

**29-30 November 2010**

- 4th General Assembly Meeting of the IncoNet EECA Project, Warsaw

**25-26 November 2010**

- Project Coordinators Board Meeting, Bonn



*The aim of this event, which was organised by the International Bureau, was to establish a pro-active dialogue between EU projects working in Eastern Europe and Central Asia or projects with participants from these countries.*

**26-27 October 2010**

- Workshop in the Thematic Priority of FP7 'Socioeconomic Sciences and Humanities', Athens  
*The objective of the Workshop was to bring together researchers from both EU and EECA countries in order to identify topics of mutual EECA – EU interest that could be included in the future Calls of FP7. Organised by ICBS.*

**19-20 October 2010**

- Brokerage Event on Energy, Kiev  
*This event was organised by the National Information Centre of Ukraine at the National Technical University "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute".*

**7-8 October 2010**

- Information & Brokerage Event "Environment (including climate change)", Yerevan  
*organised by the Centre of Ideas and Technologies*

**27-29 September 2010**

- IncoNet EECA and IncoNet CA/SC at ICT 2010, Brussels  
*The CIO presented both projects and the incrEAST web portal.*

**27 September 2010**

- FP7 INCO new calls Infoday, Vienna  
*organised by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency*

**23 September 2010**

- FP 7 Information Day on NMP and KBBE: "Path to Europe", Tashkent  
*organised by the Indo-Uzbek Centre for the Promotion of S&T Cooperation*

**2-7 July 2010**

- IncoNet EECA at the Euroscience Open Forum, Turin  
*The International Bureau and TUBITAK presented the project and incrEAST.*

**15 June 2010**

- Information Day "Environment (including Climate Change)", Moscow  
*organised by HSE and the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences*

**17- 18 May 2010**

- Workshop on FP7 Priority "Information and Communication Technologies", Minsk  
*The Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and The Information Support of S&T Sphere (BellSA) organised this workshop in order to identify topics of mutual EECA – EU interest.*

**7-8 April 2010**

- Policy Stakeholders' Conference "Best practices in S&T and Innovation policies", Moscow  
*This event was embedded as dedicated session in the HSE 11th International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development entitled "Economic Modernization: markets, firms, and structural changes" and "Preserving the Nation: demographic, socioeconomic, and political context".*

**For all events of the IncoNet EECA project since 2008 visit the website at:**  
<http://www.inco-eeca.net/en/129.php>