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2014 will be the EU-Russia Year of Science, Technology and Innovation.

This was announced at the EU-Russia summit in Brussels on 21 December 2012. It reflects the importance of research cooperation between the EU and Russia: The Russian Federation has been by far the most important third country partner in the seventh research framework programme. The EU-Russia Year of Science will feature a series of high-level EU-Russia conferences in several areas of the next framework programme, Horizon 2020.

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The European Commission's new digital priorities for 2013-2014

In December the European Commission adopted seven new priorities for the digital economy and society. The digital sphere is growing much faster than the rest of the economy, but this potential is currently held back by a patchy pan-European policy framework. The revised priorities place new emphasis on the most transformative elements of the original 2010 Digital Agenda.

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Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan set up Intergovernmental Innovation Centre

The three CIS partners Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan are setting up an intergovernmental entity called 'The Eurasian Economic Community Innovation Technology Center Venture Company' (Innovation Technology Center for short), the Russian Venture Company (RVC) website reports.

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First Environmental Performance Review of Turkmenistan

Soil salinity, waterlogging, land degradation and biodiversity loss are the top environmental challenges for the country, according to the report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The international review team included numerous European and Central Asian experts, together with experts from the secretariat of the UNECE.

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The European Commission's new digital priorities for 2013-2014

In December the European Commission adopted seven new priorities for the digital economy and society. The digital economy is growing at seven times the rate of the rest of the economy, but this potential is currently held back by a patchy pan-European policy framework. The new priorities follow a comprehensive policy review and place new emphasis on the most transformative elements of the original 2010 Digital Agenda for Europe.

European Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes said: '2013 will be the busiest year yet for the Digital Agenda. My top priorities are to increase broadband investment and to maximise the digital sector's contribution to Europe's recovery.'

Full implementation of this updated Digital Agenda would increase European GDP by 5%, or 1500€ per person, over the next eight years, by increasing investment in ICT, improving eSkills levels in the labour force, enabling public sector innovation, and reforming the framework conditions for the internet economy. In terms of jobs, up to one million digital jobs risk going unfilled by 2015 without pan-European action while 1.2 million jobs could be created through infrastructure construction. This would rise to 3.8 million new jobs throughout the economy in the long term.

New priorities are:

1. Create a new and stable broadband regulatory environment

More private investment is needed in high speed fixed and mobile broadband networks. The Commission's top digital priority for 2013 is therefore finalising a new and stable broadband regulatory environment. A package of ten actions in 2013 will include Recommendations on stronger non-discriminatory network access and new costing methodology for wholesale access to broadband networks, net neutrality, universal service and mechanisms for reducing the civil engineering costs of broadband roll-out. This will build on new Broadband State Aid Guidelines and the proposed Connecting Europe Facility loans.

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2. New public digital service infrastructures through Connecting Europe Facility

With Council support, the Commission will fast-track the roll out of digital services (especially their cross border interoperability) in eIDs and eSignatures, business mobility, eJustice, electronic health records and cultural platforms such as Europeana. eProcurement alone could save €100 billion per year and eGovernment can reduce the costs of administration by 15-20 %.

3. Launch Grand Coalition on Digital Skills and Jobs

A coalition is needed to take practical steps to avoid one million ICT jobs going unfilled by 2015 because of lack of skilled personnel. Such an outcome is avoidable, and would be unacceptable at a time of high general unemployment. The Commission will coordinate public and private sector actions to: increase IT training placements, create more direct education-business links, agree standard job profiles and promote skill certification to help job mobility. The Commission will also deliver an action plan to support web entrepreneurs and make Europe more "start-up friendly".

3. Propose EU cyber-security strategy and Directive

Security and freedom online go hand-in-hand. The EU should offer the world's safest online environments, valuing user freedom and privacy. The Commission will deliver a strategy and proposed Directive to establish a common minimum level of preparedness at national level, including an online platform to prevent and counter cross-border cyber incidents, and incident reporting requirements. This will stimulate a larger European market for security and privacy-by-design products.

4. Update EU's Copyright Framework

Modernising copyright is key to achieving this Digital Single Market. Therefore the Commission will seek a solution of copyright-related issues where rapid progress is needed via a structured stakeholder dialogue in 2013. In parallel the Commission will complete its on-going effort to review and the modernise the EU copyright legislative framework, with a view to a decision in 2014 on whether to table resulting legislative reform proposals .

5. Accelerate cloud computing through public sector buying power

The Commission will launch pilot actions in the European Cloud Partnership (IP/12/1225), which harnesses public buying power to help create the world's largest cloud-enabled ICT market, dismantling current national fortresses and negative consumer perceptions

6. Launch new electronics industrial strategy

The Commission will propose an industrial strategy for micro- and nano-electronics, to increase Europe's attractiveness for investment in design and production as well as growing its global market share.

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The European Commission's new digital priorities for 2013-2014 (...continued)

Background

The Digital Agenda for Europe was adopted in 2010, as an integral part of the Europe 2020 strategy, to stimulate the digital economy and address societal challenges through ICT. The European Council and the European Parliament have since called for further strengthening of the European digital leadership and completion of the Digital Single Market by 2015 (European Council conclusions of 28/29 June 2012 conclusions of 1/2 March 2012.)

The Digital Agenda has met many of its targets and is on track to meet many others. Regular internet usage is rising steadily, especially among disadvantaged groups. The number of citizens who have never used the internet is decreasing. Similarly, online buying continues to increase, although the pace of growth in cross-border eCommerce is too slow. High-speed broadband shows the first signs of taking off, including ultra-fast connections above 100 Mbps. However significant differences remain among different Member States, differences which require active European policy action to minimise and eliminate.

Source and further information: [European Commission](#)

EU-EECA Cooperation 'From Dialogue to Joint Programmes' - Conclusions

The EU sponsored Science and Technology cooperation with Russia, the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia is looking back on a splendid track record. In order to develop perspectives for a future cooperation, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) invited to an international conference, which took place in Bonn on 10 and 11 of October 2012. The conclusions of this event are now available.



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Source: [International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#)

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2014 will be the EU-Russia Year of Science, Technology and Innovation

This was announced at the EU-Russia summit in Brussels on 21 December 2012. It reflects the importance of research cooperation between the EU and Russia: The Russian Federation has been by far the most important third country partner in the seventh research framework programme. The EU-Russia Year of Science will feature a series of high-level EU-Russia conferences in several areas of the next framework programme, Horizon 2020.

The European Union and Russia are not only neighbours, but also strategic partners. The 30th EU-Russia summit bore witness to the importance both sides attach to this strategic partnership.

President Barroso announced that 2014 will be 'EU-Russia Year of Science, Technology and Innovation'. This reflects the importance of research cooperation between the EU and Russia: The Russian Federation has been by far the most important third country partner in the seventh research framework programme. There are currently 440 Russian participants in 264 signed grant agreements, receiving an EU contribution of €60 million. The EU-Russia Year of Science will feature a series of high-level EU-Russia conferences in several areas of the next framework programme, Horizon 2020. The purpose of the year-long series of events, to be jointly organised across the EU and Russia, is to enhance the already vibrant science & technology cooperation between the EU, its member states and the Russian Federation.

Source and further information on the summit: [EU External Action Service](#)

Upcoming Events on EU-International STI Cooperation

EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration (ES:GC2)

4-8 March 2013, Brussels/ Belgium

The European Parliament will host a five-day conference on "EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration" (ES:GC2), starting on March 4th, 2013, in Brussels. The conference will bring together science policymakers, scientists and industry representatives from 100 different countries and will place EU research at the centre of the international response to global challenges. It will be convened by ISC - Intelligence in Science, under the auspices of the Irish Council Presidency, in conjunction with Mr Sean Kelly MEP and other Members of the European Parliament.

The core focus of ES:GC2 will be primarily on Horizon 2020, the EU's funding instrument for collaborative research and innovation beyond 2014, which seeks to provide both increased funding and enhanced ease of participation compared to its predecessor, FP7. The aim of the conference is to encourage worldwide collaboration in science and to explore how Horizon 2020 can enable an effective scientific response to global challenges. This conference will also provide an environment to build new partnerships with the view to increase

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Upcoming Events on EU-International STI Cooperation (...continued)

international participation in Horizon 2020.

For more information and registration please visit the [event website](#).

European Data Forum 2013

9-10 April 2013, Dublin/ Ireland

EDF is a yearly meeting place for industry, research, policy makers, and community initiatives to discuss the challenges and opportunities of Big Data in Europe. These aspects have both a technical - in terms of technology and infrastructure needed to master the volumes, heterogeneity, and dynamicity of Big Data - and a socio-economic component, speaking about emerging types of products and services and their commercialization, innovation and business models, but also policies and regulations.

The European Data Forum 2013 will comprise of keynotes from global experts in the field, a series of submitted talks, as well as a trends showcase and live networking sessions. Topics include Linked Data, Open Data, Big Data, and more.

The event is organised by the FP7 projects BIG, LOD2, PlanetData, Optique, envision, TELEIOS, and EUCLID.

For more information please visit the [event website](#) or download the [event flyer](#).

East European Workshop "Green Materials" at HANNOVERMESSE 2013

9 April 2013, Hanover/ Germany

On April 09 2013, East-West-Science Centre (OWWZ), University of Kassel with the support of the Deutsch Messe organises the East-European Workshop: Green Materials - Polymers, Raw Materials and New Composites as part of the leading trade fair for environmental technologies "Industrial GreenTec" (Hannover Fair 8-12 April 2013).

To speed up the structural transformation to a bio-based industry, new types of collaboration between researchers and industry partners are needed. According to this guiding idea the workshop will serve as a forum for scientific presentations and first contacts as well as a platform for project development and networking.

Conference language: English

Travel and accommodation costs for speakers can be covered on request (see registration). Participation in the event is free of charge – registration is necessary.

Directly after the workshop the East-West-Science Centre (OWWZ) in cooperation with CReED e.V. offer a qualification course on Bio-Waste-Management (10. - 13. April 2013) near Hanover.

For more information and registration please visit the [event website](#).

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Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan set up Intergovernmental Innovation Centre

The three CIS partners Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan are setting up an intergovernmental entity called 'The Eurasian Economic Community Innovation Technology Center Venture Company' (Innovation Technology Center for short), the Russian Venture Company (RVC) website reports.

In the deal, Russia is represented by the RVC InfraFund, a fund established by Russian Venture Company – the main national funder of innovation –to support infrastructure innovation.

The Eurasian Economic Community (or EvrAzES in Russian transliteration) consists of Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Three more former Soviet Union states, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, hold observer status.

The Innovation Technology Center is expected to focus on the following main areas:

- support of companies and organisations in the Eurasian Economic Community member-states in incentivizing innovation, developing intellectual property (IP) protection mechanisms for R&D products resulting from the operation of companies in the member-states' territories, and also in commercializing and transferring technology;
- investing in the shares of legal entities both within and beyond the Eurasian Economic Community that develop and commercialise innovation;
- search and screening of innovation projects in the Eurasian Economic Community member-states, which promise high returns;
- search and raising of investment in companies that push innovation projects;
- creation of environments that are conducive to developing new competitive production sites;
- creation of environments that are conducive to developing a number of priority economic sectors in the Eurasian Economic Community member-states and to upgrading existing production lines.

The Center is being set up in compliance with the Eurasian Innovation System Development Concept endorsed by the prime ministers of the Eurasian Economic Community member-states on December 11, 2009.

Source: *Marchmont News*

Access to finance in the agricultural sectors of Eastern Europe/ Central Asia

Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan (RUK) are among the world's major wheat exporters. Their agricultural output can make a considerable contribution to domestic economic development and global food security. The RUK countries, however, will only be able to fully exploit the potential for increasing yields with adequate access to finance in the agricultural sector. An agricultural-policy expert panel at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) on 18 January 2013 provided a platform for high-profile participants from politics, academia and business to discuss funding options for various farming structures in Eastern European and Central Asian countries. The symposium titled 'From Micro-credit to Shareholder Value: Access to finance in the agricultural sector in Eastern

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Access to finance in the agricultural sectors of EECA (...continued)

Europe and Central Asia' was jointly organised by IAMO and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA).

The expert panel was opened by the Chairman of the Agribusiness Working Group of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, Dr. Thomas Kirchberg. In his welcoming address he emphasized the significance of agricultural investments as key to safeguarding farm production and development in rural areas. Dr. Robert Kloos, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), in his greeting pointed out that the aspired close collaboration of politics, business and academia can establish important preconditions for agricultural investments and thus enhanced agricultural development. Moderator Dr. Martin Petrick, Deputy Head of Department Agricultural Policy, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO), introduced the subject by comparing prevailing forms of farming businesses in the countries under review. The scholar used analyses made by IAMO to illustrate that there is still a heterogeneous agricultural structure in the Eastern European and Central Asian successor state of Soviet Union. Individual farms are still under-represented in Russia and Ukraine while such businesses make a considerable contribution to agricultural production in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries. Household plots make up the highest percentage in agricultural production in many countries in the region. In Ukraine, e.g., the value of rural household production was still over 50 per cent in 2009. This indicates their high land productivity while upstream services are often bought in from neighboring agricultural enterprises.

During the panel discussion, the attending vice ministers of agriculture underlined the strategic significance of the agricultural sector in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Notably Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Aleksandr Petrikov, and Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Gulmira Issayeva, explained that their countries are providing considerable amounts of investment aids. In addition, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan are making efforts towards improving the credit infrastructure for agricultural producers in their countries. Besides extension of the government-controlled network of credit banks, Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Agricultural Policy, Oleksandr Sen, underlined the increasing importance of forward contracts. It was also explained that government credit guarantees will play a larger role in Ukraine and Kazakhstan in the future.

Invited representatives of the business community included Dr. Heinz Strubenhoff, Agribusiness Program Manager, International Finance Corporation (IFC), and Dirk Stratmann, Ukraine Spokesman of the Agribusiness Working Group, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA). The discussion examined how governmentally administered credit supply is handled in RUK countries. It was found that typically there is no transparent evaluation of such schemes. Strubenhoff explained that local bank staff is often not sufficiently familiar with the agricultural sector to appropriately grant credits. In addition, there is a lack of suitable IT solutions, benchmarking and efforts to reduce transaction costs. The expert added that changes are required both in terms of agronomic knowledge and rights of banks regarding their scope of action and collateralization in order to improve the investment climate and thus conditions for small- and medium-sized farm operations. Stratmann conceded that agricultural producers in RUK countries with acreages above 5,000 hectares had a variety of development options while there was a lack of technological

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Access to finance in the agricultural sectors of EECA (...continued)

solutions for smaller producers. 'Access to finance schemes very much depends on the size of agricultural enterprises. There is by no means a basic credit crunch in agriculture but small producers still have problems to access credits', said Stratmann.

The expert panel continued with a controversial discussion of development opportunities in agrarian economy. Participating experts believed that only a small fraction of household producers have the potential for commercialization. Modernization and stabilization of the farming sector is a central objective which, however, should include all existing forms of farm operations. Suitable development strategies are necessary in order to permit also smaller agricultural businesses access to finance. The underlying reason is that only capital input into improved technical equipment and training of skilled specialists will enable efficiency improvement and thus further development in agricultural production.

Source: IAMO

STI Cooperation in addressing Societal Challenges: Results of the 6th EU-EECA Policy Stakeholders' Conference

On 14-15 November 2012 the Policy Stakeholders' Conference 'EU-SC/CA Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation in addressing Societal Challenges: priorities, modalities and synergies between policies and instruments' took place. It was the last in a series of policy dialogue events between EU MS/AC and the countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

The Conclusions of the Conference (PDF) were drafted with the help of the conference rapporteurs and summarise the key messages of the discussions held during the two days event in Tbilisi.

The Presentations can be downloaded from the website of the Georgian Research and Development Foundation.

To learn more about this event and the entire series of EU - Eastern Europe/ Central Asia and South Caucasus Policy Stakeholders' Conferences please visit the website of the IncoNet CA/SC project.

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International Conference on Computer Science and Information Technologies, 23-27 September 2013

The Institute for Informatics and Automation Problems of NAS RA organizes the 9th International Conference on Computer Science and Information Technologies (CSIT 2013), dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, which will be held on 23- 27 September, 2013 in Yerevan, Armenia.

The aim of the Conference is to encourage the exchange of scientific and technological information between researchers in the field of Computer Science and Information Technologies.

The major topics include, but are not limited to the following:

- Algorithms, Automata and Logic
- Discrete Mathematics and Combinatorial Analysis
- Information Theory and Coding Theory
- Artificial Intelligence and Management Support Systems
- Pattern Recognition and Image Processing
- Parallel and Distributed Computing
- Cloud and Grid Computing
- Design and Testing
- Telecommunication and Networking
- Information Technologies and Applications

The call for papers is open.

For more details please visit the [conference website](#)

Source: [Anahit Khachikyan](#), *Center of Ideas & Technologies (CIT)*



Thermal power plant in Azerbaijan first in the world to earn carbon credits through energy efficiency modernisation

A thermal power plant in Azerbaijan, AzDRES, will become the first in the world to be able to sell carbon credits earned thanks to an energy efficiency modernisation project. The project was financed by the EBRD in 2006: A US\$ 207 million loan allowed the plant to rehabilitate old and inefficient turbines and boilers, modernise command and control systems, repair chimneys and water cooling systems and make a number of other improvements.

The project, 'AzDRES Energy Efficiency Improvement', has been registered

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Thermal power plant in Azerbaijan first in the world to earn carbon credits through energy efficiency (...continued)

under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) by the CDM Executive Board. The project – rehabilitation of seven dual fuel, gas and heavy fuel oil units of 300 MW each – is estimated to generate over 10 million carbon credits over the ten-year crediting period. These credits can now be sold on global carbon markets, including the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme.

The energy efficiency improvement of the AzDRES ThPP is the first power plant rehabilitation project registered under the CDM and the second CDM project in Azerbaijan. It is also the largest CDM-registered project in the Caucasus.

Owned by the national energy operator Azerenerji, the AzDRES thermal power plant (ThPP) is the largest power plant in Azerbaijan, generating half of the country's electricity. The rehabilitation project significantly increased efficiency and capacity at the plant, which is now better able to meet the increasing demand of a rapidly growing economy. Moreover, the project has improved Azerbaijan's energy security and increased reliability of its energy infrastructure.

The EBRD's loan for AzDRES was made under the Bank's Sustainable Energy Initiative, total investments under which have exceeded €10 billion to date. Apart from the loan, the EBRD provided the power plant with technical assistance funded through the Bank's multi-donor fund for early transition countries.

'The EBRD consistently pursues the possibility of using carbon markets to make carbon emission reductions projects more profitable,' says Jan-Willem van de Ven, Senior Carbon Manager at the EBRD.

The CDM registration process was initiated by Azerenerji and assisted by clean energy consultants ICF International, engaged by the EBRD.

Since the launch of its Sustainable Energy Initiative in 2006, the EBRD has invested over €10 billion in projects under its umbrella.

Source: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

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Recent publications reviewing Belarus' STI development

Current data on STI statistics as well as high tech product catalogues have recently been published in Belarus:

- [Science and Innovation Activity in the Republic of Belarus in 2005-2011. Statistical Book, 2012](#)
- [Summary Report on the State and Perspectives of Development of Science in the Republic of Belarus Regarding the Results of 2011 \(in English, German, Spanish, Russian and Belarusian\), 2012](#)
- [Catalogue of high-tech products of Belarus, Issue 5, 2012](#)
- [Booklet 'Belarus: Science, Technology and Innovations', 2012](#)

Source: *Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa*

Belarusian participation in international science events 2013

A Plan for national exhibitions (expositions) of the Republic of Belarus abroad for 2013 was approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus №1177 of 20 December 2012. Belarusian science will be presented at 8 of 9 national expositions adopted by the Plan.

- Calendar of collective Belarusian S&T sections will be started in spring with the exhibitions in Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar), Germany (Hannover Messe) and Malaysia (International Exhibition of Invention, Innovation and Technology 'ITEX', Kuala Lumpur).
- In summer, Belarus will carry out national exhibitions in Astana, Kazakhstan (June), at the International Ural Exhibition and Forum of Industry and Innovation 'INNOPROM-2013', Yekaterinburg, Russia and for the first time in Tokyo, Japan within the Advanced Electronic and Mechatronic Devices and Components Exhibition 'Tehno Frontier 2013' (July).
- In autumn, the Belarusian science will be presented in the capitals of neighboring countries – Vilnius and Kiev.

Collecting and supporting the scientific sections within the national expositions is the way the Government assists research organisations, universities and innovative companies in promoting their R&D results, technologies and services in the foreign markets. The State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus is in charge of developing the S&T sections, supporting the participants to take part in these exhibitions, and promoting their products globally. The

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Belarusian participation in international science events 2013 (...continued)

funds are provided from the special budget line 'International Science and Technology Cooperation'.

The Plan of national exhibitions (expositions) of the Republic of Belarus abroad for 2013 is available *in Russian* .

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

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e-mail: fomin@belisa.org.by, website: <http://www.belisa.org.by/ru/>.

Source: *Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa*

Current Belarusian-French calls for proposals

Call for proposals on organising joint Belarusian-French workshops in 2013-2014

The Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR) and the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) have announced a call for proposals on organising bilateral scientific workshops in 2013-2014. These workshops will be held in France and Belarus in priority research areas of mutual interest with the aim to strengthen and develop cooperation between Belarusian and French scientists.

A workshop should be carried out in June 2013 – June 2014.

Participants of the Call are organizations of CNRS and Belarusian organizations conducting basic research. The total number of participants is limited to 20, with up to 10 participants from the seconding side, and up to 10 participants - from the host country. Participants from each side must represent at least two different research organizations (at least two). The total duration of a workshop is up to 3 days.

Approved applications shall be submitted by a Belarusian co-manager of a workshop to BRFFR, by a French co-manager - to CNRS by April 15, 2013.

Funding for the workshop is based on the following principle: the host party covers the costs of a workshop while a seconding one covers the transport costs of its participants to the venue and back.

For more information visit the [BRFFR website](#).

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Current Belarusian-French calls for proposals (...continued)

Call for proposals for basic research projects 'BRFFR -CNRS-2014'

The Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the National Center for Scientific Research in France are launching a call Call for proposals for basic research projects: 'BRFFR -CNRS-2014'.
Research areas of the Call:

- Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Engineering
- Chemical and Earth Sciences
- Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Agricultural and biological sciences
- Humanities

The Call supports basic research projects implemented jointly by small research groups from the two countries. Applications have to be submitted using the application forms approved in the each fund: Belarusian researchers apply to the BRFFR till 31 May 2013, the French ones – to CNRS till 30 April 2013. Duration of a project is up to 2 years.

For more information visit the [BRFFR website](#).

Source: [Olga Meerovskaya, Bellsa](#)



Policy Mix Peer Review for Kazakhstan

The present Peer Review exercise regarding the Science and Technology Policy Mix of Kazakhstan was part of the FP7 Coordination and Support Action IncoNet EECA (S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries).

In particular, the exercise was launched following a letter from Minister Asset Issekeshiev expressing his interest to include Kazakhstan in the pilot action on Science and Technology (S&T) Policy Mix Peer Review of Research Systems to be carried out in the context of IncoNet EECA.

The [linked report](#) presents a summary of the main findings, comments and recommendations of the exercise.

Source: [IncoNet EECA/IncoNet CA/SC](#)

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2nd International Conference on Nanotechnologies and Biomedical Engineering, 18-20 April 2013

The 2nd International Conference on Nanotechnologies and Biomedical Engineering (ICNBME-2013) will be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova on 18-20 April 2013. The event is organised by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Technical University of Moldova, State Medical and Pharmaceutical University 'N.Testemitanu' from Moldova, Moldovan Society of Biomedical Engineering. The conference is organised under the auspices of the German Ambassador to Moldova and supported by European Federation for Medical Informatics, Swiss Agency for Development, and Cooperation and Moldavian Association of Medical Informatics.

During this period the related German-Moldovan Workshop on Novel Nanomaterials for Electronic, Photonic and Biomedical Applications will also take place, supported by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

ICNBME-2013 aims at bringing together scientists and engineers dealing with fundamental and applied research in the fields of nanotechnologies and biomedical engineering for reporting on the latest theoretical developments and applications. Program Committee selected works will be published in a special issue of the international 'Journal of Nanoelectronics and Optoelectronics'.

The first edition of the conference generated a significant impact in the media, being covered by major TV channels and newspapers. It brought together 150 participants from 17 countries, including Germany, France, Great Britain, Spain, Switzerland, USA, Japan, Israel, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova etc.

For more information on this event please visit the [event website](#).

EU - Moldova Research Committee met for the first time

The Research Committee was created in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on the association of the Republic of Moldova to the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development of the European Union (2007-2013), signed on October 11, 2011.

The EU side was lead by Dr. Elisabeth Lipiatou, Head of Unit, European Neighborhood, Africa and Gulf, DG Research and Innovation. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Gediminas Ramanauskas, Policy Officer, European Eastern Neighborhood, DG Research & Innovation and Mr. Kaido Sirel, Head of Operation Section, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

The Moldovan side was lead by Acad. Gheorghe Duca, President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM). The Delegation included representatives of ASM

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EU - Moldova Research Committee met for the first time (...continued)

and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.

The event provided the opportunity to make a preliminary assessment of Moldova's performance as an associated country to FP7 and offered the occasion to discuss new forms and mechanisms of cooperation between Moldova and EU in the field of R&D.

In the context of their visit to Chisinau, the European experts also had bilateral meetings with Dr. Dr. Mihail Şleahţiţchi, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Moldova on culture, education and science, representatives of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova, the Free University of Moldova and the University of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova.

Source: *Diana Grozav, Academy of Sciences of Moldova*

First training session of the Estonian-Moldovan project "Moldova-Research Horizon" held in Chisinau

A training session for the Moldovan FP7 NCP Network and for staff from Moldovan research institutions, who are in charge of international S&T relations, was organised in Chisinau from 28-30 January.

The event was presented by experts from the Estonian Research Council:

- Kristin Kraav - Marie Curie Actions NCP;
- Maria Habicht - Energy and Transport NCP;
- Oskar Otsus - Legal and Financial, SME and Security NCP.

The training opportunity was meant to benefit the target-group in order to increase capacities in implementing FP7 projects and participating in 'Horizon 2020', the next Research and Innovation Programme of the European Union.

The event introduced the trainees in theory and practice with subjects regarding the writing and submission of applications, negotiations, and reporting.

The training was the first event organised within the Estonian-Moldovan project 'Moldova-Research Horizon', which is funded by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The project's aim is to strengthen the Moldovan NCP Network within the Seventh Framework Programme through an enhanced cooperation between the Estonian Research Council and the Center for International Projects of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. To achieve its goals, the project will implement training activities on operational level that will increase the quality of services provided by the Moldovan NCP Network. The project will support the bilateral Estonian-Moldovan dialogue in the S&T field through the organisation of a series of seminars, study visits and a summer school involving different stakeholders. Recommendations and guidelines for stakeholders will be elaborated and a roadmap for 'Horizon 2020' will be drafted.

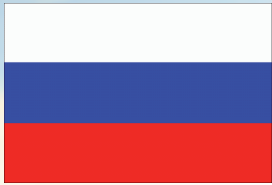
Source: *Diana Grozav, Academy of Sciences of Moldova*

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Russia kicks off plans for world-class universities

The Russian government has started implementing its ambitious plans to boost the country's leading universities' performance in the international arena. According to Igor Fedyukin, the deputy minister of education, this year 15 universities will receive special state grants and at the initial stage the subsidies will be worth RUB9 billion (US\$270 million).

The action is being taken under an existing state programme to develop education from 2013-20 and a special plan to improve leading universities, which was approved by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

The initiative is a response by the government to world rankings of universities. None of Russia's leading universities appear in the top 100 of the rankings.

The plan includes conducting an independent analysis of the compliance of Russian universities with ranking criteria, as well as the development of 'road maps' to promote national universities in the most authoritative rankings – those of Times Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong and QS.

Fedyukin commented: 'Entering of at least five Russian universities in the rankings of the world's best universities will become one of the biggest challenges of the national Ministry of Education and Science during the next several years.'

As part of the plans, Fedyukin said, the government would provide special grants to universities. They would need to comply with formulated requirements that would enable them to rise up the rankings.

The 15 universities that will receive the special grants will have to upgrade their management teams and create conditions conducive to attracting top academics from leading Russian and foreign universities, as well as talented young professors, heads of scientific laboratories and famous scientists.

In addition, they will be required to implement joint educational programmes with Russian and foreign universities, as well as take part in research and development projects in cooperation with local and international high-tech companies.

During the first quarter of 2013, an independent audit will be conducted to enable the Ministry of Education and Science to select and approve the list of universities that will be supported to become world-class.

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Russia kicks off plans for world-class universities (...continued)

According to Fedyukin, the project also involves considerably increasing funding of research in universities.

Russian universities and students have generally welcomed the new state initiative, but believe that the government has been partly responsible for domestic institutions not being able to compete strongly in international rankings.

Albert Vladimirov, a member of the Russian Union of Rectors, commented: 'The Russian university community believes that excessive state intervention initially led to the fact that Russian universities became uncompetitive in the international arena.

Most of national universities traditionally specialise in educational activities, rather than scientific research, which is contrary to the Western model.'

According to representatives of the scientific community, promoting national universities will be impossible in the absence of decent funding and wages for teaching staff.

Vladimir Belyaev, a political scientist and professor at Kazan State Technical University, one of Russia's oldest institutions, said: "Universities do not have a fresh approach, due to extremely low salaries of their staff, which do not exceed RUB12,000 (USD\$400) per month.

'Young scientists do not want to work for such money, which has resulted in a lack of progress in the Russian scientific community.'

Source: *University World News*

German-Russian cooperation on high-performance optics

Optics made of silicon carbide will soon take over the tasks of mirrors made of metal and glass ceramic in lasers used for material processing, semiconductor or measurement technology and in space satellites. However, the processing of the optical element is still very time consuming and expensive. The Russian-German research project 'Ceramics4Optics' therefore aims to develop new ceramic composites and suitable manufacturing processes that can produce faster, cheaper and better high-precision optics.

Today two variants can be processed by Silicon Carbide ceramic optical components: a ceramic sintered, but very difficult to process, and a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material. Both must be coated to achieve the required optical surface quality and dimensional accuracy.

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German-Russian cooperation on high-performance optics (...continued)

The Russian Centre for Technology Transfer Ltd (CTT) therefore developed a new silicon carbide material in the frame of the Ceramics4Optics project, which allows to omit costly coating before the final polishing of the optics. The new ceramic contains embedded diamond particles in a silicon carbide matrix and thus has a higher rigidity and thermal conductivity at the same time lower thermal expansion as compared to other variants of Silicon Carbide.

The tasks of the Aachen-based Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology (IPT) and the Opteg GmbH in Leipzig were to define the optimal transfer points between the individual technologies of grinding, polishing and ion beam finishing. Machining parameters, abrasive measures and tools for the new composite material must be identified and precisely matched. Thus, a uniform removal and an optical surface finish of under 2 nm RQ can be achieved in the final polishing process, even without previous coating.

Ceramics4Optics: German-Russian knowledge transfer

The project Ceramics4Optics is supported by a German-Russian funding competition of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Russian Fund for the Support of Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE). This form of international cooperation is unique in its field and provided the German project partners with easier access to the Eastern European and particularly to the Russian market. Both sides benefit from the exchange of knowledge and thus expand their expertise in terms of efficiency and range of material.

Partners in the project Ceramics4Optics

The Opteg GmbH in Leipzig is specialised in the manufacturing of optical low coherence-Interferometer and photo spectrometer on the one hand, and on the other hand, it is a worldwide known address in special engineering and innovative solutions for production-oriented complete systems for ion beam figuring. These machines are used for nanometer-accurate finishing of high-performance optics.

Russian Centre for Technology Transfer Ltd (CTT) in Saint Petersburg is a small innovative company which develops opto-electronic systems for various applications and manufactures. It also developed a new type of optical system for the use in space. Components made of silicon carbide were used for its construction.

The Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology (IPT) in Aachen develops system solutions for manufacturing companies. The focus lies on new and further development of production processes, measuring and matching system concepts.

Contact: Dipl. Julia Dukwen, Fraunhofer Institute for production technology IPT
e-mail: Julia.dukwen@IPT.Fraunhofer.de

Source: *IDW Nachrichten*

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Skoltech and MIT reflect on first year of collaboration

In late October, faculty and staff from MIT joined leaders from the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology and partnering institutions in Moscow, Russia, to reflect on one year of collaborative activities.

Skoltech, as the university is known, was founded in October 2011 as a private graduate research university, aiming to catalyze research, teaching and innovation around pressing global issues. A pillar of Moscow's Skolkovo innovation district, Skoltech focuses on biomedicine, energy, information technology, nuclear science and space, with a cross-cutting emphasis on entrepreneurship.

In his remarks to the gathered community, Skoltech president Edward F. Crawley — who is also the Ford Professor of Engineering in MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics — thanked attendees for their commitment and hard work. He pointed to a series of milestones that had been achieved over the course of 12 months, ranging from early research capacity to community building, underlining the matriculation of the first class and the selection of the first 10 faculty members.

Crawley highlighted the institute's global ties as one piece of Skoltech's vision for connecting Russia with international innovation. The pilot student cohort, and several faculty, are embedded at leading institutions around the world as part of what Crawley calls "a globally distributed campus." The first course on innovation was also piloted remotely, taking place on MIT's campus in August.

First-year activities have led to the launch of educational programs in energy science and information science. A biomedicine program will follow in 2013, while future programs in space and nuclear sciences are in early planning. The university has recently opened PhD applications.

With the 2013 admissions cycle and faculty recruiting ramping up, the Skoltech community will continue to expand. An MIT campus advising team was in Moscow in October to meet with Skoltech administrators and the Swiss-based architectural team, Herzog & de Meuron. For planners, the celebration fell amidst intensive design meetings addressing such needs as lab structure, contemporary learning spaces and security. The goal, designers have said, is to open the first building in 2014.

Crawley also noted that Skoltech has announced the first of 15 international Centers for Research, Education, and Innovation. The first three centers will address infectious disease and RNA therapeutics, stem cell research, and electro-chemical energy storage.

MIT researchers from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and elsewhere will participate in two of the three, working with partners from Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and the University of Texas

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Skoltech and MIT reflect on first year of collaboration (...continued)

Southwestern (UTS). More than 100 MIT faculty, researchers, and affiliates attended the first joint Skoltech-MIT proposal conference in February 2012. A second round call for proposals recently concluded, with the aim of developing additional centers in 2013.

Back home in Cambridge, the Skoltech-MIT relationship is also taking off.

Crawley returned to Cambridge a few weeks after the Moscow celebration to co-host a Skoltech recruiting event with Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Duane Boning, the faculty lead for the MIT Skoltech Initiative. The session on Nov. 16 heralded the opening of Skoltech master's programs to international admissions. Current MIT seniors are the first to be eligible for Skoltech fellowships.

Event speakers included visiting Skoltech faculty and students, who discussed the innovative curriculum and immersions being developed with MIT, as well as opportunities for postdoc positions and research collaborations. All students admitted to the two-year master's programs in energy and IT receive full fellowships, covering travel, tuition, accommodation, insurance and other expenses. The application deadline is Jan. 20. In explaining why they joined an academic startup, Crawley, Boning and Skoltech students called it a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," citing the chance to impact the future of higher education in Russia.

MIT's collaboration with Skoltech and the Skolkovo Foundation has generated a variety of related opportunities for faculty, researchers and students. In the past year, Russian language instruction has been re-introduced after a break of 18 years. Like the Masdar Institute in Abu Dhabi, however, Skoltech operates entirely in English.

The MIT Skoltech Initiative, through its entrepreneurship and innovation team, was a key partner in launching the summer Founder's Skills Accelerator (FSA); the FSA could serve as a model for supporting student entrepreneurs at Skoltech. MIT students also have the opportunity to learn about Russian science and technology through MISTI-organized trips to Moscow and St. Petersburg during Independent Activities Period.

In 2013, Skoltech and MIT leaders are planning for additional curriculum pilots, the next CDIO conference at MIT, and new research centers — as well as an expanding faculty and student body. By the end of the decade, the university will be scaled to 200 faculty, 300 postdoctoral associates, 1,200 graduate students, 15 research centers and core campus facilities.

Source: *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

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Knowledge Transfer & Higher Education Institutions - Practice and Perspectives in Russia and Germany

The German-Russian academic year 2012/2013 offered an outstanding opportunity to discuss German-Russian academic collaboration. 120 participants from Germany and Russia met in April 2012 for a symposium on knowledge transfer. The contributions in this new publication shed a light on the aspects of knowledge transfer discussed at the conference. They cover the economic relevance of the Higher Education Institutions for the regional innovation process as well as the strategic role of knowledge transfer back from economy and society to the universities.



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'Knowledge Transfer The New Core Responsibility of Higher Education Institutions: Practice and Perspectives in Russia and Germany' is the full title of this new publication.

Source: *Gabriele Gorzka, East West Science Centre*



DAAD supports dental medicine cooperation with Tajikistan

The German Academic Exchange Service has decided to support the collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine at the Goethe University in Frankfurt and the State Avicenna University in Dushanbe in the next four years with an amount of EUR 185,000. The funding comes as part of the PAGEL programme (Partnership for the Health Sector in Developing Countries).

Over the next four years dental teaching in Tajikistan will become more closely linked with human medicine, a development which has already taken place in Germany. In addition, an intensified cooperation in dentistry is foreseen. First joint research projects in the field of dental biomaterials and plastic reconstructive facial surgery have already been started. "We are aiming to convince politicians and teachers in Tajikistan of our concept of research-based

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DAAD supports dental medicine cooperation with Tajikistan (...continued)

teaching according to Humboldt's model," says Prof. Robert Sader, head of the co-operation program and director of the Department of Oral, Maxillofacial and Plastic Maxillofacial Surgery at the University Hospital in Frankfurt.

Since 2008, there has been a close cooperation in dental teaching between the two universities. Jointly led by Prof. Robert Sader and Professor Hans-Christoph Lauer, Head of Department of Prosthodontics at the Dental Carolinum University Institute, a thriving university partnership emerged over the last five years with the support of DAAD. Nine visits and training trips have already been sponsored by DAAD. In Dushanbe, the capital of the Central Asian country, a Tajik-German Symposium on Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery has already taken place four times under the aegis of the German Embassy and the Tajik Ministry of Health. The exchange of students and faculty also offers an appropriate setting to make new research contacts.

Source and further information: [Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University](#)

Second Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan

Access to clean water and improved sanitation and waste management remain some of the most pressing environmental challenges for Tajikistan according to the second Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan published today. The Review, performed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), takes stock of progress made by the country in the management of its environment since the country was first reviewed in 2004.

The Review covers 10 issues of importance to the country related to policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies, climate change, water management, waste management, human health and the environment and biodiversity conservation. It notes a series of improvements, including significant changes to the legal and policy framework in the area of the environment, as well as challenges that the country is still facing.

Tajikistan has abundant water resources. However, due to institutional weaknesses as well as inadequate funding and outdated infrastructure in the water sector, there are multiple challenges in the use and protection of water resources. Only one third of Tajikistan's 7.2 million inhabitants have access to chlorinated piped water. Some 30% rely on spring water and the remainder of the population depend on river and ditch water sources. Only 5% of the population are connected to public sewerage. The functioning of the water supply and sewerage systems is, moreover, frequently interrupted by power outages, which is also a source of water contamination. Frequent power cuts limit water supply to a few hours per day. Although there has been an overall

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Second Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan (...continued)

improvement since 2004 in the quality of drinking water, 15% of samples do not meet bacteriological standards today.

Waste management has been receiving more attention since 2004. Nevertheless, today municipal solid waste collection services are only provided for the urban population, which represents about 26% of the total population. Waste disposal practices require urgent improvement as even in the capital, Dushanbe, the city's single disposal site does not meet sanitary norms and standards.

Tailing ponds from mining activities also pose a threat to human health in the country. Approximately 54.8 million tons of waste from past uranium mining operations are still located in unsecured sites in northern Tajikistan, a number of them close to Khujand, the country's second-largest city.

The Review concludes with a set of 47 recommendations to the country to improve management of its environment, to better integrate the goals of sustainable development into sectoral policies, to promote greater accountability to the public and to strengthen cooperation with the international community. The recommendations were approved by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

Source and further information: [UNECE](#)



First Environmental Performance Review of Turkmenistan

Soil salinity, waterlogging, land degradation and biodiversity loss are the top environmental challenges for the country, according to the report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The international review team included experts from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine, together with experts from the secretariat of the UNECE. The Review concluded with a set of 67 recommendations to the country, which were approved by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

The first Environmental Performance Review of Turkmenistan covers 13 issues of importance to Turkmenistan related to policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies and projects and the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, in particular

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First Environmental Performance Review of Turkmenistan (...continued)

the sustainable management and protection of water resources, waste management, air pollution, forestry, biodiversity and protected areas, energy and climate change.

The Environmental Performance Review Programme is considered an important instrument for countries within the UNECE Region. The second round, while taking stock of the progress made since the first cycle of reviews, puts particular emphasis on implementation, integration, financing and the socio-economic interface with the environment. Through the peer review process, EPRs also promote dialogue among UNECE member countries and harmonization of environmental conditions and policies throughout the region. As it is a voluntary exercise, an EPR is undertaken only at the request of the country concerned.

The main outcome of the EPR is the recommendations, which were elaborated by the Expert Group, peer reviewed, discussed with a high-level delegation from Turkmenistan and adopted by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy on April 2012.

Source and further information: [UNECE](#)



Sixth call for Tempus project proposals, Deadline: 26 March 2013

The sixth call for proposals of Tempus IV was announced on December 5, 2012 with a deadline on March 26, 2013. Project proposals of the current call submitted with participation of universities from Ukraine, should concern modernization of curricula in the fields of teacher training and education, law and good governance, including human rights, health, environment including climate change and other fields; reform of university governance and student services, introduction of quality assurance mechanisms, promotion of lifelong learning in society, development of qualification frameworks, training of non-university teachers and more.

These and other national and regional priorities, as well as rules for participation, criteria of assessment, funding conditions, proposal submission procedure etc. are detailed in call documentation published here.

Duration of Tempus projects is from two to three years, with allowed grant amount from 0.5 mil EUR to 1.5 mil EUR. Priority in this call will be given to projects focusing on subject areas insufficiently covered by completed or on-

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Sixth call for Tempus project proposals (...continued)

going Tempus projects, and to proposals including partner country higher education institutions that have not benefitted under Tempus IV.

The Tempus programme budget for Eastern Neighbouring area that Ukraine belongs to, has been increased from 29 mil EUR (last call) to 42,35 mil EUR (this call), that means more quality projects to be selected with participation of institutions from this geographical area.

Tempus programme – educational programme of the EU that aims at modernisation of higher education in EU partner countries, at establishment of the area of cooperation in higher education between the EU and partner countries, as well as at promotion of voluntary convergence with the EU developments in the field of higher education. Tempus IV has been implemented since 2007.

For questions please contact:

National Tempus Office in Ukraine
Tel. +380442866668, +380443322645
E-mail: tempus@ilid.org.ua
Website: <http://www.tempus.org.ua/>

EVAL-INNO training course on RTDI evaluation, Budapest, 15-19 April 2013

An invitation goes out to Ukrainian researchers and managing authorities/ programme owners, who are active in the evaluation of research, technology development and innovation:

From March 2013 to November 2013, training opportunities about procedures, approaches and methods on how to evaluate RTDI programmes, instruments and institutions will be offered for two target groups: evaluation experts and programme owners/managing authorities. Four training weeks will be carried out in Bulgaria, Hungary, Montenegro and Serbia.

The training seminars in Hungary will be done in cooperation with Austria with outreach to Ukraine. The training in Budapest/Hungary is scheduled for 15-19 April 2013 and will gather trainees from Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Resources for participants outside the EVAL-INNO partner countries are earmarked. The training will be carried out by experienced RTDI evaluation trainers. The language of the courses is English and local languages.

For registration and info on application procedures for the training week in Budapest please visit the [EVAL-INNO-Homepage](#).

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International Conference 'The role of scientific and technical information in the development of innovation activity'

According to the 'Plan of International Conferences 2012' approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan the conference titled 'The role of scientific and technical information in the development of innovation activity' was held at the Shodlik Palace Hotel in November 2, 2012. The conference was organised by the Committee for Coordination of Science and Technologies Development and the Center 'Scientific and Technical Information'.

The objective of the conference was to explore foreign experience in the field of creation of information infrastructures and the further development of scientific and technical information system in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The conference addressed issues related to the development of the state system of scientific and technical information, the improvement of the information infrastructure of innovation activity and technology transfer.

About 100 leaders and specialists of innovation departments, universities and research organisations of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other ministries and departments, as well as international experts from the USA, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia took part in this conference.

The conference featured panel discussion, presentations and invited talks on the following themes:

- further development of the state system of scientific and technical information;
- information infrastructure of innovation activity and technology transfer;
- international cooperation in the field of information support for innovation activity.

The issues addressed by the conference are topical for Uzbekistan science and will have a positive impact on the organisation of the information infrastructure. This will solve the organisational and methodological problems to create a modern system of scientific and technical information to facilitate further development of innovation activity. The recommendations have been made as a result of the conference and conference proceeding has been issued.

Source: www.uzscience.uz provided by [Dudona Komilova](#), IUCP-T

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Scientific-practical Workshop of young scientists 'Climate change and effective usage of natural resources'

On December 24, 2012 the Scientific-Practical Workshop of Young Scientists titled 'Climate change and effective usage of natural resources' was held at the National University of Uzbekistan. It was organised by the Ecological movement of Uzbekistan, the Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology Development under Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministry for Higher and Secondary Education, UzGidroMet, UNDP, ICARDA and the National University of Uzbekistan.

Deputy members of the Legislative Chamber, the Ecological movement, leading experts and scientist of biology, hydrology, ecology, agro chemistry, soil science, young scientists, and Bachelor and Master students of the National University of Uzbekistan and other educational institutes, as well as heads and specialists of UzGidroMet, UNDP and ICARDA participated in this event.

The participants mentioned that wide-ranging works are being implementing in the frame of the Governmental Programs in the field of environmental protection and effective usage of natural resources. During the years of independence a system for the integration of 'Education, Science and Production' was developed, which nowadays is producing definite results. Talented youth are widely involved in scientific-research activity in the Republic now.

The series of outreach measures by the orders of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is giving its practical results, which can be seen by the several examples.

During the seminar a competition was held between talented students of the academic lyceum and colleges on the theme 'Climate change and effective usage of natural resources' and the winners were identified among 10 nominations.

A set of recommendations have been drafted as a result of the workshop.

Source: <http://www.uzscience.uz/> provided by [Dudona Komilova](#), IUCP-T

Republican scientific-practical conference of young scientists of Uzbekistan

On December 5, 2012 The Republican Scientific-Practical Conference of Young Scientists of Uzbekistan titled 'Scientific progress and innovation development of economy' was held. More than 200 young scientists took part in this conference.

The conference was organised by the Young Scientists Council of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the active participation of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education, employees of the labour union in

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Republican scientific-practical conference of young scientists (...continued)

education, science and culture and youth movement 'Komolot'.

The main aim of the conference was to discuss fundamental achievements of young scientists, the in-depth analysis of the important scientific-practical researches, as well as developed innovative technologies and problems of science and education integration, and popularisation of science among youth. It also aimed at the development of mechanisms, which will allow to use the creative potential of young scientists, consolidation issues, the creation of working conditions along the lines of teacher-student traditionst, and the encouragement of young scientists, including measures for educating and fostering intellectual people in Uzbekistan.

The following issues were discussed:

- Trends of scientific progress: good practice results, the problems of science and innovation technologies development under the conditions of economy modernisation of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Analysis of the main fundamental results by young scientists during independence years of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- The basic directions of scientific progress in the innovation development of the economy;
- Scientific results in the field of physics, mathematics and technical sciences and the possibilities of their exploitation in the real sector of the economy;
- Fundamental and practical researches in the field of natural sciences and innovation works, also the main aspects of their usage in practice;
- The main directions of social – economic development of the country as the basis of scientific achievements.

Source: <http://www.academy.uz/> provided by *Dudona Komilova, IUCP-T*

Новости на русском языке

Армения: Девятая международная конференция по компьютерной науке и информационным технологиям - 23 по 27 сентября 2013г.

Институт проблем информатики и автоматизации НАН РА проведет Девятую международную конференцию по компьютерной науке и информационным технологиям (CSIT 2013), посвященную 70-летию Национальной Академии Наук Армении, которая пройдет с 23 по 27 сентября 2013г. в Ереване, Армения.

Цель этой конференции состоит в содействии обмену научно-технической информацией между учеными в области компьютерных наук и информационных технологий.

Для более подробной информации посетите веб страницу конференции:
<http://www.csit.am/2013/>

Источник: *Anahit Khachikyan, Center of Ideas & Technologies (CIT)*

Узбекистан: Проведена Международная конференция «Роль научно-технической информации в развитии инновационной деятельности»

В соответствии с Планом проведения международных научных конференций на 2012 г., утвержденным Кабинетом Министров Республики Узбекистан, 2 ноября 2012 года в гостинице «Шодлик Палас» была проведена международная конференция на тему «Роль научно-технической информации в развитии инновационной деятельности», организованная Комитетом по координации развития науки и технологий и Государственным унитарным предприятием «Научно-техническая информация».

Цель данной конференции - изучение зарубежного опыта по созданию информационной инфраструктуры инновационной деятельности и дальнейшее развитие научно-технической информации в Республике Узбекистан. На конференции были рассмотрены вопросы, связанные с развитием государственной системы научно-технической информации, совершенствованием информационной инфраструктуры инновационной деятельности и трансфера технологий.

В работе конференции приняли участие около 100 руководителей и научных работников инновационных подразделений, ученые и специалисты высших учебных заведений и научных организаций АН РУз, МинВУЗа, Минздрава, Минсельводхоза и других министерств и ведомств, а также ведущие ученые и специалисты из США, Голландии, Болгарии, Азербайджана, Казахстана и России.

На конференции были сделаны доклады по следующим направлениям:

- дальнейшее развитие государственной системы научно-технической информации;
- информационная инфраструктура инновационной деятельности и трансфера технологий;
- международное сотрудничество в сфере информационного обеспечения инновационной деятельности.

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Новости на русском языке

Узбекистан: Проведена Международная конференция «Роль научно-технической информации в развитии инновационной деятельности»

Задачи, рассмотренные в ходе обсуждений, являются актуальными в настоящее время для развития сферы науки в Узбекистане и окажут позитивное воздействие на организацию информационной инфраструктуры инновационной деятельности. Это позволит решить организационные и методологические проблемы по созданию современной системы научно-технической информации, способствующей дальнейшему развитию инновационной деятельности.

В конце работы конференции были даны соответствующие рекомендации, а также был издан сборник материалов международной конференции.

Источник: www.uzscience.uz provided by [Dudona Komilova](#), IUCP-T

Узбекистан: Проведен научно-практический семинар молодых ученых «Изменение климата и эффективное использование природных ресурсов»

24 декабря 2012 года в Национальном университете Узбекистана был проведен научно-практический семинар молодых ученых на тему «Изменение климата и эффективное использование природных ресурсов», организованный Экологическим движением Узбекистана, Комитетом по координации развития науки и технологий, Министерством Высшего и среднего специального образования Республики Узбекистан, Узгидромет, ПРООН, ICARDA и Национальным университетом Узбекистан.

В работе семинара приняли участие члены депутатских групп Законодательной Палаты, Экодвижения, ведущие специалисты и ученые по биологии, гидрологии, экологии, агрохимии, почвоведения и молодые ученые, студенты бакалавриата и магистратуры Национального университета Узбекистана и других вузах г. Ташкента, руководители и специалисты Узгидромет, ПРООН и ICARDA.

Участниками мероприятия было подчеркнуто, что в рамках Государственных программ по направлению защиты окружающей среды и эффективного использования природных ресурсов выполняются широко масштабные работы. В годы Независимости в республике была разработана система интеграции «Образования, науки и производства» и сегодня данная система даёт определенные результаты. В данное время одаренная молодежь широко вовлечена в научно-исследовательскую деятельность, проводимую в республике.

Ряд широко масштабных мер осуществляемых по указаниям Президента Республики Узбекистан дают свои практические результаты, что можно увидеть на множестве примеров.

На семинаре среди одаренных студентов, учащихся академических лицеев и колледжей был проведен конкурс на тему «Изменение климата

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Новости на русском языке

Узбекистан: Проведен научно-практический семинар молодых ученых «Изменение климата и эффективное использование природных ресурсов»

и эффективное использование природных ресурсов» и по 10 номинациям были определены победители конкурса.

По итогам семинара были приняты соответствующие рекомендации.

Источник: <http://www.academy.uz/> provided by *Dudona Komilova, IUCP-T*

Узбекистан: Состоялась Республиканская научно-практическая конференция молодых ученых Узбекистана

5 декабря 2012 года состоялась Республиканская научно-практическая конференция молодых ученых Узбекистана на тему: «Научный прогресс и инновационное развитие экономики». В конференции приняли участие более 200 молодых ученых. Конференция была организована Советом молодых ученых Академии наук Республики Узбекистан при активном участии Минвуза, ЦС профсоюза работников образования, науки и культуры и ЦС молодежного движения «Комолот» Республики Узбекистан. Основной целью конференции было обсуждение фундаментальных достижений молодых ученых, глубокий анализ важнейших научно-практических исследований, а также разработанных инновационных технологий и проблем интеграции науки и образования, проблем популяризации науки среди молодежи, разработки механизмов, позволяющих использовать творческий потенциал молодых ученых, вопросов консолидации интеллектуальных сил на решении задач, создания необходимых условий для работы в традициях преподаватель-ученик, поощрение молодых ученых, а также задач воспитания интеллектуальной элиты Узбекистана.

На Конференции рассмотрены следующие вопросы:

- Тенденции научного прогресса: достигнутые успехи, проблемы развития науки и инновационных технологий в условиях модернизации экономики Узбекистана;
- Анализ важнейших фундаментальных достижений, полученных молодыми учеными в годы независимости республики: исследования, получившие мировую известность, а также передовые проекты.
- Основные направления научного прогресса в инновационном развитии экономики:
- научные достижения в области физико-математических и технических наук, и возможности их применения в реальном секторе экономики.
- фундаментальные и практические исследования в области естественных наук и инновационные работы, а также важные аспекты применения их результатов на практике.
- основные направления социально-экономического развития страны на основе научных достижений.

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Imprint/ Выходные данные

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German Aerospace Center (DLR)
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Registered court and registration number:
District court of Bonn, VR 2780

Value added tax identification number:
DE 121965658

Responsible in the sense of § 55, 2nd paragraph of
Rundfunkstaatsvertrag (German Interstate Treaty on
Broadcasting):

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Editing by: International Bureau of the BMBF
in Cooperation with IncoNet CA/SC

Редактор: Международное бюро BMBF
в сотрудничестве с IncoNet CA/SC

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