

EaP PLUS

Eastern Partnership +



EaP PLUS Project: Overview

Diana GROZAV

Center of International Projects



EaP PLUS:

- **3 year long Coordination & Support Action dedicated to the EU – EaP STI cooperation**
- **Builds on previous projects addressing the region (IncoNet EaP, Bilat, BS-Eranet, BSH, etc.)**
- **Includes partners from all the 6 EaP countries and from several EU MS**

EaP PLUS: a multi-level support action

Four main objectives:

- I. Support to **EU-EaP *Policy Dialogue***
- II. Foster **interaction between EU-EaP researchers**
& *promotion of H2020*
- III. Enhance the **EU-EaP *research-innovation* partnership**
- IV. Foster **optimal framework conditions**

Overview: Major Activities in 2017

1. Conference on “*Sharing experiences from Association to H2020*”, Chisinau (May)
2. Contribution to the EU-EaP Panel event “*From innovative ideas to successful businesses*”, Minsk (September)
3. Implementation of the “*EaP PLUS Cluster Grants*” scheme
4. Organization of the EaP PLUS High-Level Training Seminar on *Research and Innovation Policy* (Vienna + Athens)
5. Implementation of the “*Grants for Networking*” scheme
6. Development of an ‘Action Plan’ for the SPIRE and Widening Calls

1. Conference on “Sharing experiences from Association to H2020”

- ✓ **In Chisinau, Moldova** (30-31 May 2017)
- ✓ **More than 115 participants** (35 policymakers, NCPs and government/EU officials from EU and EaP countries; over 80 Moldovan participants from national research institutes, SMEs and SME-support organisations)
- ✓ **Focus on:**
 - ✓ National measures and instruments to support the Association (EaP, EU MS, RS, IL, TR)
 - ✓ Additional possibilities for ACs: **SME Instrument; Policy Support Facility;**
 - ✓ Other good practices: **COST; Open Access; ESFRI Roadmap; KICs;** etc.
- **Will be complemented with the Training Workshop for PC members** (in **March 2018, Kiev**)

2. Contribution to the EU-EaP Panel event: “From innovative ideas to successful businesses”

- ✓ In Minsk, Belarus (21 September); Co-organised by EC, BellSA,
- ✓ and EaP PLUS
- ✓ **80 participants** from EaP, EU, EC, EC-funded projects; transnational organisations
- ✓ Focus on:
 - ✓ Challenges in early stage financing of innovative firms;
 - ✓ EU Instruments (H2020, InnovFin) and projects (**FI-ADOPT, DIATOMIC**)
 - ✓ Best practices of EU MS in supporting start-ups, spin-offs and innovative SMEs.

3. EaP PLUS Cluster Grant Scheme

- ✓ Based on the “**Review of the state of development of clusters in EaP countries**”; Open Call during July –September 2017
- ✓ Six grants of **up to 10.000€** to EaP clusters/cluster-like organisations with an EU counterpart aiming to create cooperation and links among them
- ✓ Applications exceeding expectations in numbers and quality (9 Ukraine, 7 Moldova, 6 Georgia, 2 Armenia, 2 Belarus, 26 in total)
- ✓ Possible synergies with DG NEAR: Biomass Installations programme, and the related development of business/innovation “clusters/centers” in Moldova
- To be complemented by a workshop in Tbilisi (September 2018) involving the funded clusters

4. EaP PLUS High-Level Training Seminar on Research and Innovation Policy

- ✓ Addressed to 20 high-level policy makers/experts from funding agencies, research and innovation councils, etc. from all EaP countries
- ✓ Two-part seminar: **Vienna** (12-13/10) and **Athens**, (7-8/11)
- ✓ Topics:
 - ✓ Theoretical foundations of STI policy; STI policy paradigms; Innovation support instruments and programmes; RRI; Open data/science/access; Peer reviews (of proposals)
 - ✓ **Innovation measurements; Performance measurements of organizations; Benchmarking exercises; International STI cooperation; IPR; Foresight exercises**
- ✓ Field trips:
 - ✓ **Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG);**
 - ✓ **Industrial Property Organization (OBI); CORALLIA Cluster**

5. Grants for networking (Brokerage Events or proposal preparatory meetings)

- ✓ Aim to extend scientific networks between EU MS and EaP countries & to increase the number of EaP participants in H2020 project proposals and consortia
- ✓ Amount of the Grant: one mission to EU (travel & accommodation)
- ✓ First round: Open from March to July 2017
 - ✓ **18 grants** in total
 - ✓ **3 H2020 proposals** already submitted
- ✓ Second round: November 2017 to June 2018
 - ✓ Proposals targeting **SPIRE Calls** are being given priority

6. Action Plan for SPIRE Calls

- ✓ Since the ‘Sustainable Process Industry’ (SPIRE) calls under “Industrial Leadership“ H2020 recommend “in particular” the cooperation with the EaP countries...
- ✓ ...the EaP PLUS project developed an ‘Action Plan’ with activities to be implemented by the project and also at national level for the maximum exploitation of this unique opportunity
- ✓ The activities include:
 - ✓ Information Days in each EaP country, with particular focus on SPIRE calls;
 - ✓ Webinars
 - ✓ Grants to travel in EU for meeting partners preparing SPIRE proposals
 - ✓ Continuous dissemination and promotion through the project’s and the partner’s/national channels

Ongoing activities

- ✓ **Fact-finding missions to identify dynamics and recent developments in STI landscape**
 - ✓ Minsk (September), Baku (December) & Ukraine (February 2018)
- ✓ **H2020-call oriented Webinars & RDI webinars**
 - ✓ SPIRE Webinar (November); RDI Webinars (September-December); H2020 Webinars (January-March 2018)
- ✓ **Scientific Diaspora Workshops**
 - ✓ Ukraine (May), Armenia (September), Belarus (November), Moldova (February) & Georgia (March 2018)
- ✓ **Info Days**
 - ✓ Moldovan ERA instruments and SPIRE InfoDay (November), Georgia SPIRE-Widening InfoDay (November), Armenia SPIRE InfoDay (November)
- ✓ **NCP-network Training (February- May 2018)**
- ✓ **3 ongoing studies: Co-patenting analysis; Review of Synergies among programmes and policies; STI Cooperation Barometer**

Major incoming events in 2018

- A. Training Workshop for Programme Committee Members**
- B. Workshop for Technology Platforms in EaP countries**
- C. Funded clusters Workshop**
- D. Training of Technology Managers**

A. Training Workshop for Programme Committee Members

- ✓ A two-day workshop in Kiev (**March 2018**) with two-fold aim:
 - Provide an overview about H2020 procedures, the functioning of PCs and the preparation process of WPs
 - Train members on planning and implementation of the internal preparatory work at the national level, i.e. on the internal consultation process
- ✓ 10 PC members from each Associated EaP country trained by EU/non-EU AC trainers and PC members

B. Funded clusters workshop

- ✓ **2-day Workshop in Tbilisi (September 2018)**
- ✓ **Organized for the six granted EaP cluster initiatives** (also open to other interested EaP entities)
- ✓ **Sharing good practices in terms of:**
 - ✓ **Cluster activities**
 - ✓ **EU – EaP cooperation among clusters**
- ✓ **Seeking success stories and transferability of best practices for cluster creation in EaP countries and for their cooperation with EU**

C. Promoting Technology Platforms in EaP countries

- ✓ Workshop planned for April-May 2018 (Kiev)
- ✓ To promote and strengthen the **'ETP-concept'** among EaP countries, based on current EU and Ukrainian experience on establishing and operating Technological Platforms
- ✓ Input for the workshop: ***'Review on the state of affairs on Technology Platforms in EaP countries'*** (ongoing)
- ✓ Target group: 3 ETPs + 5 TPs from 5 EaP countries + Ukrainian TPs

D. Training of Technology Managers

- ✓ The concept of 'Technology Transfer Offices' need to be further strengthened and extended in most EaP countries
- ✓ Skills need to be developed in the field of Technology Management
- ✓ A 3-day training seminar will be organized in Minsk (July-September 2018)
- ✓ Target group: 4 Technology Managers from 5 EaP countries + Technology Managers from BY (+ EU trainers)

EaP PLUS: Contact details

Website: www.eap-plus.eu

Email: office@eap-plus.eu

Coordinator:

Dr. George Bonas (Managing Director, CeRISS; george.bonas@ceriss.eu)

Project Manager:

Dr. Serkan Karas (Project Manager, CeRISS; serkan.karas@ceriss.com)

CeRISS - Centre for Regional and International STI Studies and Support

Palaiologou Benizelou 2, 105 56 Athens, Greece

Telephone: +30 210 3210 779

Website: www.ceriss.eu

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