



Expert Meeting on Success Factors for

Russian Participation in the EU RTD Framework Programme



Moscow, 14 May 2009.

Minutes

The meeting was aimed to strengthening international S&T co-operation between Russia, the EU Member States and FP7 Associated Countries. State-of-the-art, lessons learnt and prospects of participation of non-EU Member States in the EU RTD Framework Programme as well as promotional role of NCPs have been reviewed. The structured discussion on success factors for Russian participation in the EU RTD Framework Programme has been organised under the meeting.

More than 30 participants took part in the meeting.

Mr. Sergey Ivanets Director of Department for Strategy and Perspective Projects in Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and Mr. Michael Schlicht, Director of Division for Cooperation with Russia and the CIS Countries, Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany welcomed participants.

Mr. Ivanets introduced state-of-the-art and main achievements of recent years in development of instruments for coordination of S&T cooperation between Russia and EU. Among them the following continuously acting ones were highlighted: Russia-EU Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation; Joint Working Groups in the priority research fields; Permanent Partnership Council; joint coordinated calls for proposals under EU FP7 and Russian Federal Targeted Programme “R&D in priority areas of the development of S&T complex in Russia in 2007–2012”. Russia is regarded as International Cooperation Partner Country (ICPC) in connection with FP7 that means Russian research teams are eligible for participation in full scale of joint FP7 projects and reception of EU financial contribution. For the moment rationale for participation of Russian researchers in EU Framework Programmes is not only traditional interest to receive the EU financial contribution but in a considerable degree to have an opportunity to use new knowledge obtained as outcome of international collaboration at national level. At the present time the main goal of Russia-EU S&T cooperation is equitable mutually beneficial partnership with required effective instruments for systematic interaction and coordination of S&T performance. Analysis of carried out joint work evidences achieved high level of cooperation that allows to consider quite new level of S&T integration between Russia and EU and in this context possible association Russia to the EU Framework Programmes.

Mr. Sergey Karaganov, Dean of World Economics and International Politics Faculty of State University – Higher School of Economics, and Chair of Presidium of Council on Foreign and Defense Policy in his speech “EU-Russia Relationship: Evaluation of State-of-the-art and Prospects” brought to notice importance of “bottom-up” approach to organization of systematic cooperation in such spheres as transport, energy, culture, S&T based on accumulated joint experience of long-term successful collaboration. In regard to strategic plans towards EU the Russian Federation is committed to consolidation of every possible instruments for cooperation,

including building-up of common spaces in economy, external and internal security, education, science and culture.

Mr. Leonid Gokhberg, First Vice-Rector of State University – Higher School of Economics, and Director of HSE Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge shared with the audience his view on lessons learnt and main obstacles of Russian participation in the EU RTD Framework Programme as a “third country”. According with the EC statistics Russia is the most active participant of FP6 and the first calls of FP7 among third countries. At the same time proposals submitted to FP7 with Russian participants are inferior to scientific quality of proposals submitted with US researchers. In 2007 Russia was at 9th place in the World by investment to R&D that amounts to 23486.1 Mio USD (GERD, PPP) and at 4th place by number of researchers - 392,849 right after China, Japan and the USA. Therewith the following data witness rather insufficient efficiency of science in Russia: 14,256 international scientific articles co-authored with foreign scientists were published in 2007 with 23,932 Russian authors from 779 organizations that amounted to 6% of the total number of researchers. Share of EPO patent applications, submitted by Russian organizations in co-authorship with foreign organizations for the period of 2001-2003 was 45,7%. Receipts from technology exports in Russia was 630.4 million \$ in 2007. For comparison the same indicator amounts to 6.1 billion \$ for Austria and 75.4 billion \$ for USA. The share of Russia in world high tech exports is 0.28% and for comparison in Hong Kong – 5.44%. Russia emphasizes the strategic role of innovation and has designed policy in order to respond to this challenge. But innovation is an area in which it still needs to gain ground. Innovation activity in Russian industry is 9.4% that almost twice as little as of 1992 (16.3%). Among barriers hindering enhancing of Russia-EU S&T cooperation deficiency of scientific visas, existence of weighty custom duties on transfer of equipment and scientific materials and certain degree of dependence on external political and economic factors have been highlighted. Low level of scientific infrastructure in Russia (deficiency of modern equipment, facilities, respectable living conditions for European researchers, etc.); shortage of experience and skills of Russian researchers in English language, project and finance management; low level of awareness about the programme demands; insufficient visibility of Russian research potential to EU researchers (only 56,5% of R&D units have web-sites in Russian not to mention English versions), non-conformity of current legislation for joint calls for proposals with a common budget; insufficient level of institutional integration in global networks have been specified as hampering to more effective participation of Russia in EU FP. Hereafter Mr. Gokhberg presented results of SWOT analysis of possible association of Russia to EU FP. Among certain qualitative benefits of association for Russia he identified: advancement of Russia-EU relations (even in the absence of PCA); additional stimuli to reforming the Russian S&T sector; development of industrial cooperation, common standards; better common response to global challenges. The contributor finalized his presentation with recommendations on improvement of S&T performance at Russian national level and Russia-EU S&T collaboration. Recommendations comprise such measures as establishing a Code of Conduct for public research organizations in Russia including performance evaluation, information openness, advance of project and finance management; extension of information and consultancy support through well-established strong NCPs system involving sub-national level; enhancement of coordination and application of existing instruments for joint priority setting i.e. technology platforms, 5 joint Working Groups and FP7 joint projects such as IncoNet EECA, ERA.Net RUS & BILAT-RUS.

Lessons learnt and benefits from the participation of non-EU Member States in the EU RTD Framework Programme in the case of Central and Eastern European Countries and Associated to FP7 Countries such as Israel and Norway have been delivered by Mr. Klaus

Schuch, Managing Director of Centre for Social Innovation, Austria; Mr. Marcel Shaton, General Manager- National coordinator of Israel-Europe Directorate for the EU Framework Programme and Mr. Erik Yssen, Senior Adviser of Ministry of Education and Research, Norway correspondingly.

Mrs. Sabine Herlitschka, Director of European and International Programmes of Forschungs Förderungs Gesellschaft, Austria gave recommendations on how to provide an optimum frame for networking of science and innovation communities in Russia and the EU and role of National Contact Points in the process.

Mr. Joern Sonnenburg, Director of International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research introduced recent analytical results and recommendations to enhance the framework for EU-Russia S&T co-operation based on outcomes of FP6 SCOPE-EAST project and reference of CREST-OMC Working Group "Internationalisation of R&D". Mr. Sonnenburg defined a number of rooms for improving the framework of EU-Russia S&T cooperation i.e. deepening the mutual knowledge base on S&T and S&T policies; going beyond traditional cooperation patterns (basic sciences) – exploiting new options for cooperation in applied sciences and in the innovation sphere incl. technology transfer; introducing advanced cooperation instruments building on good practice examples; overcoming barriers in the legal framework; improving the legal frame for Russian investments, participation in international S&T infrastructure; exploiting the cooperation potential of the Russian regions; exploiting opportunities of coordinating policy instruments between interested EU-Member States and Russia (variable geometries) – linking bilateral with multilateral schemes; linking bilateral activities with EU-Russian activities on Community level (FP, Four Common Spaces); making optimum use of EU-funded coordination projects BILAT-RUS, ERA.Net RUS, Inco.Net EECA. Among the policy recommendations the speaker emphasized necessity to improve the mutual knowledge base on S&T activities and complement the ongoing S&T dialogue between the European Commission and Russia with an S&T dialogue between the EU MS (possibly AC) and Russia in order to identify joint interest beyond the themes of the EU RTD Framework Programme and possibly foster coordination of concrete implementation measures building on MS'(/AC') instruments. Activities on introducing advanced funding schemes for S&T cooperation with Russia and stimulating a dialogue between EU and Russian public and private S&T and innovation stakeholders should be undertaken. Considerable enhancement of cooperation can be achieved through promotion of two-flow mobility of researchers between EU and Russia, joint cooperation framework in basic sciences, development of a common framework via joint innovation programmes, optimum access to each others S&T infrastructures.

Hereafter the meeting was continued with the discussion on success factors for Russian participation in the EU RTD Framework Programme moderated by Mr. Michael Schlicht. A variety of issues impacting on Russia-EU S&T cooperation have been discussed including the role of policy coordination and joint instruments, shaping the legal/regulatory framework, fostering networking among the S&T communities, optimizing the FP advisory network.

In conclusion it was underlined definite importance of the meeting allowing to share experience of participation of different countries in the EU RTD Framework Programme and discuss recommendations, opportunities and practical activities for improvement of S&T Russia-EU co-operation.