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BILAT

# RUSSIA

## Enhancing the Bilateral S&T Partnership with the Russian Federation (**BILAT-RUS**)

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National Centre for Scientific  
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### Background and objectives

For the past 15 years, the European Union has maintained a very rich scientific and technological relationship with Russia, both on the level of the individual Member States and on the level of the European Community (EC). Since 2005, the EU and Russia have entered into a political commitment to create a 'Common Space on Research, Education and Culture', which is characterised by a strong mutual interest. Research cooperation is governed by the EC-Russia Science and Technology Agreement (in force since 2004).

Russian participation in the activities of the EC Research Framework Programmes is one of the major elements for achieving the 'Common Space on Research'. Russia has been the most successful non-associated third country in the Fifth and Sixth Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development, both in terms of the total number of participations and the total amount of financial contributions received from the EC. Russian organisations now participate in all thematic and sub-programmes of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

The BILAT-RUS project focuses on enhancing the bilateral S&T partnership between Russia and the EU Member States, Candidate Countries and other Associated Countries. The project aims at contributing to the sustainable implementation of the 'Common Space on Research, Education and Culture' and at further strengthening the participation of Russia in Community programmes – most prominently the Seventh Framework Programme.

The major objectives of BILAT-RUS are:

- to facilitate coherent information dissemination and awareness raising;
- to contribute to the optimisation of the framework and the instruments for enhanced future EU-Russian cooperation across all S&T themes;

<http://www.bilat-rus.eu>



- to create a knowledge base for emerging horizontal issues of sustainable cooperation;
- to meet the short and medium term needs of existing and upcoming joint thematic EU-Russian Working Groups on S&T cooperation.

## Overall strategy

The BILAT-RUS project is designed around joint EU-Russia interest and aims at mutual benefit. It rests upon other bilateral or regional initiatives: EC-funded projects first, both FP6 SSA such as SCOPE-EAST, NIS-NET, BRUIT, BS-ResPot, RUSERA-EXE, CREATION and other support activities under the thematic priorities of FP6, and FP7 projects such as the INCONET EECA, targeting east European and central Asian countries. Then bilateral initiatives between Member States and Russia within the framework of an S&T agreement or cross border cooperation will also be built upon.

The BILAT-RUS project will enhance information collection and dissemination as regards S&T between Russia and the EU, analyse the existing legal and organisational framework, identify room for improvements in cooperation instruments, demonstrate best practices for S&T cooperation, provide a knowledge base for new cooperation themes and priority areas, and offer support to existing and upcoming structures of EU-Russian cooperation in S&T.

## Implementation and dissemination activities

BILAT-RUS consists of four work packages (WPs).

### ■ WP1: Information dissemination and awareness raising

WP1 will facilitate coherent information gathering and dissemination on S&T in Russia on relevant S&T cooperation programmes to foster cooperation between the EU and Russia (emphasis on FP7) and on ongoing S&T projects. Its final objective is to promote Russian S&T partners, their activities and opportunities for enhanced cooperation and good cooperation practice through delivering and spreading concise, up-to-date and relevant information and, where needed, targeted advice to Russian National Contact Points (NCP).

### ■ WP2: Optimising the framework and instruments for enhanced future cooperation in S&T

WP2 focuses on the analysis of existing instruments and – if appropriate – the development of proposals for an optimisation of instruments for enhanced future EU-Russian cooperation across all S&T related themes. The main objective is to ensure a smooth future cooperation process in S&T research between the EU and Russia in all respects, building on Community, Member States and Russian instruments.

### ■ WP3: EU-Russian Working Groups

WP3 aims at addressing the short and medium term needs of the existing joint thematic EU-Russian Working Groups. The main objective is to support EU-Russian cooperation in practical terms by offering custom-made assistance to the joint thematic EU-Russian Working Groups.

### ■ WP4 (Management of the consortium and links)

The objectives of WP4 are to organise and coordinate project activities, to ensure effective information flow, to provide a smooth interface between the individual work packages and to ensure the proper implementation of the work packages and corresponding tasks. Further objectives are to execute the overall legal, financial and administrative management, to provide the optimum implementation of the contract and to enhance the cooperation with other relevant ongoing coordination and support activities addressing EU-Russian S&T cooperation.

In order to disseminate the project results to the wider public, information on the project activities and its results will be spread through different tools and events. These include:

- a website with information on the project;
- an EU-Russian S&T web-portal including, among various other information, an Internet guide and a database on Russian S&T;
- a leaflet with brief information on the project that will be distributed at events and to relevant stakeholders;

- press releases and e-newsletters with information about the main project events, intermediate and final results and other relevant news on EU-Russian S&T cooperation;
- information days;
- several analytical reports.

## Expected impact

BILAT-RUS will have an impact at different levels.

- At Member State level, it will offer information on cooperation opportunities and form the foundation for a more coherent legal framework for cooperation with Russia.
- At Russian level, it will provide advice and support for future cooperation between Member States and Russia and will enhance the Russian participation in FP7.
- At EU level, it will support the further development of a structured, sustainable and long-lasting framework of EU-Russian cooperation in S&T in general terms and the regular work of the EU-Russian joint Working Groups in more specific terms.
- At the level of the international dimension of the ERA, it will help to open up the ERA to the world and to strengthen European research by establishing strong links between the EU and Russia.