



Strengthening EU-Russia Science and Technology cooperation and EU access to Russian National Funding Programmes

Project newsletter #1 - may 2010

From the editor



Svetlana Klessova, Project coordinator, inno AG

The ACCESSRU project is a support action aimed at stimulating S&T cooperation between Europe and the Russian Federation by providing access for European researchers to Russian research and innovation programmes.

Are you an EU researcher seeking opportunities in Russia? Do you have particular interests in participating in Russian programmes? Have you been working with Russian organisations and you would like to share your experience? Do you need some help in taking the first step to participate in a Russian programme?

The ACCESSRU newsletter will bring you fresh insights about Russian Programmes, success stories, and ACCESSRU initiatives. It is my hope that the articles and information in this newsletter will be helpful for you.

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ACCESSRU at a glance

The 30-month project started on 1 November 2009 and aims to:

- Assess access opportunities in Russia for EU organizations by screening of Russian S&T landscape and identifying common challenges, needs and opportunities in S&T in both sides;
- Raise awareness on access opportunities in Russia amongst European research organizations and to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of European organizations in Russian programmes;
- Enhance the S&T policy dialogue and to formulate the strategic recommendations on scientific collaboration between Europe and Russia, ensuring the reciprocity issues.

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ACCESSRU as a part of the ACCESS4EU broad EU programme

In order to facilitate EU researchers access to research environments outside Europe, a specific set of actions – [ACCESS4EU](#) – have been designed under the FP7 Capacities Specific Programme. In the fall of 2009, eleven [ACCESS4EU](#) projects have been launched targeting: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, United States of America.

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Project First steps – Survey of Russian research and innovation programmes

The ACCESSRU prepared the report “Survey of Russian research and innovation programmes”. This report is addressed for European researchers, organizations and companies intend to cooperate with Russian partners in framework of national S&T programs. It provides basic understanding of funding research and innovation in Russia.

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The project has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement #244493

Strengthening EU – Russia S&T collaboration together with partnering projects

One of the main pillars part of ACCESSRU's project strategy is to create synergies with other relevant projects. In addition to ACCESSRU there are three ongoing projects within the FP7 Capacities, 'Activities of International Cooperation', programme, which specifically target or involve the Russian Federation with the aim to enhance policy dialogue and to support and stimulate S&T cooperation between research organisations and researchers from both the EU and the Russian scientific communities.

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What services we offer you

Are you EU researcher seeking opportunities in Russia? The consortium members will assist you in:

- Identifying the Russian opportunities most suitable for you,
- Helping you find the right Russian partners
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Introducing project partners: European Science Foundation

Setting Science Agendas for Europe

The ESF provides a common platform for its Member Organisations in order to:

- Advance European research
- Explore new directions for research at the European level

Through its activities, the ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context.

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From the readers

Do you have experiences to share? A seminar or conference to promote? Suggestions for EU-Russia R&D collaborative priorities? Partners to be searched? Send us your ideas and suggestions.

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From the editor



Svetlana Klessova
Project coordinator,
inno AG

I am pleased to welcome you to the ACCESSRU (Strengthening EU-Russia Sciences and Technology cooperation and EU access to Russian National Funding Programmes) project newsletter.

Scientific ties between Russia and Europe have always been very strong. Russia has 16 ongoing bilateral S&T cooperation agreements with the Member States and Associated Countries. **The cooperation agreement with the European Commission was signed in 2000 and renewed on March 30, 2009** by a decision to create a common space in which their respective research communities could work together in key strategic areas. Russian scientists have been collaborating with their colleagues from the EU for decades and have been active participants in the EU's research framework programmes. In FP6 alone, Russia was the most successful third country participant in terms of funding support from the Commission and one of the most active third-country participants overall. **More than 300 Russian participants were involved in over 200 joint research projects, worth over 2 billion euro, in all thematic areas and sub-programmes of the FP6.** In total, Russian research organisations obtained more than 45 million euro in funding.

In the current 7th Framework Programme the involvement of Russian research groups continues to be very strong. By mid 2009, following the conclusion of the first two years of calls for proposals, 235 Russian research organisations are involved in 136 successful projects, receiving some 29 million euro of EC contribution.

While the EU's Research Framework Programme is generally open to Russia, the EU-Russia agreement on scientific and technological cooperation also requires Russia to open its national programmes to EU researchers.

The ACCESSRU project is a support action aimed at stimulating S&T cooperation between Europe and Russian Federation by providing access for the European researchers to the Russian research and innovation programmes.

Are you an EU researcher seeking opportunities in Russia? Do you have particular interests in participating in Russian programmes? Have you been working with Russian organisations and you would like to share your experience? Do you need some help in taking the first step to participate in a Russian programme?

The ACCESSRU newsletter will bring you fresh insights about Russian Programmes, success stories, and ACCESSRU initiatives. It is my hope that the articles and information in this newsletter will be helpful for you.



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ACCESSRU at a glance

The ACCESSRU Project (www.access-ru.eu) – a special support action co-funded by the FP7 Capacities Specific Programme of the European Commission – was initiated by eight EU and Russian partners representing four countries.

The 30-month project started on 1 November 2009 and aims to:

- Assess access opportunities in Russia for EU organizations by screening of Russian S&T landscape and identifying common challenges, needs and opportunities in S&T in both sides;
- Raise awareness on access opportunities in Russia amongst European research organizations and to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of European organizations in Russian programmes;
- Enhance the S&T policy dialogue and to formulate the strategic recommendations on scientific collaboration between Europe and Russia, ensuring the reciprocity issues.

According to the number of Russian stakeholders, access of European organisations to Russian funding is possible in theory. However, in practice there are no concrete implementation mechanisms, i.e. mechanisms for participation of European organisations in the Russian programmes. Thus, it is of utmost importance to demonstrate – through real “pilot” case studies and with the support from Russian policy makers – that EU organisations can and shall take part in the Russian programmes. It is also a way to demonstrate to the Russian policy makers the obstacles and solutions for access, i.e. to contribute to reciprocity aspects of the S&T agreements. A set of case studies showing how EU organisations can participate in Russian S&T programmes will be the core of the dissemination and awareness raising campaign, both in Europe and in Russia. Such case studies will help to develop the concrete mechanism for participations of the European organisations in the Russian programmes.

ACCESSRU will cover an extensive geographical zone, including all EU's Member States, Associated Countries and all the Russian Federation's regions.

ACCESSRU targeted groups/ beneficiary:

- European and Russian research organisations (Universities, institute, public R&D centres) as well as the research organisations from the associated countries
- EU and RU multipliers (NCPs, ETP/JTI, networks of excellence...)
- R&D-oriented companies (spin-off & start-ups, private R&D centres)
- European and Russian key decision, policy makers and facilitators

The project will help European organisations to access the Russian research programmes, i.e. to implement several pilot cases and success stories. Pilot “case studies” will be analysed, and concrete mechanisms to support access of EU organisations to the Russian programmes will be developed.

The project will implement two dissemination and awareness raising campaigns: to promote the access to Russian programmes inside the European research community, and to inform Russian research organisations that the involvement of European partners in Russian programmes is possible and welcome. The Green Paper on EU-Russian collaboration and an Opportunities Report for European organisations will be prepared, discussed and diffused.

The project activities will be done in collaboration with national stakeholders and other relevant cooperation projects:

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

<http://www.era.net-rus.eu/>

<http://www.inco-eeca.net/>

<http://www.gate2rubin.ru/>

<http://www.istok-soyuz.eu/>



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ACCESSRU as a part of the ACCESS4EU broad EU programme

One of the overriding features of the research landscape is the **increasing globalisation of the R&D community**. Science and technology cooperation based on mutual benefit with third countries is crucial to the Community's scientific, political and economic objectives. The European research community has a large range of the international cooperation instruments: bilateral S&T programs of the member states with third countries, EUREKA intergovernmental initiative, large international research programmes such as ITER, EIROforum, COST etc. Since the 5th Research Framework Programme (FP5) the European need for international cooperation is reflected by the decision **to open the programme to third country participation and by including special instruments to encourage international cooperation**.

The FP6 and the on-going FP7 brought forward this initiative developing new collaboration schemes and mechanisms, in particular theme-oriented actions under the Cooperation Specific Programme and mobility-oriented actions under the People Specific Programme. Both approaches aim to stimulate the participation of third coun-

tries in the FPs. So while the EU's Research Framework Programme is generally open to third countries, the EU's agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with third countries require these countries to open their national programmes to EU researchers.

To facilitate EU researchers access to research environment outside of Europe, a specific set of actions entitled **ACCESS4EU** – have been designed under the FP7 Capacities Specific Programme. In the fall of 2009, eleven ACCESS4EU projects have been launched targeting: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, United States of America.

All information on the third's countries research and innovation programmes open to European researchers can be found in the "RTDI Programme Database" on the joint ACCESS4EU web portal www.access4.eu thereby making it possible to benchmark them.



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Project First steps – Survey of Russian research and innovation programmes

The report “Survey of Russian research and innovation programmes” is aimed at providing basic understanding of funding research and innovation in Russia for European researches, organizations and companies. It provides information of key policy-makers and funding bodies, general description of wide range of federal targeted programmes and other schemes. It also gives an indication of the level of funding within those programmes and funds overall and for the year 2010.

Moreover, a separate chapter explain legal framework of federal funding of research and innovation in Russia. The report contains primary law, description of terms used,

basic principles of tenders and calls, expertise and decision making. It also highlights legal consequences of applying for fund through these procedures.

The report due to the wide description and mapping of programmes provided will be of interest for those who have little understanding of Russian research and innovation arena as well as for those who have already bee working with Russia on these issues.

The report also corresponds with the outcomes of BILAT.RUS and ERA-NET.RUS projects to ensure synergies.

Full text report is published at [ACCESSRU web-site](http://ACCESSRU.web-site).

Strengthening EU–Russia S&T collaboration together with partnering projects

Creating synergies with other relevant projects is one of the main pillars in ACCESSRU’s project strategy.

In addition to ACCESSRU there are three ongoing projects within the FP7 Capacities, 'Activities of International Cooperation', programme, which specifically target or involve the Russian Federation with the aim to enhance policy dialogue and to support and stimulate S&T cooperation between research organisations and researchers from both the EU and the Russian scientific communities. These are:



The International Cooperation Network – Eastern Europe and Central Asia – FP7 **IncoNet EECA project** – <http://www.inco-eeca.net/> aims at strengthening the bi-regional policy dialogue.



The FP7 **BILAT-RUS project** <http://www.bilat-rus.eu/>, which started in September 2008, has the objective of enhancing bilateral EU-Russian Federation S&T cooperation. The BILAT-RUS project will enhance information collection and dissemination regardingS&T between Russia and the EU, analyse the existing legal and organisational framework, identify room for improvement 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. For instance the project provides assistance and knowledge to the **working groups under the EU-RF S&T Cooperation Agreement**.



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As example of the project activities is the new "S&T Gate RUS.EU" web portal which aims to improve networking between the research structures of the EU and the Russian Federation. It was launched on 1 March 2010 and is available at: www.st-gaterus.eu.

It helps to increase mutual knowledge of the various national research landscapes and to support international co-operations.



ERA.Net RUS

The FP7 **ERA.Net RUS project** "Linking Russia to the ERA <http://www.era.net-rus.eu/>, which started in November 2009, aims at strengthening S&T cooperation between the Russian Federation and EU by the coordination of EU Member States' research programmes towards and with Russia. It is planned to develop a concept for coordinating the activities of S&T programme owners in the EU and Russia, with the goal of piloting a joint call for research projects.

Collaboration with on-going projects will be naturally facilitated, as two partners of ACCESSRU team – INBI and ICISTE – are consortium partners in both BILAT-RUS and ERA.Net RUS projects.



What services we offer you

Are you EU researcher seeking opportunities in Russia?

The consortium members will assist you in:

- Identifying the Russian opportunities most suitable for you,
- Helping you find the right Russian partners
- Preparing the Action Plan with your Russian partners that will target access to the Russian programme (with or without funding),
- Suggesting the most suitable access option that matches your needs,
- Supporting you in the application process.

All the assistance provided under the ACCESSRU support action is free of charge.

The ACCESSRU team is made up of 8 senior partners from the EU and Russia. The team experts include **Russian native speakers** who are knowledgeable about the EU and Russian S&T landscapes and who are fully committed to helping you access Russian programmes and partners. Moreover, the presence of the **Russian Ministry of Education and Science** in the project team emphasises the commitment and importance of this programme to the Russian authorities.

Our initial goal is to assist 7 motivated European research organisations (and their Russian partners) that would like to participate in Russian S&T programmes and start or intensify their co-operation with Russian research organisations.



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Introducing project partners: European Science Foundation



The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 79 member organisations devoted to scientific research in 30 European countries. Since we were established in 1974, we have coordinated a wide range of pan-European scientific initiatives, and our flexible organisation structure means we can respond quickly to new developments.

ESF's core purpose is to promote high quality science at a European level.

The ESF is committed to facilitating cooperation and collaboration in European science on behalf of its principal stakeholders (Member Organisations and Europe's scientific community). This cross-border activity combines both 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' approaches in the long-term development of science.

The Foundation is committed to providing scientific leadership through its networking expertise and by ensuring that there is a European added value to all of its initiatives and projects.

From the readers

The ACCESSRU team will provide you, and your potential Russian partners, with expert advice and professional consultancy, tailored to your needs.

In return, we would like to hear your feedback about your experiences accessing the Russian programmes. This will help our team further develop our support services and identify the next steps for ACCESSRU support.

Do you have experience to share? A seminar or conference to promote? Suggestions for EU-Russia R&D collaborative priorities? Partners to be searched? Send us your ideas and suggestions.

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* Until March 12, 2010 the Federal Agency for Science and Innovation was a member of the consortium.



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