



Strengthening EU-Russia Science and Technology Cooperation and EU Access to Russian National Funding Programmes

Project newsletter #3 August 2011

«We need to work better with our international partners. That means opening access to our R&D programmes, while ensuring comparable conditions abroad.»

From “Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative – Innovation Union”

From the Editor



Svetlana Klessova, Project coordinator, inno AG

The last months were very productive for the ACCESSRU team. As soon as we prepared the analysis of Russian research & innovation programmes and initiatives, and identified access opportunities for researchers from the European Union to the Russian programmes, we organised several events to disseminate the information.

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Opportunities report for EU R&D actors

The project team produced the “Opportunities report for EU R&D actors” which provides European policy makers and researchers with an overview of the Russian innovation system in general and access opportunities to Russian S&T and innovation programmes in particular.

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Green paper for open consultation

Within the framework of strengthening EU-Russia science and technology cooperation and EU access to Russian National Funding programmes, the ACCESSRU team produced a “Green paper”. The key objective was to elaborate a set of proposals that would be used as a vehicle to support the EU Russian S&T policy dialogue.

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2nd ACCESSRU Round Table



The second round table on ACCESSRU project took place on 31st of May 2011 in the Moscow office of the Delegation of the European Union to Russia.

It brought together the European and Russian key stakeholders, top scientists, representatives of research institutes and universities and R&D organizations.

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

Success story: JOINT ARCTIC RESEARCH PROJECT GAINS FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN RUSSIA



A federal target programme enabling research in Russia led by invited scientists has helped a leading German institute and two Russian universities to continue, with the assistance of ACCESSRU, joint efforts on Arctic ecology and biological monitoring.

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Accessru coverage in mass media



ACCESSRU Featured in a Leading Russian Publication on Innovation.

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Focus on access opportunities in other countries

News from ACCESS4EU programme: Australia, South Korea, China...

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Introducing project partners: INNOVA Europe



INNOVA Europe is a consultancy with offices in Brussels and Luxembourg. It is a European spearhead of the INNOVA Group, a leading consultancy group in Europe in the field of innovation policy and management. The INNOVA GROUP is present in 7 countries.

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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.

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From the editor



Svetlana Klessova
Project coordinator,
inno AG

Dear readers,

The last months were very productive for the ACCESS-RU team. As soon as we prepared the analysis of Russian research & innovation programmes and initiatives, and identified access opportunities for researchers from the European Union to the Russian programmes, we organised several events to disseminate the information. One of them take place in Stuttgart, Germany (February 2011), and brought together about 100 specialists from Germany who were interested in exploring cooperation opportunities with Russia. Other events, in Madrid (March 2011) and in Brussels (June 2011), helped promote cooperation opportunities in the aeronautics and health sector.. In addition, ways of accessing Russian programmes and mechanisms to facilitate cooperation were discussed during a t round table in Moscow (May 2011). We were happy to identify success stories, one of which is described on the pages of this Newsletter – and we look forward to even more success stories to promote in the future. Our work is far from being finished and we encourage you to share your experiences with us.

Happy reading!



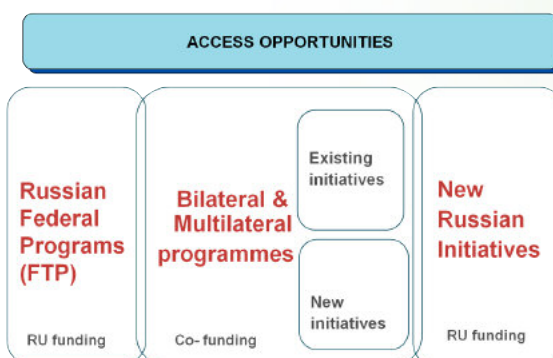
Opportunities report for EU R&D actors

The project team produced the “Opportunities report for EU R&D actors” which provides European policy makers and researchers with an overview of the Russian innovation system in general and access opportunities to Russian S&T and innovation programmes in particular. More specifically, the report highlights schemes that are open for the participation of European researchers and entry channels to Russian Federal Target Programs (FTP), bilateral programmes and multilateral programmes, as well as to the programmes aimed at attracting top class scientists to Russian universities. The report is a summary document and provides links to a multitude of sources for additional information.

There are three key schemes to access

Russian S&T programs:

- Russian Federal Programmes
- Bilateral programmes
- New Russian Initiatives



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The report provides a brief summary of the possibilities to access different programmes.

Federal targeted programmes (FTPs) are the most difficult to access for foreign applicants. However, EU companies can act as sub-contractors to the main applicant (Russian organisation). There are also FTPs looking for scientific and marketing external expertise, inviting European experts to participate in the evaluation process.

Historically, the **easiest way to cooperate with Russian organisations has been through bilateral programmes** carried out either in Russia or with Russian participation. As the financing of a foreign partner usually goes through the respective country's budget, the access to such funding is easier and the rules of participation and reporting are typically more transparent. However, the bilateral character of such programmes can put certain restrictions on the project itself. For example, recently Russia and Israel announced a bilateral programme in the field of nano-technologies (Russian operator – Rosnano) in order to finance joint commercial projects. However, it has been stipulated that the production programme is required to be located in Russia.

Amongst Russian organisations, the ones most open for international cooperation and the most flexible in decision making are those that work with non-budget funding. Budget funding puts tight restrictions, rules and reporting procedures on the use of its resources. In this respect, it is relatively easy to take part in different educational programmes of universities or in internship programmes.

The programme "Measures to Attract Leading Scientists to Russian Educational Institutions" is relatively simple to participate in. Despite an excess of documents required and short notice (the competition was announced on June 25, 2010 with a deadline on July 26, 2010, just one month later), 512 applications from 179 Russian universities were received - among them about 120 from foreign scientists. All applications are reviewed by 2 Russian and 2 foreign experts.

The following table provides an overview of access parameters to different schemes.

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Simplicity of access for EU applicant</i>	<i>Rules of participation</i>	<i>Level of Restrictions</i>
Joint Russian-French and Russian-German projects under Bilateral agreements of the FASIE	Co-funding	++	Simple	Restricted to the participants from France and Germany
Joint fundamental research project under Bilateral programmes of the RFBR	Parity-funding / co-funding	+	Simple	Restricted to the participants from the countries covered by the bilateral agreements
Federal target programme (FTP) - direct application	Budget funding from RU side	--	Complex	Very High
Sub-contracting under FTP	Customer funding	+	Simple	High
Leading Scientists	Budget funding from RU side	++	Simple	Moderate Person-based, no involvement of the EU organisation
Sub-contracting in industrial research	Customer funding	-	Simple	Moderate

The opportunity report also puts forward practical recommendations for European organisations that are interested in accessing Russian research programmes, including the following tips on how to:

- *feel confident to access Russian programmes*
- *follow up Russian calls and tenders*
- *pay particular attention to the call documentation*
- *be focused on timing and on results / achievements*
- *open an account in Russia.*



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Green paper for open consultation

Within the framework of strengthening EU-Russia science and technology cooperation and EU access to Russian National Funding programmes, the ACCESSRU team produced a “Green paper”. The key objective was to elaborate a set of proposals that would be used as a vehicle to support the EU Russian S&T policy dialogue. The “Green paper” contains detailed information about existing and prospective opportunities and channels of possible cooperation. Moreover, the document includes a list of proposals for strengthening bilateral exchanges.

The ACCESSRU partners held round table in May 2011 where scientists and researchers from Russia and EU countries met and exchanged opinions on the difficulties and opportunities of bilateral cooperation.

In the framework of these activities, project launched an open consultation “**Towards reinforcement of S&T cooperation between Russian and EU: facilitation of access of European organizations and researchers to Russian research and innovation programmers**”. It was distributed by an online survey tool <http://www.access4.eu/russia/833.php> and released on the CNRS website. Forty-four answers were submitted.

The target audience of the questionnaire was composed of 3 groups:

- European researchers working in Russia (priority group)
- Russian researchers involved in cooperation with the EU
- S&T and innovation stakeholders both in the EU and RU

The overview of the responses to the questionnaire is as follows.

The majority of respondents represented publicly funded research institutions, universities, public/private entities and SMEs. Over half of them agreed that the Russian Federation and European Union should join their efforts to make EU access to Russian R&D and innovation programs easier. The best way to provide the implementation of this task, according to the answers, is to involve EU&Russian teams in the proposals and develop an information pack for relevant Russian calls. The respondents also mentioned

language and administrative barriers which should be overcome in order to achieve successful results.

The majority of respondents listed attracting young scientists from EU to Russia as the best way of strengthening EU participation in Russian R&D innovation programmes. Other suggestions included providing training opportunities both for Russian research centers and innovative companies wishing to host EU partners and for EU researchers wishing to access Russian programs as well as informing Russian research centers and innovation companies about the possibilities of the EU participation in Russian programmes.

The most popular channel to attract EU young scientists to Russia was joint research programmes with their participation and thesis co-supervision. Respondents equally appraised summer schools for EU participation and scholarship.

The respondents were also asked about the best indicators for assessing the performance of Russia-EU participation. 21% of people consider the number of EU participations in Russian programmes and vice-versa as the best indicator. Comparatively, similar spread of responses was for number of joint publications, number of young scientists attracted and total amount of funding for the projects in respect to the number of participants.

According to the respondents, the best way to promote Russian R&D and innovation programmes in Europe is by organizing regular info days for EU researchers about the opportunities to participate in RU programmes (44%). Communication at conferences, workshops, showrooms and via the press were also mentioned as the possible channels.

The majority (59%) of respondents think that EU, MS and Russian financial instruments should be used more extensively to support bilateral collaboration.

The last question aimed at listing the most significant obstacles concerning the EU access to Russian programmes. The respondents named administrative and linguistic barriers as the most substantial.

Download Green paper



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2nd ACCESSRU Round Table



The second round table on ACCESSRU project took place on 31st of May 2011 in the Moscow office of the Delegation of the European Union to Russia.

It brought together the European and Russian key stakeholders, top scientists, representatives of research institutes and universities and R&D organizations.

The round table was organised under the general theme «Development of mechanisms facilitating access for EU R&D organizations and researchers to Russian S&T Programmes».

The goal of the 2nd Round Table was to discuss the access mechanisms and finalize the strategic recommendations on facilitating the European researchers' entry into Russian national programs. In particular, the 2nd Round table aimed at:

- Reporting on the access opportunities and entry channels identified by the project consortium;
- Providing feedback from the European/foreign researchers and Russian research organizations who experienced collaboration under Russian programs;
- Offering a forum for discussing possible mechanisms that will facilitate the access to the Russian programmes for the EU organisations;
- Formulating a vision on the future EU-RU S&T cooperation on a mutually open basis.

Svetlana Klessova, ACCESSRU Project Coordinator, at the end of the Round Table work concluded: "We need one another to facilitate access of the European specialists to Russian programmes, to Russian knowledge base, to Russian experience, equipment, unique products, etc". To facilitate this access, the main issues were highlighted based on the summarized information from the round table, such as:

- Ensure the information support, because not everyone can keep track of all the calls;
- Support the infrastructure (through the system of National Contact Points or some other structures, Russia's Technology Platforms);
- Create Helpdesks;
- Ensure information dissemination, not only in Europe, but also in Russia;
- Develop web-seminars for the stakeholders (to clarify how the European scientists can participate in Russian programmes)
- Ensure balanced financial support for the projects;
- Bridge the gap between small (up to 10 000 EURO) and huge projects (more than 500 000 EURO);
- Support joint calls (twinned and coordinated) and the other mechanisms of co-operation;



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- Focus on attracting young scientists to ensure long-term co-operation;
- Use the Marie Curie Programme widely, bilaterally;
- Develop information letters for experience exchange (kind of club for sharing the ideas);
- Create the indicators of success (input for a pool of good practices);

- Use the experience of those Russian companies / research centers that have created their own approach in attracting leading scientists, a kind of 'know-how' they have to, and can share with other companies.

Download a detailed summary of this event, including list of participants and round table agenda



The presentations of the Round Table are available at:



The photo report of the event is at:



The video of the Round Table work can be found at:



Success story: JOINT ARCTIC RESEARCH PROJECT GAINS FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN RUSSIA

A federal target programme enabling research in Russia led by invited scientists has helped a leading German institute and two Russian universities to continue, with the assistance of ACCESSRU, joint efforts on Arctic ecology and biological monitoring.

Dr. Larisa Nazarova is one of those European researchers who are traditionally called compatriots in Russia. Those people have left for work in Western institutions but have not lost interest in cooperation with their home country. Moreover, their interest has been growing in recent years.

A graduate from Kazan University who earned a degree in biology, she has been involved in climatic and palaeoecological

research with scientific institutions and high-tech companies in Britain, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands since 1998. Currently, she is working at Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in the Helmholtz Association in Potsdam, Germany http://www.awi.de/en/aktuelles_und_presse/kurzmeldungen/2011/maj/.

The institute, founded in 1980, has become a leader in Germany and worldwide in its field. It plays a crucial part in climatic and ecological research in the Russian Arctic. In particular, its work is carried out at a field station located on the Samoillovsky Island in the delta of the Lena River where Russian PM Vladimir Putin has once paid a one-day visit.



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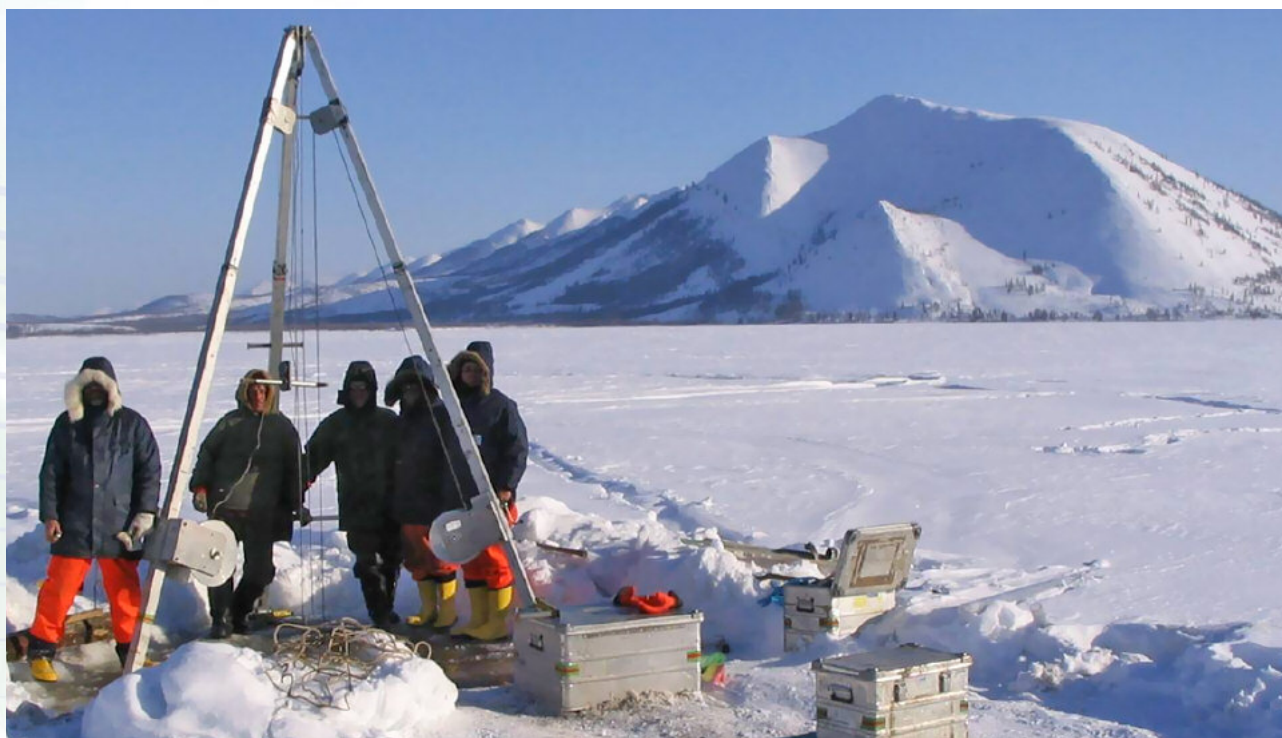


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In 2009, the German Ministry for Education and Science announced a call to create joint research structures with Russian partners. On behalf of AWI, Nazarova submitted a winning application. The international project seeks to create a joint Russian-German research laboratory to study environmental dynamics in the Arctic with a special emphasis on biological monitoring (BioM). Nazarova became coordinator at the new division.

BioM research activities are focused on past ecological and climatic changes, studying biological and geological proxies from lacustrine and permafrost sediment archives. In addition, the scientists analyze current ecological changes caused by global warming, study Arctic biodiversity, and make plans for ecological examination and forecasts of the future state of the environment.

The Russian partner organisations are two universities, the North-East Federal University (NEFU) in Yakutsk and Kazan Volga Federal University (KFU). Initially, there were certain issues with joint financing of the research structure, Nazarova says. The German Ministry of Education and Science provided 75,000 euros for the first phase of the project to be followed by another 150,000 euros for the second phase in case of success. However, it is rather dif-

ficult to obtain similar financing from the Russian side. However, both partners are listed as Russian federal universities and were thus able to gain significant financial support enabling them to participate in the programme.

Due to their status, these universities can run their own development programmes, for which the federal budget provides up to 25 million euros a year, for the first five years. Such programmes support massive investments in the development of infrastructure, equipment for laboratories, study process, and personnel development. Taking into consideration the subject of cooperation in this case, another important advantage is the fact that both NEFU and KFU have their own field stations making it possible to do ecological research in the Arctic.

Still, the project faced unforeseen challenges. While the NEFU development programme allowed the university to spend the money from the federal budget on field research, the Kazan University could only use its money within the framework of internal grants to pay salaries to the personnel. It was unclear how to finance field trips of KFU researchers from those grants. The situation where both money and partners were available but it was practically impossible to arrange an expedition reached an impasse.



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In February 2011, Nazarova met ACCESSRU representatives in Stuttgart, Germany, and shared her concerns with them. That is how she learned about the open call for Activity 1.5 of the Federal Target Programme on Research and Scientific-Pedagogical Personnel for Innovative Russia for 2009 to 2013. It was her chance to get the money for the required purposes.

Activity 1.5 provides for scientific research by groups led by invited researchers. Russian institutions apply for a specialist to work with them in Russia for short periods. The selection criteria are the guest's rating in world science and the quality of the project. Financial support of the federal budget may reach up to two million rubles a year (50,000 euros). In 2011, over 80 research projects were selected for groups led by Russian scientists living abroad. Only five grants were awarded to Earth sciences.

According to Nazarova, she had just three weeks to prepare an application. Therefore, it was extremely challenging to prepare the application and submit it on time. The project won the competition and gained financial support. Recently, the partners have embarked on joint work under the project called "Reconstruction of the Palaeoclimatic Conditions of Holocene in the Russian Arctic with Innovative Methods and Using Palaeobiological, Geochemical and Palaeomagnetic Proxies of Lake Sediment Archives."

AWI, KFU and NEFU have successfully developed their cooperation after they gained additional momentum thanks to participation in the call which provided the Russian partners with a financial basis for further partnership. The partners have signed bilateral memoranda of intent and developed programmes for scientific contacts within the main scientific topics. Representatives of AWI and KFU have

made academic mobility visits to Yakutsk and both Russian universities have also visited AWI. The partners have also begun programmes for joint supervision of graduates' and post-graduates' research work and initiated joint expeditions to North-East Yakutia and Karelia.

The scientific methodological seminar "Russian-German Cooperation on the Ecology of Arctic Ecosystems: Results and Prospects" is supposed to be held after the project's first phase in Kazan on 20-25 November 2011. The application for the seminar has already been submitted to the Russian Foundation for Basic Research.

For the KFU group with whom Nazarova works, this is not the first experience in a call under Federal Target Programme 1.5. In 2009, they already submitted a similar application. Nazarova notes that a significant progress has been made in the organization of such calls in the past two years. Currently, the whole process is much better regulated, there are ready forms to fill in, the contract itself was signed promptly and the money is transferred without delay. She believes, however, that there is still much work to do. According to her, the selection criteria should be improved so that research costs should not dominate too much over the project's scientific quality. Moreover, scientists should be given more time to prepare a thorough application as one month is far too little. International projects in Europe normally take about six months to prepare.

"Activity 1.5 is our big luck and a real gift of fortune," Nazarova says. "This programme makes a great contribution to the enhancement of Russia's positive image, demonstrating that Russian resources can be effectively used for joint projects with Europe."

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Accessru coverage in mass media

ACCESSRU Featured in a Leading Russian Publication on Innovation

Prospects for EU-Russia cooperation in science and technology are discussed in an extensive analytical paper published by the Russian Duma in its influential 2010 yearbook on innovative development.

Chairman of the **Russian Technology Transfer Network Board**, Oleg Luksha, and Svetlana Klessova, Director at **inno**, a leading European consulting company, emphasize in their article published in *New Economy: Innovation Insight into Russia* that the European Union is a strong priority of Russia's international cooperation in science and innovation. They provide a detailed analysis into practical aspects of R&D collaboration under EU Framework Programmes for research and technological development, a key component of this cooperation.



The authors refer to specific examples of successful projects under the EU Seventh Framework Programme, such as ACCESSRU.

The yearbook *New Economy: Innovation Insight into Russia* has already been published for a third consecutive year on the initiative of the Duma Committee for Science and Research-Intensive Technologies and the Federation Council Committee for Education and Science. It serves as an important tool for such information exchanges and a discussion forum for leading Russian experts in the field of innovation.

The edition is Russia's first experience of open debates on problems faced by the Russian economy in its transition to an innovative development model among legislators, heads of ministries and agencies, regional leaders, prominent scientists and business people. The very fact that the article by Oleg Luksha and Svetlana Klessova appeared in such an authoritative national publication will help to raise awareness of the ACCESSRU project in the Russian innovation community and at the top level of government.

The article "Prospects for the Development of EU-Russia Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology as Exemplified in the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union" (in Russian) can be downloaded here



The article "Boosting research potential" is presented in the 1st issue of publication "Research @ TC" of the BIO CIRCLE 2 project

The 1st issue of "Research @ TC" is a publication of the BIOCIRCLE 2 project of FP7 EC ("Creating a circle by extending the BIO NCP network to Third Country NIPs") that highlights the research capacities of the Third Countries and aims to promote international research cooperation under KBBE.

The Russian partners contributed with an article "Boosting research potential" which describes ACCESSRU project experience and unprecedented initiatives in Russian S&T and innovation policy to attract leading international scientists to Russian institutions.

The article "Boosting research potential" is presented in the 1st issue of publication "Research @ TC" of the BIO CIRCLE 2 project and available here



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Focus on access opportunities in other countries News from ACCESS4EU programme

WHAT IS ACCESS4EU?

The ACCESS4EU projects (funded under the FP7 Capacities programme of the EC) are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in the Framework Programme providing opportunities to access research programmes managed by third countries.

This unique instrument aims at increasing European researchers' awareness of funding opportunities for international research projects in the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, South Korea and the United States of America. The projects will contribute to the implementation of the agreements by identifying the different funding programmes open to EU researchers and promote their participation, i.e. developing the reciprocity aspects of S&T agreements.

Australia

A comprehensive Guide for European Researchers interested in research collaboration with Australia is now available for download. It offers more information about the Australian research landscape, as well as practical advice and links to sources of information about accessing Australian research programmes and funding, and living and working in Australia. You can download the Guide [here](#).

South Korea

The KORRIDOR consortium successfully held two information days first in Bonn (1st of March, 2011) and second in Paris (3rd of March, 2011), to promote opportunities available to Europeans researchers in programmes supported by the Korean government. About 80 people from German research community and 50 people from French research community, who wish to learn about current opportunities for European-Korean research cooperation through Korean-funded programmes, participated in the Bonn and Paris event, respectively.

At these information days, leading members of the most important Korean funding organisations: KIAT (Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology) and NRF (National Research Foundation) as well as KETEP (Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning) introduced their international cooperation R&D pro-

grammes. Successful cooperation cases from each country were also shared among attendees and help them gain a greater understanding of Korea's distinct research strengths and resources as well as existing EU-Korean cooperation activities.

The presentation files for each event can be downloaded here: [Bonn](#), [Paris](#).

China

In an effort to identify successful cases regarding collaborations between European and Chinese researchers in Chinese research funding programmes and provide practical advice to the EU researchers, the ChinaAccess4EU project team interacted with several European and Chinese stakeholders to achieve a greater understanding of their partnership approach in Chinese research programmes. These case studies were developed based on interviews and desk research. They explain the approach to Chinese research networks and researchers, preparation of the application, participation in Chinese research programmes, as well as benefits obtained through collaborations, barriers encountered, lessons learned and recommended actions to improve the participation of European researchers in Chinese funding programmes.

Read more: <http://www.access4.eu/China/751.php>



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Introducing project partners: INNOVA Europe

INNOVA Europe is a consultancy with offices in Brussels and Luxembourg. It is a European spearhead of the INNOVA Group, a leading consultancy group in Europe in the field of innovation policy and management. The INNOVA GROUP is present in 7 countries.

Since 1993, the INNOVA Group has been delivering highly specialised services in the fields of research exploitation, technology transfer, innovation management and innovation support measures.

INNOVA Europe's staff is highly qualified, multilingual and able to cope with complex assignments. Being ISO 9001:2008 certified company, we are committed to deliver top quality services and strive constantly for excellence in innovation policy consulting.

Currently, Brussels office is the linking pin for many of the policy research and advisory assignments that the INNOVA Group undertakes for the European Institutions, such as KIS Platform, INNO Learning Platform, eTEN, etc.

In ACCESSRU project, INNOVA Europe is responsible for dissemination workpackage using its vast experience in promoting trans-national collaboration in innovation policy making (PRO INNO Europe® for example – <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/>).

More information about the company and its projects can be found at: <http://www.innova-europe.eu/>.

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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