



IncoNets

Eastern Europe/ Central Asia/ South Caucasus

Internal Newsletter March - April 2012

Progress in the Work Packages

IncoNet EECA, WP1: Enhancing bi-regional S&T Policy Dialogue

Task 1.1 S&T Policy Stakeholder Conferences (PSC) with the EECA

Policy Stakeholders' Conference in Kiev:
"EU-EECA cooperation in the innovation sector: Bi-regional responses to major societal and economic challenges"

The 5th Policy Stakeholders' Conference will take place in Kiev on 25-26 April.

More than 40 participants from the 12 EECA countries, circa 20 EU representatives (including 2 from the European Commission) and 16 project partners will take part in the event.

A current version of the [agenda](#) (from 18 April 2012) is now available. Brief overview:

25 April 2012

- Opening
- Session I: Setting the context

Key Note Speeches:

'Innovation – the smart response to core challenges in EU and EECA'

'Social Innovation: The concept and its potential'

Presentations

Open discussion

coffee break

- Session II: Boosting innovation - good practices

lunch break

- Session III: *(continue)*

coffee break

- Session IV *(continue)*

26 April 2012

- Session V: Shaping the future: Bi-regional actions to promote innovation

coffee break

- Session VI: Open structured discussion

- Concluding Session

Contacts: [Vadym Yashenkov](#), NIP Ukraine
[George Bonas](#), ICBSS

www.inco-eeca.net

www.inco-casc.net

IncoNet EECA, WP3: Strengthening the participation of EECA countries in FP7

Task 3.1 Knowledge based support for SICA in the Thematic Priorities

Workshop on Innovation Networks 21-22 May 2012, Tashkent

The IncoNet EECA project partners FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency) and IUCP-T (Indo-Uzbek Centre for Promotion of Scientific-Technical Cooperation) are organizing a Workshop on Innovation Networks in May 21-22, 2012.

The Workshop will introduce some important European Networks, which play a crucial role in the 7th European Framework Programme, and other research schemes and offer the possibilities to connect with them. Major attention will be given to Renewable Energy Resources, which was chosen as the main priority. Representatives from the European Photovoltaic Technology Platform, the Zero Emission Platform, the European 'Factories of the Future' Research Association, and the Russian Technology Platforms will introduce their activities.

Further presentations will be made by the Research Projects Networks, and the Networks of Governmental Support. From Uzbekistan,

the SME 'Mir Solar', the Institute of Energy and Automation of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Material Sciences, and the Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology Development under the Cabinet of Ministers will present their spheres of activity.

In addition the Uzbek NCP, researchers, and SMEs dealing with renewable energy resources will participate in the event.

This Workshop will be particularly interesting and useful for Uzbek researchers, scientists and entrepreneurs, who are offered a chance to connect with the research and innovation actors in Europe.

A [draft agenda](#) is available on incrEAST.

Contact: [Irina Slosar](#), FFG
[Durdona Komilvova](#), IUCP-T

IncoNets EECA WP6: Quality, Links, Sustainability

Task 6.2 Links with other coordination and support activities targeting EECA

Project Coordinators' Board Meeting 24 February 2012, web conference

As part of the consultation process on the 'White Paper on Opportunities and Challenges in View of Enhancing the EU Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and South Caucasus in Science, Research, and Innovation' an EU-EECA Project Coordinators Meeting was held as a web conference in February.

The main aim of the event was to get feedback on the White Paper recommendations from experts, who are active in EU-EECA cooperation and have hands-on experience with the related challenges.

The participants in this meeting were:

Alexander Chvorostov (Project Coordinator of ENRI-East and HITT, among other FP6/FP7 projects), Andrea Critto (E-URAL), Andrej Kocsis (Aero-Ukraine), Katriina Koski (DIABIMMUNE), and Megi Sharikadze (LipidomicNet).

The results of this event have been compiled in an Online Annex "[Comments to the White Paper](#)".



IncoNets EECA & CA/SC, WP6: Quality, Links, Sustainability

Task EECA 6.3, CA/SC 6.2 Sustainability monitoring

SWOT Analysis

The sustainability of activities, which have been supported by ad-hoc projects and funding, is always of particular concern.

From the Policy Stakeholders Conferences (WP1) to the NCP structures (WP3), or the EU-EECA projects coordination board (WP6), several activities and structures will benefit from project funding.

In view of the Final Report on Sustainability Monitoring (due May 2012), preliminary input has been collected through the Event Evaluation Forms distributed at the some IncoNet EECA& CASC events. Since the input received so far is rather limited, two possible scenarios to collect further information were considered:

1. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis for EECA and CASC project partners;
2. An assessment based on questionnaires for the EU-EECA Project Coordinators' Board and coordinators of the '[Projects of the Month](#)' (PoM).

In the next days ICBS will disseminate the questionnaire among both target groups.

Contact: [George Bonas](#), ICBS

IncoNets EECA & CA/SC, WP7: Communication, Dissemination activities and Conferences

Task 7.1 e-content management

www.incrEAST.eu – statistics

Visitor numbers to our web portal have risen to 8,000 - 8,500 visitors per month:

Summary by Month									
Month	Daily Avg					Monthly Totals			
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files
Apr 2012				265			3976		
Mar 2012				269			8350		
Feb 2012				274			7970		
Jan 2012				274			8509		
Dec 2011				273			8468		
Nov 2011				237			7134		
Oct 2011				165			5142		
Sep 2011				177			5329		
Aug 2011				165			5136		

The top ranking sub page is still our calendar with 58,479 hits for the English version and 39,167 for the Russian version last month.

Among the top 30 sub pages are the White Paper (556 hits in March alone), but also the incrEAST Newsletters (No 15: 708 hits, No 14: 396 hits in March). The 'Catalogue of Moldovan Research Groups' was hit 416 times in March alone.

Update country reports

We are still in the process of uploading the updates to the incrEAST country reports. The following are already online:

- Armenia (English and Russian)
- Russia (English and Russian)
- Kyrgyzstan (English)
- Turkmenistan (English)
- Ukraine (English)
- Uzbekistan (Russian)

The next reports to be uploaded will be Belarus, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (all three in English and Russian) and the English version for Uzbekistan. The CIO sincerely thanks all RCs for their support.

We are still hoping for updates/ reports from Azerbaijan and Georgia. Additional updates and amendments for all EECA countries are welcome at any time.

Contact: [Stephanie Franke](#) & [Maria Josten](#), DLR

IncoNet EECA, WP9: Pilot Evaluation Exercises

Task 9.1 S&T Policy Mix Peer Reviews to Moldova and Kazakhstan

The site visits to Moldova and Kazakhstan carried out by international expert teams for reviewing the S&T Policy Mixes in both countries have been successfully concluded.



Participants of Policy Mix Peer Review Exercise (source: www.international.asm.md, photo by Vitalie Varzari)

The Peer Review team to Kazakhstan, which is headed by Manfred Horvat, includes the following experts:

- **Mr. Jean-Luc Clement**, Adviser on research affairs, French Ministry of Higher Education and Research
- **Ms. Margit Harjung**, Deputy Head of Unit for Research and Technology Funding, Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
- **Ms. Kirsten Kienzler**, International Office of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research at DLR
- **Mr. Zygmunt Krasiński**, Deputy Director of National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU in Poland, Polish Academy of Sciences
- **Mr. Vardan Sahakyan**, Head of Science Policy Department, State Committee of Science of the Republic of Armenia
- **Mr. Michael Schlicht**, Head of Department for Cooperation with Russia and CIS, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

The Peer Review team to Moldova, which is headed by Manfred Spiesberger (ZSI), includes the following experts:

- **Mr. Anatoly Hryshanovich**, Deputy Executive Director, Belarusian Innovation Fund
- **Ms. Kirsten Kienzler**, International Office of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research at DLR
- **Mr. Toivo Rääm**, Advisor at the Department of Research Policy, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia
- **Ms. Johanna Ringhofer**, Deputy Head of Unit for EU-Research Policy and Co-ordination, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research
- **Ms. Agni Spilioti**, Director, Directorate for the support of Research Programmes (and for International S&T cooperation in the past), General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT)

The site visits were organised by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and the Kazakh National Innovation Fund as well as InExCB-Kz (the Independent Expert Consulting Board to Promote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan) together with ZSI.

The task of the Peers is to draft a report on the following dimensions reviewed under this exercise:

- human resources in S&T,
- public science base,
- business R&D and innovation,
- and economic and market development.

The report, confidential by nature, will be finalised until mid of June 2012.

Contact: [Klaus Schuch](#), ZSI, WP9 Leader

Task 9.2: Benchmarking of the European, Eastern European and Central Asian RTDI Institutions from the Field of Nano- Science/Nano-Technology



Participants at the Benchmarking Exercise kick-off meeting (photo kindly provided by Gorazd Weiss)

For benchmarking of the European, Eastern European and Central Asian RTDI Institutions from the Field of Nano- Science/Nano-Technology (Task 9.2) 5 institutions from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have been selected.

The meeting to kick-start this pilot exercise was organized by the Centre for Social Innovation in Vienna on 16-17 February 2012 with participation of representatives of the selected RTDI centers, IncoNet EECA partners from the named countries and the Evaluators (Elke Dall, Prof. Erich Gornik, Austria and Dr. Paul Tomlins, UK).

The brief presentations of EU and EECA RTDI institutions delivered at the meeting have given the Evaluators the first insight in their activities, while the preliminary report developed by each organization within the next month has added the first impression with quantitative and qualitative data thus providing a ground for sight visits.

According to the plan agreed upon in Vienna, Belarus was the first country to be attended and the Laboratory of electrodynamics of non-homogeneous media, Institute of Nuclear Problems of the Belarusian State University (INP BSU) – the first institution to be evaluated.



A group of young researchers of the Laboratory of electrodynamics of non-homogeneous media, INP BSU and Olga Meerovskaya, BellSA (photo by Elke Dall)

The INP BSU hosted the Reviewers on 11-12 April. The program of the visit included the meeting with Prof. Vladimir Baryshevsky, Director of INP BSU who gave an overview of its activities and the profound presentation of the Laboratory's research activities and prospects delivered by Prof. Sergey Maksimenko, its head. Later on, the smaller-range meetings with the young researchers and senior staff took place. Also, the Evaluators' visited the Centre for collective use of research equipment at Physical Department of the University which is used by the INP BSU staff. The agenda was finalized by the round-table discussion of the preliminary results of the SWAT-analysis made by the Reviewers.



Prof Gornik, Dr Tomlins and Dr Vitaly Ksenevich in the Centre for collective use of research equipment, Physical Department, BSU (photo by Elke Dall)

BelISA has contributed to organization and smooth implementation of the visit.

The next point in the agenda of the Evaluators is Armenia and its Institute for Physical Research, National Academy of Sciences.

Contact: [Olga Meerovskaya](#), BelISA, WP9 Partner

Events/Activities

IncoNet EECA

5th Policy Stakeholders' Conference in Kiev

"EU-EECA cooperation in the innovation sector: Bi-regional responses to major societal and economic challenges"
25-26 April 2012

Workshop on Innovation Networks in Tashkent

The workshop will introduce some important European Networks, which play a crucial role in the 7th European Framework Programme and other research schemes and offer the possibilities to connect with them.
21-22 May 2012

Workshop on Global Challenges in Bucharest

to identify needs and pave the way for future activities: The workshop aims to bring together persons responsible for Climate Change, Health and Energy in EU and EECA countries.
cheduled for 11-12 June 2012

Workshop: Results of the Policy Mix Reviews in Chisinau and Astana

scheduled for June 2012

Workshop on the results of the Benchmarking exercises in Athens

scheduled for June 2012.

IncoNet CA/SC

DCI workshop in Dushanbe *scheduled for spring 2012*

Workshop on innovation & potential CIP in CA/SC and Moldova *scheduled for spring 2012*

ENPI workshop in Tbilisi *1. webconference scheduled for May 2012* *workshop scheduled for autumn 2012*

NCP training in Bishkek (including Regional Correspondents' workshop) *scheduled for November 2012*

6th Policy Stakeholders' Conference in Tbilisi *scheduled for the second half of 2012*

STI Policy Dialogue Forum in Bonn

on Instruments for the coordination of the National activities (based on the experience of the EraNet Russia)
scheduled for autumn 2012

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