

EU-Russia Co-operation

Session 'Information and Communication Technologies'

Opening Remarks from Russian Co-chairman

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Basis of EU-Russia Cooperation in Science and Technology

- EU-Russia Science and Technology co-operation agreement (signed in 2000, entered into force in 2001, renewed in 2003)
- Action Plan to enhance Science and Technology co-operation between the European Commission and Russia (signed in 2002)
- Creation of a space of research and education, including cultural aspects (St.-Petersburg Summit of May 2003)
- Road Map for the Common Space of research and education, Including cultural aspects (Moscow Summit of May 2005)



Road Map for the Common Space of Research and Education, Including Cultural Aspects

Research, Science and Technology

Objectives:

- Structuring a knowledge-based society in the EU and Russia
- Promoting a high rate of competitiveness and economic growth by modernization of the national economies and implementation of advanced scientific achievements
- Strengthening and optimizing the links between research and innovation
- Maintaining of small and medium size entrepreneurship in the field of research and innovation



Road Map for the Common Space of Research and Education, Including Cultural Aspects

Research, Science and Technology

Directions:

- Further development of a dialogue to support joint efforts in elaboration and harmonization of the approach towards the creation of a EU/Russia common space in the field of research.
- Joint identification of specific fields of cooperation in priority research domains such as space, new materials and nanotechnologies, life sciences, **information society technologies** and clean and renewable energy.



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Research, Science and Technology

Instruments

Pursue on a regular basis an expert level interaction through working groups stipulated by the Joint Action Plan to enhance Science and Technology cooperation between the European Commission and Russia signed in 2002.

Comments

- By joint decision of Minister of education and science of the Russian Federation Mr. Fursenko and Director-Generale of DG Research Mr. Potochnik, five working groups were established in 2006, that covered all Strategic Priorities of FP6 except IST
- Ministry of Education and Science turned to DG INFSO with a proposal to create a working group for IST strategic priority. Unfortunately, the proposal was not supported with a reference that such an expert group was already existent in the framework of EU-Russia dialogue on Information Society
- Thus, formation of a joint working group as an efficient mechanism to create common space for research in IST (ICT) has still not been completed



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Measures:

- Develop and implement measures to support the participation of Russian research oriented organizations or scientists in EU/Russia cooperation in research and innovation, in particular within jointly agreed fields and in on – going projects (IPs and NoEs) , including through Russian funding for participation of Russian research actors
- **Comments:** in the year 2006, DG Research had launched a third countries target call that allowed researchers from 3rd countries to join ongoing projects under FP6. In order to provide co-financing for Russian participation in these projects, Ministry of Education and Science had launched a corresponding call in the framework of Federal Research Programme (budget: 10 billion rubles ~ 290 000 €). Unfortunately, DG INFSO did not launch similar call, therefore Russian researchers missed an opportunity to joint ongoing IST projects.



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Measures:

- Identify prime actions including in particular the availability of timely information for the remaining period of FP6 aimed at strengthening proposal submission with Russian participation in order to favour a positive evaluation
 - **Comments:** during the FP6 DG INFSO initiated several IST SSA projects to support EU-Russia co-operation. Unfortunately, methodology used in some projects (like ADMIRE-P or SITE) to support Russian participation in IST priority happened to be ineffective because it did not lead to positive evaluation of submitted proposals with Russian participants. The Ministry informed DG INFSO on this matter, and had to recommend Russian participants of similar projects to reconsider their participation in such projects in future.



Final remarks

Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation evaluates EU-Russia cooperation in IST research as positive:

- Total amount of European funding of Russian participants within FP6 IST priority was more than 4 million €. This is more than any other FP6 strategic priority
- European funding of Russian participants of European IST-related research infrastructure projects was more than 3 million €

We hope that the question of creation of EU-Russia Working Group as an effective mechanism to develop cooperation in FP7 ICT thematic priority will finally be resolved with the active measures from both parties, and we will see much more active Russian participation in the European ICT projects under the 7th Framework Programme



Thank you for your attention

Ministry of Science and Education of the Russian Federation is looking forward to cooperate with DG INFSO, and will continue supporting Russian research community's participation in FP7 projects

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