



Dear Reader,

'Science Diplomacy' has become one of the core concepts of the European Union's approach towards international cooperation. 'I believe science diplomacy is the torch that can light the way, where other kinds of politics and diplomacy have failed', said Carlos Moedas – European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation – in a noteworthy [speech](#) at the European Institute in Washington this summer. 'I want science diplomacy to play a leading role in our global outreach [...]. If it's a more peaceful, more prosperous world we wish to leave behind, the EU approach to diplomacy must use the elevated language of science for its remarkable uniting power.'

In this spirit we wish you a peaceful and communicative festive season and a good start for 2016!

1st 'State of the Energy Union Report' published

The 'State of the Energy Union Report', published for the first time on 18 November, shows that progress has been made since the adoption of the Energy Union Framework Strategy nine months ago. On climate change, the report highlights Europe's contribution to the Paris negotiations. The EU submitted in this process a binding domestic economy-wide emissions reduction target of at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

[read this article](#)

[more EU news](#)

[more on climate change](#)

3rd EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference

The 'STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership Countries' (short: IncoNet EaP) will organise its 3rd Policy Stakeholders' Conference – this time with a focus on 'Health' – in Budapest on 19-20 April 2016. The event has been aptly timed alongside two major health events, which will also take place in Budapest in late April 2016: 'ADI 2016 – the 31st International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease' and the 'Onco Update Europe'.

[read this article](#)

[more regional news](#)

[more on health](#)

Series of Events on Energy Policy in Ukraine

The EU Delegation to Ukraine and the European Commission's Support Group for Ukraine, with the support of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat, recently launched a series of high-level events on Energy Market Reform and Sustainable Energy Policy for Ukrainian policy and decision-makers. The first in the series of Policy Talks was organised in mid-October and devoted to the topic of energy tariffs.

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- **Kazakhstan:** Cristina Russo and Asset Issekeshv speak at EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Workshop and Policy Stakeholders Conference in Astana
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- 1st 'State of the Energy Union Report'
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Новости на русском языке

Как эффективно строить нетворкинг/коммуникации в международных научно-исследовательских проектах

Что такое “нетворкинг”? В чем разница между нетворкингом и коммуникацией? Является ли “социальное взаимодействие” частью процесса нетворкинга, или это синоним нетворкинга? Как работает нетворкинг? Как можно интегрировать индивидуальные различия участников в их соответствующие рабочие планы и общую кооперационную деятельность? Как определить, достаточно ли развиты наши навыки нетворкинга, или им требуется улучшение?



[Скачать](#)

Руководство по нетворкингу уже широко используется исследователями не только в России, но и в других странах ЕЕКА, Европейского союза и всего мира. Руководство используется для образовательных целей в университетах и для обучения участников международных исследовательских проектов; оно также рекомендовано для профессионалов в области трансфера технологий.

Настоящее Руководство, разработанное в рамках проекта [BILAT-RUS-Advanced](#), является дальнейшим развитием первого издания.

Часть 1 Руководства – обновленная и расширенная версия первого издания. Она предназначена для того, чтобы его целевая аудитория, которой недостает навыков сетевого взаимодействия, смогла, следуя предлагаемым практическим рекомендациям, значительно улучшить свои навыки нетворкинга. Описаны два дополнительных навыка и добавлены соответствующие рекомендации: “Организация эффективных брокерских мероприятий” и “Использование социальных сетей”.

Часть 2 – новая, основанная на результатах проекта BILAT-RUS-Advanced. В ней рассматриваются различные инструменты создания и поддержки информационных сетей, для которых навыки нетворкинга совершенно необходимы и даже встроены в эти инструменты.



EU and regional news

Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2016-2017 published

The European Commission will invest almost €16 billion in research and innovation in the next two years under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding scheme, following a new Work Programme for 2016-17 adopted today.

The new funding opportunities offered by the Work Programme are directly aligned with the policy priorities of the Commission of President Jean-Claude Juncker and will substantially contribute to the Jobs, Growth and Investment Package, the Digital Single Market, Energy Union and Climate change policy, Internal Market with stronger industry and making Europe a stronger global actor.

Horizon 2020 will be open to innovation, open to science, and open to the world. The new Work Programme 2016-17 offers funding opportunities through a range of calls for proposals, public procurements and other actions like the Horizon Prizes, together covering nearly 600 topics. The programme's structure is a reflection of the overall flexibility of Horizon 2020 which focuses on the EU's long-term priorities and the most pressing societal challenges while allowing it to swiftly address emerging problems such as outbreaks of diseases.

The programme will support a range of cross-cutting initiatives: the modernisation of Europe's manufacturing industry (€1 billion); technologies and standards for automatic driving (over €100 million); the Internet of Things (€139 million) to address digitalisation of EU industries; Industry 2020 in the Circular Economy (€670 million) to develop strong and sustainable economies; and Smart and Sustainable Cities (€232 million) to better integrate environmental, transport, energy and digital networks in EU's urban environments.

The new Work Programme is also set on improving the impact of Horizon 2020 funding. First, it will ensure more money is available for innovative companies thanks to new leveraging opportunities supported by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), in addition to over €740 million dedicated to support research and innovation activities in nearly 2000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs). More will also be done to improve synergies with other EU funding programmes, as stressed by President Juncker in his State of the Union speech, as well as support researchers in their applications with clearer guidance and impact criteria.

Source and further information: [European Commission](#)

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EU and regional news

1st 'State of the Energy Union Report'

The 'State of the Energy Union Report', published for the first time on 18 November, shows that progress has been made since the adoption of the Energy Union Framework Strategy nine months ago. Still much remains to be done, and 2016 will be an important year of delivery. The Energy Union Framework Strategy created a new momentum to bring about the transition to a low-carbon, secure and competitive economy. The Commission has also committed to report annually on the state of the Energy Union in order to address the key issues and steer the policy debate.

Maroš Šefčovič, the Vice-President responsible for the Energy Union, said: 'Nine months down the road, we can say with confidence that we are on track to deliver the Energy Union. My messages for 2016 are clear. First, the EU should continue to lead in the transition to a low-carbon economy. Second, that transition should be socially fair and consumer-centred. And third, the geopolitical challenges that we faced this year will not go away. 2016 will also be the year in which we will lay the foundations of a robust governance system bringing predictability and transparency, which is what investors need. In sum: 2016 will be a year of delivery!'

Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, said: 'The Energy Union is starting to take shape. A lot of progress has been made in these few months but we should now move to full scale delivery of all actions needed. This will be my focus in 2016: presenting the legislation to make our electricity market work better, to further increase the share of renewables, to bring down our energy consumption and to ensure security of our gas supply. [...] As all eyes turn towards the negotiations in Paris, this is a renewed pledge of European leadership and our commitment to the international efforts to fight climate change.'

On climate change, the State of the Energy Union highlights Europe's contribution to the Paris negotiations. At this stage, more than 160 countries representing more than 90% of global emissions have presented their contributions to the Paris Agreement.

The EU submitted in this process a binding domestic economy-wide emissions reduction target of at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. After the Paris conference, it will be important that all countries follow up with concrete implementation of their commitments.

The Climate action progress report published alongside the State of the Energy Union shows that the EU has been particularly successful in decoupling economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions: between 1990 and 2014, the EU's GDP grew by 46% while total greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 23%. The EU is also on track to meet both the 2020 emissions reduction target of 20%, as well as the Kyoto Protocol targets. However, further measures are needed to meet the 2030 target.

Source and further information: [European Commission](#)

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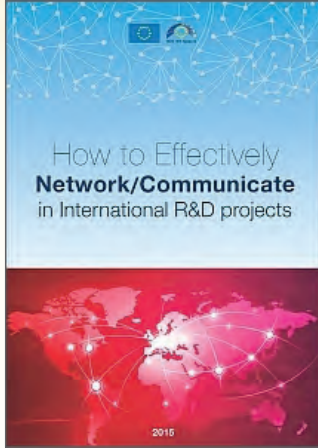
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BILAT-RUS Advanced Project completes its Activities

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Impression of some of the project's publications | source: BILAT-RUS Advance website

Within the BILAT-RUS-Advanced project, 16 partners from both EU member states and Russia collaborated to enhance the bilateral science, technology and innovation (STI) partnership between the Russian Federation and the EU Member States/Associated Countries (MS/AC). The project was coordinated by the [DLR Project Management Agency](#), which is part of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), and financed within the European Union's 7th Framework Programme.

The project was also entrusted with the coordination of activities within the '[EU-Russia Year of Science, Technology and Innovation 2014](#)'. This year long series of joint events celebrated the vibrant science and research cooperation between the EU, its Member States and the Russian Federation - despite the challenging political situation.

Furthermore the project organised information days, brokerage events and prepared guides and (input) reports.

BILAT-RUS-Advanced started in November 2012 and ended in October 2015.

Visit the project website, which will make the [main project outcomes](#) available to the public.

Source and further information: [BILAT-RUS Advanced](#)

EU and regional news

IncoNet EaP announces 3rd EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference with a focus on 'Health'

19-20 April 2016 | Budapest, Hungary

The 3rd EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders' Conference (PSC) of the IncoNet EaP project is going to take place in Budapest, at Danubius Hotel Gellért, on 19-20 April 2016. The upcoming conference will address 'Health' as a focus area of EU-Eastern Partnership Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The 2nd Policy Stakeholders' Conference of IncoNet EaP was titled 'Energy Research and Innovation in the Eastern Partnership' and held in Minsk on 12-13 October 2015.

The series of PSC had been started by IncoNet EaP's predecessor project IncoNet EECA in 2010, and was taken up again with the 1st Policy Stakeholders' Conference of IncoNet EaP, which focused on 'Climate Change' and took place in Yerevan in May 2014.

IncoNet EaP's 3rd Policy Stakeholders' Conference will take place alongside two major health events, which will also be held in Budapest in late April 2016:

- ADI 2016 – 31st International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease will be held on 21-24 April. This is one of the world's largest and most important conferences on Alzheimer's disease. More than 1000 delegates from over 60 countries are expected to attend the conference.
- Onco Update Europe 2016 will take place on 22-23 April. The most relevant clinical papers of the last year will be reviewed and put into perspective, and today's burning issues will be addressed by leading experts in their fields.

Conference details

Programme details and information about the invitation process will be published on the project's website as soon as they become available.

Learn more about IncoNet EaP's Policy Stakeholders' Conferences.

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Source and updates: IncoNet EaP

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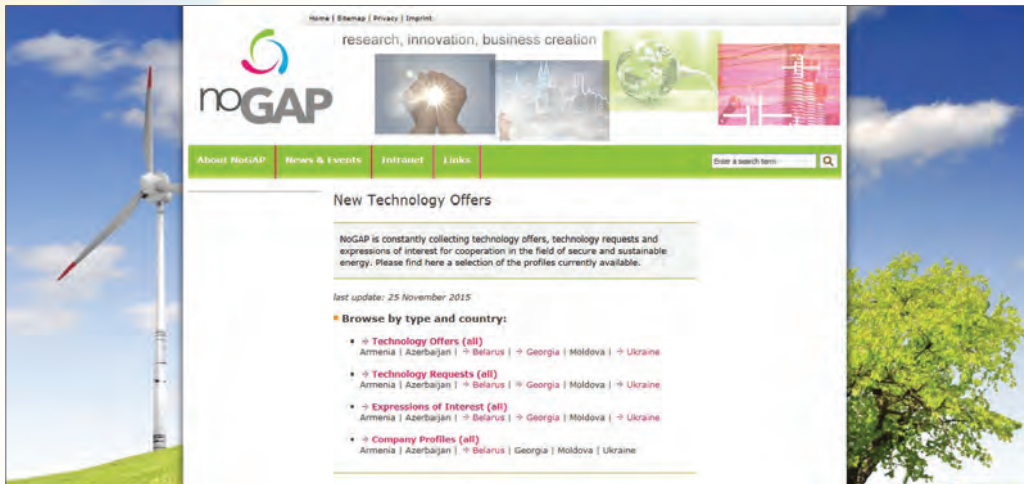
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NoGAP presents Technology Offers from Eastern Partnership Countries

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NoGAP bridges the gap between research and innovation and contributes to taking advantage of the innovation potential of SMEs based on a better cooperation with researchers, transferring and using knowledge resulting from research.

The overall objective of the project is to reinforce cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries to develop a 'Common Knowledge and Innovation Space' on the societal challenge 'secure, clean and efficient energy'.

NoGAP is constantly collecting technology offers, technology requests and expressions of interest for cooperation in the field of secure and sustainable energy. Below you will find the profiles currently available.

Each profile contains comprehensive information and contact details. They are available for download from the project's website in PDF format.

Browse by type and country:

- **Technology Offers**
[Belarus](#) | [Georgia](#) | [Ukraine](#)
- **Technology Requests**
[Belarus](#) | [Georgia](#) | [Ukraine](#)
- **Expressions of Interest**
[Belarus](#) | [Georgia](#) | [Ukraine](#)
- **Company Profiles**
[Belarus](#)

Source: [NoGAP](#)

EU and regional news

ERA.Net Plus with Russia publishes lists of Funded Projects 2015

The ERA.Net RUS Plus initiative, which was launched in November 2013 and will run until October 2018, aims at enhancing the coordination of research programmes between the EU Member States (MS)/ Associated Countries (AC) and Russia.

ERA.Net RUS Plus is a follow-up to the previous ERA.Net RUS action that was set up from 2009 to 2013 to link Russia to the European Research Area. ERA.Net RUS was the first joint call activity in which prominent Russian Funding Parties participated in a multilateral funding scheme.

As one of its core activities the current project implemented Joint Calls for excellent transnational research projects in the fields of 'Science & Technology (NMP, Health, Environment, SSH)' and 'Innovation'.

Funded Projects 2015: 'Innovation' and 'Science & Technology'

The ERA.Net RUS Plus Group of Funding Parties (GFP) has selected 18 projects for 'Innovation' and 45 projects for 'Science & Technology' with a national financial volume of EUR 20 million for funding including a topping-up from the EU of EUR 3.5 million.

The Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) received almost 300 project proposals, a huge response to the Joint Call. The ERA.Net RUS Plus has become not only the largest geographical ERA.NET, but also a flagship and leading initiative in the EU-Russia science cooperation.

Lists of funded projects:

- [download PDF of all 'Innovation' Projects](#)
- [download PDF of all 'S&T' Projects](#)

Source: [ERA.Net RUS Plus](#)

Five steps towards Horizon 2020 A Guide for Newcomers in Russian



The guide aims to inform those who just start their way in the Programme about its overall idea, logic and structure, as well as about the administrative procedures for becoming a partner in an international cooperation project funded under Horizon 2020.

The recommendations were developed by [BellISA](#), the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Science and Technology, as a partner in the [IncoNet EaP](#) project.

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EU and regional news

Policy Stakeholders Conference 'Energy Research and Innovation in the Eastern Partnership'

12-13 October 2015 | Minsk, Belarus

This was the 2nd Policy Stakeholders Conference (PSC) organised by the IncoNet EaP project and the 6th in a series of events targeting the Eastern Partnership region, which was started by its predecessor project IncoNet EECA.

Focusing on 'energy efficiency', this year's PSC was adjusted to the 'ENERGY EXPO 2015'. The main aim of the Policy Stakeholders Conferences is to bring together policy makers, representatives of the research community and the private sector to address specific problems that countries in the region face and that are of mutual interest and benefit.

The main aim of the Policy Stakeholders Conferences (PSCs) organised by the IncoNet EaP project is to bring together policy makers, representatives of the research community and the private sector to address specific problems that countries in the region face and that are of mutual interest and benefit.

The PSCs also take stock and showcase best practices regarding EU-EaP scientific cooperation, discuss concrete innovation cooperation projects, and promote international collaboration, networking, matchmaking. In addition the Conferences provide the opportunity for bringing together a good number of projects from the region as best practise examples with the aim to create synergies among them for future cooperation activities in H2020 and beyond.'

Being the second event of this type after the first conference in Yerevan, Armenia, in May 2014, which focused on Climate Change, the recent PSC opened a series of events within the 20th Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum, the largest international energy event in the country.

The Conference was organised by the three IncoNet EaP partners: the Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development, Budapest, Hungary; the Centre for Regional and International Studies and the Promotion of STI, Athens, Greece; and the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere.

The event was administratively supported by the State Committee for Science and Technology and Department for Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Belarus.

The Conference brought together 128 experts. They represented 81 organisations from 15 European countries, including 6 EaP ones.

By the end of 2015, the Conference recommendations will be developed to enhance the EU – EaP STI cooperation in the energy sector. They will be proposed for inclusion in the existing and emerging programmes and instruments to the European Commission.

Further details & downloads: [IncoNet EaP](#)

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Policy Stakeholders Conference 'EU-Central Asia Cooperation in addressing Energy Research & Innovation'

30 Sep 2015 - 1 Oct 2015 | Astana, Kazakhstan

This was the 2nd Policy Stakeholders Conference (PSC) organised by the IncoNet CA project and the 4th in a series of events targeting Central Asia, which was started by its predecessor project IncoNet CA/SC.

The aim of the conference was to present energy policies and research or supporting projects implemented by international organizations (OSCE, UNDP, EBRD, ISTC, etc.) and research institutions in the European Union and in Central Asian countries.

The conference was attended by some 100 high-level participants from 18 countries, among them Asset Issekeshov, Minister of Investments and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission.



Asset Issekeshov and Maria Cristina Russo | photo: Adam David

On the sidelines of the conference a workshop titled '[EU-Kazakhstan: Innovation through Collaboration](#)' took place on 2 October 2015 with the support of the Investment and Foreign Ministries of Kazakhstan.

'The EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), initialled on 20 January 2015, will greatly facilitate stronger bilateral political, economic and strategic relations', said Cristina Russo.

Minister Asset Issekeshov underlined that 'since 1992 almost 300 groups of our scientists and innovators took part in more than 250 projects and received more than 22 mln Euro as grants from various EU Framework Programmes.'

Further details & downloads: [IncoNet CA](#)

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EU and regional news

IncoNet CA project presents its public deliverables

Many EU funded projects produce a series of public deliverables: Documents that offer valuable information but often go to the archives almost unnoticed. We start this little series by offering you an insight into some of the key deliverables of the IncoNet Central Asia project (*click images to download PDFs*).

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EU-CA Policy Stakeholders Conference on Climate Change – Conclusions

The conference brought together policy makers, representatives of the research community and the private sector to address specific problems that are of mutual interest, as well as to benchmark best practices regarding EU-CA scientific cooperation, and discuss concrete cooperation projects.

Public database with information on actions and stakeholders

A large number of multilateral, bilateral and national programmes are presented in the areas of three major Societal Challenges, namely, Climate Change, Energy and Health. The report also presents the methodology of setting-up of the [Public Database](#).



Brokerage Event Grant Scheme

This grant scheme was set up to help excellent scientists from Central Asia participate in large scale Brokerage Events in the EU in order to establish new contacts, and thus to increase CA participation in Horizon 2020 consortia.



Report on National Central Asian R&D Programmes open to EU participation

Horizon 2020 is 'open to the world', but in how far do European researchers get the chance to participate in national R&D funding schemes of the Central Asian Countries? Among the five CA countries, for the moment, only Kazakhstan has two programmes open to participation from the EU MS/AC.



EU and regional news

Agreement on German Chamber of Commerce in Kiev signed

In the presence of German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel and the Ukrainian Prime Minister, Arsenij Jazenjuk, an intergovernmental agreement on the establishment of a German Chamber of Commerce in Kiev was signed on 23 October 2015.

State of Secretary Matthias Machnig from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy said: 'Germany already supports the Ukraine on their path of political and economic stability. We want to expand this commitment through the deepening of our bilateral economic relations. The establishment of a German-Ukrainian Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Kiev can contribute to this. Setting it up is a signal that we want to intensify trade and investment between our two economies.'

The negotiations began in 2013. The future German-Ukrainian Foreign Chamber of Commerce (AHK Ukraine) will take over the tasks of the previous 'Delegation of the German Economy in Kiev'. It is an integral part of the global network of the German Foreign Chambers of Commerce currently covering 130 locations in 90 countries. The Chamber will focus on the interests and needs of Ukrainian companies and support them in the use of the 'Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area' (DCFTA) between the EU Member States and Ukraine coming into force on 1 January 2016. AHK Ukraine is supported by registered member companies from Germany and Ukraine with a financial contribution by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Germany is the third most important trading partner for Ukraine and supports the Ukrainian reform process. An important economic growth impulse for Ukraine is expected with the provisional application of the free-trade part of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, which comes into force on 1 January 2016.

Source: *German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (in German)*

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Research Council of Norway publishes Roadmap for Cooperation with Russia



Russia is an important priority country for Norway, especially in terms of the countries' common strategic interests in the northern areas. The following research fields are especially relevant for cooperation:

polar research, marine research, petroleum, social science and the humanities, health, nuclear physics, space research, nanotechnology, aquaculture and marine technology.

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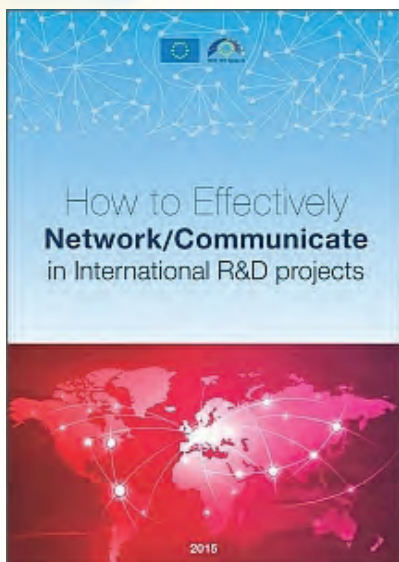
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Guide on 'How to Effectively Network/Communicate in International R&D Projects' - in English and Russian

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Networking Guide, 2nd Edition, in English and Russian (click image to download PDF)

What is 'networking' all about? Are networking and communication different issues? How to assess if our networking skills are sufficient, or should be upgraded? How to make a quick diagnostic of our networking potential, i.e. our willingness and ability to share knowledge and experience on one hand, and to learn from others' experience, on the other hand? How to encourage networking and knowledge sharing?

The first edition of this Networking Guide has been widely used by researchers not only from Russia, but also from other countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the EU. The Guide is used for educational purposes at universities and for trainings on the participation in international research projects. It is also recommended for professionals in the technology transfer area.

The present end edition of the Guide, developed under the project BILAT-RUS-Advanced, advances the first one.

Part 1 of the Guide is an updated and extended version of the first edition. It is designed so that the target audience – with lack of networking skills – could significantly improve their networking skills following the practical recommendations. Two additional networking skills and relevant 'how to' recommendations have been added – 'Organising efficient brainstorming meetings' and 'Using social media'.

Part 2 is a new one; it contains the findings of the BILAT-RUS-Advanced project. It considers various tools for establishing and supporting knowledge networks, for which the networking skills are absolutely essential and integrated into these tools.

Source: [BILAT-RUS Advanced](#)

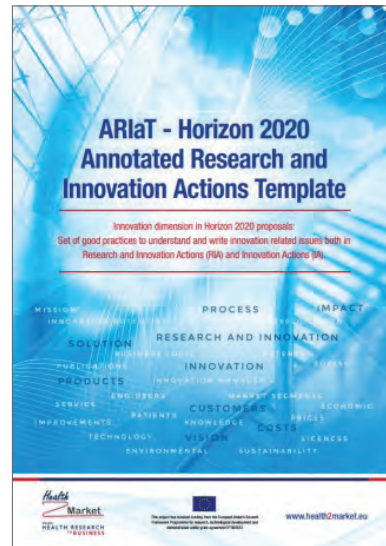
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Horizon 2020 Innovation Guides: Practical advice for Researchers and Innovators

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Inno Strategy Guide & ARIa Template (click image to download PDF)

Innovation Strategy in R&D projects: a step by step guide

The guide is relevant to R&D practitioners concerned with increasing the market and commercial impacts of their research, working either on collaborative R&D projects or in company internal projects. Concrete, real life examples are provided to illustrate each topic, along with frequently asked questions, important points to remember and other learning tools and useful links. These examples were developed throughout the Health-2-Market project and are therefore related to health sciences; however, methodologies to prepare and to implement innovation technologies are universal. The guide is thus designed to be relevant to everyone wishing to bring research results to market whatever the field of research, with or without previous experience in doing so.

ARIaT – Horizon 2020 Annotated Research and Innovation Actions Template

The annotated template aims to assist applicants to the Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) and Innovation Actions (IA) of Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for 2014-2020 to better understand the requirements of the templates and better write innovation-related issues in the H2020 proposals. It highlights and emphasise the innovation elements that an excellent project application should contain.

The document is edited by APRE (Italy), Horizon 2020 National Contact Point for Health – Societal Challenge 1, and co-authored by specialists from engage AG (Germany), inno TSD (France), IE Business School (Spain) and SKEMA Business School (France). Their recommendations are indicated in the document as 'Expert recommendations' and also include feedback collected from evaluators of H2020 proposals and concrete examples.

Source: Health2Market

EU and regional news

Upcoming Events

- Nov 30 2015 - Dec 11 2015 | Paris
[United Nations Climate Change Conference 2015 \(COP 21/ CPM 11\)](#)
- Dec 02 2015 - Dec 05 2015 | Baku
[BakuTel 2015](#)
- Dec 07 2015 - Dec 08 2015 | Paris
[Sustainable Innovation Forum \(SIF15\)](#)
- Dec 07 2015 - Dec 10 2015 | Brussels
[7th European Innovation Summit](#)
- Mar 23 2016 - Mar 25 2016 | Moscow
[5th Conference on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#)
- Apr 04 2016 - Apr 06 2016 | Almaty
[Symposium on Agricultural Transitions along the Silk Road: Restructuring, Resources and Trade in the Central Asia Region](#)
- Apr 19 2016 - Apr 20 2016 | Budapest
[3rd EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference, focus: Health](#)
- May 17 2016 - May 19 2016 | Obninsk
[Conference on 'Health Effects of Chernobyl: Prediction and Actual Data 30 Years after the Accident'](#)
- May 16 2016 - May 20 2016 | Helsinki
[32nd IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering](#)
- May 24 2016 - May 26 2016 | Moscow
[Medical Diagnostics – 2016](#)
- Jun 21 2016 - Jun 23 2016 | Budapest
[IPC 2016 – International Scientific Conference on Probiotics and Prebiotics](#)

For more events visit the [incrEAST calendar](#)

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EU and regional news

Open Calls

[IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA support twinning activities](#)

The IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA 'Twinning Grants' support collaboration between research partners from EU countries and their counterparts in the EaP and CA regions to jointly participate in Horizon2020 calls. Due to its great success, the call for Central Asia has already been closed, but there still are limited resources in the call for Eastern Partnership countries. Please get in touch with the [call coordinators](#), before you apply.

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Deadline: 29 February 2016

[German Ministry of Education and Research \(BMBF\) supports German Research Institutions and SMEs in cooperation with Central Asia and the South Caucasus](#)

The call covers health care, food security and water supply and is open to universities, research organisations and SMEs in Germany who intend to collaborate with partner institutions in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. The call text is only available in German.

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Deadline: 1 February 2017

[Joint Russian-Austrian initiative research projects competition of the Russian Foundation for Basic research \(RFBR\) and Austrian Science Fund \(FWF\)](#)

The Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) announce a call for proposals for joint Russian-Austrian projects in basic research. The aim of the competition is to develop international cooperation and to grant financial support for initiative research projects being conducted by Russian and Austrian researchers.

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Deadline: 1 March 2017

[Competition for Joint Russian and French Research Projects within the Framework of International Associated Laboratories \(LIA\) and International Joint Units \(UMI\)](#)

The Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) announce a call for proposals for joint Russian-French initiative projects in basic research, to be conducted by Russian and French scientists within the Framework of International Associated Laboratories (LIA) and International Joint Units (UMI).

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*More funding opportunities: [incrEAST calls page](#)
Open Calls under Horizon2020: [Participant Portal](#)*

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Belarus: 'Horizon 2020 Week'

21-25 September 2015 | Minsk, Belarus

The 'Horizon 2020 Week – 2015' was held in Minsk on 21-25 September 2015. It presented opportunities for Belarusian research organisations and businesses to participate in the Horizon 2020 calls for proposals 2016-2107. For Belarus, the start of Horizon 2020 has been quite promising: upon the results of the first year, 11 projects with national participants have already brought around 1,5 mln EUR. However, having almost 20 thousand researchers, Belarus has a much higher capacity.

The Week was organised by the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support for Science and Technology with a support from the two EU projects – IncoNet EaP and EAST-HORIZON.

The Week has combined three major activities. It started with the 'Horizon 2020' Information Day (21 September 2015) which focused on such thematic priorities as 'Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy' and 'Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials', as well as on Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. The partners from several EU projects (IncoNet EaP, ener2i, INNOVER-EAST and NoGap) presented the instruments provided by their projects to support innovation activities in Belarus and promote the international collaboration in the Programme and beyond it. Several 'external' schemes (COST, the new EU-supported project 'MOST') were also presented. Due to the fact that Belarus recently joined the Enterprise Europe Network, the Business Cooperation Centre 'EEN Belarus', its local partner, has offered a mechanism of practical interaction with national clients thus starting the awareness raising campaign in the country about the opportunities of cooperation with this network.

The 'Horizon 2020 Week – 2015' has raised a significant interest in the national research community. The total number of attendants in the first three days was around 200. The number of those who registered to the training for newcomers exceeded the available places twice – that is a good reason to repeat such trainings more often in future.

Materials and photos of the 'Horizon 2020 Week – 2015' are available online:

- [Belarus National Information Point for the European Union Research and Innovation Programmes](#)
- [Belarus National Science Portal \(climate\)](#)
- [Belarus National Science Portal \(ICT\)](#)

Source: [Olga Merovskaya, BelISA](#)

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Georgia: Ivane Javakhishvili University Tbilisi and Justus-Liebig-University Gießen strengthen cooperation

The 'Networking Conference Eastern Partnerships', which was held in Tbilisi on 5-6 November 2015 upon the initiative of the directors of Ivane Javakhishvili University Tbilisi (TSU) and of Justus-Liebig-University Gießen (JLU), Prof. Dr. Vladimer Papava and Prof. Dr. Joybrato Mukherjee, attracted a wide audience from the entire EU Eastern Neighbourhood region.

In a time of rising political tension and military conflict in Eastern Europe a number of universities take responsibility for the continuity and enhancement of cooperation. Scientific cooperation is a central component of German foreign culture and education policy. By explicitly strengthening international research cooperation in regions of conflict and crisis, academic cooperation can keep communication channels open, where political dialogue is under strain.

A large number of participants from the JLU partner universities Bila Tserkva (Ukraine), Iasi (Romania), Kazan (Tatarstan, Russia), Lodz (Poland) und Tbilisi (Georgia) took part in the conference and discussed the different aspects of 'Human and Environmental Resources in Multiethnic Societies'.

Ten years after signing a bilateral cooperation agreement between JLU and TSU, the current renewal and broadening of the agreement now provides an even more solid basis for the successful cooperation of both universities. A delegation of 14 participants from Gießen had traveled to Georgia.

Source and further information in German: [JLU](#)

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Kazakhstan: Presidents Nazarbayev and Poroshenko sign Kazakhstan-Ukraine Action Plan for 2015-2017

On 8-9 October 2015, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N.A. Nazarbayev, the President of Ukraine, P.O. Poroshenko, made an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Presidents of Ukraine and Kazakhstan expressed willingness to further deepen Ukrainian-Kazakh relations in political, trade-economic, scientific-technical, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres. Following the summit talks, the Ukraine-Kazakhstan Action Plan for 2015-2017 ('Roadmap - 5') was signed. It identifies the key vectors of bilateral cooperation for the near future.

Source and further information: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine](#)

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Moldova: European Researchers' Night 2015

25 September 2015 | Chisinau, Moldova

The European Researchers' Night celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. All the events take place - simultaneously - on the last Friday in September, in 280 cities across Europe and beyond. In Moldova Researchers Night 2015 took place on the square of the Academy of Sciences in Chisinau. The inclusive format of the event represents a new approach to the interaction between the research sector and the public. Visitors had the chance to discover the world of science and meet the people behind labs and scientific experiments.

The European Researchers' Night was organised with the efforts of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, within the project 'Financial support for Moldova's participation in the European Union's Framework Programme HORIZON 2020'. It aimed to promote science and encourage young people to pursue careers in research.

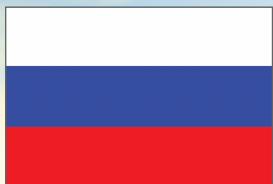
Visit the [photo gallery](#)

Source: [ASM](#)

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Russia: CREMLIN project kicked-off with Opening Conference in Moscow

The official start date for the project was 1 September 2015. The European Union supports CREMLIN (Connecting Russian and European Measures for Large-scale Research Infrastructures) under the European research programme Horizon 2020 with around 1.7 million euros over three years. The project will create stronger links between European and Russian research institutions in the area of large-scale facilities and enable a more intensive scientific and technological cooperation.

The Jülich Centre for Neutron Science (JCNS) leads the work package 'neutrons' with the aim to integrate the Russian research reactor PIK, which is under construction at St. Petersburg into the European research with neutrons.

Tasks of the work package headed by Jülich are to define, among other things, the research programs of the PIK reactor and the European neutron research programs, to design the instrumentation on the basis of cross-border needs and to harmonize and simplify the access for researchers across the national borders. 'This will give the research with neutrons in Europe a boost', Dr. Alexander Ioffe from the JCNS is certain. He leads the work package.

Project partners in CREMLIN in addition to the JCNS and the Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute are also the Technische Universität München, the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht as well as the Institute Laue-Langevin in France and the European Spallation Source in Sweden ERIC. They will organize workshops, schools and training courses on various aspects of development and construction of neutron instruments.

'Complex large-scale facilities can hardly be solely built and operated today by one country or one organisation, neither financially nor scientifically and technically', says Helmut Dosch from DESY, the responsible for the work package 'photons'. Russia is planning for some time the construction of new large-scale research equipment on its own country. While Russia is involved in European research facilities such as the European XFEL, FAIR, ESRF or the LHC experiments at CERN, CREMLIN should help conversely that European scientists engage to new Russian large-scale projects. In the coming years a number of European neutron sources will have to finish operation for reasons of age. The PIK source probably starting operation in 2018 will significantly exceed today's neutron sources in their performance. Thus it not only closes the resulting gap, but also enables unique new research opportunities.

Source: [MLZ](#)

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Russia: Guide on Innovation Stimulation Instruments of the Russian Federation



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This Guide on Innovation Stimulation Instruments of the Russian Federation presents short descriptions of the various instruments available in the Russian Federation today for supporting innovation activities.

The guide provides information on the type of instruments, the support available, application procedures, cooperation opportunities for partners from the EU, and contact details. In this light, the guide aims at facilitating the utilisation and implementation of research results achieved among researchers from Russia and the EU. The guide is particularly targeted at public and private actors from the EU

and aims to provide them with information on Russia's portfolio of innovation stimulation instruments.

The guide was prepared in the framework of the EU FP7 project 'BILAT-RUS Advanced: Advancement of the Bilateral Partnership in Scientific Research and Innovation with the Russian Federation'. Experts from the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), the Russian Technology Transfer Network (RTTN), the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE), the International Centre for Innovations in Science, Technology and Education (ICISTE) and the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH/PRAXI Network) collaborated to produce this publication.

Source: [BILAT-RUS Advanced Project](#)

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Tajikistan: Improved access to finance for SMEs in Tajikistan

A lack of access to credit is a major challenge for small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. In Tajikistan, one of the lesser developed countries of Central Asia, DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH, is focusing on setting up a credit guarantee fund. DEG is the initiator of the Credit Guarantee Fund Tajikistan GmbH (CGFT), and is contributing EUR 5 million to capitalise the guarantee fund. Further sponsors are the Development Bank of Austria (OeEB), which is also providing EUR 5 million, and the Dutch development bank FMO with a contribution of EUR 2.5 million.

The CGFT has been issuing guarantees to local banks in Tajikistan since August 2015. Through this measure the CGFT is assuming part of the default risk the banks face in extending loans to SMEs and start-ups, and thus facilitates their lending capacity. Local SMEs that require a loan ranging from USD 10,000 to USD 500,000, receive access to financing under market conditions. Financing such as this is currently not available due to an absence of the necessary legal framework conditions and a lack of utilisation possibilities for the usual bank securities.

The first loan is now being extended to a local entrepreneur. IMON International, one of the four CGFT partner institutions is providing a loan amounting to approx. USD 71,000 to an importer and trader of sugar and cement. The loan is 60% secured by the CGFT and will be used for importing more sugar. Furthermore, the company, which employs a staff of eleven, is for the first time in a position to rent warehouse space. Sugar is currently in high demand for making fruit into preserves for the winter.

DEG, OeEB and FMO additionally provide funds for technical assistance, which CGFT uses to offer its partner banks management consultancy services, support in structuring customer-oriented SME loans and implementing risk management systems.

With the CGFT, DEG is following on from a successful investment in Afghanistan, where in 2005 it began to set up a credit guarantee facility. Meanwhile this facility has been converted into the independent Afghan Credit Guarantee Foundation. To date, it facilitated a guaranteed credit volume totalling USD 141 million which has been extended to more than 4,100 Afghan SMEs. The average rate of default was 1% p.a.

Source: [DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH](#)

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Ukraine: NATO and Ukraine strengthen scientific cooperation

The current security crisis in Ukraine is not only affecting regional and Euro-Atlantic security. It has also impacted scientific infrastructure and education institutes in the country. Through NATO's Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, the Alliance is engaging Allied and Ukrainian scientists and experts in practical cooperation, forging research networks and supporting capacity building in the country. Ideas to strengthen such support were identified at a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Scientific and Environmental Cooperation at NATO Headquarters on 18 September 2015.

The ongoing crisis has left its mark on the national scientific infrastructure and research networks in Ukraine, which has led to 26 universities and institutes, along with 12,000 university lecturers and researchers being re-located from occupied territories to other parts of Ukraine. But most of the infrastructure, including libraries and laboratories, remain inaccessible in parts of eastern Ukraine. In Crimea alone, nine large research institutes were lost, according to the Vice-President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Sergiy Komisarenko.

Ukraine has been engaged in the SPS Programme since the mid-1990s. In response to the Ukraine crisis and following the guidance provided by Allied foreign ministers in April 2014, scientific and technological cooperation with Ukraine was boosted significantly. With 16 new SPS activities launched in 2014 and nine projects and workshops approved so far in 2015, Ukraine has become by far the largest beneficiary of the SPS Programme.

The meeting of the Joint Working Group identified a number of areas for potential future SPS cooperation. Established in May 2000, the group has since met on a regular basis. This year, in addition to the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Vice-President of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Ukrainian delegation included the heads of the Ukrainian parliament's Committees for Science and Education and for Health Care, and the Advisor to the President of Ukraine on Humanitarian Issues.

Ukraine recently also joined a major SPS project to develop a Multinational Telemedicine System for emergency situations. Once completed, this system will allow medical specialists to engage in major disasters and incidents, both of military and civilian nature, that require specified medical expertise. The technology was successfully live tested during a field exercise in Lviv, Ukraine in September 2015, attended by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko.

Source: NATO

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Ukraine: Series of events on energy policy

The EU Delegation to Ukraine and the Support Group for Ukraine of the European Commission, with the support of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat, have joined forces to organise a series of high-level events on Energy Market Reform and Sustainable Energy Policy for Ukrainian policy and decision-makers. The current economic crisis and lack of energy reforms during the last decades requires the coordinated implementation of a market-oriented and sustainable energy policy that can help Ukraine not only to decrease energy dependence on Russian gas, but to improve the economic situation in the country.

Taking into account the low level of awareness on available EU instruments to support energy market reform and sustainable development among Ukrainian decision makers, a key objective of the Energy Policy Talks is to hold open discussions on key issues related to energy market reform and sustainable energy policy, with the objective of getting the support of the above entities during the reform process. Another key objective is to support the implementation of reforms in the energy sector through facilitating the fulfilment of requirements of the Energy Community Treaty and the implementation of the EU Association Agreement.

The first in the series of Policy Talks was organised in mid-October and devoted to the topic of energy tariffs. As regulation of end-customer tariffs and the application of subsidies will be a feature of the energy sector for many years to come, a detailed understanding of the components of the tariff is vital for transparency, cost recovery and an accurate reflection of the costs incurred by the various customer categories.

Follow the announcements on INOGATE web portal for more details on the Energy Policy Talks.

Source and further information: [INOGATE](#)

Ukraine: Presidents Poroshenko and Nazarbayev sign Ukraine-Kazakhstan Action Plan for 2015-2017

On 8-9 October 2015, the President of Ukraine, P.O. Poroshenko, made an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan upon the invitation of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N.A. Nazarbayev.

The Presidents of Ukraine and Kazakhstan expressed willingness to further deepen Ukrainian-Kazakh relations in political, trade-economic, scientific-technical, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres. Following the summit talks, the Ukraine-Kazakhstan Action Plan for 2015-2017 ('Roadmap - 5') was signed. It identifies the key vectors of bilateral cooperation for the near future.

Source and further information: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine](#)

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DLR Project Management Agency

The DLR Project Management Agency (part of the German Aerospace Center, DLR) is a specialised service provider for the facilitation of research, innovation and education.

The covered spectrum of topics ranges from environment, culture, sustainability, health, education and key technologies to innovation and research transfer. With around 8500 projects as well as over one billion Euros of research funds, the DLR Project Management Agency is the largest institution of its kind in Germany.

The agency supports the federal ministries with the implementation of research programmes and additionally works for the European Commission as well as other public institutions and private customers.

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