



Advancement of the bilateral Partnership in scientific Research and Innovation with the Russian Federation

November 2015

BILAT-RUS-Advanced project completed in October 2015

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, the EU Commission and the EU Member States/Associated Countries (MS/AC). The project was coordinated by the Project Management Agency at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and financed within the European Union's 7th Framework Programme (FP7).

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

The project supported the bilateral STI policy dialogue between policy makers and other stakeholders from the European and Russian STI communities, helping to reinforce strategic STI partnership between the EU and Russia. Amongst others, this implied support to coordinate EU Member States' and Associated Countries' research policies and programmes regarding Russia. Further, BILAT-RUS-Advanced promoted the bilateral cooperation to the best scientists and organisations by increasing the awareness on FP7 / Horizon 2020 cooperation opportunities including information about Russian co-funding. Brokerage and information events for researchers and innovation actors have been implemented in order to facilitate the preparation of collaborative research activities and the utilisation of research results. Also, BILAT-RUS-Advanced focused on the opportunities for European researchers to participate in Russian research and innovation programmes. Considerable attention was devoted to challenges in innovation cooperation, implementing amongst others an analysis of the Russian innovation system.

EU-Russia Year of Science 2014

A major contribution of BILAT-RUS-Advanced was its support to the concept and implementation of the EU-Russia Year of Science 2014, a year-long series of events that celebrated the vibrant and multifaceted science, research and innovation cooperation between the EU, the EU MS and the Russian Federation (www.eu-russia-yearofscience.eu). The project's support was accomplished in close cooperation with the EU-Commission and also with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. The project was responsible for implementing the role of a "secretariat" of the Year of Science. The secretariat coordinated, amongst others, the process of evaluating and selecting applications for the inclusion of external events into the official calendar of Year of Science. During the whole Year of Science, more than 170 European-Russian events took place.

Supporting the EU-Russian STI policy dialogue

BILAT-RUS-Advanced has supported the EU-Russian STI policy dialogue with its expertise. Thus, a special report with suggestions and recommendations for discussion on further EU-Russia STI collaboration was provided to the EU-Russia S&T Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) in 2013. This paper also suggested topics of mutual interest in selected thematic areas such as Aeronautics, Biotechnology, ICT and Nanotechnology. Also, members of the project took part in the regular video-link meetings of the JSTCC's so called Task Force.

A specific aspect of the project's support to the EU-Russian political dialogue has been the intention to reinforce coordination between EU Member States with regard to bilateral approaches in STI cooperation with Russia, to identify synergies between EU and Member States' policies and programmes towards Russia, and to reinforce the role of Russia in SFIC (the Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation) activities. Thus, BILAT-RUS-Advanced has analysed the landscape of European STI funding instruments oriented towards Russia. The project has also been actively involved in the establishment and work of the SFIC Working Group on Russia, contributing amongst others to the Working Group's "Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda" towards Russia.

In October 2015, the BILAT-RUS-Advanced consortium has compiled its recommendations on future EU Russia STI policy and activities, reflecting the experience of all partners in a final report of the project. The paper was provided to the EC, the EU Delegation to the Russian Federation as well as the SFIC Working Group on Russia.

Supporting and promoting opportunities for EU-Russian STI cooperation

The project has also endorsed STI cooperation with Russia by promoting and supporting cooperation opportunities. Thus, the project has compiled a concise hand-out paper, containing information on EU-Russian STI cooperation opportunities within the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 as well as on cooperation opportunities within the Russian Federal Targeted Programme "Research and Development in Priority Fields of the S&T Complex of Russia in 2014-2020" (July 2015). A special focus was given on support available in Russia for participation in Horizon 2020. This information was fed into the document

“Country Page for Russia: National and EU-related funding opportunities, National Contact Points and more”. The document (available from the project website www.bilat-rus.eu) provides a statement regarding funding of Russian participants in Horizon 2020 projects, gives a broad list of specific topics of interest, and provides a structured list of the Russian NCPs (October 2015).

Furthermore, the project has organized information days on FP7 / Horizon 2020 and brokerage events promoting cooperation opportunities in the field of innovation. Also, the project has prepared the following practical guides supporting the EU-Russian innovation cooperation (also available from the project website www.bilat-rus.eu):

- Guide on how to effectively Network / Communicate in International R&D projects (revised edition, August 2015)
- Guide on Innovation Stimulation Instruments of the Russian Federation (June 2015)
- Concept for Sustainable Integration of Russian Innovation Actors into European Networks (July 2015)

Information dissemination

The main outcomes of the project are accessible on the project website www.bilat-rus.eu. The website will be further maintained after the official end of the project lifetime.

Practical information about EU-Russian STI cooperation and cooperation opportunities have been provided by the project on the following websites:

- S&T Gate RUS.EU: Identify and analyse the S&T Potential of EU-Russia Cooperation (www.st-gaterus.eu)
- incrEAST: Information Exchange in Science, Technology and Innovation between the EU and Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia (www.increast.eu)