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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

*Our quarterly newsletter keeps you informed about current and forthcoming BILAT-UKR*AINA project activities and current developments in EU-Ukraine Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation.*

*In this issue you will find information about project activities as well as relevant external news and events, we would like to draw your attention to the outcomes of the BILAT-UKR*AINA 2nd Stakeholders' Forum "Enhancing Ukraine's Competitiveness in RI on the way to the Association to Horizon 2020", which was held in Kyiv on 27-28 January 2015.*

We would like to invite you to visit our [project website](#) as well as [S&T Gate information portal](#) where you can find further up-to date information about the latest developments in the field of EU – Ukraine STI cooperation.

*The BILAT-UKR*AINA Team*

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NEWS



Call for awarding travel grants to Ukrainian researchers with the aim of preparing project proposals for 'Horizon 2020'

The project BILAT - UKR*AINA announces a call for awarding travel grants to Ukrainian researchers, who intend to participate in the EU programme 'Horizon 2020' in the following priority areas :

1. New materials and processing technologies
2. Information and communication technologies
3. Biotechnologies
4. Aeronautics

Along with the above mentioned priority topics, grants may be provided on other thematic areas of the programme 'Horizon 2020', as each submitted project proposal will be evaluated on an individual basis.

10 grants will cover travel expenses of Ukrainian scientists to the EU countries in order to participate in the preparation of project proposals (preparatory meetings and consultations with the consortium leader of the

project), which will be submitted to a call of 'Horizon 2020' (meaning calls of the 'Horizon 2020' programme which are already open or will be open on the date of 15 March 2015 and which will have deadline not earlier than the end of April 2015). The grant covers cost of flights and accommodation, but should not exceed 650 E.

Deadline: 16.03.15

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Danube-INCO.NET SURVEY on Barriers to RTDI Cooperation in the Danube Region

The EU FP7 funded project Danube-INCO.NET invites you to fill in a questionnaire in order to better understand barriers and obstacles in relation to international cooperation in Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI), as well as pitfalls including the socio-cultural aspects. The goal is to eventually propose recommendations for the policy making system. The deadline is March, 20.

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eurostars™ EUROSTARS Experts

EUROSTARS is looking for Experts of the highest calibre. Potential experts must:

- Hold a higher education diploma (degree or masters level);
- Possess a minimum ten years' professional experience in their chosen area(s);
- Permanent resident or citizen of a European Union Member State or a EUREKA Country;
- Be proficient in the English Language.

EUREKA currently counts 41 full members. Countries participate in EUREKA projects through a network of National Information Points (NIPs).

The affiliation known as Associated Country Status was initiated as part of EUREKA's strategy to enhance cooperation with countries outside of Europe judged to have scientific and research potential.

The National Project Coordinators (NPC) are at operational level, running the National EUREKA Offices. They are the direct contact with project in each member country. NPCs facilitate the setting-up and running of a project and are responsible for project generation, national and international support and follow-up.

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New EU initiative to build capacity for technology transfer

On 20 January, PROGRESS-TT, a new Horizon 2020 project was launched in Brussels. This marked the beginning of a European Commission initiative to improve the capacity of public research organisations to convert investment in research into commercial returns through innovation.

'Innovation is at the heart of Europe's growth strategy. Over the next three years, PROGRESS-TT will bring together consortium partners with vast experience of technology transfer, capacity building and creating business solutions, skills invaluable in overcoming the barriers PROs face in transferring their technology to industry and commercial success,' Célia Gavaud, International Business Manager for Pera Consulting and Project Coordinator of PROGRESS-TT said.

The aim of PROGRESS-TT (Public Research Organisation GRowing Europe through best practice SolutionS for Technology Transfer) is to share the experiences of Europe's leading Public Research Organisations (PROs) with those PROs with the greatest potential to commercialise their research results. It will do this by gathering best practices and developing a suite of technology transfer (TT) tools, methods and insights.

The project consortium, led by Pera Consulting (UK) Ltd, brings together nine highly qualified international partners, representing the complete value chain of TT practitioners. They are: ASTP-Proton, DSM Nutritional Products, Fraunhofer MOEZ, Knowledge Innovation Market, MI.TO Technology, Philips Intellectual Property & Standards,

University of Bologna, and VTT Ventures.

They will work together to design and implement a capacity building programme for technology transfer professionals that includes:

- Training, workshops, boot-camps and e-learning delivered to emerging PROs and TT funds to develop their core skills.
- Intensive coaching and mentoring for high potential PROs to accelerate their TT activity. PROGRESS-TT will form 'teams' of experienced TTO performers, industry, funds and high potential PROs to develop capability, capacity, opportunity, desire, and to build a supportive TT environment.
- Improved access to finance by bringing established and emerging funds together to share best practice and identify cross-border opportunities.

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Connecting the Development Community. Communication Platforms

The EU web-platform 'capacity4dev.eu' enables you to interact in online groups for the worldwide development community. This group provides a common space to facilitate collaboration and exchange of knowledge for professionals, including those working in EU institutions and countries' institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector, who work on regional environmental issues in the Eastern Neighbourhood region.

The group includes a page for each regional project on environment currently funded by the EU to tackle environmental challenges, including, but not limited to, some of the most urgent ones such as air pollution, transboundary management of water resources and the management of hazardous waste. These challenges, as well as unsustainable production and consumption patterns, are increasing the pressure on biodiversity and natural resources.

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Nürtingen-Geislingen University now coordinates German Agricultural Centre in Ukraine

Since the beginning of this year, the University of Economics and Environment, Nürtingen Geislingen (HfWU) has operated the German Agricultural Centres (DAZ) in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Other partners in the consortium are DEULA Baden-Württemberg, the ADT Projekt GmbH and the University of Hohenheim. At the Academy of Economics and Environment, the project is led by Professor Dr. Heinrich Schüle.

The agricultural centers are training, demonstration and research institutions which contribute to the modernisation of agriculture. The centres are supported by a group of leading European companies from the agricultural sector. They are financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

Kazakhstan and Ukraine have enormous agricultural potential. However, they still lag behind in terms of investments and qualified specialists and executives. Therefore the German Ministry of Agriculture and agro-based companies have established the agricultural centers in both countries in order to promote modern agricultural production techniques and educate agricultural professionals. The economic cooperation projects will contribute to a targeted transfer of knowledge and production technologies in both countries. Up to 2,000 professionals take part in the course programme annually. In addition to the training program, both centers manage approximately 50 ha of experimental and demonstration areas that showcase modern farming techniques, plant varieties and crop protection experiments. The participating companies provide state of the art technology and equipment to the German Agricultural Centres for the practical training. Highlights are the annual DAZ Field Days each summer, which, both in Ukraine and Kazakhstan, attract professional visitors from all over the country.

In Ukraine (<http://www.daz-ukraine.net/>), the German Agricultural Centre is located in the oblast Cherkasy in central Ukraine in the midst of the fertile black soil zone. In recent years DAZ Ukraine has become a nationally prominent platform of European agriculture in Ukraine and an important information centre. The Centre is supported by the companies CLAAS, Lemken, Amazone, Väderstad, Josera and KWS.

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The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Moldova join COSME, the EU's financing programme for small and medium-sized enterprises

On 5 December 2014, the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) was officially launched in the Republic of Moldova.

The event was conducted by the Organisation for the Development of the SME Sector in Moldova (ODIMM) in partnership with the Ministry of Economy, and with the support of the EU Technical Assistance to Sector Budget Support Programme 'Economic Stimulation in Rural Areas'.

Moldova is eligible to 3 out of the 4 COSME actions:

- Access to markets;
- Supporting entrepreneurs;
- More favorable conditions for business creation and growth.

The agreement on the participation of the Republic of Moldova to the COSME programme was signed by the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on 29 September 2014. As a result, Moldova becomes the first Eastern Partnership country that joined COSME Programme.

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Information Guides for Ukrainian applicants

Information manuals for Ukrainian researchers on Partner search, Organisation registration, LEAR registration, Self registration at Participant Portal\CORDIS are available at NIP Ukraine web-site: www.fp7-ncp.kiev.ua.

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HORIZON 2020 UKRAINE Web portal 'Horizon 2020 Ukraine'

Horizon 2020 Ukraine Portal provides all information about Horizon 2020, the EU's current Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, as well as related news and events in Ukrainian language. The portal also offers links to the Ukrainian National Contact Points, which provide support and advice to Ukrainian participants in Horizon 2020

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UPCOMING EVENTS

"Building Knowledge-oriented and Forward-looking Neighbourhood. Developing a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space"

31.03.2015, Brussels, Belgium

The European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation, in cooperation with the European Parliament, is organising a joint event showcasing the EU-EU neighbours cooperation in research, science and innovation on 31 March 2015 in Brussels.

The event will include a high-level conference, exhibition, video wall projections and information stands. The conference is entitled "Building Knowledge-oriented and Forward-looking Neighbourhood. Developing a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space".

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11th Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Forum and Exhibition for South-East Europe

11-13.03.2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

The 2015 edition will promote the latest energy developments and encourage their large-scale implementation in South-East Europe as well as speed up foreign investment in the regional economy. It is a great networking place for the international and local industry players.

Scope: energy efficient solutions for heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and other manufacturing sectors; bio-, hydro, solar, geothermal and wind energy, waste-to-energy, electric vehicles, etc.

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Lab Surfing workshop on Future and Emerging Technologies

17-18.03.2015, Berlin, Germany

Young researchers from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Slovakia, interested in high risk research enabled by information and communication technologies (ICT) are invited to participate in the Lab Surfing brainstorming and training workshop in Berlin on 17–18 March 2015.

Who can participate?

- Young researchers from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Slovakia. Young researchers from other regions of Europe can apply too, but the priority for this event will be given to those from the list of countries mentioned above.
- Young researchers with a PhD degree earned in any scientific field at the latest 6 years prior to the submission of the application for the participation in the Lab Surfing workshop or PhD researchers in their last year of study

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Climate Smart Agriculture 2015 – Global Science Conference

16-18.03.2015, Montpellier, France

The Montpellier global science conference on CSA:

- Will address key research issues, gather CSA facts and figures from developing and developed countries and support a collaborative effort with broad social participation. Special attention will be given to vulnerable countries and populations. It will therefore contribute to the strengthening of a CSA scientific community and will provide a further opportunity for developing a global research agenda.
- Will aim to reduce the science-policy gap. The conference takes place a few months before the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21, see: <http://www.cop21paris.org/>) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, Paris, France, December 2015). The COP21 will be a milestone in the international climate negotiations, with the goal that all countries are committed by a universal binding climate agreement. It is hoped that the COP21 will witness a “paradigm shift” where the climate challenge is not any more a necessary “burden sharing” of emissions, but also an opportunity for job creation and wealth, inventing new patterns of production and consumption. Therefore the Montpellier CSA conference will be a unique opportunity for the research community to update knowledge on CSA and to provide recommendations for policymakers.
- Will pave the road for future cooperation initiatives to be taken in terms of joint and collaborative scientific efforts.

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Health Research from an International Perspective: Scientific Landscape of Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asian (CA) Countries

19.03.2015, Paris, France

The ASEAN-EU STI Days bring together researchers, scientists, science policy makers, innovative companies, and other stakeholders from ASEAN and EU countries for a yearly three-day conference on science, technology, and innovation issues and bi-regional co-operation in these fields.

The ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days are a forum style event, initiated by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme funded SEA-EU-NET II project. The ASEAN-EU STI Days 2015 will be organised in Paris, France on 17-19 March, 2015. This year's edition of the event will focus on presenting ASEAN research excellence to European stakeholders as well as raising awareness for current developments in Science & Technology in the most dynamic region worldwide.

Similarly to SEA-EU-NET 2, IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA also support the advancement of the policy dialogue among the European Union (EU) and the countries in the partner regions, aiming at mutual benefit and thus contributing to develop the collaboration in Science, Technology and Innovation.

These projects also explicitly focus on the societal challenges Climate Change*/Environment, Energy and Health so there is an obvious overlap with the thematic focus areas of the SEA-EU-NET project.

The main idea behind the invitation of these two projects to the STI Days in Paris was the enlargement of the pool of researchers to reach a critical mass, to ensure networking on a larger scale on the above mentioned thematic fields. In order to achieve this goal both slots dedicated to EaP and CA researchers are open for EU and ASEAN researchers. The invited speakers and stakeholders from the above regions will also participate in the Brokerage Event to become members of potential consortia in Horizon 2020 calls.

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Climate Change and Water Management from an International Perspective: Scientific Landscape of Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asian (CA) Countries

19.03.2015, Paris, France

Objectives:

- To inform EU and ASEAN researchers about the research landscape in EaP and CA countries.
- To network among the four regions.
- To build up new contacts and possible consortia for Horizon2020 calls.

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European Cluster Days 2015

18-19.03.2015, Strasbourg, France

The EuropeanCluster Days will address the question of whether and in how far clusters are the driving power of the European economy along the lines of three thematic axes:

- Internationalisation of economic activities through clusters;
- Clusters as drivers of social progress and responsible innovation;
- Economic policy as a supporter of clusters and vice versa.

The aim is the promotion of the cross-border cooperation of companies and clusters as well as the exchange of ideas between players from business, academia and politics. For this reason approximately 400 of them will take part in a dialogue between research and practice on the premises of the European Parliament.

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Asean-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days

17-19.03.2015, Paris, France

This year's edition of the event will focus on presenting ASEAN research excellence to European stakeholders as well as raising awareness for current developments in Science & Technology in the most dynamic region worldwide. The number of scientific workshops and expert sessions on various topics – like infectious diseases; water, food, energy nexus; metrology; ASEAN Economic Community and innovation – is expected to amount to 15, the expected number of participants is around 300, mainly from Southeast Asia and Europe. The STI Days are an ideal occasion for networking and exchange of ideas in thematic areas like Health, Environment, Water, Food Security & Safety or Innovation.

A Brokerage Event connected to the previously mentioned topics, field visits at research facilities in and around Paris as well as a paper and poster competition make the programme even more attractive.

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Cities of the Future Conference

28-30.04.2015, Muehlheim an der Ruhr, Germany

Cities of the Future – Transitions to the Urban Water Services of Tomorrow (TRUST) will provide an opportunity to present and discuss leading-edge developments in the area of urban water services with an international audience of water utility personnel, researchers, engineers, technology providers, city planners, consultants, regulators and policy makers. It will be focused on the techniques, technologies and management approaches aiming at enabling and supporting the transition towards more sustainable urban water futures, but also zoom-in on the socio-economic requirements and aspects of this transition.

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International Conference Space Technologies

19-21.05.2015, Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine

The International Conference Space Technologies, organized by the State Space Agency of Ukraine will take place from 19th May to the 21st May 2015 at the O. Honchar Dnipropetrovsk National University in Dnipropetrovs'k, Ukraine. The conference will cover areas like Development of State Policy Concepts in the Sphere of Research and Peaceful Uses of Space, as well as in the Interests of N.

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International Conference Of Young Scientists Welding And Related Technologies

20-22.05.2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

The International Conference of Young Scientists Welding and Related Technologies, organized by the E. O. Paton Electric Welding Institute will take place from 20th May to the 22nd May 2015 at the E. O. Paton Electric Welding Institute in Kiev (Kyiv), Ukraine. The conference will cover areas like Welding and Related Technologies.

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5th International Conference on Current Problems in Nuclear Physics and Atomic Energy (NPAE-Kyiv2015)

15-19.06.2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

The NPAE-Kyiv2015 conference will cover the following topics:

- Collective processes in atomic nuclei
- Nuclear reactions
- Nuclear structure and decay processes
- Rare nuclear processes
- High-energy physics
- Neutron and reactor physics, nuclear data
- Problems of atomic energy
- Radiobiology and radioecology
- Applied nuclear physics, experimental facilities and detection techniques.

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International Conference Advances in Metallurgical Process And Materials

04-05.06.2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

The International Conference Advances in Metallurgical Process And Materials, organized by the Admet will take place from 4th June to the 5th June 2015 in Kiev (Kyiv), Ukraine. The conference will cover areas like Thermodynamics of metallurgical processes (pyro- and hydro- metallurgy), Innovative metallurgical technologies and processes, Advances in iron-and steelmaking technologies, Innovative ladle treatment in iron- and steelmaking, Advances in processes control, automation and on-line analysis, Environmental issues in metallurgy: CO₂ fixation, mitigation of environmental footprint, advanced processes in recycling and recovery of by-products and wastes, Advanced technologies of special melting, Design and properties of advanced materials (metals, composites, refractories etc), Innovative methods of modelling and simulation of processes and materials.

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International Conference on Economics and Social Sciences

06-07.06.2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

The International Conference on Economics and Social Sciences, organized by the International Foundation for Research & Development will take place from 6th June to the 7th June 2015 in Kiev (Kyiv), Ukraine.

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Modern Physical Chemistry for Advanced Materials

26-30.06.2015, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Practical application of knowledge of physical chemistry is one of the cornerstones of almost every scientific development. Constant research on this subject is a precondition for the modernization of human civilization. The international conference on Modern Physical Chemistry for Advanced materials is a tribute to the 150th foundation day Physics-Chemistry Department of the V.N.K.K. National University and is going to platform eminent scientists from all over the world. With the main focus being on the contribution of physical chemistry in modern material science, the conference is going to see the exchange of ideas and thoughts in between the delegates and other participants on the topics like new materials, organized solutions, electrochemistry, eco-toxycological aspect of nanotechnology and theoretical chemistry.

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International conference Dynamical Systems and Their Applications

22-26.06.2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

The International conference Dynamical Systems and Their Applications, organized by the Institute of Mathematics National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine will take place from 22th June to the 26th June 2015 in Kiev (Kyiv), Ukraine. The conference will cover areas like modern theory of dynamical systems, among which are topological dynamics, ergodic theory, the theory of attractors and chaos, combinatorial and symbolic dynamics and more.

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EVENTS REVIEW

BILAT-UKR*AINA 2nd Stakeholders' Forum: Enhancing Ukraine's Competitiveness in RI on the way to the Association to Horizon 2020

27-28.01.2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

Lessons learnt and good practices of the process of association to Framework Programmes and innovation supporting measures and policies were in the focus of the 2nd Stakeholders' Forum of the project BILAT-UKR*AINA held on 27-28 January, Kyiv, Ukraine. Presentations of distinguished speakers being experts of these fields enriched the programme followed by discussions. The event was of high interest; more than 70 participants registered and attended.

During the first session, important lessons learnt on the process of association and possible benefits were demonstrated by country examples, such as from Poland, Hungary, and Moldova which associated H2020 last year. Efficient use of opportunities provided by research and innovation FPs necessitates the existence of a well-organised NCP system. First, the current structure and services provided by Ukrainian NCP network were introduced. Practices of certain EU Member States (i.e. Germany, France, Hungary, Poland, and Austria) presented in the forum would definitely provide good examples for the reinforcement of the present system.

Based on the peer review of the current Ukrainian system executed by the project BILAT-UKR*AINA, it was highlighted that at first place, standardisation and introduction of internal rules would be needed in the system. Additionally, ongoing dialogue with the EC and NCPs from other MSs and ACs shall be reinforced to channel in information, good practices and useful contacts.

Conclusions of the two-day event are summarising the most relevant practices and lessons learnt from EU Member States which can serve as good examples for Ukraine.

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Workshop on the Enterprise Europe Network,

26.02. 2015, Kiev, Ukraine

The Workshop was organized by the TBI Kharkov Technologies (KT) from Ukraine and the Institute of Technological Research PAN (IPPT PAN) from Poland and was carried out within the activities of the "STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership - IncoNet EaP" Project which is dedicated to the promotion of the bi-regional policy dialogue in Science, Technology and Innovation between the EU Member States (and Associated countries) and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries aiming at the identification of priorities for action especially in respect to the possible cooperation with the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). The idea of the workshop on the Enterprise Europe Network was to reflect on successful examples of cooperation of the EaP countries with the EEN and to propose ways to extend the network in other EaP countries. The workshop involved stakeholders from EaP and EU countries, both EEN and non-EEN members, who discussed the issues on existing mutual collaboration, instruments available as e.g. technology transfer data base. In general 55 representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Poland participated in the Workshop.

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Webinar on 'How to reinforce the involvement of research oriented SMEs to Horizon2020?'

03.03.2015

In the frame of the BILAT-UKR*AINA project a joint follow-up webinar of the Summer School (organised in September 2014) and the 2nd Stakeholder Forum (in January 2015) was held on facilitating the participation of SMEs in Horizon 2020 to reinforce cooperation between academia and industry.

The agenda was as follows:

- 1) Overview of the SME Instrument in H2020, hints on Hungarian good practices
- 2) Presentation of EEN
- 3) Introduction to EUREKA – general overview
- 4) EUREKA Ukraine - opportunities available for Ukraine, recent calls, conditions for participation
- 5) Case study by a research oriented SME involved in such programme.

The webinar was free of charge and open to everyone.

Presentations are available at our project website

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Ukrainian-German Forum "Education, Science, Innovations in Universities: Current Challenges"

6-7.03.2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Forum was organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany at the premises of Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University. The main aim of the event is establishment of close cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany (BMBF), between the Union of Rectors of Ukraine and HRK (German Rector's Conference), between universities of Ukraine and universities in Germany concerning educational programs, research and innovation at universities, establishing academic mobility of students, professors and researchers.

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Biotechnology In-House training on proposal writing

18-19.02.2015, Paris, France

After the first BILAT UKR*AINA in-house training on Horizon 2020 ICT issues (including proposal writing) held by RCISD in Budapest on 6th-7th October 2014, CNRS organized in Paris on 18th-19th February 2015 a second training, this time with a focus on Biotechnology. The objective of this training was to offer information and intensive training on proposal writing under Horizon 2020, with a focus on biotechnology, to just a few of the best or most promising researchers and/or managers of top-level Ukrainian RTDI organizations, with the expected outcome of increasing their likelihood of participation in RTDI projects with European partners.

Leading French senior experts and project managers in the field of Biotechnology and/or EU programs accepted our invitation to contribute as speakers or trainers. They shared their knowledge, know-how and experience along instructive presentations and fruitful discussions during the two-day training. The very active group work allowed the participants to improve their practical skills and knowledge on project preparation and proposal writing under Horizon 2020 or other EU programs.

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Training Course "Horizon 2020: How to design a successful proposal"

11-13.02.2015, Rome, Italy

This course was the first of two modules in a training pathway entirely dedicated to the Horizon 2020 Programme. This first module concerned techniques for successful project design, while the second (25-26 February 2015) treated project management, IPR and contractual aspects, financial provisions, reporting rules and principles. This training course covered the following topics:

The course specifically addressed the needs of professionals and project managers who are involved in the design of H2020 projects, both in the private and the public sector. The course was an effective tool to help participants to successfully manage projects, as well as to further develop their internal project management strategies. It also provided a good opportunity to network and to share good practices.

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Participation of Eastern Partnership researchers in the SET-Plan Conference and visit to the ENEA Research Centre

10.12.2014 - 12.12.2014 | Rome, Italy

The IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA projects promote international STI cooperation and research policy dialogue between the EU and its member states on the one hand, and the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia Countries on the other. One of the projects' tasks is to collaborate with EU Innovation Platforms. In this context the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE) organised the participation of innovative EaP and CA energy researchers in the 2014 SET Plan Conference. The event was held in Rome on 10-11 December under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the European Union.

The European 'Strategic Energy Technology Plan' (SET Plan) established an energy technology policy for Europe. It is a strategic plan to accelerate the development and deployment of cost-effective low carbon technologies. The plan comprises measures relating to planning, implementation, resources and international cooperation in the field of energy technology.

The related SET Plan Conference was a forum for experts, researchers, producers, stakeholders and representatives of national and EU institutions to have in-depth discussions on the future developments of the SET Plan needed to respond to energy challenges. The 2014 edition of the conference fell at a crucial time, when momentum is gathering towards the development of the SET Plan Integrated Roadmap and an Action Plan promoting stronger collaboration in areas such as energy efficiency, competitive low-carbon supply of energy, and system optimisation including smart cities and communities.

With the collaboration of the IncoNet EaP and CA local partners, ten EaP researchers from the five EaP Countries and ten from the five CA countries were selected (two researchers for each target country).

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Winter School in European Integration for young academics from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

11.01.2015 - 20.01.2015 | Saarbruecken, Germany

The Winter School in European Integration was carried out by the Europa-Institut of the Saarland University and receives financial support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). It took place from January 11 – 20, 2015 at the Europa-Institut in Saarbrücken, Germany. The Winter School's theme was 'Democracy and Human Rights in the European Union'.

With the past and current developments in mind, Eastern Europe inhabits numerous conflicts. Some of them are within a country's border, some transcend borders. Given our interrelated world and the particular interdependencies of many players in the region, any crisis immediately impacts the counties inhabiting the conflict, the European Union, Russia as well regional and international institutions. International and European law are central to the acting and working of many players involved. The Winter School enabled participants to enhance their knowledge about democracy, the rule of law as well as human rights protection in Europe (e.g. the EU and the ECHR). Moreover, it served as a platform, on which young academics could share their insights and experiences from at least four national contexts.

The Winter School was exclusively designed for nationals from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It aimed at academics (completed MA) and young researchers of law, political science and economics or other related sciences which are keen to improve their knowledge regarding human rights protection and the legal aspects of democracy. A

good knowledge of English and a strong interest in the topics of EU law and human rights were preconditions for a successful application.

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Polish Erasmus for Ukraine' – Poland supports Ukraine in Higher Education

11.02.2015| Kyiv, Ukraine

Poland's Ministry of Science wants 400 more students and 50 graduate students from Ukraine to start studying in Poland in February 2015 - said Polish Minister of Science Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, who met with the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Serhiy Kwit in late January.

"Poland supports Ukraine in building the structures of a democratic and modern state, as well as its efforts to conclude an association agreement with the European Union. Cooperation in the field of higher education is also subordinated to that. Programs involving Ukrainian students focus on building staff competence and experience for the Ukrainian state and economy" - said Kolarska-Bobińska.

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OPEN CALLS

Horizon 2020 - calls

Open Calls: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

Participation rules: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/index.html>

HORIZON 2020 Calls deadlines in March-April 2015

Bellow you can find information about calls closing in March-April 2015

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) Call

The RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa) for the advancement of science and the development of innovation.

The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of joint research and innovation activities between the participants. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as inter-sectoral mobility, based on two-way secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of the joint research and innovation activities by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members.

The proposed research and innovation activities should exploit complementary competences of the participants, as well as other synergies, and enable networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate sharing of knowledge, new skills acquisition and career development for research and innovation staff members.

Activities can focus either on one dimension of mobility (intersectoral / international), or include a combination of both.

Deadline: 28-04-2015 17:00:00 (Brussels local time).

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COSME Call: CLUSTER GO INTERNATIONAL

The main objective of the action is to intensify cluster and business network collaboration across borders and sectorial boundaries and to support the establishment of European Strategic Cluster Partnership to lead international cluster cooperation in fields of strategic interest - notably in support of the development of emerging industries.

The action will be implemented by consortia and cluster organisations and/or business networks operating in COSME participating countries that are interested in establishing and running a European Cluster Partnership. The partnerships are expected to develop a joint "European" strategic vision with a global perspective and common goals towards specific third markets.

Applicant consortia are free to propose activities they consider relevant. However, it is essential that all activities are clearly related to the objective set out for each strand and duly justify:

strand 1: supporting preparatory actions for the establishment and shaping of new European Strategic Cluster Partnerships (ESCPs); for which expected results and deliverables are a partnership agreement, an internationalisation strategy plan and an implementation roadmap;

strand 2: supporting the first implementation, testing and further development of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships; for which the expected results and deliverables are collaboration activities developed and implemented with international partners and a monitoring scoreboard with verifiable indicators.

Through this action it is expected that cluster and business network collaboration across borders and sectorial boundaries will be intensified and the establishment of European Strategic Cluster Partnership will be supported in order to lead international cluster cooperation in fields of strategic interest - notably in support of the development of emerging industries.

Deadline: 31-03-2015 17:00:00 (Brussels local time).

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OpenAIRE2020: A new horizon for open science

OpenAIRE is a collaborative European effort working towards a common goal to bring a change in realising open access for the benefit of innovation, industry and society. All partners welcome the effort to truly make open access a global reality during this pivotal phase in scholarly communication.

OpenAIRE currently operates an interoperable and validated network of more than 520 repositories and OA journals, integrating more than 9 million OA publications and 1,000 datasets, with 50,000 organizations and 30,000 projects from two funders. It has identified over 100,000 FP7 publications from about half the 26,000 FP7 projects, and offers literature-data integration services.

OpenAIRE2020 is a multi-consortium effort, coordinated by the University of Athens.

EC budget: 13.132.500 Euros

Starts: January 1st, 2015

Duration: 3.5 years

Contact: Prof. Mike Chatzopoulos

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