

the participation level of EU research organisations in Russian programmes. The project will also provide assistance and expertise to joint European Commission-Russia research working groups.

### 3. Expected impact

The impact of the project in the short and medium term perspective is expected to be high, as it should significantly facilitate the access of EU research organizations and researchers to Russian research and innovation programmes. It will also provide a real framework for joint S&T research activities based on a win-win collaboration approach, that will be translated into (1) a measurable increase of collaborations between European and Russian S&T organisations, and (2) a less readily measurable improvement in mutual understanding of the respective research systems in EU and Russia. Appropriate dissemination methodology of the access opportunities across Europe and Russia will ensure maximum impact and open a larger scope for potential cooperation. The cooperation projects that will be initiated by the ACCESSRU project will impact on the EU research expenses' efficiency, upstream global consensus, and – in a general way – on strengthening science and technological cooperation between EU and the Russian Federation.

### List of Partners

- **Inno AG (representing inno-group with offices in Germany, France, Sweden)**  
– inno – Germany
- **European Science Foundation – ESF – France**
- **Federal Agency for Science and Innovation – Rosnauka – Russia**
- **International Center for Science, Innovations, Technology and Education**  
– ICISTE – Russia
- **Bakh Institute of Biochemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences – INBI – Russia**
- **Russian Technology Transfer Network – RTTN – Russia**
- **Tomsk Polytechnic University – TPU – Russia**
- **INNOVA Europe (Representing the INNOVA Group: Italy, Portugal, Luxembourg, Belgium, Czech Republic and Poland) – INNOVA – Luxembourg**



## Strengthening EU-Russia Sciences and Technology cooperation and EU access to Russian National Funding Programmes – ACCESSRU

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#### COORDINATOR

Name: Svetlana Klessova

Phone: +33 4 92 38 84 26

Email: [s.klessova@inno-group.com](mailto:s.klessova@inno-group.com)

[www.access-ru.eu](http://www.access-ru.eu)

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

### 1. Background and objectives

For many years, the European Union has had a very rich scientific and technological relationship with Russia, both at the level of the individual Member States and at EU level.

Sixteen bilateral scientific cooperation agreements between Russia and EU Member States and Associated Countries to the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research are currently in force. At EU level and in addition to the Scientific & Technology Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission and Russia, there are also cooperation agreements with Russia on nuclear safety and nuclear fusion, as well as several other EU, pan-European, and international S&T programmes with, or involving Russia, such as ITER, ISTC, ISS, Eureka and CERN. Moreover, the EU and Russia have entered into a political commitment to create a 'Common Space in Research & Education, including Cultural Matters', the 'fourth Common Space'. Permanent joint European Commission-Russia research working groups for the thematic priorities of the EU Seventh Framework Programme have been created and have represented



Ms Svetlana Klessova,  
coordinator of the  
ACCESSRU project

a substantial step towards more common research agendas and increasingly common decision-shaping processes between the EC and Russia.

Russia has been one of the most successful, non-associated, third-country partners in the activities of the EU Research Framework Programmes, both in terms of the total number of participations and in terms of the total amount of financial contributions received from the European Commission. In the current EU Seventh Framework Programme, the involvement of Russian research groups continues to be very strong.

On the other hand, the participation of EU research organisations and researchers in activities supported by Russian national and regional programmes in the science and technology field has so far been very limited. Preliminary investigations, carried out by the FP7 ACCESSRU partners, have identified major obstacles, such as the lack of information about Russian national research programmes, linguistic barriers and financial and legal issues, which can make access to the Russian public-funded research activities difficult.

In this context, the FP7 ACCESSRU project is inspired by the need to develop the reciprocity component of the EU-Russia S&T Cooperation Agreement by facilitating the access of the EU research community to the opportunities offered by the research and innovation programmes managed by Russian authorities.

The project has the following objectives:

- assessing access opportunities in Russia for EU research organisations, by screening the Russian S&T landscape and identifying common challenges, needs and opportunities in scientific cooperation on both sides;

*We are proud to be the coordinator of this flagship project. The idea of supporting European researchers participate in Russian programmes is simply unique and innovative.*

- raising awareness on access opportunities in Russia amongst European research organizations, stimulating and facilitating the participation of European organisations in Russian research and innovation programmes;
- enhancing the S&T policy dialogue, in particular by and formulating strategic recommendations on scientific collaboration between EU and Russia.

## 2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The project will analyse Russian research & innovation programmes to identify access opportunities for European researchers. A particular focus will be put on the ongoing bilateral cooperation agreements and programmes between the EU Member States/Associated Countries and Russia in order to analyse their reciprocity conditions.

Once the state-of-the-art EU-RU S&T collaboration opportunities are drawn up, a Green Paper on EU-Russian collaboration and an Opportunities Report will be prepared, discussed and diffused.

The project will also help European research organisations to access the Russian research programmes, through developing several pilot cases and identifying success stories. Pilot 'case studies' will be analysed and concrete mechanisms to support access of EU research organisations to the Russian programmes will be developed.

The project will implement two inter-linked dissemination and awareness raising campaigns: to promote the access to Russian programmes inside the European research community and to inform Russian research organisations that the involvement of European partners for Russian programmes is possible and welcome. The project's S&T collaboration observatory will help to monitor