

Central Black Soil Regional Information Point for Scientific and Technological Cooperation with EU (CBS RIP) was established within the Regional Centre for International Academic and Business Co-operation, Voronezh State University in February 2005. We operate in the Black Soil Region that covers 6 oblasts (Voronezh, Belgorod, Kursk, Lipetsk, Oryel, and Tambov). They are home to more than 9 mln people and about 200 universities and research institutions. In January 2006 our point was included in INTAS FP6 NIS Information Network (ININ).

Our mission is to promote scientific and technological co-operation between the Black Soil Region and EU under Framework Programmes, other EU programmes and INTAS as well as to facilitate joint research projects in international consortia.

Our main priorities are:

disseminating general and specific information on FP7 and other RTD programmes set up by EU, Russian scientific foundations, including on calls for proposals, conferences, seminars, etc;

- creating and updating a database of the local scientific potential and project proposals;



- organizing info-days, conferences, and round-table discussions with a view to introducing FP7, other European programmes, INTAS as well as the Black Soil Region research capacity;
- advising new actors on FP7 (e.g. conditions for participation and submission of proposals, project management);
- organising training workshops on proposal writing;
- setting up a network of regional consultants;
- assisting in partner search activities for Russian-European research programmes;
- enhancing research mobility, including researchers, university teachers, postgraduates, and students;
- interacting with Russian and European NCPs, Russian regional information points, federal and local authorities;
- preparing analytical and statistical reports on the participation of the regional RTD organizations in European research programmes.

Our activities (February 2005 – December 2006)

- We interact with Russian NCPs and the RIP was given the authority to represent them on the regional level.

- The Agreement about Cooperation and Partnerships with National Contact Points (Food, Knowledge Society, Health, Nanotech, Ecotech Global Change and Mobility) was signed.

- The CBS RIP interacts with the Department of International Cooperation for Education and Science, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation; Delegation of European Commission to Russia; Federal Agency for Research and Innovations and regional universities.

- In February 10-11, 2005 the *III Days of International Education and Science in Central Russia* were jointly hosted by CBS RIP, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Delegation of European Commission to Russia and Russian NCP Knowledge Society. The event attracted more than 110 participants: university rectors, vice-rectors, leading university researchers, and authority representatives from 10 oblasts of the Central Federal District.

The workshop programme included:

presentations:

- *FP6 of the European Union for Research and Technological Development.* **Jean-Louis Lavroff**, Head of Science, Technology, Transport, Energy and Environment Section, Delegation of European Commission to Russia;

- *INTAS programmes.* **Gulnara Roll**, Scientific Officer for Economics, Social and Human Sciences, INTAS, TEMPUS programme;

- *Central Federal District and Central Black Soil Region scientific potential.* **Igor Zornikov**, Head of CBS RIP;

round table discussion: «*Opportunities of the Regional Universities and Research Organizations` Participation in FP6 and INTAS. Prospective FP7 Scientific Thematic Priorities*».

Training workshop on Russian universities and research organizations` participation in FP7 and writing research proposals. Its 59 participants were awarded with certificates.

- CBS RIP staff members were active participants in FP6 info-days seminars and training workshops in Moscow, St.Petersburg and Brussels.



- In May 19, 2006 RIP carried out an international information workshop **Prospects of Enhancing Participation of Central Russia Universities and Research Organizations in EU FP6/7** in association with the Ministry of Education and Science of RF, Delegation of European Commission to Russia and Russian NCPs *Nanotech, Ecotech Global Change and Ecosystems and Mobility*.

The workshop included the following **presentations:**

- *Cooperation between Russian and EU in the Framework of FP6/7: Expertise and Prospects,* **Richard Burger**, S&T Counsellor, Delegation of the European Commission to Russia;

- *Participation of Russia in EU International Programmes on Research and Academic Mobility,* **A.G.Pikalova**, Director of NCP Mobility.

There were

- two **thematic sessions:** *Nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based functional materials, new devices and production processes* (Chair – **S.A.Pikin**, Head of NCP), and *Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems* (Chair – **R.A.Perelet**, Head of NCP);

- **Round table discussion:** *Opportunities to enhance participation of Russian regional institutions in FP7* (**I.N.Zornikov**, Head of CBS RIP).

More than 100 rectors, vice-rectors for science, and leading researchers of the Central Black Soil Region participated in the workshop.

We published the handbook *International, Regional, and National Organizations, Foundations, and Programmes* (624 pages).

Since December 2005 we have maintained an on-line newsletter to provide universities with up-to-date information about calls for proposals, prospects for participation in EU framework programmes and other international research and education projects in international and Russian programmes, foundations, and organizations.

In November 2006 we released a special issue of the newsletter **Towards FP7** and sent it to universities and research organizations.

We have developed and maintain the CBS RIP website that contains information about FP7, other European programmes, Russian NCPs, regional scientific potential, project proposals, the CBS RIP activities (available in Russian and English).

We advise researchers on proposal writing.

Voronezh State University and CBS RIP held an **international scientific conference *Russia and EU: Prospects of Creating Common Space of Research and Education***, Voronezh, 13-14 December, 2006. There was a presentation on FP7 for Russian researchers (**Mr. Daniel Descoutures**).

There participated representatives of the federal and local science and education authorities, 93 higher education institutions and research organizations from both Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and about 50 Russian regions, more 40 rectors, vice-rectors, heads of research centres and institutes,



Directorate General for Research of the European Commission, INTAS, COST, Tempus, DAAD, Russian Humanitarian Scientific Foundation, Russian Basic Research Foundation, «Siemens Business Services» Company (Germany), EU Innovation Centre (Estonia), National Coordinator in Belarus.

From CBS RIP work programme 2007:

- to organize informational workshops and info days on FP7 thematic priorities in association Russian NCP;
- to apply developed by the RIP regional information system for S&T cooperation of CBS Region with EU under FP7 and other European programmes, that would give scientists on-line access to the necessary information about FP7 and European partners for joint research;
 - to send out a newsletter with information about calls for proposals of European and Russian organizations, foundations and programmes, FP7 and Federal Targeted Programme twice a month;
 - to develop databases in English «CBS scientific potential with classification according to FP7 priorities» and «Regional scientists' project proposals for participation in FP7»;
 - set up a network of regional consulting managers;
 - to advise on the issues of proposal writing and assist in search for European partners;
 - to hold a three-day-long training workshop on participation in FP7 recruiting European experts;



- to study European expertise in organization of information and advising support of international S/T cooperation within EU programmes (Scientific centre «East-West», Kassel University, Germany);
- to develop methodological guidelines for proposal writing for European research programmes;
- to carry out events under implementation of FP6 project RegionERA (contract 043911);
- to make contacts and organize interaction with European NCPs within FP7;
- to carry out the IV Days of International Science and Education in the Central Russia in association with European partners.

Head of the CBS RIP – Dr. Igor N. Zornikov
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**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
 OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
 FEDERAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
 VORONEZH STATE UNIVERSITY**



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 Regional Information Point
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Voronezh