

Policy dialogue in ICT to an Upper level for Reinforced EU-EECA Cooperation

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EU-Eastern Europe and Central Asia Gateway for ICT Research, Development and Policy Dialogue
<http://www.eeca-ict.eu/>

From the editor



Svetlana Klessova,
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Yerevan Workshop on Components, Computing Systems and Networks – next step in EU-EECA ICT cooperation



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ICT events in Armenia



The 9th International Conference on Computer Science and Information Technologies (CSIT-2013) was organized by the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA) and the Institute for Informatics and Automation Problems on the 23-27 September, 2013 in Yerevan. CSIT-2013 biannual conference was dedicated to the 70-th anniversary of NAS RA.

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EC event in Vilnius: European Frontier Research in ICT

Taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 6–8 November, 2013, ICT' 2013 event was extremely representative, almost 5000 participants took part in it.

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From the editor



Svetlana Klessova,
PICTURE project
coordinator
Director, Inno TSD
(France)

Dear readers,

It has been a busy year for PICTURE team, with experts' exchanges, implementation of pilot actions, ICT in Horizon 2020 info-days with involvement of many EECA countries and their ICT specialists.

2013 has been marked by several major events (co)organised by PICTURE: workshop in Kiev, Ukraine, on Content Technologies and Information Management in May; workshop in Erevan, Armenia, on Components, Computing Systems and Networks in September, two "ICT in Horizon 2020 Info-days" and PICTURE participation in ICT'2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

PICTURE team has advanced very well with regard to the pilot projects. For example, information needs to support the policy dialogue process and the cooperation between the EU and EECA region in the area of ICT R&D have been analyzed, and exchange of ideas with four European technology Platforms'

representatives has been started. Also, common research priorities for two PICTURE working groups - in the light of HORIZON 2020 priorities - have been developed and will be presented in the beginning of 2014.

I look forward to final event in Minsk - expected in May 2014 - that will bring together all PICTURE's partners, experts, ETPs representatives and present the project lessons learnt and outcomes. PICTURE will end in May 2014 but its work will be continued, with two new projects - EECA-2-HORIZON and EAST-HORIZON - that are expected to be launched in winter 2014.

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!**

Yerevan Workshop on Components, Computing Systems and Networks – next step in EU-EECA ICT cooperation

The PICTURE Workshop on Components, Computing Systems and Networks, which was held in Yerevan on the 25th September 2013, was the third in a series of events organized by PICTURE project (the first one being the successful Validation and Dissemination Workshop in Moscow and the second - Kyiv Workshop on Content Technologies and Information Management). It was organized together with INARMERA-ICT, partner project and aimed at setting up of the EU-EECA roadmap connecting ICT knowledge platforms and networks of two regions.

Representatives of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) Net!Works (<http://www.networks-etp.eu/>) and Photonics21 (<http://www.photonics21.org>), Russian Tech-

nology Platform on Photonics (<http://www.cislaser.com/>) as well as experts of the Working Group 2 ("Bridging the European and EECA knowledge networks in the field of "Components, Computing Systems and Networks") from research and scientific organizations in EECA countries - were invited to this event to discuss new opportunities for the EU-EECA cooperation in the field of Components, Computing Systems and Networks. We should mention also INARMERA-ICT experts from IIAP (AM), IRIT (FR), SzTAKI (HU), EuroTex (BG) who presented their current set of Pilot Projects.

For more information: http://www.eeca-ict.eu/news/PICTURE_and_INARMERAICT_Joint_Workshop_on_Components_Computing_Systems_and_Networks/





The agenda featured presentations of the involved ETPs with focus on their research priorities under Horizon 2020 as well as the presentation of the RTP (Russian Technology Platform) on Photonics with the focus on future cooperation with Photonics21; presentations of the R&D ICT potential of each represented EECA country in the area of Components, Computing Systems and Networks along with the presentations of INARMERA-ICT partner organizations. The draft map connecting ETPs research priorities with those of the EECA region in the light of Horizon 2020's Societal Challenges was introduced and discussed by the experts. The finalised version of the document will be published by the project in upcoming months.

As the main outcomes of the Workshop can be considered the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between PICTURE and INARMERA-ICT projects and the agreement between ETP Photonics21 and RTP on Photonics on future cooperation and joint activities in R&D work.

Participation of the EU experts in the workshop, presentations of ETPs as well as RTP agreement on future cooperation between Photonics21 and RTP on Photonics showed the strong willingness of the EU organisations to make joint R&D work in the field of Components, Computing Systems and Networks with the EECA partner organisations focused on the Horizon 2020's Societal Challenges.



ICT events in Armenia

The 9th International Conference on Computer Science and Information Technologies (CSIT-2013) was organized by the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA) and the Institute for Informatics and Automation Problems on the 23-27 September, 2013 in Yerevan. CSIT-2013 biannual conference was dedicated to the 70-th anniversary of NAS RA <http://www.csit.am/2013/>.

The CSIT-2013 conference has also served as a platform for different ICT events, namely Horizon 2020 Eastern Partnership Information Day – “Research & Innovation in Information and Communication Technologies”; PICTURE Workshop mentioned above; XIII UNL School and other scientific sessions.

“ICT in Horizon2020” – ICT Eastern Partnership Information Day

This event was organized by the European Commission with a technical support of PICTURE Project.



Matenadaran conference hall of the Republic of Armenia

Bringing together a number of partners - IEEE Computer Society, State Committee of Science of the MES RA, Yerevan State University, State Engineering University of Armenia, Toulouse Institute of Computer Science Research, Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg State University - Information day recorded a real success with more than 130 representa-

tives of higher education institutions, research institutes, business community, national and local authorities, from Armenia and EECA countries, and the representatives of the European Commission attended the Info Day which was held in Matenadaran conference hall.

[http://www.eeca-ict.eu/news/ICT%20Eastern%20Partnership%20\(EaP\)%20Information_Day_successfully_organized_in_Yerevan](http://www.eeca-ict.eu/news/ICT%20Eastern%20Partnership%20(EaP)%20Information_Day_successfully_organized_in_Yerevan)



EC event in Vilnius: European Frontier Research in ICT

Taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 6–8 November 2013, **ICT'2013** event (<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict-2013-conference>) was extremely representative, almost 5000 participants took part in it. The event gave opportunity to get acquainted with the Horizon 2020 program in details. All event speakers underlined that ICT and Research & Innovation play the vital role in delivering a smart, sustainable economy in the nearest future. The European Commission proposed ca €76 billion package for research & innovation funding as part of the drive to create sustainable growth and new jobs in Europe.

Horizon 2020 program (http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm) will support the development of ICT in Science (in future and emerging technologies and e-infrastructures); in industrial leadership (such as smart systems, robotics, photonics, etc.) and in societal challenges (such as e-Health, e-Government and e-Skills, etc.)

Vilnius event brought together Europe's frontier ICT research, web start-ups, digital strategists, specialists working in cloud computing, broadband, ICT infrastructures, ICT skills, cyber security, etc. to chart a path for Europe's ICT research policy. ICT'2013 gave opportunity to share future visions between the EU policy-makers, scientists and specialists working in ICT and to estimate the latest advances in EU funded ICT research.

Opened by the President of Lithuania, **Dalia Grybauskaitė**

and **Neelie Kroes**, European Commission Vice President for the Digital Agenda, ICT'2013 promoted seven new priorities for the digital economy and society. These priorities are:

1. Create a new and stable broadband regulatory environment;
2. New public digital service infrastructures through Connecting Europe Facility;
3. Launch Grand Coalition on Digital Skills and Jobs;
4. Propose EU cyber-security strategy and Directive;
5. Update EU's Copyright Framework;
6. Accelerate cloud computing through public sector buying power;
7. Launch new electronics industrial strategy.

To highlight their importance, Neelie Kroes said: *"2013 will be the busiest year yet for the Digital Agenda. My top priorities are to increase broadband investment and to maximize the digital sector's contribution to Europe's recovery."*

Full implementation of this updated Digital Agenda (<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/>) would increase European GDP by 5%, or 1500€ per person, over the next eight years, by increasing investment in ICT, improving e-skills level of the labour force, enabling public sector innovation, and reforming the framework conditions for the internet economy. In terms of jobs, up to one million digital jobs risk going unfilled by 2015 without pan-European action whilst 1.2 million jobs could be created through

infrastructure construction. This would rise to 3.8 million new jobs throughout the economy in the long term.

The Future & Emerging Technologies (FET) program invests in transformative frontier research and innovation with a high potential impact on technology, and on economy and society. FET provides a unique combination of high risk, long term, multidisciplinary and collaborative frontier research, which lays the foundations for radically new, next generation technologies. It converts proofs of concept into industrial applications and systems.

The challenge of bringing forward the EU leadership in Research and Innovation for the Future Internet and communications Infrastructure is addressed by the Future Networks Objective. The Future Networks research will deliver the next generation of network technologies enabling smart connectivity for all, anywhere, at any time at the highest speed and efficiency so as to meet an overwhelming demand by today's society. Future Networks replacing the present patchwork of internet, mobile, fixed and audiovisual networks with a single ICT infrastructure, bringing smart and high-speed connectivity for all, anywhere, at any time.

Excellent EU research results and industrial leadership in networking technologies are instrumental for Europe to be a front runner in developing and deploying timely and viable



solutions for highly performing ICT infrastructures. This will help achieving a major promise of The Digital Agenda for Europe: ubiquitous access to broadband, supporting vital applications in our daily lives such as health, energy consumption, environment transport, entertainment or education to mention a few. These applications are ever more demanding in terms of speed and connectivity so as to enable new features, such as instant access, real time interactivity, social media, HDTV, 3D or in the not so distance future virtual and immersive environments.

Micro and nanoelectronics, smart embedded components and systems are vital for Europe's future. The latest developments in the area of organic electronics have made it possible to print electronic circuits on flexible

foils, just like photos are printed. Furthermore, the progress made in Photonics is of utmost importance in the current thrive to be more energy efficient.

The importance of Photonics can be seen from the multitude of application sectors. These sectors include information, communication, imaging, lighting, displays, manufacturing, life sciences and health care, and safety and security. In these areas Photonics is offering new and unique solutions where today's conventional technologies are approaching their limits in terms of speed, capacity and accuracy.

Europe is at the forefront and intends to maintain its leadership through the huge research efforts spent in the following domains: electronics, cyber-physical systems, advanced

computing, smart manufacturing, lighting the future and photonics.

The global robotics market is now worth €15.5 billion a year, with some €3 billion of that in the EU. The EU also has a 25% share of the global industrial robotics market, and half of the professional service robotics sector. By 2020, the whole service robotics market could be worth over €100 billion. To keep and improve this promising position, the European Commission, industry and academia are working together to launch a Public Private Partnership (PPP). It will aim to: improve EU industrial competitiveness through robotic technologies; provide robots and robotic services to help solve some of the EU's societal challenges, such as aging; address ethical and legal issues; develop strategic goals.

PICTURE project activities in Vilnius

Undoubtedly, the Vilnius ICT event was one of the major events for scientists and specialists working in the ICT field. The program of the event was rich with activities including brokerage events organized by IDEALIST project, several networking events (over 150), etc.

PICTURE project after successfully submitted proposal on the organization of the Networking session on ICT event, was invited to take part in the Networking session - "International collaboration: emerging economies", (<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/events/cf/ict2013/item-display.cfm?id=10478>) where the ICT cooperation between the EECA and EU and its potential in line with Horizon 2020 objectives/priorities was demonstrated.

Four world regions have been presented during the session via the presentations delivered by the ICT INCO projects:

1. "Accelerating South Africa Digital Advantage Vision through Enhanced ICT RDI Cooperation with EU" – Jeanette Morwane / Department of S&T;
2. "Enhancing ICT cooperation with emerging economies in Latin America" – Yolanda Ursa / INMARK;
3. "EU-China cooperation in ICT" – Camille Torrenti / Sigma Orionis;
4. "EU-EECA ICT cooperation for scientific excellence & industrial partnership under Horizon 2020" – Tatyana Lyadnova, Belarus and Olga Kieffer, France.

PICTURE presentation on EECA region demonstrated that in changing context of international cooperation, where innovation becomes more open and involves a growing range of players, the EU cooperation with the EECA is becoming more important for creation and diffusion of the ICT technologies. Vilnius event showed a large





Speakers of the networking session – “International collaboration: emerging economies”

consensus on the fact that accelerated rate of ICT development has fostered a great need to promote the capacity to CREATE. The cooperation with EECA brings response to this need not only at the level of SUBSTANCE of ICT research, teaching and learning, but also at the level of ICT policy dialogue and structure of international cooperation incentives in the EECA R&D organizations, centers, and education. PICTURE project team looks forward to HORIZON 2020 and other collaborative schemes that will bring new opportunities strengthening ICT research and industrial leadership in a way that contributes to the well-being constituency for our society.

It is important to highlight that during the Vilnius event the meeting of the ICT NCPs was held, it was headed by Alessandro Barbagli and Morten Moller (DG Communications Networks, Content



PICTure team at the Networking session

and Technology). They reviewed some NCP activities and challenges for the future Horizon 2020 and announced the endorsement of the new ICT program for Horizon 2020 program (LEID) by EC. This new ICT program comprises:

1. **A new generation of components and systems** (Smart Cyber-Physical Systems; Smart System Integration; Advanced Thin, Organic and Large Area Electronics (TOLAE) technologies).
2. **Advanced Computing** (Customised and low power computing)
3. **Future Internet** (Smart Networks and novel Internet Architectures; Smart optical and wireless network technologies; Advanced Cloud Infrastructures and Services; Boosting public sector productivity and innovation through cloud computing services; Tools and Methods for Software Development; Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation; FIRE+ (Future Internet Research & Experimentation); Integrating experiments and facilities in FIRE+; Web Entrepreneurship; Advanced 5G Network Infrastructure for the Future Internet).
4. **Content technologies and information management** (Big data and Open Data Innovation and take-up; Big data – research; Cracking the language barrier; Support the growth of ICT innovative Creative Industries SMEs; Technologies for creative industries, social media and convergence; Technologies for better human learning and teaching; Advanced digital gaming/gamification technologies; Multimodal and Natural computer interaction).
5. **Robotics** (Robotics)
6. **Micro- and nanoelectronic technologies, Photonics** (Generic micro- and nano-electronic technologies; Photonics KET 2014; Photonics KET 2015; Cross-cutting ICT KETs; Development of novel materials and systems for OLED lighting).
7. **ICT Cross-Cutting Activities** (Internet of Things and Platforms for Connected Smart Objects; Human-centric Digital Age; Cybersecurity, Trustworthy ICT; Trans-national co-operation among National Contact Points).
8. **Horizontal ICT Innovation actions** (Support for access to finance; Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support; Pre-commercial procurement open to all areas of public interest requiring new ICT solutions; Open Disruptive Innovation Scheme (implemented through the SME instrument)).
9. **Fast track to Innovation – pilot** (Fast track to Innovation Topic).



10. International Cooperation actions (International partnership building and support to dialogues with high income countries; International partnership building in low and middle income countries).

11. Brazil Research and Development Cooperation in Advanced Cyber Infrastructure (Cloud Computing, including security aspects; High Performance Computing (HPC); Experimental Platforms).

12. EU-Japan Research and Development Cooperation in Net Futures (Technologies combining big data, internet of things in the cloud; Optical communications; Access networks for densely located users; Experimentation and development on federated Japan – EU testbeds).

13. Other actions (not subject to calls for proposals) (External expertise; Inducement prizes; ICT conferences, studies and other events).

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/pdf/work-programmes/information_and_communication_technologies_draft_work_programme.pdf#view=fit&pagedmode=none

(The final official version of the ICT Work Programme 2014–2015 will be published soon)

Success story

THE EUROPEAN UNION TECHNOLOGIES EXHIBITION IN KAZAKHSTAN

National Agency for Technological Development JSC (http://www.nif.kz/en/about_us/information) in association with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Kazakhstan, EU FP7 National Coordination Center in Kazakhstan and EU Delegation to Kazakhstan organized the Exhibition of the EU technologies in the framework of Astana Economic Forum on May 22–24, 2013.

NATD JSC in partnership with EU FP7 National Coordination Center and EU Delegation to Kazakhstan used the data base of 13 000 EU technologies developed under EEN and EU FP7 projects. National companies of Kazakhstan from different sectors of economy took part in selection process and determined 15 technologies in oil and gas sectors, nanotechnologies, geology, energy, metallurgy, robotics for adoption and inculcation of these technologies in Kazakhstan. NATD JSC invited representatives of these technologies

from Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK, Israel, Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, and Russia to participate in the Exhibition.

The Exhibition was opened by Deputy Prime-Minister of In-

dustry and New Technologies of Kazakhstan Mr. Asset Issekeshev and Deputy Head of Unit, International cooperation, DG Research and Innovations, European Commission Mr John Claxton.



Exhibition of EU Technologies “Age of innovations”





John Claxton
Deputy Head of Unit,
International cooperation,
EC DG Research and Innovations



Mrs. Aurelia Bouchez
Ambassador, Head of the EU
Delegation to Kazakhshtan



Mr. Zhumatay Salimov
Managing Director of NATD JSC
on the session "EU-Kazakhstan;
cooperation trough innovations"
on the VIII Innovation Congress,
May 24, 2013

The exhibition was interesting and successful. For example, Kazakhstani national companies signed 13 MoUs with representatives of the EU technologies for the sum of 20 mln Euro. The Exhibition was visited by H.E. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, H.E. Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Serik Akhmetov, EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan H.E. Aurelia Bouchez.

The Exhibition opened up new opportunities for the EU-Kazakhstan cooperation in ICT: the Ministry of Industry and new Technologies of Kazakhstan and NATD JSC has plans to organize such kind of exhibition with focus on transfer of foreign technologies annually starting from 2014. NATD JSC welcomes EU companies and organizations with ICT projects to take part in the Exhibition in 2014.

National Agency for Technological Development JSC also organized VIII Innovation Congress in the framework of VI Astana Economic Forum on May 22–24, 2013. During this event association of the EU delegation to Kazakhstan and EU FP7 National Coordination Center NATD JSC hosted the plenary session "EU-Kazakhstan cooperation through innovations". It must be mentioned that Mr. Zhumatay Salimov, Managing Director of NATD JSC made a presentation on the topic: "Innovative collaboration: Kazakhstan and EU", where he presented the experience of NATD JSC in participation in the EU FP7 projects, such as ISTOK-SOYUZ and PICTURE.



H.E. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev** and EU FP7 National Coordinator **Dr. Kamila Magziyeva** on the EU technologies exhibition

It is important to notice that NATD JSC issued the presentations of speakers of the Innovation congress, in which the presentation done by Mr Zhumatay Salimov (on the experience of NATD JSC's work in ISTOK-SOYUZ and PICTURE projects) was included.

<http://www.group-global.org/en/session/view/233>



Introducing project partners

GEORGIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL NETWORKING ASSOCIATION – GRENA

The Georgian Research and Educational Networking Association – **GRENA** (www.grena.ge) was founded for the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education and research field. The founders of GRENA are five major state universities, Georgian National Academy of Sciences and Open Society – Georgia Foundation.

The three main fields of GRENA activities are the following:

1. Providing Information and Communication Technology services to users and implementation of new, innovative services.
2. ICT education.
3. Preparation and implementation of international and local R&D projects; promoting and supporting ICT development in Georgia.

Implementation of new services and development of projects in ICT is being carried out in close cooperation with universities and with the support of European Commission, NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, UNDP, International Science & Technology Center and other organizations.

GRENA provides ICT services using its own infrastructure and different technologies to more than 70 organizations in Georgia.

GRENA education program has following directions:

- Cisco Networking Academy;
- Linux Professional Institute (LPI) Learning Center;
- Juniper Academy;
- Distance Learning Center;
- Pearson VUE Authorized Certification Center.

GRENA acquired more than ten years of successful experience in ICT education and has status of Cisco Academies' Support Center and Instructors' Training Center.

In 2009 GRENA established the first GRID (distributed computing) facility in Georgia, which is incorporated in the European GRID Infrastructure. GRENA enables researchers that have tasks (such as intensive research and development calculations) requiring very large computational resources to use European GRID infrastructure.

Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-GE) was established in 2007 at GRENA according to the NATO Networking Infrastructure Project and

mostly supports organizations, which are connected to the GRENA network. CERT-GE team provides the following services: Intrusion Detection System (IDS), incident handling, incident response support, information dissemination and hotline.

Currently GRENA is participating in implementation of the following International and local projects:

- EC FP7 – European Grid Initiative: Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Researchers in Europe (InSPIRE) <http://www.egi.eu/about/egi-inspire/index.html>
- EC FP7 – High-Performance Computing Infrastructure for South East Europe's Research Communities (HP-SEE) <http://www.hp-see.eu/>
- EC FP7 – Policy Dialogue in ICT to an Upper Level for Reinforced EU-EECA Cooperation (PICTURE) <http://www.eeca-ict.eu/mainpage>
- EC FP7 – Multi-Gigabit European Research and Education Network and Associated Services (GN3plus) <http://www.geant.net/Pages/default.aspx>
- Black Sea Economic Cooperation BSEC – Experimental Deployment of an Integrated Grid and Cloud Enabled Environment in BSEC Countries on the Base of g-Eclipse (BSEC gEclipseGrid) <http://grena.ge/eng/projects>
- European Union's Black Sea Basin Programme – CULTURE EXchange Platform (CULTUR-EXP) <http://cultur-exp.eu>
- Open Society – Georgia Foundation – Implementation of New Learning Programs, Courses and Services in Information Technology <http://grena.ge/eng/projects>
- Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation – Development of Grid Infrastructure and Services to Support Research Communities in Georgia <http://grid.grena.ge/>



THE 6TH REGIONAL GEORGIAN ICT DEVELOPMENT AND CYBER SECURITY EVENT IN TBILISI



The 6th Regional Georgian ICT Development and Cyber Security Event GITI 2013 (http://www.amcham.ge/res/upcoming/0013/giti_2013.pdf) will be organized by ICT Business Council of Georgia and Data Exchange Agency (DEA) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia on 28–29 November, 2013. The conference is one of the most influential regional events in the field ICT and IT innovations. Through the years, the conference has been a vital opportunity for high-profile experts from a diverse background in ICTs and cyber security to establish professional relationships and served as a platform for the formation of

international cooperation. In previous events, speakers and panellists included leading experts and decision-makers from sizable number of countries who specialize in various fields of e -industry, as well as colleagues from Governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Georgia and all countries in the South Caucasus region are in the emerging state of the e-era. Potential support, technical advice and plans for strengthening the financial structure are fundamental necessities for a successful e-Georgia and next e-Caucasus, e-Region. Fast processing mechanism, one-window-payment system, distance-learning, e-business helps transparent administration, economic development and the development of people.

Current event will pay special attention to Interoperability and Open Government concept and issues of its implementation. The motto of the event “Partnerships for Competitiveness, Innovation and Cyber Security” will establish an effective partnerships among the public and private sectors, associations and other IT industry related organizations in the Central and East Europe, Baltic States, Caucasus and Middle Asia region to promote competitiveness, innovation and security.

Leading tracks of the GITI 2013 conference are: E-Governance; Cyber Security; Regional Telecommunication Market Development; Connectivity; Policy Development; Capacity Building; Socio-economic implications of Its.

Benefits of the GITI 2013 event will be: exchange of good practice and cooperation between representatives of ICT industry, CIOs, business executives, public sector and representatives from other fields; provide with the information on ICT market and future development trends; Co-operation in cross-border projects in the Caucasus, Baltic Sea, Middle Asia Regions, Central and Eastern European Countries; Discussions, exchange of experience and an opportunity to develop new contacts; Ability to find new ideas, new clients and new co-operation partners.



Preliminary meeting of DEA organizers



PICTURE NEWS

NEW PROJECTS ON THE BASE OF PICTURE PROJECT WHICH REFLECT AN IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE EU-EECA COOPERATION

Two independent projects were approved by EC in ICT Call 10.3 and will start from 1st February 2014. These projects are: "Bringing the EU-EECA cooperation and policy dialogue in ICT in the HORIZON 2020 era" (**EECA-2-HORIZON**) and "Fostering Dialogue and Cooperation between the EU and EECA in the HORIZON 2020 perspective" (**EAST-HORIZON**). Both projects contain inspiring ideas, reinforcement the development of strategic and mutually beneficial partnerships between the EU and the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) countries and launch actions for support the dialogue between the EU and EECA countries, raise awareness, help in networking for participating in EU R&D&I etc.

These two projects can be considered as continuation of PICTURE project, which itself is the successor of the cluster of such projects as EXTEND, SCUBE-ICT and ISTOK SOYUZ. It must be mentioned that many participants of PICTURE consortium are at the same time partners of new projects.

During the negotiation process (NEF) the coordinators of both projects Kostas Bougiouklis and Raphael Koumeri were suggested to make coordination of activities with regard the EECA-2-HORIZON, EAST-HORIZON and PICTURE projects and in such way to avoid doubling and overlapping of some main directions.

Here we can present the main objectives of the projects:

Matching EECA Societal Challenges, ICT R&D and Industrial Priorities to HORIZON 2020 concepts, **EAST-HORIZON** project, after validating results from previous related projects, will focus on the new elements introduced by H2020 and the current frame of policy Dialogue between EU and EECA countries and bring concrete ideas and arguments to the Dialogue between the EC and EECA countries, in the perspective of a coherent ICT R&D cooperation policy.

EAST-HORIZON project will raise awareness by focused events where a deep insight of all relevant EU ICT R&D Frameworks will be provided;

reciprocally it will gather feedback on EECA R&D Programs for enabling EU organizations participate in them.

The project will create a dense grid of relevant players on the two sides (ICT researchers, IT Associations, Companies, ETPs, Knowledge Networks and Policy makers) in a balanced way so as to maximize research collaboration, in parallel promoting innovation. This will shape new or strengthen existing business links between the EU and EECA IT Industries and Academia/Institutes.

A permanent communication and collaboration platform, an environment where all ICT research players meet and work together to raise ideas for joint research projects will be established. The platform, linked to similar platforms, will be transferred to EECA stakeholders at project end, for achieving sustainability of collaboration mechanisms built under EAST HORIZON.

Another project – **EECA-2-HORIZON** aims to address the ever growing need to further support the dialogue on the EU-EECA cooperation in the field of ICT and reinforce cooperation between the research and industrial communities of the two regions in areas of mutual interest and added value, which will eventually, bring tangible socio-economic benefits to both regions. Although cooperation in ICT R&D between the two regions has achieved great progress, there is still much space for further development, especially in light of the EC's new instrument, HORIZON 2020.

Within this context, EECA-2-HORIZON plans to reinforce strategic partnerships and the preparation of joint RTD&I initiatives among the EU and EECA ICT research and industrial communities by addressing the following aspects.

It is important that the smooth implementation of the EECA-2-HORIZON project is secured by a well balanced consortium of 10 partners that brings together key actors with extensive networks and contacts in the research and industrial communities from both the EU and EECA region.

We hope that EAST-HORIZON and EECA-2-HORIZON projects will become successful projects and they will reflect the major principles of Eastern Partnership and Horizon 2020 programs.

MAIN UPCOMING EVENT FOR PICTURE PROJECT

PICTURE project final meeting will be held in Minsk (Belarus) in May, 2014



WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

The PICTURE team will provide you with expert advice and professional consultancy, tailored to your needs.

In return, we would like to hear your feedback about your experiences collaborating in EU-EECA joint ICT projects.

Do you have any other experience to share?

A seminar or conference to promote?

Suggestions for EU-EECA pilot projects?

Partners to be searched?

Send us your ideas and suggestions <http://www.eeca-ict.eu/contact>.

List of consortium partners per country:

Country	Organisation	Contact Name	E-mail	Tel. & Mobile phone	Skype
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