

TRANSFORMATION OF THE EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA AND RUSSIA

Alla Akulshina *
Dmitriy Galushko **

ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the policy of the European Union and the Russian Federation in the sphere of science and education. The authors considered the regulatory framework for relations between EU and Russia in the sphere of education and science, legal acts, governing this area within both sides and reasons for bringing it to the new level during the next decade. In their paper, the authors summarize the experience of implementation of joint projects between Russian and European partners, with focus on the experience of the VSU in this direction.

* Associate Professor, Director of the Centre for International Projects and Programmes, Voronezh State University; akulshina@vsu.ru.

** Associate Professor, Department of International and European Law, Faculty of Law, Voronezh State University; galushkodv@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

«The European Union's research policy is as old as the European Union itself; as old, more precisely, as the European project, as the initial elements appeared with the creation of what was known at the time as the 'European Community', at the end of the 1950s».

Such a descriptive definition was given to date of process of building European research policy by Michel André, an adviser in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research¹.

During his visit to the Voronezh State University in September 2014, Nicola Scaramuzzo, who has been working almost 20 years in the creation of the common educational space, who is currently the acting Head of the Office of the EU-Russian Cooperation Programme, said following:

«First of all, science and education should help to overcome the crisis in the relationship that exists between the EU and Russia, as in these areas of interaction we have huge potential. We must actively cooperate with each other - something that in English sounds like «people-to-people contact».

2. STATE-OF-THE-ART IN THE EU

The current stage of development of education and science, the complexity of challenges facing society, their global character in almost all spheres dramatically reduce the efficiency of a country in their resolution. This principle has been incorporated into the concept of the European Research Area - combined efforts of different countries to solve problems jointly in various fields of science.

Moving on to the concept of the European Research Area (ERA), it should be noted that its original vision was founded on the analysis of the unfavorable gap between Europe and the USA and Japan on key science and technology indicators (1,8% of GDP in the EU in average whereas 2,8% in the USA and 2,9% in Japan), thus the scientists' ratio to employed population is less than in the countries compared, problem of brain drain from Europe to the US and others. Fragmentation of the European scientific and technological system was identified as the main problem. It became clear that scientific activities of the European Union should cease to be merely a supplement to the research area of the EU member states. There were made attempts to create a unified

¹ Michel André, an adviser in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research. *The 7th Framework Programme in the history of European research*. RTD info. Special Edition – June 2007.

approach to ERA, which could connect national, European and intergovernmental levels.

According to the results of 10-year-long implementation of the ERA concept, in January 2009 European Commissioner for the research Janez Potochnik made very interesting report about state-of-the-art in ERA, where he marks stagnations in the development of research policy². The tasks put in the Lisbon strategy (employment level – 70% and 3% of GDP expenditure on S/T development) were not fulfilled to time (2010). It is hard to talk about any significant progress.

The percentage of GDP spent on R&D by the EU-27 was 1.85% in 2007. This share has been quite stable over the past years (1.84%, 2006; 1.86%, 2000). While in the same period the percentage of GDP spent on R&D by Japan grew from 3,04% to 3,39%, by Korea from 2,3 to 3,36%³, by China from 0,90 to 1,44%⁴.

EU-27 spent € 237 billion on R&D in 2008 as compared to € 270 billion spent by the United States and € 110 billion by Japan. Most R&D expenditure of EU-27 in 2008 was in the business and enterprise sector (BES) with 64% (on the level of 2005), but this phenomenon is more significant in Japan with 77.8% (75%, 2005), as well as in the United States with 72.6% (70%, 2005).

However R&D expenditures differ considerably between the EU Member States. In 2008, R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP (R&D intensity) was highest in Sweden (3.75% of GDP) and Finland (3.73%), followed by Austria (2.67%), Denmark (2.72%) and Germany (2.63%), and lowest in Cyprus (0.46%), Slovakia (0.47%), Bulgaria (0.49%) and Malta (0.54%). The highest increases in R&D intensity between 2001 and 2008 were found in Austria (from 2.07% of GDP to 2.67%), Estonia (from 0.71% to 1.28%) and Portugal (from 0.80% to 1.5%)⁵.

It should be noted that technological advances of Europe are less significant. More than 50% of all patent applications received by the European Patent Office (EPO) are not from the EU Member States, but from other countries of the world; more than half of the EU Member States do not produce high-tech

² A more attractive European Research Area but stagnating EU R&D intensity: no time to take a break! IP/09/92, Brussels, 22 January 2009 // Press releases RAPID. URL: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=reports&reportyear=2011#report>

³ Source of Data: Eurostat. URL: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdec320>

⁴ OECD Factbook 2010: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics. – 2010. URL: http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-factbook-2010_factbook-2010-en

⁵ Science, technology and innovation in Europe : Eurostat pocketbooks - 2011. URL: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-31-11-118/EN/KS-31-11-118-EN.PDF

patents, and the highest concentration of patents can be traced only in a few European regions⁶.

The EU initiated a new very ambitious scientific programme – Horizon 2020. The Commission proposed an increase in the EU R&D budget to EUR80 billion for Horizon 2020, and Member States committed themselves to the EU target to invest on average 3% of EU GDP in research by 2020.

The European Commission performed a number of initiatives to change the situation. As far as the new framework for EU research and innovation funding after 2013 concerned, the Commission's proposal for a "Common Strategic Framework" in its February 2011 Green Paper (IP/11/138) is about making participation in EU programmes for research and innovation easier and focusing investment on tackling "grand challenges", in particular climate change, energy and food security, resource efficiency, health and ageing population. The Commission aimed to increase scientific and economic impact and get the best value for every euro invested. The proposal was to cover the whole "innovation chain" with a harmonized approach starting from basic research, culminating in bringing innovative products and services to market, and also supporting non-technological innovation, for example in design and marketing. Participants will therefore be able to concentrate on their objectives and not on confusing red-tape. The «Common Strategic Framework» would cover the current Framework Programme for Research (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The new name is an important symbol of a new departure and a new adventure. «Horizon 2020» is a new, integrated funding system that will cover all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). These different types of funding will be brought together in a coherent and flexible manner. Horizon 2020 is open for international cooperation as key factor of ERA development.

3. STATE-OF-THE-ART IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

What should be marked are comparable challenges the Russian and European science is facing. During the 2000th Russian Federation internal R&D expenses in absolute figures were steadily increasing. According to figures provided

⁶ European Commission / Innovation Union Competitiveness report 2011. URL: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/competitiveness-report/2011/iuc2011-full-report.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none>

by the Ministry of Finance, in 2009 state spendings on R&D were 166.5 bln. rubles, in 2011 - 240.6 bln. rubles, in 2012 - 249.8 bln rubles, in other words expenditures of the federal budget increased by half⁷.

As a result, Russia becomes one of the first ten world countries leading in general volume of inputs in this sphere concerned, although it remains appreciably behind of the leaders in such indicator as share of R&D expenses to GDP.

In spite of better financing for science the number of research institutions is decreasing: in 2000 - 4099 institutions, in 2009 it counted 3536. The number of staff occupied in R&D sphere is decreasing as well: from 887.7 thousand people in 2000 to 742.4 thousand people in 2009. Decreasing number of researchers for the period was 22 thousand people⁸.

Indicators of research effectiveness in Russia are much lower than in Europe. In 2010 Russia accounts for only 2,08% of research articles published in scientific journals indexed in Web of Science database. While France – 4,67%, Germany – 6,4%, and China – 15,8%⁹.

According to the number of scientific publications Russia was between Brazil (2,59%) and the Netherlands (2,46%). The share of Russia at the world market of scientific products is only 0,3% - 0,5%, while the share of the USA is 36 %, Japan – 30 %, Germany – 17%. The share of innovation-active SMEs in Russia industry (9,4 % in 2007) is several times lower than in developed countries and the results of the process of innovation can be characterized as insufficient. So the share of high-tech products in Russia export doesn't come over 4%-5 %, while in China this indicator is 22,4 %, in South Korea - 38,4 %, in Hungary - 25,2%. Russia holds only 24th place on the total number of patent applications. For all that, according to different estimations, not more than 2-5% of patents are realized in economic activity and only about 1% in industrial high technology design. In absolute volume of high technology export Russia is at the level of such countries as India, Portugal, and Slovakia. It is 14 times inferior to Korea, and 42 times - to China and the USA¹⁰.

The Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated May 7, 2012 № 599 “On measures for implementation of the state policy in the field of educa-

⁷ Federal Service of the State Statistics / Russia in figures - 2011 - URL: http://www.gks.ru/bgd/regl/b11_11/Main.htm

⁸ Federal Service of the State Statistics / Russia in figures - 2011 - URL: http://www.gks.ru/bgd/regl/b11_11/Main.htm

⁹ Government of the Russian Federation / Strategy of innovative development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020. - 8 December 2011 Г. - № 2227-p – 2011 - C.11. URL: <http://government.ru/gov/results/17449/>

¹⁰ Ibid.

tion and science” defined the task of systematization of scientific activities and priorities of its development through the formation of the programme of fundamental scientific researches in the Russian Federation for the long term and development of mechanisms its financing, aimed at achieving domestic spending on research and development at 1.77% of gross domestic product by 2015 (for 2013 - 1.5%, for 2014 - 1.63%). The Strategy of innovative development adopted guidelines for increasing of this parameter up to the level of 3% by 2020¹¹.

In this context strategic task of R&D policy is to return Russia to the number of countries leading in the sphere of research and to make it able to perform breakthrough in fundamental and applied research in themes that are relevant for world economics on the whole and for Russia specially.

4. EU-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SPHERE

In 2005 at the Summit EU-Russia in Moscow it was set an ambitious task to create a “common space on research and education, including cultural aspects”.

The legal basis for scientific and technological EU-Russia cooperation and is formed by the group of agreements

- Agreement on scientific & technological cooperation between the European Community and the Russian Federation (concluded in 2000 and renewed in 2003 and in 2009);
- Agreement for cooperation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of the Russian Federation in the field of nuclear safety (2001);
- Agreement for cooperation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of the Russian Federation in the field of controlled nuclear fusion (2001);
- Roadmap for the EU-Russia Common Space in Research and Education including Cultural Aspects (2005).
- EU-Russia Partnership & Cooperation Agreement (chapter on science & technology - article 62).

The practical cooperation basis is formed by multilateral mechanisms at the level of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science and EC Directorate for Research and Innovation:

¹¹ Council on science and education. URL: http://snto.ru/Analiticheskie_svedeniya

- Permanent Partnership Council (PPC) in Science
- Joint EC-Russia S&T Cooperation Committee
- Joint EU-Russia Thematic Working Groups (WG) in priority research areas (Nanotechnologies & New Materials, Health, Food-Agriculture-Biotechnology, Non-Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Fission, Aeronautics, and ICT), with possibly more to come in future.

The topic of modernization is eternal in dialogue Russia-Europe. Historically Europe provided a powerful source of development and modernization in Russia. Now in Russian case, modernization is primarily understood as innovation. Under P4M there are envisaged supplementary mechanisms for cooperation, especially the sectoral dialogues on Science, Intellectual Property, but not only these targeted dialogues. We have to note that innovation is prevailing theme in such dialogues as Energy, Transport, Health, Industrial Regulations, Agriculture, Space, and Environment. It's obvious, that modernization should not be limited by science and innovation; we need full modernization of various economy sectors, public governance and social life.

Now "Partnership for Modernization" is the only working concept in EU-Russia dialogue. Key step in establishing concept of Partnership for Modernization was made on 25th Summit EU-Russia in Rostov-upon-Don on May 31-June 1, 2010, when the European Union and Russia launched a Partnership for Modernization. «Priority areas of the Partnership for Modernization will include: expanding opportunities for investment in key sectors driving growth and innovation, enhancing and deepening bilateral trade and economic relations, and promoting small and medium-sized enterprises; promoting alignment of technical regulations and standards, as well as a high level of enforcement of intellectual property rights; improving transport; promoting a sustainable low-carbon economy and energy efficiency, as well as international negotiations on fighting climate change; enhancing cooperation in innovation, research and development, and space; ensuring balanced development by addressing the regional and social consequences of economic restructuring; ensuring the effective functioning of the judiciary and strengthening the fight against corruption; promoting people-to-people links; and enhancing dialogue with civil society to foster participation of individuals and business»¹².

At the 30th EU-Russia Summit, held on 21 December 2012 in Brussels, political leaders of the EU and Russia have declared 2014 as «The EU-Russia Year of Science» in order to enhance EU-Russia cooperation in research, higher education, and innovation spheres¹³.

¹² Joint Statement on the Partnership for Modernisation EU-Russia Summit 31 May-1 June 2010.

¹³ URL: <http://eu-russia-yos.eu/en/index.php>

In the current political situation, in the field of scientific and educational cooperation it was established institutional background, which in many respects is ahead of today's realities and creates a good basis for cooperation, primarily by implementing a «bottom-up» approach.

In the progress report of December 2012 we can see some optimistic points about S&T cooperation. The very good cooperation in the priority area of enhancing cooperation in innovation and research and development, including space and nuclear research continued, in particular the increased active role of Russia in EU Framework Programmes and of EU researchers in Russian Federal Targeted Programmes. 475 Russian research organizations are involved in 302 projects, receiving an EU contribution of around € 60 million. 19 research organizations from Germany, 11 from France, 8 from the UK along with the organizations from other EU member states participate in 64 Russian projects. Agreement was reached to develop a strategic partnership for research and innovation to increase further the scale and scope of cooperation, to be launched with the start of the new EU Framework Programme «Horizon 2020». Continued university cooperation and academic mobility in particular goes through the European Union's TEMPUS and Erasmus programmes, including new Russian initiatives to enhance the internationalization of their students as of 2013¹⁴.

Research policy takes a universal character that places it a priori out of the frontiers of any single state. Regarding the contemporary economy challenges. R&D policy should become an important priority of society strategic development.

5. RUSSIA AND EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES: ASSOCIATED OR THE THIRD COUNTRY?

To realize EU-Russia common space on research it is necessary to coordinate activities on defining research themes, organizing joint research, supporting participation of Russian scientists in European research projects and programmes, assisting integration of Russian research teams into European scientific networks.

Participation of Russian scientists in the EU Framework programmes is a practical tool for creating EU-Russia common space. Over the period of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development (2002-2006) 450 Russian research institutions participated in 330 projects. The total budget of the projects was about 1,4 billion euro, EC contribution for Russian

¹⁴ Report agreed by the coordinators of the EU-Russia Partnership for modernization for information to the EU-Russia summit of 21 December 2012.

participants came to about 50 billion euro, co-financing from Russian side amounted to 20 billion euro.

In the meantime, Russia has a great number of researchers considering indicator of a number of scientists per 10 thousand of in the labour force – 72, comparing to Germany - 69, France - 77, Norway - 92, and Denmark - 95, and even more than in the Netherlands - 45, Poland – 45, and Italy – 29, that evidently does not correspond an existing level of Russian participation in EU research projects. Thus, Russian scientists has taken part in 330 FP6 research projects with indicative budget of 50 million euro while the whole number of the projects is 7 thousand, where Germany has implemented 4100 projects (2.29 billion euro) and France – 3500 (1.4 billion euro)¹⁵.

The whole range of reasons for such state-of-the-art can be mentioned, such as lack of experience of participation in the EU Framework Programmes (European researchers has participated since 1984), backwardness of Russian S&T support infrastructure as well as administrative and language barriers.

One of the key determinants of low level of Russian participation in FP7 is the third country status of Russia. It ties up. Participation of Russian organizations in the most of calls for proposals should be justified in terms of the enhanced contribution to the objectives of FP7. In some calls for proposals under the so-called Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICA) participation of third countries is obligatory. In this case Russia enjoys the same conditions as almost 160 other countries that are included into a group of International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC).

Associated participation in the Framework Programmes provides the same rights as the Member States: involvement in whole range of calls for proposals as obligatory partners, more actual opportunities to initiate and coordinate projects, and joint development of topics for new calls. The associated countries allocate funding to the programme budget. The cost depends on GDP for the last 10 years; besides, reduced contribution system is provided considering experience of participation in FPs. At present, Association Agreements are concluded with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Israel, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, Montenegro, and Switzerland.

In April 2008 the Russian government expressed their interest to join the FP7 as an associate member. In May 2008 was the first meeting of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council on Research. This change in Russian status in

¹⁵ First FP7 Monitoring Report. Research Directorate General, February 2009.

the EU Framework programmes has a crucial importance for development of EU-Russia S/T cooperation. Participation in the EU Framework Programmes as an associated country could be a significant step in creation of competitive European Research Area having a strategic importance both for Russia and the EU, which issues an ambitious challenge to establish itself as a leader in science and innovation. In the final joint statement of EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council on Research necessity of speedy introduction of the inquiry and making steps to negotiations on Russian Association Agreement to FP7¹⁶.

Association agreement is considered in the framework of negotiations on PCA, that is a strategic error and leads to indefinite prolongation of talks. Since according to Daniel Descoutures, the European Commission policy officer, a consistent initiator of Russian association to FP7 “Overall political & strategic importance of a possible association to the Framework Programmes is clear, over and above the obvious scientific and financial benefits which it would entail»¹⁷.

The negotiations have received an unexpected end. As the result of joint meeting of the Russian Government and the European Commission on 24 February 2011, the EU side declared non-expediency of initiating further negotiations on association of Russia to the FP7 under new Russia-EU Agreement by present time. Relating to that and according to instructions of Mr. Shuvalov of 28 April “there was taken decision to discontinue supervision over the Government order of initiating negotiations process on the issue of Russian association to the EU framework programmes for research and technological development. Due to absence of a subject of the further negotiations with the European Commission there was taken decision to dissolve Russian part of the delegation»¹⁸.

6. PRACTICAL RESULTS OF S&T COOPERATION EAP+RUSSIA, 2007-2012

In the Progress Report of December 2012 we can see some optimistic points about S&T cooperation: ”The very good cooperation in the priority area of

¹⁶ URL: http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0526EU_Russia_Research_Joint_Statement.html

¹⁷ Joint Statement of EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council on Science. URL: http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0526EU_Russia_Research_Joint_Statement.html

¹⁸ URL: http://formodernization.com/projects/3_1_1.php

enhancing cooperation in innovation and research and development, including space and nuclear research continued, in particular the increased active role of Russia in EU Framework Programmes and of EU researchers in Russian Federal Targeted Programmes. 475 Russian research organisations are involved in 302 projects, receiving an EU contribution of around € 60 million. 19 research organisations from Germany, 11 from France, 8 from the UK along with the organisations from other EU member states participate in 64 Russian projects. Agreement was reached to develop a strategic partnership for research and innovation to increase further the scale and scope of cooperation, to be launched with the start of the new EU Framework Programme “Horizon 2020”. Continued university cooperation and academic mobility in particular through the European Union’s TEMPUS and Erasmus programmes, including new Russian initiatives to enhance the internationalisation of their students as of 2013¹⁹;

Table 1 Participation in FP7

	Number of FP7 applications	Number of FP7 supported projects	EU financial contribution to the country (mln. euro)
Russia	2124	298	63,4
Ukraine	1084	150	16.4
Armenia	137	30	2.5
Moldova	120	16	1,6
Belarus	204	39	2,5

If we overview the dynamic of Russian participation in FP7 for the latest 4 years (from 2007 to 2011) we could observe the significant reduction of volume of financing of Russian participants under EU programmes - from 2007 to 2011 the funding has reduced from 19 mln euro to 6,7 mln - three times less. The figures are presented in table 22²⁰.

¹⁹ Report agreed by the coordinators of the EU-Russia Partnership for modernization for information to the EU-Russia summit of 21 December 2012.

²⁰ Report of the EU Delegation to Russia. Russian “Participation in FP7 (December 2012)”, presented at the InfoDay in Moscow 26.03.2013.

Table 2

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	total
Cooperation	16.127.014	8.661.892	10.869.46	9.877.194	6.071.07	51.606.632
Capacities	2.963.828	1.418.404	1.005.934	813.264	305.004	6.506.434
Euratom	322.680 €	80.000 €	2.101.132	308.000	297.250	3.109.062
Ideas			134.100			134.100
People	437.961	1.409.398	72.260	75.000	86.250	2.080.869
Total	19.085.483€	11.569.694	14.182.889	11.073.458	6.759.573	63.437.097

It is very interesting to compare the dynamics of real participation of Russia and most active countries in S&T (under Eastern partnership).

We have taken participation in FP6 (5 years) and the first 5 years of FP7 for Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Moldova, and Belarus. In absolute figures Russia is number one indeed – both FP6 and FP7. But let’s follow the dynamic – only Russia has a negative one.

Number of supported projects in FP6 (2002-2006) and first 5 years of FP7 (2007-2011)²¹

Participation in FP6 (2002-2006)

	Belarus	Ukraine	Moldova	Russia
Number of FP6 applications	82	340	64	2378
Number of FP6 supported projects	16	64	12	309
Success rate (%)	19,5	18,8	18,8	13

²¹ Project INCONET EECA, Country Report 2011 “Ukraine”. URL: http://www.inceast.eu/_media/Country_Report_Ukraine_2011.pdf;
 Project INCONET EECA, Country Report 2011 “Moldova”. URL: http://www.inceast.eu/_media/Country_Report_Moldova_2011.pdf;
 Project INCONET EECA, Country Report 2012 “Armenia”. URL: http://www.inceast.eu/_media/Armenia_Country_Report_EN_January2012.pdf; INCO-NET-EECA project Fourth annual monitoring report on EECA participation in FP7 (2011); Fifth FP7 monitoring report, p. 23; E-URAL project report on Russian participation in FP7 (2007-2011). URL: <http://www.e-ural.vsu.ru/en/e-ural/activities>; FP7 web-site, section “Find a project – Database”. URL: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html; Belarus National Information Point of the 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities of the European Community. URL: <http://fp7-nip.org.by>; Project INCONET EECA, Country Report 2011 “Belarus”. URL: http://www.inceast.eu/_media/Belarus_Country_Report_EN_March2012.pdf

Participation in FP7 (data for 2007-2011)

	Belarus	Ukraine	Moldova	Russia
Number of FP7 applications	204	1084	120	2124
Number of FP7 supported projects	39	150	16	291
Success rate (%)	19	13,8	13,3	13,7

These figures demonstrate a quite paradoxical situation – when despite great efforts at institutional level, new mechanisms created under P4M (new EU-Russia dialogues in Science and Innovation) level of Russian real participation in joint projects is falling in several times.

In the same time – number of projects in Ukraine and Belarus under FP7 has increased twice.

Quite an ambiguous situation – when despite great efforts at institutional level, new mechanisms created under P4M (new EU-Russia dialogues in Science and Innovation) level of Russian real participation in joint projects is falling in several times.

If we have a look at education area, where is also an evident need for modernization and turn to the implementation of well-known European programme in Education – Tempus for the latest 4 years (Table 2), we could observe the same situation.

The number of the projects has been also reduced from 20 projects in 2008 to 15 in 2012, and volume of funding has reduced correspondingly. Besides, in 2008 there were submitted 144 applications of which 20 were supported, in 2012 there were submitted 200 applications and only 15 of them were successful. Total number of proposals from Russian participation is around 200 each year, so success rate is 7-8%.

Under the Tempus priorities there is a reform of governance structures and university management. For the last three years there are only 5 projects on this priority, and during of the realization of P4M Russia, has only one project.

Meanwhile, we observe inverse tendency in Eastern partnership countries as Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus, and Georgia. Each country has actively improved its participation in the programme. Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine have almost doubled the number of the projects, but the most dramatic increase belongs to Georgia - four times more!

Thus, the figures reveal a rather strange picture: being the most experienced and significant actor in Tempus, Russia has been surviving a great fall of the success rate from 14% to 7%. How could it have happened that such a rich expertise has suddenly disappeared and the place of leader takes newcomer?

Participation in TEMPUS (data for 2008-2012)²²

	Number of applications	Number of supported projects	EU financial contribution (mln. euro)
Russia	787	68	62,4
Ukraine	650	61	57,5
Georgia	222	29	27,8
Moldova	203	26	22,7
Armenia	194	22	19
Belarus	186	21	21
Azerbaijan	144	17	16,2

Participation in TEMPUS

	2008			2012		
	Applica-tions	Supported projects	Success rate %	Applica-tions	Supported projects	Success rate %
Armenia	32	4	12,5	52	9	17,3
Azerbaijan	21	3	14,3	45	5	11,1
Belarus	25	4	16	55	8	14,5
Georgia	37	3	8,1	70	12	17,1
Moldova	37	9	24,3	62	9	14,5
Ukraine	95	12	12,6	169	23	13,6
Russia	144	20	13,9	200	15	7,5

²² Tempus IV - List of accepted projects and partners involved. Source: Tempus internal database - December 2012. URL: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/results_compendia/documents/2012-list-of-accepted-tempus-iv-projects.xls;

Number of applications submitted by country (Tempus IV - Fifth Call for proposals). URL: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/results_compendia/documents/stats_for_5th_call_for_proposals.pdf; Accepted projects - Tempus IV – 2008. Breakdown of projects by partner country, region and type of project. URL: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/results_compendia/documents/stats_tempus_4_2008_accepted_a.pdf; Accepted projects - Tempus IV – 2009. Breakdown of projects by partner country, region and type of project. URL: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/results_compendia/documents/accepted_a20_07_2010phe.pdf; Accepted projects - Tempus IV – 2010. Breakdown of projects by partner country, region and type of project. URL: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/results_compendia/documents/stats_tempus4_2010_a_phe.pdf; Accepted projects - Tempus IV – 2011. Breakdown of projects by partner country, region and type of project. URL: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/results_compendia/documents/20120131_stats_tempus_iv_2011_accepted_a.pdf; Accepted projects - Tempus IV – 2012. Breakdown of projects by partner country, region and type of project. URL: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/results_compendia/documents/stats-2012-by-partner-country-region-and-type.pdf

To this extent, even brief overview of the last results on EU-Russia cooperation in modernisation of S&T and education shows the real problems and this paragraph in the progress report “The very good cooperation in the priority area of enhancing cooperation in innovation and research and development in particular the increased active role of Russia in EU Framework Programmes and of EU researchers in Russian Federal Targeted Programmes” seems not really good enough.

Russia is the number one between the Eastern countries in absolute figures, but level of real participation in joint projects (success rate, negative dynamic, decrease number of the projects in versus previous years) is falling despite great efforts at institutional level, despite new mechanisms created under P4M.

7. EXPERIENCE OF THE VORONEZH STATE UNIVERSITY (RUSSIA)

Voronezh State University has a long-time cooperation with European universities, including joint researches, development of new academic courses, exchange of teachers and students, joint supervision of graduate and post-graduate students.

Since 1995 VSU has been participating in European programs in the field of education and science - such as TEMPUS, Erasmus Mundus, Framework Programmes. VSU was one of the first Russian regional universities, which had been a project coordinator of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme «RegionERA - Regional network of support for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Russian regions” (2006-2008).

Nowadays VSU participates in 10 Tempus and FP7 projects in the fields of environment, humanities, information and communication technologies, economic research, development of foreign language teaching, improving the quality of education, as well as in projects aimed at development of international scientific and academic cooperation.

Participation in European programmes is not only additional funding, but primarily “quality mark” for a University, for its achievements in the field of science and education as well as a possibility for staff development, prestige and competitiveness of educational programmes, and an access to double degree programmes.

8. CONCLUSION

In our opinion, to develop EU-Russia efforts on forming Common Scientific Area is optimal. Contemporary state of science, complexity and global challenges that the society faces practically in all spheres, essentially decrease effectiveness of a single country efforts. The fundamental principle of European Research Area is to join efforts of different countries to solve various scientific prob-

lems. EU-Russia S/T cooperation is traditionally less politicized sphere possessing great potential for developing. The implementation of the 4th Common Space for Research is the most advanced and the least controversial of the four spaces. In fact, unlike some other areas of the overall EU-Russia relationship, we have no outstanding or vexing problems to solve in the area of research cooperation, but only a positive agenda to move forward. High-quality progress in the S/T sphere – that means Russia associated participation in FP7 – can become some kind of engine to develop EU-Russia dialogue in more problematic fields of cooperation.

Nowadays, there are no doubts that the European Union and the Russian Federation make revision of their attitude to the science and research area. Both EU and Russia try to solve problems in this area, aiming primarily at improving the effectiveness of research, at increasing the quality and quantity of research activities, development and introduction of innovative technologies and practices in the field of education, at improving the level of staff training, and at expansion of acquired competencies.

To date, within EU-Russia relations, in the light of the current geopolitical situation, there are a lot of mutual claims and contradictions between two sides. However, in our opinion, the spheres of science, research and education, through international cooperation, international projects and programmes, can become that driver for surmounting differences and developing cooperation, including the basis for common goals and interests, with the prospect of real implementation of the pan-European space of education and science.

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