

# 5th INCO Conference – Addressing Future Challenges

“Collaboration with Black Sea Counties –  
Current and Future Research opportunities”

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# International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)

## □ **Who we are**

- Private non-profit organization
- BSEC related body and its acknowledged think-tank
- Independent research and training institution

## □ **What we do**

- Support and promote regional cooperation among BSEC countries through:
  - The organization of Bilateral Forums for the promotion of dialogue in various fields (Energy, Trade, Sustainable Development, Entrepreneurship, STI etc.)
  - Organization of various scientific events (e.g. the annual International Black Sea Symposium, Summer Schools, Round Table Discussions)
  - Participation in research Projects and Networks, e.g. FP7 Projects, Green Cluster Network for Green Energy Efficiency
- Participation in the deliberations of the BSEC decision- making (consultative role)

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- **The European Union devotes a particular attention to the cooperation with the countries in its Eastern borders and in South Caucasus and develops specific policies (Eastern Partnership; European Neighbourhood Policy) and instruments (European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument - ENPI) to support them.**

## ICBSS' experience in INCO projects

- **IncoNet EECA, “S&T International Cooperation Network For Eastern European And Central Asian Countries”** (funded by the FP7), <http://www.inco-eeca.net/>
- **IncoNet CASC, “S&T International Cooperation Network for Central Asian and South Caucasus Countries”** (funded by the FP7), <http://www.inco-casc.net/>
- **IncoNet EaP, “STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership Countries”**, (funded by the FP7), [www.inco-eap.net](http://www.inco-eap.net)

# IncoNet EECA (January 2008- June 2012)

IncoNet EECA project aimed at:

- Facilitating coordination of STI policies building on common interest and aiming at mutual benefit in order to strengthen the cooperation between EU and EECA
- Supporting and facilitating a bi-regional EU-EECA S&T policy dialogue involving stakeholders from policy making, industry and science community
- Addressing other EU policies and their instruments from which S&T cooperation with EECA could benefit
- Strengthening the participation of EECA in FP7
- Raising capacities of the EECA countries

# IncoNet EECA

## Main achievements:

- Policy Stakeholders' Conferences (PSCs) in support of bi-regional policy dialogue, bringing together policy makers and representatives of the science communities, of the private sector and of the civil society, in order to increase the mutual understanding and to develop joint scenarios for enhanced cooperation between EU-Member States, Associated Countries and the EECA countries
- “White Paper on Opportunities and Challenges in View of Enhancing the EU Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Caucasus”
- Pilot Policy Mix Review Exercise of the National STI systems and Pilot Benchmarking Exercise of Research Institutions
- Implementation of analyses to address key factors influencing the scientific cooperation between the EU and the EECA in order to feed the bi-regional policy dialogue
- Strengthening the participation of researchers from EECA countries in FP7

# IncoNet CASC (April 2010-June 2013)

- The activities included in the IncoNet CA/SC project aimed at the cooperation with the targeted countries, at both policy making and operational/ implementation levels.

## Main achievements:

- increase the knowledge on the S&T landscape and the S&T policies in the target regions;
- raise awareness and support for the bi-regional Policy Dialogue process in the targeted countries;
- have a significant impact on the development of synergies among different EU policies;
- increase participation in FP7, through specific horizontal (e.g. training of NCPs) and thematic activities (e.g. Information Days) that enhanced the information dissemination and assistance, and create awareness on the opportunities for enhanced cooperation among researchers.

# IncoNet EaP (September 2013-August 2016)

- The project is dedicated to the promotion of the bi-regional policy dialogue in STI between the EU Member States (and countries Associated to FP7) and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, aiming at the identification of priorities for action especially in the three Societal Challenges of particular importance for the two regions (Climate Change, Energy and Health), as well as on the promotion of Innovation.
- The project constitutes the bridge between the 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration and the new Research and Innovation Programme for 2014-2020, Horizon 2020

# IncoNet EaP

The IncoNet EaP project is expected to:

- identify needs in STI to be jointly addressed by providing a flexible format for the STI policy dialogue between the EU and EaP, paving the way for an enhanced STI cooperation;
- mobilize a considerable number of STI stakeholders in the target countries from the broader STI sphere, such as policy makers, representatives of sectorial Ministries/Agencies dealing with the three Societal Challenges, representatives of Innovation related structures such as platforms, clusters, agencies etc.;
- address through various structural activities, both at policy-support and research-support level, the Societal Challenges of mutual concern, namely Climate Change, Energy and Health;
- increase the level of cooperation of the entire “research to innovation chain” by developing and/or strengthening the partnerships for Innovation;
- increase the participation of researchers from the EaP countries in H2020

# Aims & New Perspectives

- ❑ To generate and to provide policy recommendations for Black Sea countries and BSEC
- ❑ To promote multilateral cooperation among the BSEC, the EU and International Organizations
- ❑ Focusing on “Knowledge and Sustainability”
- ❑ Promoting “Greening the Black Sea”

# Promoting collaboration

ICBSS supports the concept of *regional cooperation* as a core pillar of BSEC and its member states and promotes it through:

- ❑ The organization of **Bilateral Forums** between GR&AZ, GR&GE, GR&MD for the promotion of dialogue for beneficial cooperation in the fields of Energy, Trade, Sustainable Development, Entrepreneurship, STI etc.
- ❑ Organization of various **scientific events**, such as:  
the annual International Black Sea Symposium (IBSS), Summer Schools, Round Table Discussions
- ❑ Participation in the **deliberations of the BSEC decision- making** (consultative role)
- ❑ Participation in the **BSEC Working Groups** (on multiple fields such as Environment, Trade, Energy etc.)



# Thank you for your Attention!

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