



The EECALink project

“Promotion and facilitation of international cooperation with Eastern European and Central Asian Countries” (EECALink)

The EECALink is a coordination action aimed at identification of common research priorities of the European Union and Eastern European and Central Asian countries (EECA) and strengthening collaboration among them. The EECALink is financed by the Seventh Framework Programme (contract n°223359) under the Health priority theme. The coordinator of the project is prof. Stanislav Stipek from the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague. In total, the project unites 17 partners from 12 countries – Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The project focuses on three stakeholder groups: (1) policy makers, (2) university and academic partners and (3) the wider research public. The project had its kick-off meeting in the beginning of June 2009 and is planned to run until November 2011 (totally 30 months).

PROJECT PRIORITIES:

- 1 To encourage and promote the international collaboration in health sector through systematic support to creation of new research consortia for FP7 calls
- 2 To stimulate the further development of research consortia and support these in preparation of their FP7 project proposals
- 3 To assure identification of joint research interest of EECA and EU and to assure their effective communication to the relevant policy makers
- 4 To strengthen and broaden the existing research collaborations among participating universities and academic partners
- 5 To build up and strengthen the university and academic capacities for effective participation in FP7 projects
- 6 To promote FP7 among programme targeted wider research audience – SME's, universities and other research institutes beyond the project consortium

CORE DELIVERABLES OF THE PROJECT:

- 1 Support the outreach of the FP7 into the EECA counties, by bringing EECA participants, to three brokerage events organized by the other coordination actions financed by the FP7.
 - **A travel grant** (on a basis of first-come-first-serve, for details see the Terms of Reference) offered to scientists from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan to participate on the brokerage events of complementary FP7 actions, dedicated to the Health priority
 - **EECALink project consortium also offers proposal submission support** for new research consortia, created with the project support; this assistance is provided by the FP7 experts participating in the project (GRANT Garant, s.r.o., Agency for the Promotion of European Research, Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation, Cracow University of Technology)
 - More information about the travel grant and proposal support, please visit: http://www.eecalink.eu/?cat=proposal_support
- 2 Organization of a policy oriented conference in Brussels with adjacent brokerage event, dedicated to the EECALink partner countries and timely coordinated together with the EC 2011 call announcement.
 - Final **conference** altogether with a **brokerage event** (approx. 100 participants) will be organised probably in June 2011
- 3 Delivery of twelve national two day, capacity building events in all partner countries
 - Training is focused on efficient participation and understanding of FP7 of the local Health research audience. Beside the general presentation about the FP7, it's administration principles and financial rules, each EECA partner will cover a training session dedicated to the country specific topic, directly linked with FP7
 - Individual **capacity building events** will be organised in all EECA project partner countries and participating EU Member States.
- 4 Delivery of EECA national policy sessions aiming at the discussion about possible topics for the future FP calls targeted to the participation of the EECA countries in the European Research Area:
 - Eight **policy sessions** will be carried out in the EECA partner countries and will bring together an expert group of five national representatives and the EC officer, to discuss thematic gaps and overlaps in the area of Health research.
 - These discussions will allow identification of gaps and overlaps in the Health funding schemes and will help to identify possible joint research topics for future collaboration under FP8, targeted to the countries external to the EU.

For more information about the project, please visit our website: www.eecalink.eu or contact the project secretariat directly via e-mail: vojtech.nosek@lf1.cuni.cz

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