

COMMISSION DECISION

C(2009) 3998 of 26/05/2009

on the ENPI Annual Action Programme 2009 in favour of Russian Federation to be financed under Article 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Communities

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument¹, and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for Russian Federation² and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2007-2010², which indicates the priorities of support to the implementation of the Common Spaces Roadmaps and Kaliningrad Oblast.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme are as follows:

– **Support to the implementation of the Common Spaces Roadmaps**

The following main policy areas were identified for inclusion in this Action Programme:

- Education: European Studies Institute and EU centres.
- A partnership programme such as Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBPP) that has proven its worth is intended to be continued in the coming years. As from 2006 this programme will contain a strong cultural component.
- Common Space Facility to support the realisation of the Road Maps.

Kaliningrad, as well as other regions, is integrated in the above actions. Kaliningrad as a priority area is addressed via other programmes (ENPI Cross-Border Cooperation).

- (3) The present decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities³ and Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

² C(2007) 672

³ OJEU L 248 of 16.09.2002 p. 1.

laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁴.

- (4) The present decision covers any possible interest due for late payment on the basis of articles 83 of the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and 106(5) of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.
- (5) The Commission is required to define the term “substantial change” in the meaning of Article 90 (4) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 to ensure that any substantial change in this decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial decision.
- (6) The measures provided for in this decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee set up under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The actions “Support to the continuation of the European Studies Institute”, “EU Centres”, “Institution Building Partnership Programme” and “Common Spaces Facility” which constitute the ENPI Annual Action Programme in favour of Russian Federation, the text of which is set out in the Annex, are approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the Community is set at EUR 14,500,000 to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2009. This decision shall also cover any possible interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Within the maximum indicative budget of all the specific actions, cumulated changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme.

The authorising officer may introduce non substantial changes to the Action Programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
Member of the Commission

⁴ OJEU L 357 of 31.12.2002 p. 1.

ANNEXES

Action Programme 2009 Russian Federation:

- Annex 1: action fiche, "Support to the Development of the European Studies Institute".
- Annex 2: action fiche, "Support to the Establishment of EU Centres in the Russian Federation".
- Annex 3: action fiche, "Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBPP) Support to Civil Society and Local Initiatives/Cultural Support".
- Annex 4: action fiche, "Common Spaces Facility".

ANNEX 1: ACTION FICHE FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION/ENPI/SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Support to the Development of the European Studies Institute - 2009/019-963		
Total cost	<i>€3M EC contribution</i> <i>€3M Russian Federation contribution</i> <i>Joint co-financing</i>		
Aid method / Method of implementation	<i>Centralised direct management</i>		
DAC-code	11420	Sector	Higher Education
	11430		Advanced technical and managerial training

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

The relations between the EU and Russia have reached a high level of complexity characterised by a large number of areas of cooperation and a deep dialogue in each of them. The areas of cooperation include: foreign policy and external security, including visas and readmission; cross-border cooperation; culture; economics and trade; banking, accounting and auditing reform; energy; environment; education; justice, freedom and security; Northern dimension; regional policy, including Kaliningrad and North Caucasus; science and technology; space; transport.

A large number of Russian civil servants in different ministries, services and agencies at federal and regional level deal with issues linked to the EU-Russia dialogue in one or another area of cooperation. The insufficient knowledge of the European Union institutions, policies and decision making process makes it often difficult to deepen the dialogue in the above mentioned areas.

The strategy of the Russian Government and of the European Union to address this problem is to train government officials in European studies. Hence, in the framework of the EU-Russia Common Space on Science and Education, it has been foreseen to provide means for promoting studies and training in Russia in the field of European Union law, economy, politics, general and interdisciplinary studies, including training and retraining for government officials and post-graduate students, in accordance with the best practices in the EU. This led to the foundation of a European Studies Institute at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the European Studies Institute is to create a high-level, yet unofficial forum with prospects for a

further deepening of relations between the EU and Russia across all the above listed areas, as stated in the National Indicative Programme 2007-2010.

Under the Action Programme 2005 for Russia an amount of €3M was earmarked by the European Commission for supporting the establishment of the ESI. On 25 September 2006, the European Studies Institute (ESI) commenced its activity as a new Institution in the premises of MGIMO. The ESI has a total budget of €6M for the period September 2006 – August 2009, co-funded on parity basis by the Russian Government and the European Commission.

Under the Action Programme 2009 for Russia, the proposed project is meant to continue and further strengthen the successful operation of the jointly-funded European Studies Institute at MGIMO, as stressed in the National Indicative Programme 2007-2010. The goal of the ESI is to train young Russian officials dealing with EU-Russia cooperation as well as post-graduate students, representatives from NGOs and from the private sector with a view to enabling them to obtain a better understanding of the European Union and of the EU-Russia dialogue. This institution constitutes a significant contribution to the creation of an effective partnership between the EU and Russia.

Currently the ESI delivers one and half year Master's programme in three areas of specialisation: Law of European Union, Economy of the European Union, and Politics of the European Union. In addition to the Master's programme, the ESI organises shorter training programmes – typically three-week programmes – to upgrade knowledge and qualification of civil servants from Ministers, Agencies and Services in subjects areas related to the European Union.

The format of the Master's programme comprises ten months of classroom study from September to June and six month of individual work on the Master's thesis – from June to December - under the supervision of a professor.

The first Master's programme in European studies was delivered during the period September 2006 – December 2007. About 50 students from different Ministries, Agencies and Services were studying on the master's programme. All students enrolled during the first master's programme were civil servants.

The second Master's programme in European Studies started in September 2007 and will terminate in December 2008. About 100 students have been selected. 97 are from Ministries, Agencies and Services and 3 from NGOs and private sector.

The third Master's programme in European Studies shall start in September 2008. Applications are currently being submitted. Students will be selected in the coming months. It is expected that the number of students will increase to 120 with a corresponding increase of applications from NGOs and private companies.

At present, the ESI is located at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). As of 2009 the Institute will move to a new building close to MGIMO. While still based in MGIMO the Institute will have new premises and will be able to offer to about 200 students the opportunity to study on a Master's programme in EU

studies. Therefore the participation of students from NGOs and private companies is expected to increase further. The ESI will also investigate means and modalities to invite students from the regions.

Regarding students from EU countries, at present this target group does not represent a priority. The ESI is still consolidating its activities and has yet to reach the "cruise speed" of 200 students enrolled at the Master's programme in European Studies. The ESI has still to make itself known to NGOs and to the private sector as well as to attract students from the regions.

In order to attract students from the EU countries the ESI will have to develop new education programmes more focused on EU-Russia relations and on Russian studies. In fact it is rather difficult to assume that students from EU countries will be willing to study European Studies at the ESI given that there are a great number of education institutions offering similar degree programmes in European Studies in the European Union. The development of new education programmes for students from the EU countries shall be discussed at the Governing Board meetings when entering the next phase of further support to the development of the ESI.

2.2. Further support to the development of the ESI is foreseen in Country Strategy Paper for the Russian Federation 2007-2013 and in the National Indicative Programme for Russia for the period 2007-2010. Lessons learnt

The ESI has already gained positive experience, steadily increasing the quality of education and training; gradually improving the procedure of recruiting professors and selecting students; enabling the decision making process to become more transparent and accountable to the management board (i.e. Governing Board). The regular monitoring of the project has been overall positive.

During the next phase of development (2009-2012), the ESI shall attract more students from NGOs, private sector and from the regions. As for the lecturers, more International professors shall be recruited. To the end it is foreseen to hold open call for applications to create a pool of lecturers who will then be invited to deliver lectures at the ESI. The work of the Academic Council shall be further improved. The participation of a larger number of International professors shall be envisaged in the Academic Council. In addition to delivering specialised degrees and multidisciplinary courses at Master's level, the ESI shall start promoting also policy orientated research (i.e. PhD research programmes) on a wide range of EU-related topics. The ESI shall promote an alumni association of former ESI students offering them through regular meetings/seminars and workshops updates on EU-Russia relations and on subject matters related to the European Union.

More lessons are expected to be drawn further to an evaluation of the ESI activities which started in June 2008 and will be completed by the end of February 2009.

2.3. Complementary actions

The proposed project is complementary to European Union funded scholarships programmes for ENPI postgraduate students to study on European Integration Master's programme in well-known education and training institutions in the EU.

The proposed project is complementary to a new project also funded under the Action Programme 2009 for Russia – *Support to the Establishment of EU Centres*.

While the European Studies Institute is based in Moscow the EU Centres shall be established in three different regions outside Moscow. Hence the EU Centres are meant to complement at regional level the activities carried out by the ESI in Moscow. Furthermore, close academic relations shall be established between the European Studies Institute and the EU Centres by promoting exchange of professors, organising joint seminars and workshops in European affairs as well as joint research programmes, etc.

2.4. Donor coordination

The results achieved by the proposed project will be widely discussed through regular meetings with EU Embassies and education agencies of EU Member States to the Russia Federation.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the proposed project is to enhance EU/Russia relations by upgrading knowledge of civil servants in ministries, agencies, services, regional public administration, employees of NGOs and private companies dealing with the EU as well as postgraduate students with a degree in European studies.

The specific objectives are:

- To upgrade knowledge of the European Union among civil servants in ministries, agencies, services, regional public administration, employees of NGOs and private companies dealing with the EU as well as among postgraduate students with a degree in European studies.
- To strengthen institutional capacity of the European Studies Institutes by training and retraining faculty and staff in change of curricula development and delivery at the ESI.
- To promote exchange of students and teachers between the ESI, other Russian training institutions delivering courses in EU studies, and also training institutions in the EU providing master's programmes in EU studies.
- To promote research and teaching in European law, economy and politics in Russia by strengthening the networking of ESI with universities and other training institutions teaching or doing research both in Russia and in the EU.
- To promote alumni association of ESI students, developing a forum for discussion on EU-Russia subjects and thus offering an opportunity for former ESI students to update their knowledge about the European Union.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected results are:

- More civil servants in ministries, agencies, services, regional public administration, more employees of NGOs and private companies dealing with the EU as well as more postgraduate students with a degree in European studies, specialised in European affairs.
- Increased number of teachers at the European Studies Institute with a more advanced knowledge and capacity to develop curricula and deliver courses in European studies.
- Expanded network of Russian and EU training institutions providing master's programmes in EU studies.
- More exchange of students and teachers among Russian and EU training institution in the field of European studies for mutual benefit and for the purpose of institutional strengthening.
- Deepening of research and teaching in European law, economy and politics in Russia thanks to a well functioning network of universities and training institutions, including the ESI, teaching or doing research in European studies both in Russia and in the EU.
- A well functioning alumni association of ESI students as a forum for discussion on EU-Russia subjects facilitating knowledge update about the European Union among former ESI students.

As already mentioned, the proposed project will develop further the activities of the European Studies Institute, which are currently implemented in the framework of the ongoing project.

The ESI main activities are currently education and training in legal, economic and political aspects of the EU; promoting networking with Russian universities and training institutions in the EU teaching or doing research in European Studies; organising conferences in EU studies related matters.

The proposed project will further promote the current activities but also carry out new ones such as the promotion of exchange of ESI teachers and students with Russian universities providing education in EU studies and with similar universities and training institutions in the EU. Also, it will provide for the creation of an alumni association of ESI students offering the opportunity to former students to stay in touch with the latest development of the European Union.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The project is embedded in the EU-Russia cooperation and contributes to the creation of a new generation of Russian decision makers acquainted with all or most of the aspects of the EU institutions. It goes without saying that the major risk in this context is related to the state of bilateral relations which may have a direct impact on the implementation of the proposed project.

An assumption made is that government officials as well as postgraduate students, private companies' employees and NGOs' representatives trained at the ESI will continue to be dealing with EU-Russia relations afterwards and thus will contribute to enhancing the EU-Russia dialogue in all areas of cooperation between the two sides.

3.4. Crosscutting Issues

Relevant crosscutting issues are gender balance related to the selection of teaching staff, researchers and students at the ESI.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main stakeholders of the proposed projects include:

- Students of the ESI – former, current and prospective ESI students –, who will improve their understanding of the European Union and work in a more effective way to improve the EU-Russia dialogue.
- Ministries, agencies, services, regional administrations, NGOs, private companies, etc. whose staff will benefit from studying at the ESI.
- Russian universities and training institutions in the EU teaching or doing research in European studies, which will liaise with the ESI for students' and teachers' exchanges.
- Lobbying groups and private business at large that might be interested to get more comprehensive view on the EU institutions and decision making process at the EU.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

The project implementation will follow the centralised management procedure.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

However, as the European Studies Institute is specifically established by the Russian authorities at MGIMO, this institution, the legal entity in charge of the ESI, is the only entity to which the grant can be awarded (de facto monopoly). Therefore a direct agreement shall be concluded with MGIMO for the implementation of the proposed project.

The proposed project will be implemented under joint co-financing mode. Both Russian and EU contributions shall be presented in a unified budget breakdown annexed to the grant contract, as is the case under the current grant contract *Support to the Establishment of the European Studies Institute*.

In reality, the European Studies Institute at MGIMO has two bank accounts. These include a bank account in Russian Roubles where the Russian contribution from the State budget is made available on a yearly basis, as well as a bank account denominated in Euro where the EU contribution in Euro is made available on yearly

basis following the submission of a financial and narrative report together with an audit report.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The proposed project will have a cost estimate of €6 M over a period of 3 year (2009-2012), funded on parity basis €3 M by the Russian Government and €3 M by the European Commission.

The resources of the proposed project will not be allocated to works since all expenses related to building maintenance and/or repair costs, shall be born by the host university (MGIMO).

The proposed project shall start in September 2010.

4.4. Performance monitoring

The proposed project shall be monitored according to the standard procedure of the EU funded projects.

Quantitative indicators: number of new courses upgraded on the basis of existing courses, total number of students by gender and region of origin enrolled or conducting research at the ESI on annual basis (gender parity index equal or greater than 1), total number of events such as seminars, workshops, roundtables on EU studies organised at the ESI on annual basis, total number of ministries, agencies, services, private companies and NGOs having benefitted through training of their own staff at the ESI..

Qualitative indicators such as further improvement of the quality of education and training delivered at the ESI at the beginning of each new academic year; improvement of the quality of teachers and lecturers recruited at the beginning of each new academic year; quality of speakers invited at events organised by the ESI.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

A mid-term and a final evaluation shall be carried out.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The proposed project will follow the latest visibility guidelines concerning acknowledgement of EC financing of the project.

The project website has complete information about education and training and offered at the ESI.

Regarding seminars, conferences, workshops, roundtables, etc. on subjects related to the European Union and EU-Russia relations, full account is given on the website

However, the current project website (www.eurocollege.ru) is mainly in Russian language. Under the proposed project the website shall become fully bi-lingual, i.e. Russian and English languages.

Moreover, the website shall include a section related to upcoming events and news to inform in advance potential participants about seminars, conferences, workshops, roundtables which will be held at the ESI.

Eventually, the current monthly electronic review "All Europe" currently available in Russian language only shall also be produced in English language. However, the English version will be a bi-annual edition offering a selection of the most relevant contributions. .

ANNEX 2: ACTION FICHE FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION/ENPI/SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EU CENTRES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Support to the Establishment of EU Centres in the Russian Federation - 2009/ 019-964		
Total cost	€1.5 M EC contribution		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach – <i>centralised management</i> <i>Grant Contract following a open and competitive call for applications</i>		
DAC-code	11420	Sector	Higher Education
	11430		Advanced technical and managerial training

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

In the framework of the EU/Russia Common Space on Science and Education, including cultural aspects, it has been foreseen to provide means for promoting studies and training in Russia in the field of European Union law, economy, general and interdisciplinary studies, including training and retraining for government officials and post-graduate students, in accordance with the best practices in the EU.

This led to the foundation of a European Studies Institute (ESI) at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) on 25 September 2006. The European Studies Institute is based at MGIMO and its activities take place mainly in Moscow.

Given the geographic size of the country in order to reach the objective agreed in the above mentioned common space it is necessary to promote knowledge and understanding of the EU in Russia also outside Moscow by establishing in the regions “EU Centres” in the structure of existing universities which already deliver education and training and carry out research in EU studies.

Between 1994 and 2006 about 15 Tempus projects have been implemented in well-established Russian Universities in the following regions: North West Region (Kaliningrad, St. Petersburg, Petrozavodsk, and Archangelsk), Central Russia (Moscow), South Russia (Rostov, Krasnodar), Volga Region (Nizhniy Novgorod, Saratov, Perm, and Udmurtia), Ural Region (Yekaterinburg) and Western Siberia (Novosibirsk, Tomsk, Tyumen, Kemerovo). The Tempus projects were aimed at developing modules and/or full degree programmes – typically at master's level – in fields related to European Studies and International Relations.

In addition, 13 European Documentation Centres (EDCs) have been created. In almost all cases EDCs have been established in the very same universities which participated in Tempus projects. In St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg the EDCs are part of the faculty/department of International Relations; in Kazan the EDC is in the faculty/department of Contemporary History; at the Moscow State University the EDC is part of the faculty/department of Economy; in Saratov and Tomsk the EDCs are part of the library of the university. The list of Tempus projects and EDC is reported in the Appendix 1.

Both the Tempus projects and EDCs have helped to raise interest in European Studies and in the European Union. However, the capacity of Russian universities to deliver education programmes in European Studies and to provide general information about the European Union varies greatly and overall it is still unsatisfactory.

In some cases universities deliver a full degree programme in European studies (typically a master's degree); in other cases only modules on European Union aspects – European law, policies of the European Union, history of the European Union, etc. – are proposed. As a rule, these modules are part of a degree programme in international relations, world politics, modern history, etc. Apart from delivering modules and/or study programmes to their own students, these universities provide very little or no information at all about the European Union to any other target group.

As for the European Documentation Centres, their capacity to provide accurate and thorough information about the European Union varies greatly depending on the staff working at the EDCs and on the quality of publications on the European Union they receive on regular basis. In many cases the EDCs provide information about the European Union mainly to students of the universities or of the faculty/department where they are located. EDCs have today very limited capacity to provide information to the outside public, let alone to effectively carry out outreach activities for specific target groups.

By implementing the proposed project, the EU Centres shall be established at existing university pooling together resources available in centres, institutes, chairs/departments for European Studies established through Tempus and the resources available at European Documentation Centres.

The proposed project shall help to upgrade the existing capacity in European studies at universities building on existing capacity and resources to help them become fully-fledged EU Centres, capable of offering high quality degree programmes in European integration and EU-Russia relations, research opportunities in European affairs and providing user-friendly information about the European Union to a large public.

The constitution of EU Centres will encourage greater awareness and knowledge of the EU integration process in Russia through support to EU-focused curriculum development and research, academic links, and outreach activities.

EU Centres are expected to develop curricula activities (specialised degrees and multidisciplinary courses at Master's level) and policy oriented research work (PhD programmes) on a wide range of EU related topics.

EU Centres shall be established in the regions. The criteria about which regions shall be privileged will be included in the call for applications. At this stage one can anticipate that it is preferable to establish one EU Centre serving the geographic area of the ENPI / Cross-Border Cooperation programme in the North West Russia (Karelia, Archangelsk, Murmansk, Leningrad, St. Petersburg, Pskov, Novgorod, Komi); one EU Centre serving the regions belonging to ENPI / Cross Border Cooperation programme in the Black Sea region (Rostov,

Krasnodar and/or Adighea) and one EU Centre serving the Central Russia and/or Volga region and/or Western Siberia.

The EU Centres are expected to satisfy a demand for information, knowledge and understanding of the EU, its integration process, institutions, policies and decision making mechanisms and process expressed by a large number of target groups, notably regional and city administrations' officials working in international cooperation departments and in departments dealing with environment, transport, SMEs development, etc; representatives of custom, tax and migration services at regional level; representatives of Chambers of Commerce, of agencies for enterprise and/or economic development; representatives of NGOs, private companies employees; postgraduate students, young researches and academic staff from universities located in the above listed regions willing to know more and to have a better understanding of the European Union.

2.2. Lessons learnt

The EU Centres shall deliver specialised degree programmes and multidisciplinary courses typically at Master's level. The experience of Tempus projects shows that the Bachelor/Specialist level is aimed at providing general education degree programmes in law, economics and politics, while the Master's degree is usually a more specialised programme. The EU Centres shall focus on more specialised degree programmes.

The experience of the Master's programme taught at the ESI shows that universities have much more freedom to decide upon the format of the curriculum at Master's programmes level than at Bachelor/Specialist level.

The experience of the European Documentation Centres and the regular meetings with the regional press shows that there is a need to promote outreach activities in the regions with a view to provide updated and comprehensive information about the European Union to different target groups (students, young officials of regional public administrations, journalists and the public at large).

In January 2009 the European Commission Delegation in Moscow launched a study to assess the current capacity available at centres, institutes, departments or chairs of European Studies established at Russian universities through Tempus and to assess the capacity of the EDCs.

Particular attention will be paid to assess the capacity of such centres to carry out curricular activities (delivering specialised degrees and multidisciplinary courses, typically at Master's level) and policy orientated research (PhD research programmes) on a wide range of EU-related topics; outreach related to the EU and its policies, aimed at a wide public, political, business and media audience; information activities providing accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive information about the EU, its policies and institutions.

Further to the conclusions of the study an open call for tender shall be launched to select the consortium of universities candidates to become EU Centres. It is expected that applicants will be submitted by consortia of at least three well-established Russian universities from three different regions, which already deliver training programmes in European Studies and already provide information about the European Union.

As already mentioned, EU Centres shall be established in regional universities pooling together existing resources of the centres in European studies and European Documentation Centres.

Universities would-be EU Centres shall be selected on the basis of criteria related to proven quality of the education and training; high quality research and relevance of outreach activities. More specific criteria will be indicated in the call for applications.

2.3. Complementary actions

Promoting education and training in European studies in Russia has been pursued since 1994. Through Tempus and Tacis, the European Commission funded in the past the creation of departments and chairs in European studies in a number of Russian universities and has also established 13 EDCs. The proposed project is meant to complement and strengthen the work carried out so far both under Tempus and Tacis.

In September 2006 the European Studies Institute (ESI) at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) became operational. The proposed project is also meant to complement at regional level the work carried out by the ESI in Moscow. In addition to the above listed EU funded initiatives, the proposed project is complementary to European Union funded scholarships programmes for ENPI postgraduate students to study on European Integration Master's programme in well-known education and training institutions in the EU.

2.4. Donor coordination

The results achieved by the proposed project will be widely discussed through regular meetings with embassies and education agencies of EU Member States to the Russia Federation.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

Building on earlier efforts through Tempus and Tacis to promote education and training in European Studies in Russia, the overall objective of the proposed project is to promote greater awareness and knowledge of the EU integration process in Russia through support to EU-focused curriculum development and research, academic links, and outreach activities.

The specific objectives are:

- Upgrading the existing capacity in European studies at three universities in three different regions and help them to become fully-fledged EU Centres;
- Developing curricula activities i.e. specialised degrees and multidisciplinary courses at Master's level, and policy oriented research work, i.e. PhD programmes, on a wide range of EU related topics;
- Offering high quality courses in European integration and EU-Russia relations, research opportunities in European affairs and providing user-friendly information about the European Union to a large public.
- Developing and implementing outreach actions related to the EU and EU policies, aimed at a wide public, political, business and media audiences, such as conferences, seminars and workshops, publications and other information products.
- Giving support to public policy think tanks, training programmes, competitions, EU simulation, briefing sessions, speaking tours and study visits for decision-makers and opinion makers;
- Establishing a Russian network coordinator;

- Establishing good academic cooperation between the Russian network coordinator and the ESI in Moscow in order to develop joint activities such as exchange of professors, joint seminars and joint research programmes, etc.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

EU Centres will undertake a broad range of activities including:

- Curricular activities (developing specialised degrees and multidisciplinary courses at Master's and PhD levels of study/research) and policy orientated research on a wide range of EU-related topics;
- Outreach related to the EU and its policies, aimed at a wide public, political, business and media audience;
- Information activities providing accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive information about the EU, its policies and institutions;
- Coordination between EU Centres and networking with the European Studies Institute.

The expected results are three EU Centres established in three different Russian regions in charge of curricula activities (specialised degrees and multidisciplinary courses at Master and PhD levels of study/research) and policy oriented research work on a wide range of EU related topics; staff and faculty of the EU Centres with the necessary capacity to manage each EU Centre and run the activities according to the best international practices; a network of EU Centres established in Russia which includes the three newly established EU Centres and a Russian network coordinator.

The Russian network coordinator shall establish close academic relations with the European Studies Institute established at MGIMO by promoting exchange of professors, organising joint seminar and workshops in European affairs as well as joint research programmes, etc.

The activities at these Centres in the regions should also include outreach actions related to the EU and EU policies, aimed at a wide public, political, business and media audiences, such as conferences, seminars and workshops, publications and other information products. EU Centres should provide user-friendly accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive information about the EU, its policies and institutions; give support to public policy think tanks, training programmes, competitions, EU simulation, briefing sessions, speaking tours and study visits for decision-makers and opinion makers.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

An important assumption is that the EU Centres will be established within the structure of universities, based on existing chairs or departments of European Studies which have already sufficient capacity to further develop their current structure, education programmes and research and outreach activities to become fully-fledged EU Centres. This assumption will be verified against selection criteria such as quality of teaching and research, relevance of extracurricular activities and benchmarks which will be indicated in the call for applications.

Following the assessment study the capacity of the existing universities to deliver specialised degree programmes in European Studies developed through Tempus and Tacis will be known. On this basis, additional conditions to be met by potential applicants to become fully fledged EU Centres will be included in the call for applications.

Another assumption is that the Russian network coordinator identified by the same consortium when submitting the application will be chosen in a transparent way, on the basis of clear-cut and pre-defined criteria taking into account the real interest, capacity and

willingness to act as Russian network coordinator. This assumption will be verified by the requirement to duly justify the choice of the Russian network coordinator which will be included in the call for applications together with the conditions to be met to act as network coordinator.

It remains to be seen how and to what extent the Russian network coordinator and the European Studies Institutes will cooperate together from an academic point of view. Indeed the cooperation between the future Russian network coordinator and the European Studies Institute presents an element of risk and has a certain degree of uncertainty.

The risk shall be minimised by explaining to the direction of the European Studies Institute that the proposed project is not in competition but it complements the activities carried out by the ESI in Moscow and that joint activities between the Russian network coordinator and the ESI such as exchange of professors, joint seminars and joint research programmes can be developed.

3.4. Crosscutting Issues

Relevant crosscutting issues are gender balance related to the teaching staff, researchers and students at the EU Centres.

3.5. Stakeholders

The stakeholders of the proposed projects include:

- Students in the regions, who will receive new knowledge, will improve their understanding of the European Union and work in a more effective way to improve EU-Russia dialogue.
- Regional administrations, NGOs, private companies, etc. whose employees may benefit from studying at the EU Centres.
- Russian universities, in particular faculties/departments of international cooperation and European Documentation Centres which will pool together the corresponding resources to establish the EU Centres.
- Training institutions in the EU teaching or doing research in European studies, which will liaise with the newly created EU Centres.
- Ministry of Education and Science of Russia.
- Lobbying groups and private business at large that might be interested to get more comprehensive view on the EU institutions and decision making process at the EU.
- European Union Member States, including their Embassies to the Russian Federation, which may establish long-lasting relations with EU Centres in the regions.
- European Union institutions, including the European Commission services, which will be gain more visibility throughout the Russian Federation.
- Media.
- Public at large better informed about the EU and relations between the EU and partner country.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

The project implementation will follow the centralised management procedure. The EC contribution for the amount of €1.5 million will mostly be based on a grant agreement with a consortium of universities following an open and competitive call for proposals, and will typically cover a three-year activity period.

The proposed project will not finance the development of master's programme ex-novo. It will help to upgrade the existing capacity in European studies at selected universities and help them to become fully-fledged EU Centres, offering high quality courses in European integration and EU-Russia relations, research opportunities in European affairs and providing user-friendly information about the European Union to a large public.

As already mentioned, the EU Centres in Russia shall be established following an open call for applications. Applicants shall include at least three Russian universities from three different regions which already deliver specialised courses and education programmes in European Studies and provide information about the European Union. Each consortium shall indicate in the application the methodology and the list of activities which will be implemented to become EU Centres.

One of the three universities of the consortium shall become Russian network coordinator of the newly created EU Centres. In the application it shall be clearly indicated which EU Centre will become network coordinator explaining the reasons for this choice and indicating how the EU Centre concerned meet the criteria to become network coordinator indicated in the call for application.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Participation in the award of contracts for the present action shall be open to all natural and legal persons covered by ENPI regulation.

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. They are established in accordance with the principles set out in Title VI 'Grants' of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The proposed project will have a cost estimate of €1.5M Euro over a period of 3 year (2010-2012). To each Centre about 30% of the amount shall be allocated; while the remaining 10% shall be allocated to develop activities of the Network Coordinator.

Additional sources, including in kind contribution, shall come from the state budget of the partner country since each EU Centre will be located in an existing university. More funds may come from tuition fees for education and training paid by the students or their organisations/companies.

The resources of the proposed project will not be allocated to works since all expenses related to building maintenance and/or repair costs, shall be born by the host universities and be paid from a budget different from that of the proposed project.

The proposed project shall start as early as 2010 to upgrade the curricula and research programmes so that the three participating universities/EU Centres will be ready to provide upgraded specialised degree programmes and research oriented programmes at the beginning of the academic year 2010-2011.

The Call for proposals shall be launched in autumn 2009.

4.4. Performance monitoring

The proposed project shall be monitored according to the standard procedure of the EU funded projects.

Quantitative indicators include: number of new courses upgraded on the basis of existing courses, total number of students by gender and region of origin enrolled or conducting research at the EU Centres on annual basis (gender parity index equal or greater than 1); total number of events such as seminars, workshops, roundtables on EU studies organised at the EU Centres on annual basis; total number of regional ministries, agencies, services, private companies and NGOs having benefitted through training of their own staff at the EU Centres.

Qualitative indicators include: further improvement of the quality of education and training delivered at the EU Centres at the beginning of each new academic year; improvement of the quality of teachers and lecturers recruited at the beginning of each new academic year; quality of speakers invited at events organised by the EU Centres.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

A final evaluation will take place at the end of the project. If need be, an audit shall be carried out too.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The proposed project will follow the latest visibility guidelines and the communications manual concerning acknowledgement of EC financing of the project.

In view of the great importance of outreach activities to be carried out for the benefit of media and of the general public at large, it will be of paramount importance for the EU Centres to develop a communication strategy with a clear indication of the corresponding visibility actions.

In particular each EU Centre shall develop a modern, easy to access and informative website. Complete information about education, training and research programmes offered shall be posted on the websites of the EU Centres. The website shall offer the opportunity to potential applicants – MA, PhD students and academic staff – to apply for an education and or a research programme or to teach at the EU Centres.

Regarding seminars, conferences, workshops, roundtables, contests, etc. on subjects related to the European Union and EU-Russia relations, information about these activities shall be clearly indicated on the websites of the EU Centres offering to potential participants the possibility to register to upcoming events.

The website shall also include sections where students, researchers, the media, other target groups or the public at large can find out relevant papers on matters related to the European Union and also have access to a large number of publications related to the European Union.

The website of the network coordinator shall clearly indicate that the EU Centre concerned is also the network coordinator.

List of Tempus projects in the field of European Studies (source: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/countries/projects/russia.pdf>)

•	Tempus project ref.	Project title	Objective	Participating Russian University-ies	Budget
1	Project ID: T_JEP-08555-1994 (RU)	Development of an Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Department of European Studies at the St. Petersburg State University	Creation of a department of European Studies at the St-Petersburg State University offering an interdisciplinary one year post graduate course (MSc equivalent) in European studies.	ST PETERSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY - Saint-Petersburg	561,525
2	Project ID: T_JEP-10313-1997 (RU) - TACIS	History of International Relations: Upgrading and Retraining of Russian Teachers	Formation of a group of teachers with upgraded skills, by training younger academic staff and by the exchange of teachers; preparation of textbooks for MGIMO and for dissemination; creation of a library.	MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - Moscow	547,891
3	Project ID: T_JEP-10325-1997 (RU) - TACIS	AGIRR: Amsterdam Grenoble Internationales Relations en Russie. Développement de Formations en Etudes Internationales et Européennes	Introduction dans les cursus de la Faculté de Droit de Nizhnii Novgorod des formations initiales et continues en Droit international et européen et création à l'appui du centre d'études et de documentation nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre juridiques internationaux de la transition démocratique et économique de la Russie.	NIZHNI NOVGOROD N.I. LOBACHEVSKII STATE UNIVERSITY - Nizhnii Novgorod	497,185
4	Project ID: M_JEP-10708-1999 (RU) - TACIS	Regionalism and Federalism in European Studies	Establishing a network of permanent post-graduate student exchanges to facilitate studies of federalism and regionalism in Europe.	EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY AT ST PETERSBURG - Saint-Petersburg	496,900
5	Project ID: M_JEP-10715-1999 (RU) - TACIS	EU Studies: History, Intergration and Institutions	Creation at USU-new Faculty of International Relations of a full course credit transfer system in European studies; dissemination of system; RF students mobility to the EU within the new system.	URAL A.M. GORKY STATE UNIVERSITY - Ekaterinburg	499,412
6	Project ID: T_JEP-10716-1999 (RU) -	THE SUNNIEST PROJECT : State University of Novosibirsk Network In	Creation of an European Studies Centre and Library; introduction of a new curriculum in European Studies in the faculties/departments of Sociology, Journalism and	NOVOSIBIRSK STATE UNIVERSITY - Novosibirsk	485,000

	TACIS	European Studies	Humanities; development of the international relation networking and fund raising strategy.		
7	Project ID: T_JEP-10810-1999 (RU) – TACIS	Development of European Studies Programme at TSU	Development of European Studies option in final 2 years of International Relations degree programme, with links to Tomsk Regional Administration and potential for a later Master's degree version.	TOMSK STATE UNIVERSITY – Tomsk	491,105
8	Project ID: M_JEP-22096-2001 (RU) – TACIS	Europa-Studien für Studenten der Wolga-Ural-Region (Euro-Ural)	Internationalisierung von Rechts- und Wirtschaftsstudiengängen dreier russischer Universitäten durch studentische Mobilität und die Einführung von ECTS.	PERM STATE UNIVERSITY - Perm TYUMEN STATE UNIVERSITY - Tyumen UDMURT STATE UNIVERSITY – Izhevsk	495,675
9	Project ID: CD_JEP-22112-2001 (RU) – TACIS	Création d'une spécialisation en "Etudes européennes et Relations internationales"	Etablir les conditions de restructuration de l'enseignement supérieur à l'USSES dans le champ des études européennes et des relations internationales et développer les coopérations de l'université avec le monde économique.	SARATOV STATE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL SCIENCES - Saratov	460,356
10	Project ID: CD_JEP-23040-2002 (RU) – TACIS	European Studies At The Universities In The Russian Federation	The main objectives are the foundation of a doctorate in European Studies at the People's Friendship University of Moscow and the Kuban State University in Krasnodar i.e. a new specialization at the fifth and sixth years. The teaching lessons concern the different aspect of the social, political and economic European society in relation to the "Enlargement" process	RUSSIAN UNIVERSITY OF PEOPLES'FRIENDSHIP – Moscow KUBAN STATE UNIVERSITY - Krasnodar	401,944
11	Project ID: CD_JEP-23047-2002 (RU) – TACIS	Russia and the EU - an innovative Curriculum Development initiative to introduce a European Dimension into the curriculum of Kaliningrad State University	1. To add a substantial European Dimension to the curriculum of three of the most active and progressive faculties at Kalinnigrad State University by introducing six new courses in the priority area of European Studies and International Relations 2. To set up a new cross-faculty "Centre for European Studies" with responsibility for further developments in this priority area	KALININGRAD STATE UNIVERSITY – Kaliningrad	497,000
12	Project ID: MP_JEP-23068-2002 (RU) – TACIS	Siberian network of EU Studies Centres	The project aims at establishing a network of EU studies centres in regional centres of Siberia at partner universities, but open to Siberian non-partner institutions and organizations as well.	TOMSK STATE UNIVERSITY – Tomsk KEMEROVO STATE UNIVERSITY - Kemerovo	446,500

			Tomsk State University (TSU) as resource and coordinating centre will also develop a Masters and doctoral programme in EU studies.	NOVOSIBIRSK STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - Novosibirsk TYUMEN STATE UNIVERSITY – Tyumen	
13	Project ID: CD_JEP-24158-2003 (RU) – TACIS	Understanding European Governance in the North-Western Regions of Russia	The UNEGO projects aims to satisfy academic and practical needs of understanding European Governance principles in Russia by educating three target groups of specialists: undergraduates, Ph. D. students and policy-makers in Russian North-West.	EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY AT ST PETERSBURG – St. Petersburg PETROZAVODSK STATE UNIVERSITY - Petrozavodsk POMOR STATE UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER M.V. LOMONOSOV - Archangelsk	499,280
14	Project ID: CD_JEP	Transition to Interdisciplinary Programs at RSU	To develop 3 interdisciplinary tutor-based modules at Bachelor level; to develop Interdisciplinary Master programs in European studies and Cultural studies	ROSTOV STATE UNIVERSITY – Rostov	277,232
15	Project ID: CD_JEP-27133-2006 (RU) – TACIS	Promoting European Governance in the North-Western Regions of Russia	1. To promote European governance principles within regional and local communities in the North-Western regions of Russia. 2. To educate students of European studies in more practice-oriented perspective both from the North-Western Russia and the EU.	EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY AT ST PETERSBURG – St. Petersburg PETROZAVODSK STATE UNIVERSITY - Petrozavodsk POMOR STATE UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER M.V. LOMONOSOV - Archangelsk	287,835

List of European Documentation Centres

Moscow

INSTITUTE OF EUROPE OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Ul. Mokhovaya, 11, stroeniye 3 "B"
101999 Moscow

MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY (MGU)

Vorobyevi Gory, Novi Gumanitarni Korpus
119899 Moscow

ALL RUSSIA MARKET RESEARCH INSTITUTE (VNIKI)

Ul. Pudovkina, 4
119285 Moscow

MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (UNIVERSITY)

Prospect Vernadskogo, 76
117454 Moscow

St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

School of International Relations
Ul. Smolnogo, 1/3, podyezd 8
193060 St. Petersburg

Yekaterinburg

URAL STATE UNIVERSITY

Prospect Lenina, 13 ?
620083 Yekaterinburg

Saratov

SARATOV STATE UNIVERSITY

Ul. Astrakhanskaya, 83
410012 Saratov

Kazan

KAZAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Ul. Kremlevskaya, 35
420008 Kazan

Kaliningrad

IMMANUEL KANT RUSSIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Ul. A. Nevskogo, 14
236041, Russia, Kaliningrad

Petrozavodsk

PETROZAVODSK STATE UNIVERSITY

Ul. Anokhina, 20, room 406
185640 Petrozavodsk, Karelia

Yoshkar-Ola

MARI STATE UNIVERSITY

Ul. Mashinostroyteley, 15
424002 Yoshkar-Ola

Tomsk

TOMSK STATE UNIVERSITY

Prospekt Lenina, 34a
634050 Tomsk

Rostov-on-Don
SOUTHERN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY
(formerly Rostov State University)
ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya 105
344006 Rostov-on-Don

ANNEX 3: ACTION FICHE FOR ACTION FICHE FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION / INSTITUTION BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBPP) Support to Civil Society and Local Initiatives/Cultural Support 2009/ 019-962		
Total cost	€5 million (contribution of beneficiaries 20% of each action)		
Aid method / Management mode	Call for Proposals – Centralised Management		
DAC-code	15150 16010 16061	Sector	Strengthening civil society Social Welfare Service Culture and recreation

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

The Institutional Building Partnership Programme (IBPP) - Support to Civil Society and Local Initiatives (hereafter referred to as “The “Programme”) has been operational in Russia since 2001. The Programme operates via for an annual Call for Proposals in support of actions proposed by Russian Non-State-Actors and Local Authorities (in partnership with European NSA's and LA's). Since 2007 the programme's priorities are predominantly in the domain of social policy and social sector development and in the field of culture.

The programme's overarching objective is to strengthen Russian civil society. As Russia continues its emergence from decades of centralised rule, it is believed that an active civil society can empower citizens to actively take part in public life including playing a dynamic role in social and political reform. Civil Society can decisively complement the state in the field social policy which has until recently was centralised and is trying to become demand-driven.

IBPP is an instrument implemented in the context of the 2nd and 4th Common Spaces. That is, the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice (2nd Space) and the Space of Research and Education, including cultural aspects (4th Space). The roadmaps for the four Common Spaces were adopted on the occasion of the EU/Russia Summit in Moscow on 10 May 2005 and form the overall political context for EU-Russia relations.

An EU-Russia Joint Working Group on Cultural cooperation and an EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council on Culture were established in 2007. At the first meeting of the Council in Lisbon in October 2007 the EU and the Russian Federation emphasized the **essential role of cultural operators and civil society** as well as **people to people contacts** in cultural cooperation. Both the IBPP-Culture programme and its priorities were discussed and welcomed within those dialogue instruments.

The priorities of the new Ministry of Culture are in line with the previous policies, making *the civil society a key actor for the development of the cultural policy and a democratic state in general* (first address to the media of the newly appointed Minister of Culture).

Despite significant obstacles, civil society is very active in Russia – the exact numbers are unclear but somewhere in the order of tens of thousands NGOs (official Registration statistics will soon be available). These are home-grown groups that developed to address specific issues in society as they arise. The new NGO law is an additional burden for civil society in Russia, but it has not (so far)

interfered with the operations of many organizations as was initially feared; it makes their lives more difficult with an increased administrative burden. One trend in civil society which is troubling is the shrinking pool in Russia of independent television and electronic media. The role of independent press is extremely important in a civil society as people need access to independent information in order to hold their government accountable. And only through an independent press can that information be communicated.

The NSA sector in Russia is very broad and numerous, as the estimate for NGOs alone indicate. The position of NGOs working in different spheres vary with noticeable pressure on Human Rights NGOs but increasing calls from the State to work with (social) NGOs, in order to tackle priority social problems. Russia's new President Dmitry Medvedev clearly stated in his inauguration speech of 6th May 2008 that cooperation with 'all the institutions of civil society and with the parties and the country's regions are essential to achieve Russia's targets in economic and social development. In fact, in 2008 there has been a number of statements indicating that the State's attention is now ready to focus its attention on social policy and social sector development. This began with former President Putin, statement to the Federation Council in January: *"In the near future, we need to address in detail a system upgrade of social benefits for the full implementation of the principles of accessibility and quality in social services. This work must be done in a constant dialogue with civil society, business and professional communities"*.

The IBPP programme is well placed to capitalize on these strong statements of support. The programme has evolved to concentrate on support to the social sector. It has developed strong partnerships and is well-known among Russian social NGOs and local authorities tackling social issues. The current alignment of the programme with the state's sectoral priorities in social and cultural matters will only serve to increase ownership of the programme and to facilitate greater possibilities for success.

There are increasing opportunities for Russian organisations to receive support locally, be it via federal or local government grants or from local private funds. (See complementary actions 2.3). This is a positive development as international funding has decreased considerably and shows a maturation process occurring both within the private sector and the state. The increase in local funding opportunities also offers an opportunity for the Programme to review its approach, supporting activities that will build to greater consensus building among thematic players themselves, and therefore strengthening their position.

2.2. Lessons learnt

The external Evaluation of the programme in 2006 highlighted a number of areas for improvement which have been taken into account since 2007 and continues to define changes. In addition, since the evaluation a number of contextual changes have occurred which also impacts on the positioning of the programme, namely the introduction of the 4 Spaces as the defining policy document for the EUs work in Russia; positive developments in the state's position vis a vis NGOs including financing possibilities; a maturation of individual NGOs themselves. All of the above impact on the nature of the programme.

The programme in the past had between 10-15 priority areas. An assessment of the programme's impact on the development of civil society was therefore challenging. Given the programme's limited resources and the sheer geographical size and population of Russia (145m), any systemic impact should not have been expected. It is now proposed to limit the AP 2009 programme to social sector development. The CfPs 2007 and 2008 have focused on Children, Women and Youth. The CfP for 2009 will limit itself to Child Welfare and Disability in line with the current government's social priorities.

The programme has to evolve in line with developments among Russian NSAs and the political and economic context in which they operate. The programme's initial entry point six years ago was on stand alone projects, for organisations that were perceived as not being able to survive without external assistance. There is now a large number of Russian NSAs that have matured sufficiently from their initial grass-roots beginnings to be considered as 'intermediary' organisations. Support of such intermediary organisations is important in the future development of the Civil Society as they are the one's developing alliances and networks within the NGO sector and with local and federal authorities.

The further strengthening of NSAs will require further alliance building within their sectoral areas. Until 3 years ago the need for such networking was not valued, as organisations fought for individual survival. Now, the benefits of network building are being appreciated, however not as an end in itself but as a mechanism to improve services or access to services, to change legislation etc. The programme has since CfP 2006 encouraged the submission of projects with a networking component but will go one step further and concentrate its resources in 2009 on network building within two groups Child Welfare and Disability NGOs. These are the two groups that have been identified with sufficient numbers of strong grass roots and intermediary organisations and whose focus coincide with government priorities.

There are great benefits from encouraging multi-stakeholder involvement in the projects; in particular local authorities and NGOs working together. This encourages all sides to undertake outreach activities prior to application and of course to continue these throughout the course of the project. This increases trust between both sides and gives additional legitimacy to NGOs. Cooperation with the private sector is improving and it enhanced by a wider acceptance amongst the Russian private sector of corporate social responsibility; the programme will look at supporting this type of cooperation.

In terms of culture the main lessons learnt from the two previous calls (2007 and 2008) is that in order to reinforce the European dimension of the projects, and avoid simply bilateral projects that better fit the financing of the Member State involved or other EC instruments (e.g. CBC), participation of two Member States in the proposal should be compulsory.

2.3. Complementary actions

EC similar actions in Russia

In the area of civil society development there are a number of projects to strengthen the rule of law in Russia, financed under the **European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)**. EIDHR and IBPP form a coherent package of actions in the wider area of Human rights (EIDHR focuses on political rights and IBPP on social and cultural rights).

Other Donors

The **UK's DFID** closed its civil society support programme in 2007, but has a small programme that supports Human Rights organisations.

USAID currently has a program that fosters a more open participatory society by directing assistance at strengthening civil society and advocacy institutions, increasing citizen participation, and enhancing sources of independent public information. In addition, there it also has a local governance program that aims to strengthen local governance and civil society by improving the decision-making skills of local governments.

The Canadian, CIDA Russia Programme established a local Civil Society Fund (CSF) which seeks to strengthen civil society in Russia by providing the NGO sector with the support it needs to become an effective social force with the power to make its voice heard and to influence both government and private sector policy.

There are a limited number of **private foundations** both Russian and International that offer small grants to NGOs and other civil society actors, also in some case municipal authorities. These include Mott Foundation (USA), Ford Foundation (USA), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (UK), Open Society Institute (Soros). The number of Russian funds is increasing. RusAl (Russian Aluminium), Inteross, UralSib all have funds that support various social and cultural initiatives. The number of both multinational and Russian companies that have 'social-corporate responsibilities departments' that undertake small funding initiatives is only on the increase.

UNESCO provides small grants in support of cultural heritage projects.

Beneficiary Country:

Federal: July 2007, President Putin signed instructions on a new mechanism of "*State support for non-commercial, non-governmental organisations that take part in the development of civil society*". This new instrument foresees the allocation of around **43.4 million Euros** in 2008 and up to **57.9**

million Euros in 2009 from the state budget to civil society organisations via a mechanism of re-granting. The money will be distributed through calls for proposals by 6 NGOs, which have been selected upon a recommendation by the Public Chamber (created by the government at the beginning 2006, an organisation where 36% of its membership is from NGOs but also include a wide range of public and business figures).

Local: Moscow City Government has a "Charitable Committee" (Fund) that gives individual grants to social NGOs up to a maximum of 3 million rubles (approx 80,000 euro).

2.4. Donor coordination

The Delegation of the European Commission to Russia maintains a regular dialogue with Member State Embassies and other donors. This involves regular information sharing on projects and general strategy discussions on civil society development in Russia. In addition, we are involved in DECIM, a voluntary donor coordination process launched in December 2006 by the European Commission and the World Bank to facilitate donor coordination in the area of civil society development.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

Overall Objective

To strengthen the role that civil society actors (CSAs) have within Russian society; and to strengthen cultural cooperation in line with the objectives of the 2nd and 4th Common Spaces.

Specific Objectives

Specific objective 1

- To support the creation of networks between social NGOs working on common issues in order to share experiences and information, improve lobby capacity and build consensus in their chosen fields;
- To encourage NSAs to be pro-active in its role of public oversight of decision making and policy planning and to develop partnerships with local authorities;

Specific Objective 2

- To promote joint **Innovative and creative projects** (festivals, exhibitions, master-classes, etc.), **Networking** of institutions/operators (including cooperation between museums), **Exchanges** between artists and cultural institutions (artists' residence, trainings in international mobility, etc.), with a clear European dimension
- To create links between non-state and state actors from the EU and Russia in the cultural field

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The programme will allow the use of EU funds to provide grants to **Non-State actors including trade unions, research institutes, confessional organisations, etc ...** that will:

- Support network building among Child Welfare and Disability NGOs;
- Improve consensus building and links between non-state actors of similar and differing kinds and their ability to work with local government and the state;
- Share and promote European best practices for Child Welfare and Disability NGOs in the field of network and platform building;
- Foresee a number of short fellowships of representatives from Russian Disability and Child Welfare NGOs within European NGO associations/platform organisations to see how they operate and exert influence on local and state policy;
Ensure capacity building activities from stronger Russian NGOs to their weaker counterparts;
- Encourage the replication of successful initiatives across regional divides;

Grants given in support of **cultural projects** will improve cooperation and networking in the **cultural** domain. They also will contribute to

- **Networking** of Russian and European cultural institutions/operators resulting in practical, dynamic and sustainable partnerships (including increase of contacts, of exchange of information, experiences and good practices)
- **Cultural mobility** (of artists and artistic production), exchanges between artists and/or cultural institutions/operators from Russia and the European Union, with an aim to produce innovative artistic projects (including artists' residence, trainings in international mobility, etc.)
- **Cooperation between** Russian and European **museums** in order to develop exchanges, to improve the attractiveness and public accessibility (including promotion of creative management, innovative approaches to exhibits and educational activities)

§ In addition, there will be benefits for the **individual –“informed citizen”**; for businesses and other organizations, as well as the impact on the development of the Russian Information Society and Civil Society in general.

3.3. Stakeholders

The direct beneficiaries of the programme (civil society component) will be non-governmental organisations, not-for-profit associations working in the field of Child Welfare and Disability

The partner organisations are local and regional authorities including departments responsible for social welfare development, health, and education etc, state and non-state professionals working with children and the disabled.

In the field of cultural cooperation, all organizations involved in the cultural sphere can play a crucial role in reinforcing people-to-people contacts, promoting common values, mutual trust and understanding, and celebrating diversity. Therefore, the key criteria for the selection of the direct Programme beneficiaries will not be their status but their activity and the role they play in the cultural life. These include non-governmental organisations whose main legally registered activity is in the field of arts and culture, cultural departments of local authorities, educational institutions in the area of arts and culture, museums and other cultural institutions.

The participation of the partner country (Ministry of Economic Development and Trade) is ensured at the time of project selection. The National Coordinating Unit for the EU-Russia cooperation programme, located at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, participates in the evaluation committee and final project selections. In addition, representatives from MEDT attend the annual kick-off meeting and actively take part in discussions with participants. For the cultural component the Ministry of Culture is actively included both in the development of the call and in the selection.

3.4. Risks and assumptions

The main assumption is that the authorities continue to see social-based civil society projects as beneficial, even when financed by foreign donors. Since President Dmitry Medvedev's inauguration in May 2008 he has already indicated his commitment to civil society and in particular social policy. It is quite symbolic and hopeful that his first decrees and first discussions have been on social issues, in particular improving the conditions for the disabled. This is an indication that he may indeed follow a more liberal policy. Another possible risk is that there may be decrease in the take-up of grants by Russian NGOs who may not want to be put under the spotlight by receiving foreign funds; exposing themselves to increased administrative checks.

3.5. Crosscutting Issues

The programme directly supports the policy principles of mainstreaming good governance and human rights in all EC development aid by encouraging NSAs to play a pro-active role in public oversight of decision making and policy planning. The programmes' attention to lobbying for 'social rights' as laid down in the Russian legal system is an illustration of this. Gender equality mainstreaming is also enshrined within the programme, as one of its main priorities is the empowerment of women; equally to increase their social, political and economic equality. This also conforms to the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of the Beijing platform for Action. Projects have been funded in the areas of female entrepreneurship and tackling gender-based violence. Also, the majority of prior projects are in the social sector in Russia, where percentage of women working in NGOs is particularly high.).

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Implementation method

Centralised management

The EC Delegation in Moscow will act as the Contracting and Paying Authority for and on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation

There will be **two Restrictive¹ Calls for proposals** (using a suspension clause if necessary²):

1. Support to civil society initiatives in general;
2. Support to cultural activities.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is 80%.

4.3. Budget and calendar

1) IBPP Civil Society and Local Initiatives: **€3 m**

Individual grants will be awarded for networking projects between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

- Minimum amount: EUR 300,000
- Maximum amount: EUR 750,000

Beneficiary contributions are a minimum 20% of each individual action.

The duration of the each project is between **24-36 months**

2) Special call for proposals in the area of culture: **€2 m**

Individual grants will be awarded for projects with a budget of at least €75,000 and a maximum of €300,000. Beneficiary contributions are a minimum 20% of each individual action.

The duration of the each project is between **8-18 months**.

Launch of the 2 calls for proposals:

Stage One: Concept notes submission and short listing - last quarter 2009;

Stage Two: Submission of Full applications and selection - first quarter 2010

¹ Two-step Call for Proposals, first a Concept Note is submitted then only shortlisted candidates invited to submit full applications.

² The CfP will be launched under the Annual Action Programme 2009. The suspensive clause takes into consideration that the Financial Agreement between the EC and the Russian authorities may not yet have been signed.

4.4. Performance monitoring

Day to day technical and financial monitoring of performance is carried out by the project management staff at the EC Delegation, who will be closely involved in the overseeing the individual actions under this programme.

In addition, the ENPI monitoring team will ensure that the programme is adequately monitored.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

The IBPP Civil Society programme was subject to an evaluation in autumn 2006. The results and lessons learned are already being implemented. A second evaluation will be launched in the second half of 2009 to include cultural projects, as first projects financed under the programme will be nearing their completion, and two more call will have been launched. The results and lessons learned would then naturally feed into the implementation of the AP 2009 allocation for the programme, foreseen to start in 2010.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The call will be published in the Delegation website and promoted/disseminated in the regions by the Local Support Offices. *The LSOs will no longer be funded by the EU from the end of 2008, in most cases they will be taken over by the city governments where they are located, so only minimum support can realistically be expected).*

As in previous years, two Kick off meetings will be held in Moscow, one for cultural projects and another one for the classical civil society projects. The kick off meetings are a forum for networking, information sharing and also gives the EU and opportunity to offer some basic training in working with EU financed projects and other capacity building trainings that are identified beforehand.

For civil society projects it is envisaged that the Delegation will host approximately two annual thematic workshops/roundtables bringing together key stakeholders and partners (including of course the authorities)

Approximately 70 participants are expected to participate in each event from Russian and EU NGO and Local Authorities, representing about 60 individual organisations. Representatives from MEDT, EU Member States and other donors will also be invited to attend.

The results of individual actions implemented under the programme may be published on the website of the EC delegation, as well as in the various visibility and communication materials of the EC delegation.

Each project under the programme is obliged to undertake visibility actions, which often take the form of conference, seminars, press briefing, radio or TV programme, in each activity EC visibility guidelines are to be followed. In addition, EC official participation in many individual events ensures some visibility.

ANNEX 4: ACTION FICHE FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION / COMMON SPACES FACILITY

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Common Spaces Facility 2009/ 019-961		
Total cost	EU contribution: 5 M€ No other contributions are foreseen		
Aid method / Management mode	Project approach – centralised management		
DAC-code	15140	Sector	Government administration

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

The Leaders of the EU and Russia agreed on the so called Four Common Spaces at the summit in St. Petersburg in 2003. The agreement consists of the Common economic space, the Common space for freedom, security and justice, the Common space for external security, and the Common space for research education and culture. During the EU-Russia Summit in Moscow on 10 May 2005 Road Maps for the realisation of the four Common Spaces were adopted. The Road Maps set out common and shared objectives of the EU and Russia for their relations in the foreseeable future as well as the actions necessary to make these objectives a reality.

The roadmaps also determine the agenda for financial co-operation between the EU and Russia for the medium-term. According to the European Commission's National Indicative Programme 2007-2010 for the Russian Federation, the overriding objective of EC financial cooperation with Russia is "to strengthen the strategic partnership between the EU and Russia across the broadest range of poly domains", in particular "the policy framework set out under the Common Spaces".

The authorities at EU and Russian sides work together under a number of policy dialogues with the aim of making the Common Spaces a reality. There are currently approximately 30 ongoing dialogues, working groups and areas of cooperation that directly relate to the realisation of the four common spaces and the Road Maps. These dialogues and working groups take place in the form of regular meetings between the relevant line Directorates General of the European Commission and ministries, agencies and services at the Russian side.

At times the negotiating partners of the different dialogues require resources in needs for support, including targeted policy studies, organisation of seminars and/or work shops, expert mobilisations, organisation of study tours, peer assessments and/or publicity and dissemination of information.

In this context, the EU and Russia agreed on the creation of a Common Spaces Facility in 2005. The Facility was included in the Tacis national Action Programme 2006 for the first time. It was designed to enable a rapid-response to requests for short and medium term assistance to facilitate the on-going EU-Russia dialogues on the Road Maps. The Common Spaces Facility is therefore intended to facilitate the on-going EU-Russia dialogues, and make it possible for the negotiating partners of the dialogues to call for necessary support.

2.2. Lessons learnt

The Common Spaces Facility was agreed upon with the Russian Authorities (the National Coordinating Unit for the EU-Russia cooperation programme, located at the then Ministry of Economic Development and Trade - MEDT) in 2005, and was for the first time included in the national Action Programme 2006. The allocation of € 5.5 million became available at the end of 2007. .

Past experience from other demand driven instruments shows that an examination on demands received from the beneficiary administrations on relevancy and potential duplication with other ongoing activities.

Past experience based on the Tacis policy advice programme, the Tacis IBPP key institutions programme and the Tacis IBPP civil society programme also shows that small projects tend to be more cost effective and lead to higher level of ownership in the partner country.

The Common Spaces Facility also builds on the remarks and comments by the Russian authorities and auditors who express the need for the EU support to be provided in a more flexible way to meet the current challenges and expectations following the agreement on the four Common Spaces.

The lessons learned of the TAIEX instrument are positive, and indicate that rapid reaction to small ad hoc requests are highly appreciated.

It is expected that the AP 2009 funds for the Common Spaces Facility will be available from the beginning of 2010 at the latest in order to continue the work that is being carried out under the AP 2006 allocation for the Facility. .

2.3. Complementary actions

The Common Spaces Facility is complementary to other, larger and longer-term projects implemented under the Tacis and ENPI regulations in areas related to the implementation of the Road Maps of the Common Spaces. The EC Delegation will ensure the complementarity of activities and that any potential overlap is avoided in the implementation of this programme.

The Common Spaces Facility is in particular complementary to the TAIEX instrument, which is being implemented under the ENPI/interregional programme. TAIEX was introduced in Russia in spring 2007, and in the course of the first year of implementation almost 400 Russian officials have participated in 10 single country and 15 multi-country events. The Common Spaces Facility differs from TAIEX in

that it provides for slightly more complex assignments, which may also have a longer duration.

2.4. Donor coordination

The Ministry of Economic Development is responsible for coordination of activities of international banks and organisations in the Russian Federation. Also, the Tacis/ENPI National Coordinating Unit is located at the Ministry of Economic Development. All requests for new projects pass through the National Coordinating Unit, which helps to ensure coordination.

Some individual EU member states and regional cooperation fora/organisations may occasionally initiate actions that relate to the implementation of the EU-Russia Common Spaces. Coordination with them will be ensured through regular meetings between permanent representatives. Any other bilateral donors active in specific fields will be consulted at the time of preparation of terms of references for individual actions.

It is worth noting that the Common Spaces Facility, like the EU-Russia cooperation programme overall, is not targeted at traditional development aid objectives, but on the realisation of the strategic partnership between the EU and Russia. Traditional donor coordination is therefore less of concern for the programme management.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The Common Spaces Facility is a financial envelope, made available for implementing a number of actions in different sectors included in the Road Maps for the EU-Russia Common Spaces. It builds on the current needs of the rapidly evolving dialogues to provide financing for ad-hoc specific interventions based on newly identified needs. It allows for projects and actions in different sectors to be realised on a short notice.

The Common Spaces Facility is focused on the implementation of the priorities identified in the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and the National Indicative Programme 2007-2010, where the priorities identified are the four Common Spaces (a thematic priority) and the Kaliningrad region (a geographic priority). The Common Spaces Facility addresses the NIP priorities.

The *overall objective* of the Common Spaces Facility is to enable a rapid-response to requests for short and medium term assistance to facilitate the on-going EU-Russia dialogues on the Road Maps.

The *specific objective* of the Facility is to facilitate the on-going EU-Russia dialogues in different fields and enable interventions such as high-level discussions, policy studies, seminars, work shops, expert mobilisations, study tours, peer assessments, publicity, etc.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The Common Spaces Facility will be demand driven from the side of the negotiating partners of the Common Space dialogues (i.e. European line DGs and Russian line ministries, agencies and services). The Facility is intended to play an important role in helping stimulating and developing thoughts and therefore the process of political decision-making. This approach may also be useful where a policy decision has been taken in the framework of EU-Russian cooperation in a certain area, but where impetus is needed on implementation.

The expected result of the Facility is a better facilitated strategic partnership between the EU and Russia.

The main activities will encompass, among others:

- Facilitation of high-level discussions
- Policy and legal advice
- Expert Mobilisations
- Policy Studies
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Study Tours
- Peer Assessments
- Publications and dissemination of information
- Research Papers

3.3. Stakeholders

The key beneficiaries of the Facility are the ministries, agencies and services of the Russian Federation and the Directorates General of the European Commission, that are carrying out negotiations in the framework of the Common Spaces dialogues.

The key beneficiaries are also the eligible applicants to the Facility.

The EC Delegation in Moscow is coordinating the implementation of the programme from the European Union side. It will receive the requests from the applicants, ensure an appropriate level of consultation with the Russian Ministries of Economic Development, and Foreign Affairs (MID). The EC Delegation will also take into account the input from the EC Directorates General. The EC delegation will also take care of contracting and implementation of the assignments.

The full participation of the partner country (MID and the Ministry of Economic Development) must be ensured at the time of the project selection. Each project budget and specific recipient beneficiary will be subject of approval by MID and NCU, as requested by the Russian Authorities in negotiations on the AP2006 Facility.

3.4. Risks and assumptions

The implementation of the Common Spaces Facility assumes the continuation of the EU-Russia dialogues on the four Common Spaces.

It also assumes that an operational arrangement is found and agreed between the different stakeholders of the programme regarding the way applications are submitted by Ministries, Agencies and Services as well as EC Directorates General, and how the approval process is managed.

The key risk, based on experience with the earlier allocation for the Facility, is that there is not sufficient time for project implementation (following the late signing of the AP2006), or no agreement is reached on individual applications. The new Financing Regulation is already addressing the implementation time constraints.

3.5. Crosscutting Issues

The overarching goal of the Facility is to improve good and equitable governance in the sectors in which specific actions are implemented.

Depending on the theme of the individual actions, issues of environment, human rights and gender equality may be touched upon, as these issues are included in the common space for justice, freedom and security or the common economic space.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Implementation method

The implementation method is Centralised management.

The EC Delegation in Moscow will act as the Contracting Authority.

Implementation mechanism has been agreed with the Russian side. This would involve that requests for individual interventions are presented in writing to the EC Delegation utilising a pre-determined application form available on the Internet. The applications would originate from Ministries, Agencies and Services of the Russian Federation and Directorates General of the Commission. Each application shall indicate the basic details of the proposed action (such as its working title, expected duration and purpose) as well as the name of the dialogue or roadmap to which it relates.

Following the receipt of an application, the EC delegation shall circulate it for approval to the other stakeholders, including at least, the Russian National Coordinating Unit at the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The latter shall indicate their opinion on the application on the basis of its quality as well as its importance to the realisation of the Common Space dialogues.

Following an approval by all stakeholders, the EC Delegation in Moscow shall assess the most effective way to respond to the requests. Depending on the nature of each request the Common Space Facility will be implemented through a number of service contracts, letters of contract with framework contractors, calls for proposals to EU Member States or direct agreements with international organisations.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the European Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is 90%. Full financing may only be applied in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation where financing in full is essential to carry out the action in question.

All programme estimates must respect the procedures and standard documents laid down by the Commission, in force at the time of the adoption of the programme estimates in question.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The indicative budget of € 5 million will be divided between individual actions falling under the four Common Spaces.

The indicative breakdown of the budget between the Common Spaces is as follows:

Common Economic Space	€1.5 million
CS Freedom Security, Justice	€1.5million
CS External Security	€0.5 million
CS Research Education Culture	€1.5 million

It is expected that the AP 2009 allocation for the Common Spaces Facility would become available at the latest from the beginning of 2010. It would then seamlessly follow the allocation of the AP 2006 (for which contracting deadline is in July 2009). It is expected that contracts for individual actions are signed in the course of 2010. Duration of individual actions may vary from a few days to approximately one year.

4.4. Performance monitoring

The individual actions will be monitored by the ENPI monitoring team, based in Moscow, according to standard procedures. Usually, in the case of small projects (with the value of less than €200.000) monitoring is carried out on the basis of a sample.

Day to day monitoring of performance is also carried out by the project management Staff at the EC Delegation, who will be closely involved in the organisation of the individual actions under this Facility.

Achievement of goals will also be reported in the annual Common Spaces progress reports, drafted by DG RELEX.

As the Common Spaces facility programme consists of a number of actions in different sectors, it is not possible to list all relevant indicators. Several of the standard indicators may be relevant for the facility, but that will only be known when individual actions are selected. The following indicators could be relevant for the performance monitoring of the facility as a whole: ⁱ⁾ total number of actions organised; ⁱⁱ⁾ total number of Russian government officials (male, female) having benefitted from capacity-building actions; ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ total number of targeted ministries/agencies having benefitted from capacity-building actions

4.5. Evaluation and audit

A final evaluation of the AP 2006 Common Spaces Facility could be launched in the second half of 2009. The results and lessons learned would then naturally feed into the implementation of the AP 2009 allocation for the Facility, foreseen to start in 2010.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The results of individual actions implemented under the Common Spaces Facility may be published on the website of the EC delegation, as well as in the various visibility and communication materials of the EC delegation.. It is also foreseen that each event and project under the Common Spaces Facility would have Russian and EC officials as participants, which in itself would ensure some visibility.