

EaP PLUS

Eastern Partnership +



“Engaging the Scientific Diaspora from EaP countries”

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Content of Presentation

- EaP PLUS Project in a Nutshell
- Supportive activities on EaP Scientific Diaspora



I. EaP PLUS project in a Nutshell

- 3 year long **Coordination & Support Action funded by EU (H2020)** dedicated to the EU – EaP STI cooperation (Sept. 2016 – Aug. 2019)
- Builds on previous projects addressing the region (IncoNet EaP, Bilat, BS-Eranet, BSH, etc.)
- Includes 17 partners from **all** the 6 EaP countries and from several EU MS (Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland & Portugal)



EaP PLUS: a multi-level support action

Four main objectives (Work Packages):

- I. Supports EU-EaP *Policy Dialogue* in STI
- II. Fosters interaction between EU-EaP researchers & *promotes H2020* to the EaP research community
- III. Enhances the EU-EaP *research-innovation* partnership
- IV. Fosters optimal framework conditions



Interaction between EU-EaP researchers & promotion of Horizon 2020

- **Grants for EaP researchers** to attend Networking Events in EU or preparatory meetings for H2020+ERC proposals (<https://www.eap-plus.eu/object/call/50>);
- **Info Days and Training to H2020 NCP Networks** in all EaP Countries;
- **Targeted Cooperation with *Scientific Diaspora*** using input from IncoNet EaP; organization of 6 Diaspora workshops
- **Development of Webinars** (11 for H2020; 6 for specific innovation related topics; check www.eap-plus.eu)



II. Supportive activities on EaP Scientific Diaspora

- “Everyone in a country who is engaged in scientific activity and who has citizenship of another country is part of scientific diaspora”
- Types of diasporas: **individuals, groups, networks (DKNs)**
- **Two powerful global currents:** unrelenting advance of scientific knowledge and innovation **&** ever-thickening web of connections
→ diaspora communities and their homelands closer
- **Impact of SD: *accelerate innovation, mutual benefit*** for nations, scientists come together to ***solve the health, environment, and economic challenges*** no government can solve on its own.



II. Supportive activities on EaP Scientific Diaspora

- Scientific diasporas may represent part of the solution to the often crippling economic and social effects of migration
- The science, technology, and innovation (STI) diaspora remains a **vastly untapped resource**.
- However, **systematic, qualitative research** into the needs and perceptions of the diasporas themselves regarding assisting their COs is lacking.
- IncoNet EaP: **Mapping study on Scientific Diaspora Networks in EaP Countries → Workshop on Diaspora, Vienna, June 2016** (Center of Social Innovation/ZSI)



II. Supportive activities on EaP Scientific Diaspora

- **Armenia:** NAS RA has Diaspora Department (joint research projects)
→ Database with 200 researchers
- **Azerbaijan:** State Committee on Work with Diaspora of Azerbaijan Republic; **SDF** involves scientific diaspora in expertise for grant projects; to define scientific priorities; for short-term trainings for young scientists, etc; **ANAS** (IIT) is planning to establish an information system called “Diaspora of Azerbaijani scientists”.
- **Belarus:** A database “Belarusian Researchers Abroad” was developed in 2011 in the framework of a national research project funded by the State Committee on S&T of Belarus; Lastly updated in 2013; accessible to public:
<http://www.scienceportal.org.by/en/diaspora/>



II. Supportive activities on EaP Scientific Diaspora

- **Georgia:** Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora Issues; Collaborative research grants; 38 applications in 2016; **ENIGMA** (Enhancing Georgia's migration mngmt) funded by EC+IOM →engaging Georgia's high-profile Diaspora, e.g. mapping, annual awards, etc.
- **Moldova:** Moldovan Scientific Diaspora (MSD) database creation started in 2010; 2 Temporary Return Schemes of Moldovan Scientific Diaspora (funded by EC + Norwegian Foreign Ministry) →e-platform “Scientific Diaspora Network” which gathers more than 200 MSD
- **Ukraine:** The Ukrainian Academic International Network (The UKRAINE Network; So far no database of individuals → NASU sees EaP PLUS as an opportunity for SD



II. Supportive activities on EaP Scientific Diaspora

IncoNet EaP Workshop with Recommendations (Vienna, June 2016):

- ✓ SD as a **Bridge** between CO + EU/MS and within projects of H2020
(SD as opportunity for Associated Countries to H2020; GE+UA+AM+MD)
- ✓ Building **trust** and selecting pilot **priority** areas
- ✓ Possibility for engaging SD through roles:
 - Evaluating national research grants; MoU for an EaP STI Evaluation Platform (signed in 2016)
 - Involvement in short-term return schemes (ERC portable grants?)
 - Expert members of thematic benchmarking exercises
 - Monitoring and implementation of national reforms in STI sectors



II. Supportive activities on EaP Scientific Diaspora

- **EaP PLUS** Project: 6 Workshops in 2017-2018 to bring SD closer to EaP res. community in selected topics → consortia for H2020 applications
 - ✓ «SCIENCE CONNECTS: Strengthening the Interaction between Researchers in Ukraine and Scientific Diaspora», 15 May 2017, Kyiv, **Ukraine**
 - ✓ «Connecting Scientific Diaspora with Research Community of Moldova», September, 2017, Chisinau, **Moldova**
 - ✓ Scientific Diaspora Workshop focusing on novel materials, including nanomaterials, and nanotechnologies , Autumn 2017, Minsk, **Belarus**
 - ✓ Diaspora Workshop to convene in conjunction with International Computer Science and Information Technologies Conference on 25-27 September 2017, Yerevan, **Armenia**



Paraphrasing John F. Kennedy

“Don’t ask what your Scientific Diaspora can do for you, but what you can do for your Scientific Diaspora!”



Thank you for your attention!

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