



## Horizon 2020 Eastern Partnership (EaP) Information Day

### Research & Innovation in Information and Communication Technologies

*Thursday, 10 September 2015 - Tbilisi, Georgia*

### Conclusions from the Panel Discussion

The Panel 's subject was the challenge of improving the Research and Innovation cooperation between the EU and the EECA region not only in the ICT but also in the wider perspective of all the sectors covered by the HORIZON 2020.

The panel was composed by two European experts with long experience in the International Cooperation and two EECA experts actively involved in the European Projects.

1. **Elena Zamsha** - NCP HORIZON 2020 (Moldova)
2. **Dr Valery Virkovski** - Director for Cooperation Development with EU and Eastern Partner (EaP) Countries, Head of HDM Working Group (Belarus)
3. **Hadmut Holken** – Holken Consultants & Partners (France)
4. **James Clarke** – Waterford Institute of Technology, Telecommunications Software and Systems Group (Ireland)

It was moderated by Raphael Koumeri – coordinator of EAST-HORIZON project, PLANET SA (Greece).

The Panel reconfirmed the importance of bringing closer the EECA countries and the EU in the Research and Innovation for both political and economic reasons. The experts were invited to put forward their opinions and suggestions on the following issues:

#### ***Q1: Is the cooperation at the level expected and wished?***

##### Conclusion of the discussion

The Research and Innovation cooperation between the EU and the EECA region has been steadily improved, however there is still room for more

#### ***Q2: What are the problems?***

##### Conclusion of the discussion

There are many reasons which do not allow the full development of this cooperation.

One of the most important is the difference of the economic structure and development and the social characteristics. There is a non alignment in the priorities – Europe elaborates a global strategy based on its societal needs which are not always compatible with the EECA Region.

Another important reason is the lack of good understanding of the Rationale and the Rules of the European Programmes which is based in well-defined research topics in parallel with the multinational consortium concept

### **Q3: How the EECA Priorities fit the H2020 Priorities?**

#### Conclusion of the discussion

The extensive work already done to define common priorities for the Region shows this difference , on the other hand it creates the frame of a constructive dialogue.

### **Q4: What has been done so far?**

#### Conclusion of the discussion

The EU has funded a number of initiatives aim at the better understanding of the Rationale of the EU programmes and at the identification of common priorities.

### **Q5: What should be further actions?**

#### Conclusion of the discussion

Continuous training and support to the EECA Research Community and a better integration of the EECA Research priorities in the EU Programmes.