"Bringing the EU-EECA cooperation and policy dialogue in ICT in the HORIZON 2020 era"

Project coordinator

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Consortium

- *Q-PLAN North Greece Ltd (Greece)*
- *Inno TSD (France)*
- *National Association of Research and Educational e-Infrastructures "E-Arena" (Russia)*
- *Non-governmental organization "Agency of European innovations" (Ukraine)*
- *Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere (Belarus)*
- *Institute for Informatics and Automation of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (Armenia)*
- *Regional Innovative Technologies Academy (Azerbaijan)*
- *Centre of International Projects (Moldova)*
- *Georgian Research and Educational Networking Association (Georgia)*
- *National Agency for Technological Development JSC (Kazakhstan)*

Project Overview

The main aim of the EECA-2-HORIZON project is to **reinforce the development of strategic and mutually beneficial partnerships in ICT between the EU and the East Europe and Central Asia (EECA) countries**. The goal is to strengthen links and boost cooperation among the research and industrial communities of both regions to exploit emerging opportunities for international partnerships (under EU and EECA RTD&I programmes) and jointly address common societal challenges.

Main Objectives

1. **Create a knowledge sharing and collaboration environment** ("*EU-EECA Virtual Collaboration Breeding Environment in ICT*") to facilitate interaction and support collaboration among ICT research and industrial actors from both regions towards the formation of strategic partnerships.

2. **Link and bring together leading ICT research and industrial actors from both regions** in areas of mutual interest and added value for EU - EECA cooperation. This will be based on 2 pillars:
   a. **RTD&I actors:** sustainable cooperative "***ICT Communities***" will be created having a thematic focus (e.g. focusing on specific ICT sub-areas); and
   b. **Technology Platforms**: strengthen interaction and cooperation among ICT-oriented ETPs and similar structures and interested stakeholders from the EECA countries.

3. **Reciprocity in collaboration** by identifying and promoting RTD&I national programmes and initiatives from the EECA countries that are open to the participation of EU research teams and/or individual researchers, with a view to support the international cooperation under these EECA programmes.

4. **Support dialogue between the EU and the EECA countries on enhancing their cooperation in ICT** and thus contribute in shaping HORIZON2020 research orientation regarding the participation of the EECA ICT research and industrial actors.

5. **Organise a series of increase awareness and networking / twinning events in both regions** to promote and facilitate collaboration among ICT actors.

EECA-2-HORIZON **builds upon the invaluable legacy in EU-EECA cooperation in ICT that was created by the PICTURE project** (December 2011 - May 2014) **and its preceding EECA-ICT cluster** (January 2009 – June 2011) that was formed by joining forces of FP7-ICT CSAs, namely: **ISTOK-SOYUZ**, **SCUBE-ICT** and **EXTEND**).

EECA-2-HORIZON consortium will closely collaborate with the EAST HORIZON project in the context of the "EU-EECA ICT Cluster" as both projects focus on the same region and have similar objectives.