**IncoNets EaP and CA support twinning activities - call now open!**

IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA, the 'STI International Cooperation Networks for Eastern Europe and Central Asia' will implement 'Twinning Grants' as a funding instrument – one of the core activities of these projects. Twinning itself has a long tradition in Europe as a an efficient instrument in capacity building processes. The IncoNet EaP and CA consortia plan to use this instrument to enhance STI cooperation and increase capacities on both sides. The grant scheme is envisaged to become a tool to develop sustainable cooperation among experienced EU and regional partners in the realm of Science, Technology and Innovation.

**Background**

The International Cooperation Networks for Central Asia (IncoNet CA) and the Eastern Partnership Countries (IncoNet EaP) aim to support the advancement of the bi-regional STI (Science, Technology, Innovation) policy dialogue between the EU Member States and Associated Countries on the one hand, and the Eastern Partnership Countries and Central Asia on the other. They have an explicit focus on the societal challenges that have been identified to be of mutual interest for these regions, namely climate change, energy and health. In particular the projects will identify actions and stakeholders and will implement innovative pilot activities to strengthen the coordination and impact of the individual actions.   
  
The projects' scientific coordination lies with CeRISS, the Centre for Regional and International STI Studies and Support, Greece. ZSI, the Centre for Social Innovation, Austria is in charge of the administrative management of IncoNet EaP. IncoNet CA's administration lies with IPPT-PAN, the Instytut Podstawowych Problemow Techniki Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Poland.

**Twinning Grants**

'Twinning Grants' will be implemented by these projects as a funding instrument, representing one of the core activities of both projects. Twinning itself has a long tradition in Europe as a successful and efficient instrument in capacity building processes.

With regard to IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA the specific objectives of the twinning instrument are

1. to increase the participation of CA countries in EU calls,
2. to reveal and select tandems of European and regional partners with the strongest collaboration potential and huge experience in the preparation and carrying out of EU projects,
3. to support the information exchange among partner (travel costs, staff exchange, preparation of workshops), and
4. to support the concrete preparation of thematic proposals.

[**Call for IncoNet Eastern Partnership Twinning Grants: 'Clustering of Scientific Projects and Institutions'**](http://www.inco-eap.net/en/401.php)

[**Call for IncoNet Central Asia Twinning Grants: 'Twinning between Research Institutions'**](http://www.inco-ca.net/en/262.php)

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**Twinning Grants: IncoNet EaP supports 'Clustering of Scientific Projects and Institutions'**

Our 'Twinning Grants' will support collaboration with your partners to jointly participate in Horizon2020 calls. Twinning is a core activity of IncoNet EaP and has a long tradition in Europe as a successful instrument in capacity building processes.

With regard to the IncoNet EaP the specific objectives of the twinning instrument are:

1. to increase the participation of EaP countries in EU calls,
2. to reveal and select tandems of European and regional partners with the strongest collaboration potential and huge experience in the preparation and carrying out of EU projects, and
3. to support the information exchange among partners (travel costs, staff exchange, preparation of workshops), and
4. the concrete preparation of thematic proposals.

**Call information**

**Call Objectives**

The main goal of the twinning action is to enhance mutual learning, to strengthen cooperation between the EU member states and the Eastern Partnership countries and to plant the seed for sustainable scientific, technological and innovation EU-EaP projects. This goal shall be practically implemented through granting projects of twinning teams (see below), which will ultimately support the preparations for proposals for EU HORIZON 2020 calls.

This call will embrace three innovation related topics on societal challenges which are:

1. Climate change
2. Health
3. Energy

**Call Budget and Call Modalities**

The total budget of the call in IncoNet EaP is EUR 144.000.

Twinning teams will be supported with up to 10.000 EUR per application.

The grant can cover the following expenses:

1. Travel expenses (flight and transport in economy/2nd class)
2. Daily allowance/ accommodation
3. Technical and/or logistical support for event preparation (e.g. organisation of workshops, catering)
4. Temporary staff (e.g. students, junior scientists for the event preparation, data analysis etc.)

The budget will not cover salaries for permanent staff.   
Co-financing of the proposed activities from own or attracted sources is welcomed.

All accounting must be in compliance with the applicable regulations of the European Union. Hence the eligibility of expenditures requires the submission of the original invoices. For further advice please also refer to the [Guide to Financial Issues relating to FP7 Indirect Actions](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89556/financial_guidelines_en.pdf) as provided by the European Commission.

**Eligible Applicants and Project Consortium**

Participants in the call can be:

* Project coordination and consulting organizations with experience in bilateral and multilateral cooperation between EU MS/AC and countries of the EaP
* Universities
* Research Institutes
* Companies with RTD activity and expertise related to the scientific fields of the 3 Societal Challenges (see above)

A project consortium must comprise at least three partners who form a twinning team of which one partner is necessarily from an EU member state and one from a country of the EaP. One of the team members must be designated as 'Coordinator'. The budget will be administered by a (the) European research institution within the twinning team. This institution (e.g. the coordinator of the project) is to be indicated in advance.   
  
The Inco EaP project will only support proposals that imperatively include visits of 1-2 representatives of partner organizations to each other in order to strengthen long-term cooperation, discussion of project ideas, sharing skills and best practice and developing their staff.

**Duration**In order to offer a quick and flexible approach the call will be continuously open from May 2014 until March 2016. The duration of a project shall be handled in a scope of 12 months maximum.

**Deadline**The final call deadline is 31.03.2016. Applications will be accepted continuously as long as a funding budget in IncoNet EaP is available.

**Download for Applicants**

* **Terms of Reference** *(updated 28 May 2014)*
* [**Application Form**](http://www.inco-eap.net/_media/EaP_Twinning_Grants_Application_Form_rev.doc)
  + [**Fact Sheet**](http://www.inco-eap.net/_media/EaP_Twinning_Grants_Factsheet.pdf)

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