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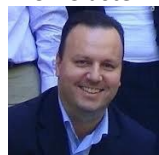
EU-EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA - Gateway for ICT Research and Innovation

Welcome!

Dear Reader,

As we approach the end of the EECA Cluster projects & in view with the new calls and collaboration opportunities under HORIZON 2020, the agenda of EECA Cluster activities and events becomes more and more focused on international cooperation. This issue of our newsletter features articles on our established collaboration tools and the ways to strategically cooperate with European technology platforms (ETPs). It also features a long list of suggested activities on forthcoming H2020 ICT related events in the EECA region and beyond. We at the EECA Cluster feel that all the suggested articles and information provided by the newsletter can serve as an important starting point towards an increased participation in the research and innovation activities supported by the European Programmes.

EECA Cluster Team



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New Cluster Publications

New reports published

Towards the end of 2015, two main reports have been published by the EECA-2-HORIZON partners.

- **«Overview of action plans in EECA countries on development of the ICT sector»** highlights emerging opportunities for collaboration among the EU and EECA ICT actors. This goes beyond the HORIZON 2020 initiative and thus lists funding programmes with a significant ICT innovation component in the EECA region from various sources such as the World Bank or the OECD.
- **«EECA RTD&I Programmes Profiles»** proposes an inventory of existing Research, Development, Technology and innovation (RDT&I) programmes in EECA countries open for EU researchers.

Please note that both reports are still being updated and newer versions release are expected to be published at the beginning of March 2016.

They are available for [download](#) on the EECA cluster portal.

New European Technology Platform (ETP) Cooperation Guide published

A new Guide on HOW TO STRATEGICALLY COOPERATE WITH EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS (ETPs) has been published on the EECA cluster portal.

«How to cooperate with ETPs" Guide»

The guide takes the form of twenty Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that assist EECA teams to become involved in the activities of the [NESSI](#) & [NEM](#) European Technology Platforms (ETPs). The FAQs explains how EECA teams can strategically cooperate with ETPs and what they can expect to get out of this cooperation in the short, medium and long term.

Next Round of Training in 2016

The EECA Cluster team has already started the second round of trainings in EECA countries within the HORIZON 2020 framework, with focus on discussions regarding upcoming H2020 proposal ideas.

The training seminars in Chisinau, Moldova; Minsk, Belarus and Lviv, Ukraine were very successful. The reason for this success was the high involvement of the participants. Participants presented their proposal ideas and discussed them thoroughly with the expert trainers. It is very important to emphasize the maturity of the proposal ideas and the willingness of the participants to take part in HORIZON 2020 projects and collaborate with European organizations.

The second round of training workshops in 2016 has been continued with the organization of seminars what took place in:

Almaty-Kazakhstan: 25-26th February 2016
Bishkek-Kyrgyzstan: 29th February 2016
Moscow-Russia: 3-4th March 2016

Another two seminars will take place as follows:

Minsk-Belarus: 10-11 March 2016
Tashkent-Uzbekistan: tbd






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Georgian Research and Educational Networking Association – GRENA

The Georgian Research and Educational Networking Association – GRENA was founded for the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the fields of education and research. The founders of GRENA are five major state universities, Georgian National Academy of Sciences and Open Society - Georgia Foundation.

The three main fields of GRENA activities are the following:

- Providing Information and Communication Technology services to users and implementation of new, innovative services
- ICT education
- Preparation and implementation of international and local R&D projects; promoting and supporting ICT development in Georgia

Implementation of new services and development of projects is being carried out in close cooperation with Universities and with the support of the European Commission, NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, UNDP, International Science & Technology Center and other organizations.

GRENA provides ICT services using its own infrastructure and different technologies to more than 80 organizations in Georgia. GRENA owns fibre-optic based network infrastructure connecting Georgian research and education institutions. GRENA is also running a data center with following main services: Grid, virtualization, hosting, etc.

The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-GE) was established at GRENA in 2007 according to the NATO Networking Infrastructure Project and mostly supports organizations, which are connected to the GRENA network. The CERT-GE team provides the following services: Intrusion Detection System (IDS), incident handling, incident response support, information dissemination and hotline. In 2009 GRENA established the first Grid (distributed computing) facility in Georgia, which is included in the European Grid Infrastructure. GRENA enables researchers that have research applications requiring large computational resources to use European Grid infrastructure.

GRENA is actively participating in the new European Union EaPConnect project with the main goal of integration of research and education networks from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine into the European Research network GÉANT. The project foresees implementation of GÉANT network services (eduGAIN, eduroam, etc.) in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. In addition, access to scientific publications and databases will be provided. The total budget of the project is €13.7 MEUR. At the initial stage 1 Gbps connectivity to GÉANT for GRENA network will be established in February 2016 with future upgrade up-to 10 Gbps.



GÉANT connectivity scheme for GRENA network.

The GRENA Learning Center provides certified courses and vendor-based certification to students, and the Education Program has the following resources:

- Cisco Networking Academy;
- Linux Professional Institute (LPI) Learning Center;
- Juniper Academy;
- Oracle Certified courses;
- Distance Learning Center;
- Pearson VUE Authorized Certification Center.

Detailed information about GRENA can be found at <http://www.grena.ge/>






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European technology Platform (ETP) news: NESSI!

- ✓ Learn about the NESSI White Paper on Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) which identifies relevant challenges and opportunities for CPS, focusing on the impact of CPS on the main areas of NESSI and vice versa. In particular the paper assesses the impact of having more and more software-intensive elements in CPS. The White Paper is organized along four main themes: 1) Software engineering for CPS, 2) Cloud for CPS, 3) CPS and Big Data and 4) Software-based services on top of CPS. The NESSI CPS White Paper is available at [NESSI > Publications > Position Papers](#).
- ✓ Also, NESSI organized two Networking Sessions at ICT 2015, the biggest event in the EU ICT calendar, which took place in Lisbon, 20-22 October. ICT 2015 networking sessions were informal discussion groups organized by stakeholders participating in the ICT 2015 event. Their goal was to enable a broad and multi-disciplinary dialogue, help participants find partners for a collaborative relationship enlarge and enhance stakeholder communities and better connect research to innovation for a Digital Europe. More information can be found [here](#).
- ✓ The [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA) defines the overall goals, main technical and non-technical priorities, and a research and innovation road-map for the European contractual Public Private Partnership (cPPP) on Big Data Value. An improved [second version](#) of the SRIA, following the Consolidation Workshop and Survey carried out, will be released very soon - please keep an eye out on the main BDVA page www.bdva.eu



Upcoming events in the EECA region!

There are many upcoming events in the EECA region, too many to list them all here! You can see below the events in March, 2016.

To see the rest of the event list, please go to the following link where they are all described: <http://eeca-ict.eu/>.

- [ICT Forum the BIT-2016](#), 3 March, 2016, Chelyabinsk, Russian Federation
- [Marketing Communications Agency CNews Conferences](#) is organizing a conference "IT Strategy 2016: a course on improving the efficiency of the business." March 3, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [International Conference "Management of telecommunication networks. Software-configurable network and network functions virtualization - SDN & NFV Russia 2016"](#). 3 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [The Sixth International Forum "CONNECTED TV & DIGITAL MEDIA. Content, Devices, Platforms, Distribution"](#). 10 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [Conference on Virtual and Augmented Reality](#) - AR Conference 2016. 10 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [VII International Conference "Transport Networks Russia 2016](#) - Development of telecommunication transport networks in Russia and the CIS". 17 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [Conference "ICT in financial sector – 2016"](#). 17 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [9th International Career Expo Just Kyiv IT](#). 19 March, 2016, Kyiv, Ukraine
- [BelarusMedica 2016](#). 22-25 March, 2016, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
- [International ICT Forum the BIT-2016](#). March 23, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [IV Annual Business Forum Telecom 2016: Challenges' time](#). March 25, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [IDC Directions 2016 in Kyiv](#). 29 March, 2016, Kyiv, Ukraine
- [Round table "ICT in the energy industry in 2016"](#). 29 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation
- [III Industrial Conference "IT in the energy sector: times of efficiency"](#). 31 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation (
- [II Industrial Conference "IT in the financial sector: an effective way to the customer"](#). 31 March, 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation



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H2020 Related Upcoming Spring Events

- [Future March 2016 at CeBIT](#), 14th-18th March 2016, Hannover, Germany
- [CeBIT - Global Event for Digital Business](#), 14th-18th March 2016, Hannover, Germany
- [DDECS 2016](#) (IEEE International Symposium on Design and Diagnostics of Electronic Circuits and Systems), 20th-22th April 2016, Košice, Slovakia
- [Net Futures 2016](#): Driving Growth in the #DigitalSingleMarket, 20th-21st April 2016, Brussels, Belgium
- 11th European Workshop on Microelectronics Education, 11th-13th May 2016, Southampton, United Kingdom
- [21st IEEE European Test Symposium](#), 23rd-27th May 2016, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- [Futur en Seine 2016-biggest European Digital Festival](#), 9th – 19th June 2016, Paris, France
- [Euromicro Conference on Digital System Design 2016](#) (19th Euromicro Conference on Digital System Design), 31st August- 2nd September, 2016, Limassol, Cyprus,

Cluster Services on-line

Dear readers, a new ICT Call is open, lots of questions arise, so why not use our supportive on-line tool?! Just a reminder of our services available especially for you!

Help-Desk – for any advice;

Competence Platform – for your promotion!



Participation in the HORIZON2020 Programme (H2020) is quite a complicated process even for experienced actors. That is why we created an [on-line Helpdesk](#) that enables you, the EECA ICT community, to have the opportunity to ask any questions, and to express them in **your own language**.

The Helpdesk service aims at providing *direct hands-on personalized support* to EECA researchers for participation in ICT related topics within the H2020 Programme.

Answers are managed by the ICT National Contact Points (ICT NCPs) and/or EECA Cluster Country Representatives. Their contact details are available [here](#).

We will respond to your request within a **maximum of 2 working days** from the first call/question.

[EECA ICT Competence Platform](#)

The EECA Cluster database of ICT R&I profiles can be found here and includes organisations throughout the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

In-line with the EECA Cluster's objective, this database aims to facilitate the formation of international consortia among key ICT research and industrial actors from the EU and the EECA region.

More specifically:

- EECA R&I ICT teams have a unique opportunity to promote their competencies and increase their visibility, which will lead to participation in international consortia focused on H2020 upcoming Calls.
- EU experts may identify and contact regional key players to form future collaborations via a search engine mechanism.



The logo for EAST HORIZON, featuring the words "EAST" and "HORIZON" in a white, sans-serif font, with a blue arc above "HORIZON".

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SAVE THE DATE! EECA Cluster Final Conference

The Final Conference of the [EECA Cluster projects](#) (EAST-HORIZON and EECA-2-HORIZON) will be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova on 13-14 June 2016 at the [Radisson Blue Hotel](#).

Interactive sessions and workshops are foreseen in order to share the projects' expertise and outputs.

More information and a detailed programme will be available soon on the [EECA Cluster website](#).

The EAST-HORIZON and EECA-2-HORIZON projects are supported by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Program for Research & Technological Development.



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