

The Common Space of Research, Education and Culture

At the Moscow summit of May 2005, it was agreed that the EU and Russia would develop their cooperation with a view to creating four common spaces:

- Common economic space;
- Common space on freedom, security & justice;
- Common space on external security;
- Common space on research, education & culture.

The 4th common space, which covers research, education & cultural matters, aims to capitalize on the strong EU and Russian intellectual heritage and knowledge base in order to promote economic growth and strengthen competitiveness of the economies in Russia and the EU. The 4th common space aims to intensify links and exchanges in the fields of education, youth and culture and to support the identification and adoption of best practices.

Research, science and technology

The EU and Russia have fostered good co-operation on research, with the renewal of the Science and Technology co-operation agreement in 2003 and the adoption, in 2002, of the Action Plan to enhance Science and Technology co-operation between the European Commission and Russia. Opportunities for the participation of Russian scientists and researchers in EU-funded activities have been extended via the Sixth and the Seventh Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development that started in January 2007.

The objective of the 4th common space is to enhance EU-Russia cooperation in the mutually agreed priority fields and to create favourable conditions for structuring a knowledge-based society in the EU and Russia, promoting competitiveness and economic growth by modernization of the national economies and implementation of advanced scientific achievements; strengthening and optimising the links between research and innovation; and supporting small and medium size entrepreneurship in the field of research and innovation.

Education

In the field of education Russia and the EU work together to create European area of higher education in the framework of the Bologna process. The main programmes funded by the European Union in this area are Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, and recently created Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window. Moreover, the EU-funded Youth programme promotes exchanges and intercultural dialogue between young people, youth leaders and youth organisations between the EU and Russia.

Culture

In the field of culture the objective of EU-Russia cooperation is to foster the creativity and mobility of artists, ensure public access to culture and dissemination of art and culture, promote inter-cultural dialogue and knowledge of the history and cultural heritage of the peoples of Europe, as well as to develop cooperation between the cultural industries of the EU and Russia in order to increase both their cultural and economic impact. Primarily related to promotion of European culture, the objectives and are to strengthen and to enhance the European identity on the basis of common values, including freedom of expression, democratic functioning of the media, respect of human rights including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity as a basis of vitality of civil society in Europe without dividing lines.

For more information please visit:

The European Commission's Delegation in Russia:

http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/en/p_494.htm

The European Commission's External Relations Directorate General:

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