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**Results of the RUSERA EXE survey  
on EU-Russia RTD cooperation in FP6  
and other funding programmes (INTAS,  
TEMPUS, TACIS)**

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## Overview of the presentation

- **Background and rationale of the survey**
- **Findings and conclusions of the survey**
- **Recommendations**





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## Background and rationale of the survey

### Aims of the survey

- To get insight into **practical obstacles** of EU-Russian RTD cooperation
- To identify **social and cultural differences**

### Purpose of the survey:

- To provide information for **a report**

### Aim of the report:

- To **support FP7 multipliers in Europe and Russia**
  - Raising of understanding and competence
  - **Raising of capacity to consult and support researchers in Russia and Europe wishing to establish EU-Russian RTD contacts and cooperation**



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## A surprisingly good participation in the online survey

An online survey and semi-structured interviews to collect  
**views and experiences of researchers**

### **104 respondents to the online survey**

- 38 European respondents
- 66 Russian respondents

### **46 semistructured interviews**

- 17 European researchers interviewed
- 29 Russian researchers



## Successful researchers sharing experiences

### **EU: 89,2% of projects accepted for funding**

- 54,2% - FP6 projects
- 22,9% - INTAS projects
- 22,9% - TEMPUS, TACIS, bilateral programmes

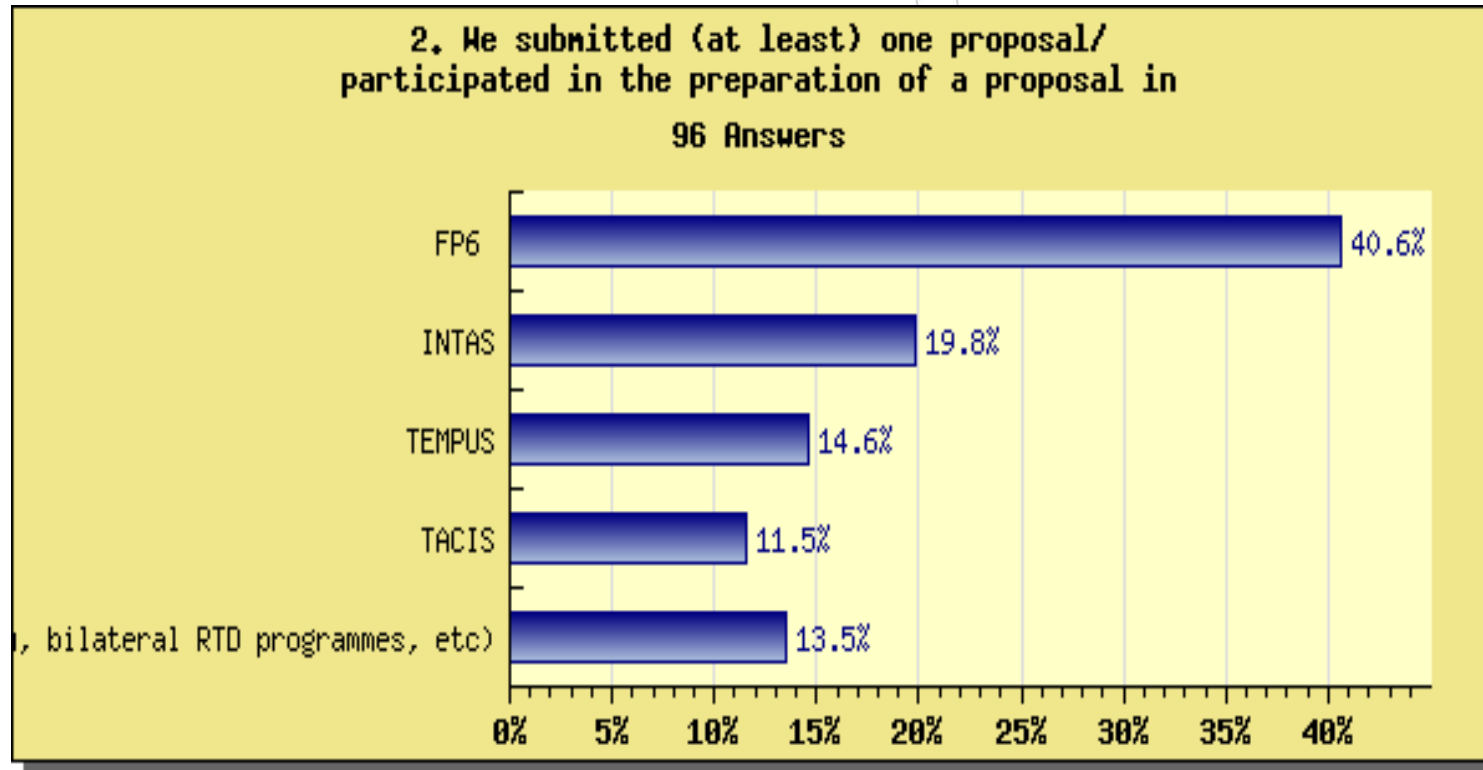
### **RF: 71,2% of projects accepted for funding**

- 40,6% - FP6 projects
- 19,8% - INTAS
- 39,6% - TEMPUS, TACIS, bilateral programmes

**...up-to-date experiences collected**



## Which funding programmes? Russia



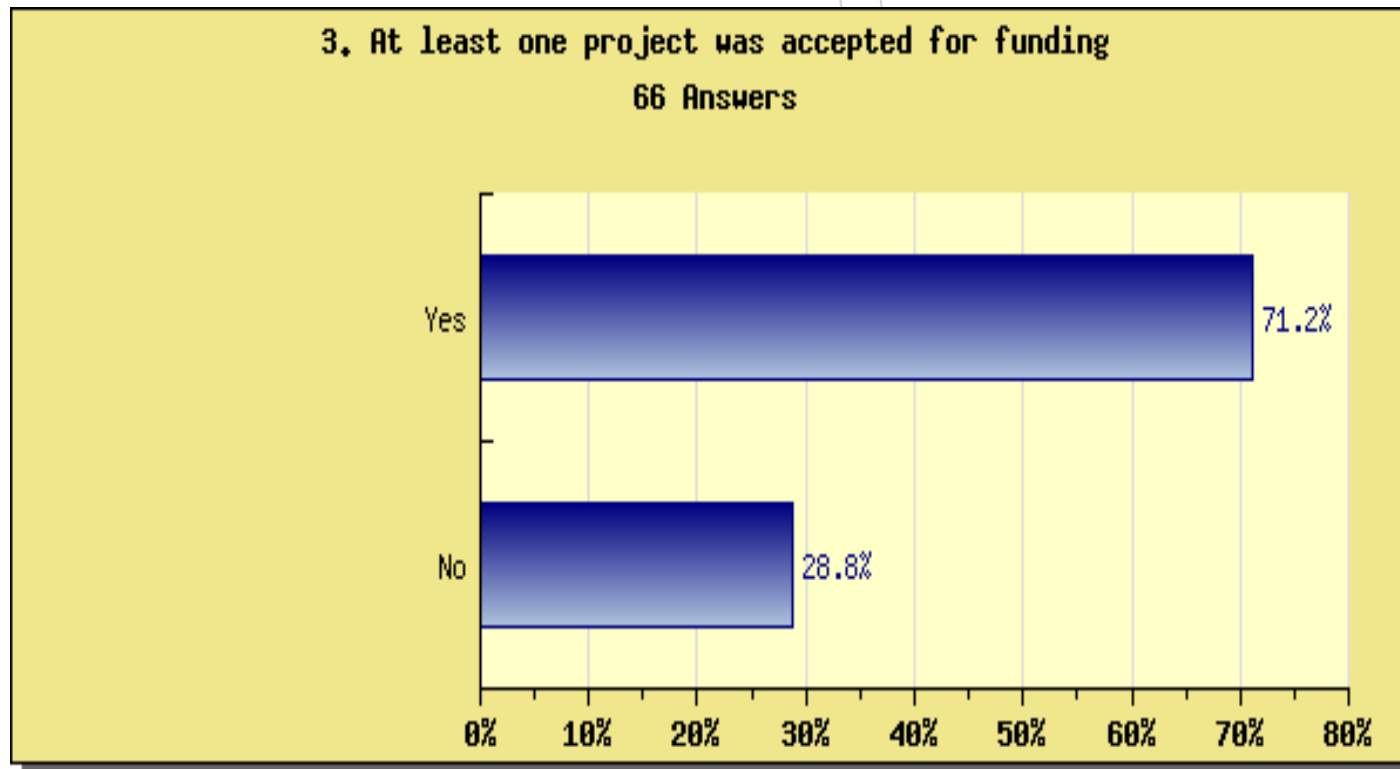


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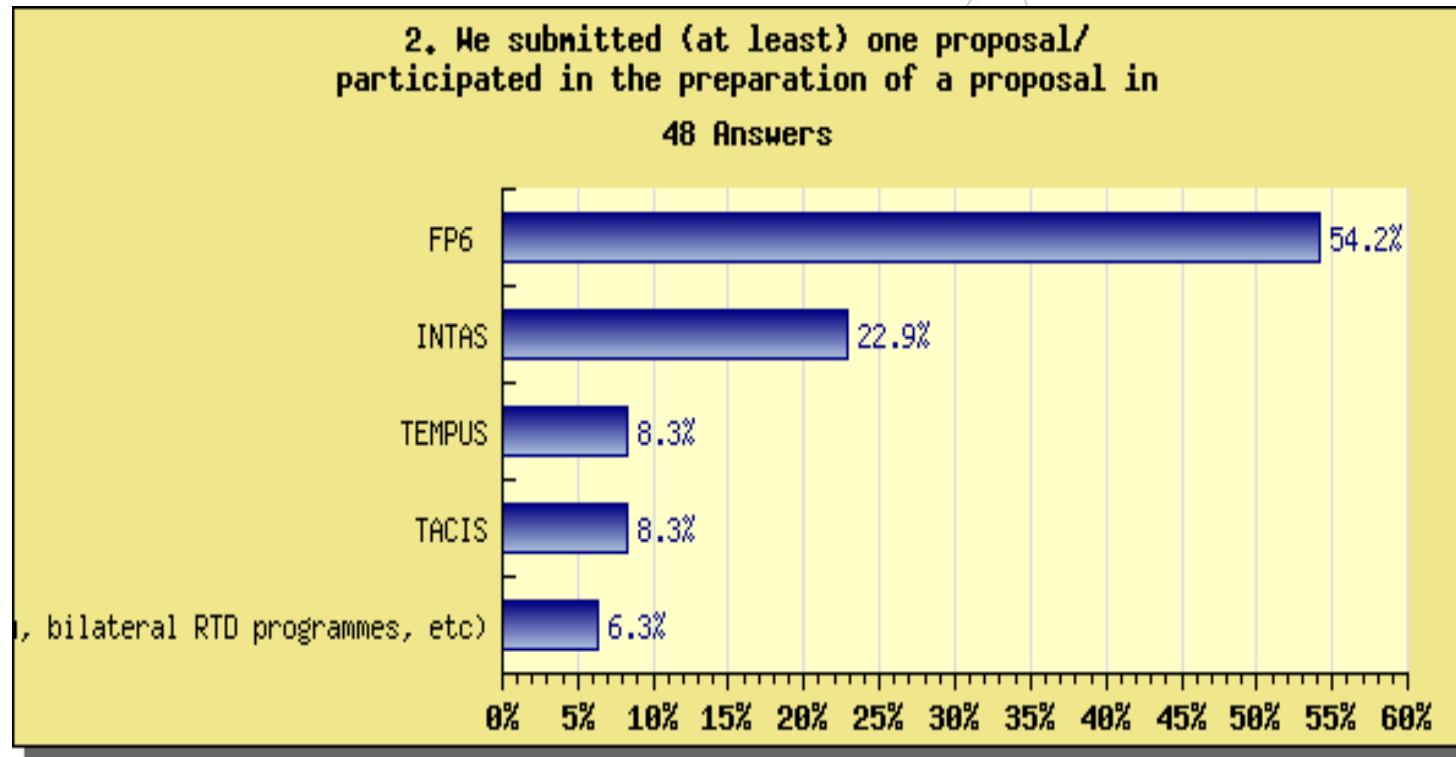
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**...with 71,2% of Russian respondents being successful**





## Which funding programmes? Europe

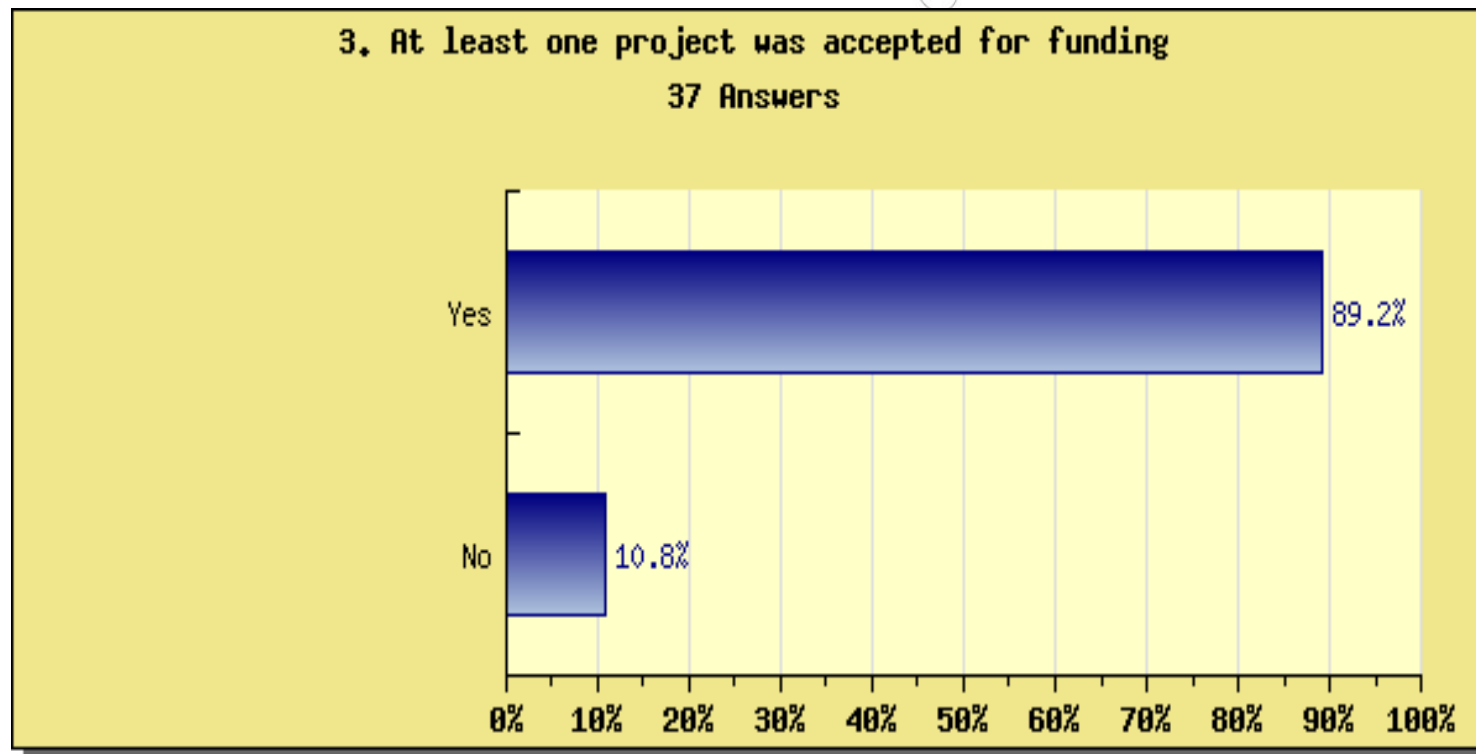




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**...with 89,2% of European respondents being successful**





## Findings: High esteem for Russian colleagues

### European respondents value

- high esteem for the scientific contribution of Russian colleagues
  - „Russian groups are outstanding because of the big number of excellent researchers participating.“
- excellent quality of human relationships
  - „Personal relationships work very well. They are easy going and warmhearted people.“
- existing contacts well exploited
- reliability of Russian colleagues
- native Russian researchers located in Europe a precious HR



## **Findings: A need for information, support and communication**

### **European respondents regret**

- A lack of transparency and information on Russian RTD
- Partners search without previous contacts a challenge
- A considerable language barrier
- Signature of documents in English sometimes a challenge
- Significant barriers to mobility/a lack of pre-/interim financing of mobility in Russia
- Transfer and controlling of EC-funding sometimes a challenge
- Insufficient reliability of the Russian post services
- costly and time-consuming visa requirements
- Sometimes at universities restricted access of researchers to the Internet



## **Findings: Awareness of benefits of international cooperation**

### **Russian respondents value**

- New opportunities for the exchange of S&T information and methods
- International recognition in established professional circles
- Incentives to change a way of thinking
- A better self-assessment
- Additional funding, possibilities to purchase equipment

**The impact of participation in EC-funded projects experienced stronger by Russian respondents than by their European colleagues!**



## Findings: A need for best practise models

### Russian respondents regret

- Insufficient knowledge of English
- Insufficient networking into the European research community
- Lack of information about consortia under formation
- Limited experience with proposal writing and projectmanagment
- Insufficient support with EC-funding programmes
- Difficult relationships of researchers with their own institution
- Deficiencies of the money transfer system
- Remote geographical locations challenging close contacts to Europe



## Cultural differences?

### European respondents experience

- Russian partners contained at the beginning, but quickly casual and easy going
- No particular differences on an individual level, but rather on an institutional level, if at all
- Russian researchers keen on delivering good results, but exact information on what they are expected to do is required
  - a stronger need to provide guidance
- Russian researchers sometimes not asking for additional clarifications
- A different style of writing and presenting proposals and reports
- Limited freedom of decision-making of researchers



**...it is worthwhile to cooperate with Russian partners!**

## **European respondents recommend to European colleagues**

- Visit your Russian colleagues
- Ensure good personal relationships
- Show hospitality
- Be openminded for partners outside Moscow and St. Petersburg
- Specify and explain in detail what you want
- Care for clear structures and contact persons
- Care for an effective Consortium Agreement
- Show respect and be patient when explaining EC-rules
- Take visa requirements into consideration
- Take the committment of the institution into account



**... not too much reference towards Europe, but also no arrogance!**

## **European respondents recommend to Russian colleagues**

- Be proactive and responsive
- Be well prepared before contacting European partners, care for 'real S&T complementarity'
- Look for a professional coordinator
- Create WIN-WIN situations with your partners
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Make detailed workplans for yourself
- Make sure your own institution is supportive
- Try to mediate between EC-rules and your own administration
- Make sure EC-funding is used as stated in the contract



## Summary of main findings:

- EU-Russian S&T cooperation successful and of mutual benefit
- Good exploitation of existing contacts
- Guidance, clear structures and technical specifications ensure good S&T results
- Insufficient networking of Russian researchers into the EU-research community
- Partner search without previous contacts a challenge for both sides
- A considerable language barrier
- Money transfer and controlling sometimes a challenge
- A need for training and support on project management and proposal writing

**More information, support and mobility required to take advantage of the full potential**



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## **A report to encourage EU-Russian RTD cooperation in FP7**

### **Content of the final version of the report:**

- More details about the findings of the survey
- Background information for Russian and European researchers
- Information about recent developments in EU-RU RTD cooperation encouraging cooperation
- Conclusions and recommendations

### **Target groups:**

- FP7-multipliers and NCP's in Europe and Russia
- any researcher interested in EU-Russian RTD cooperation

### **How to receive the report?**

[http://rp7.ffg.at/ruseraexe\\_trainingcourse](http://rp7.ffg.at/ruseraexe_trainingcourse)

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**Contact:**

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