

Experience for Franco-Russian cooperation in Education and RTD at the French Embassy in Moscow (2000-2004)

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- Sources : French Embassy in Moscow
site : www.ambafrance.ru

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Four departments are concerned by these fields at the French Embassy in Russia :

- The Science, Technology and Space Department (in French, SSTE)
- The academic cooperation in Education : The Department of Cultural Activity and Cooperation (in French, SCAC)
- Nuclear Cooperation : the Nuclear Department
- Economic cooperation : The Economic Mission (in French, ME)

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The Science, Technology and Space Department (in French, SSTE) was created in 2001

Science : 2 types of cooperations :

- The Franco-Russian Jointed Laboratories (FRJL) : 9 FRJL exist today
- The Franco-Russian Research Networks (FRRN) : 10 FRRN exist today

Technology :

- Creation of a Franco-Russian network of Innovation Centres

Space :

- Cooperation between the French company CNES, the European EADS company and Russian institutional space centers and Russian space industrial enterprises

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-The Franco-Russian Jointed Laboratories : 9 exist today.

Examples :

- 1) Poncelet Laboratory (Mathematics), created in 2002, CNRS / Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and the Independent University of Moscow
- 2) Jointed laboratory on Catalysis Chemistry, created in 2004, CNRS Lyon / RAS Novosibirsk
- 3) « Non-linear magneto-acoustics in condensed matter », created in 2004, CNRS and university of Lille / RAS Moscow (General Physics Institute of Moscow)
- 4) « Physics of the coherent electronic states in condensed matter », created in 2004, CNRS Grenoble / RAS Moscow (Radio-electronic engineering Institute)

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-The Franco-Russian Research Networks : 10 exist today

Examples :

- 1) « **YAK AEROSIB** » created in 2003, works on systematic observations of CO, O3 and CO2 atmospheric sources. RAS Moscow, Tomsk, Krasnoyarsk
- 2) « **Lasers and optical technics of information** » created in 2003. RAS Moscow, Troïtsk, Novosibirsk, St Petersburg
- 3) « **SupraChem** » created in 2005, works on biological supermolecular systems, self organization. RAS, Kazan, Moscow, Novosibirsk, St Petersburg
- 4) « **Vostok** » created in 2004, works on icebiology and paleoclimate in the Russian station « Vostok » in Antartica. RAS St Petersburg, Moscow, Kazan, Russian federal service for hydrometeorology and environment

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Technology : Creation of a [network of Franco-Russian Innovation Centres](#) in 2002 ([RFR](#))

-RFR is a tool establishing technological partnerships between France and Russia. The RFR database contains [technological offers and technological requests](#) from Russian and French companies and R&D organizations.

-Two organizations are members of RFR :

-[French Innovation Relay Centres](#) (IRC) coordinated by [Oseo Anvar Innovation](#)

-[Russian Technology Transfer Network](#) (RTTN) coordinated by the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises ([FASIE](#)).

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Technology : Examples of Technology Transfer Centres :

- Technology Transfer Centre of Moscow : French Group of Ecoles Centrales (Lyon, Paris, Marseille) / State University Bauman of Moscow
- Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre of St Petersburg : University of Franche-Comté (Besançon) / Aerospace State University of St Petersburg (GUAP)

Thematical cooperations : Biotechnologies, Nanotechnologies & Nanomaterials, Optoelectronics are the priority thematics of the Franco-Russian technological cooperation

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The Arcus Cooperation Program

3 Arcus projects exist between Regions of east of France and Russia :

- 1) « **New materials and environment** » (2006-2008) : Region Lorraine / ~ 10 Institutes of RAS Moscow, ~ 15 Russian universities among which are Moscow State University for Metals and Alloys, Moscow State University for Chemistry « Mendeleev »
- 2) « **Supramolecular Chemistry and Biotechnologies** » (2007-2009) : Region Alsace / Physical Chemistry Institute of Moscow, Arbuszof Institute of Kazan, Radium Institute of St Petersburg, Biological Chemistry Institute of Novosibirsk, Oncological Institute of Kiev
- 3) « **Green Chemistry and separative processes** » : This last project is in preparation. Partners : Region Bourgogne, CEA Air Liquide / State University of Moscow « Lomonosov », RAS Physical Chemistry Institute

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The Department for Cultural Activity and Cooperation (in french, SCAC)

The Franco-Russian Cooperation in Education takes place in this department :

It presents several axis :

- Cooperation Agreements between French and Russian universities : more than 400 agreements of that kind exist today
- Franco-Russian joint programs : More than 40 different programs
- Promotion for studying in France : 6 offices and 35 information desks of the CampusFrance Agency exist in Russia (total number of Russian students in France : 2 700 in 2005)
- Government grants for studying in France : about 400 scholarships per year for a budget of more than 1M€

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The Department for Cultural Activity and Cooperation (SCAC)

- Russian and French Academic exchanges of researchers and professors : about 70 per year
- French language in Russian universities: promotion and support : 305 000 Russian students learn French (for 5 947 000 students in the whole Russia) with 3, 410 French professors.
- The Franco-Russian Center for research in social and human sciences in Moscow (INION RAS / CNRS)
- In 2003, France and Russia signed an agreement of a mutual acknowledgment of the academic degrees of doctorate and kandidat nauk

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Examples of Franco-Russian joint programs :

- 1) Double Master « Top Industrial Managers for Europe » (Bauman University of Moscow, University for radio electronics and automatism of Moscow / Ecoles Centrales)
- 2) Bachelor and Master degrees in Economy and Management (FINEC St Petersburg / University Grenoble 2, University Paris Dauphine)
- 3) Medical Specialities Internship (Grenoble Hospital / Medicine University of Irkoutsk)
- 4) Double Diploma in Oil Management (Moscow University Gubkin / French Institute of Oil)

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Personal Experience

How to cooperate with success in Russia ?

- you'd better speak the language fluently
- establish with your Russian counterparts a real partnership based on trust
- be ready to help them first, before expecting them to help you in return
- accept personal invitations such as lunches, dinners or even saunas : the best agreements I came to, were at « saunas ceremonies » with men Russian counterparts
- conform to their tradition of toasting guests by « ritual speeches », everybody in his turn, which is a « must » and even an « art »
- Once they have established a trustful relationship with you, they will do their best to cooperate warmly, in their so typical deep-rooted Russian attitude

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Personal Experience

In Russia, a foreigner will be confronted to two kinds of behaviour :

- either an attitude of suspicion, coming from a relic of soviet times, in that case it would be very difficult for them to cooperate
- or a true openmindedness, that will help you a lot

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Personal Experience

In that respect, these 2 typical Russian attitudes have been observed in turn all along the relationships of Russia with European countries :

- either a deliberate non-involvement attitude, which led to shut up the country, as during the Soviet Union period
- or an unconditional overture attitude (at the times of Peter the Great, or Catherine the Great), which resulted in a mutual enrichment of both Russian and European cultures

Actually, historically and culturally speaking, Russian culture has a lot of common with the European one, and they both are indeed very close

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Conclusion

It is acknowledged that :

- Russian people have a high academic standard of education
- The scientists and students are often extremely talented and highly skilled
- They do master the highest level in the field of experimental and technical activities in RTD

I would advice you to co-operate more with Russians for the benefit of both Europe and Russia !