



FFG

RUSERA EXE Handbook for Russian and European researchers and RTD managers

International scientific and research seminar:
FP7 and international cooperation

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Overview of the presentation

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





Background and rationale: a survey in RU and EU

Aims of the survey

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

Purpose of the survey:

- To provide information for **a report/ handbook**

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**



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

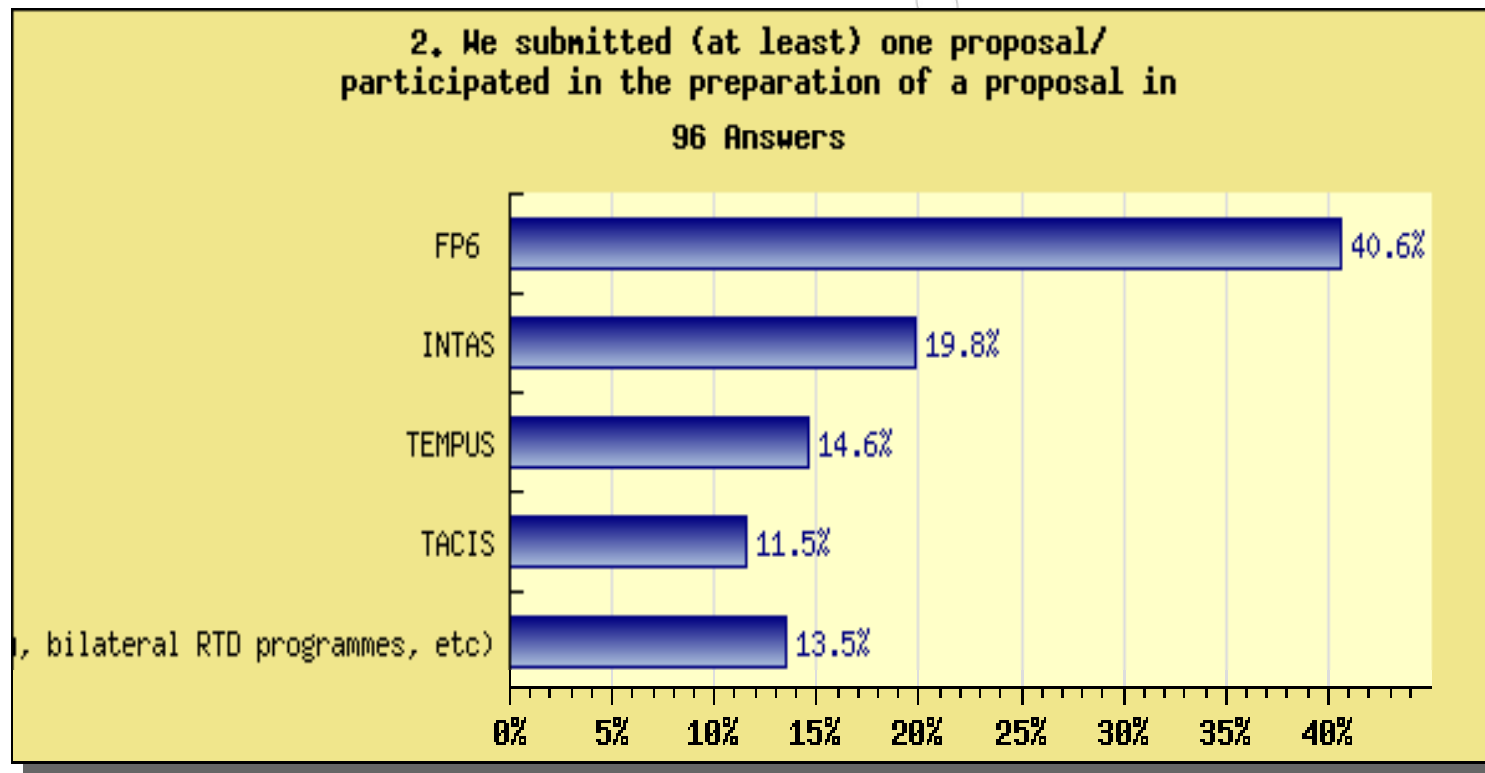
RF: 71,2% of projects accepted for funding

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

...up-to-date experiences collected

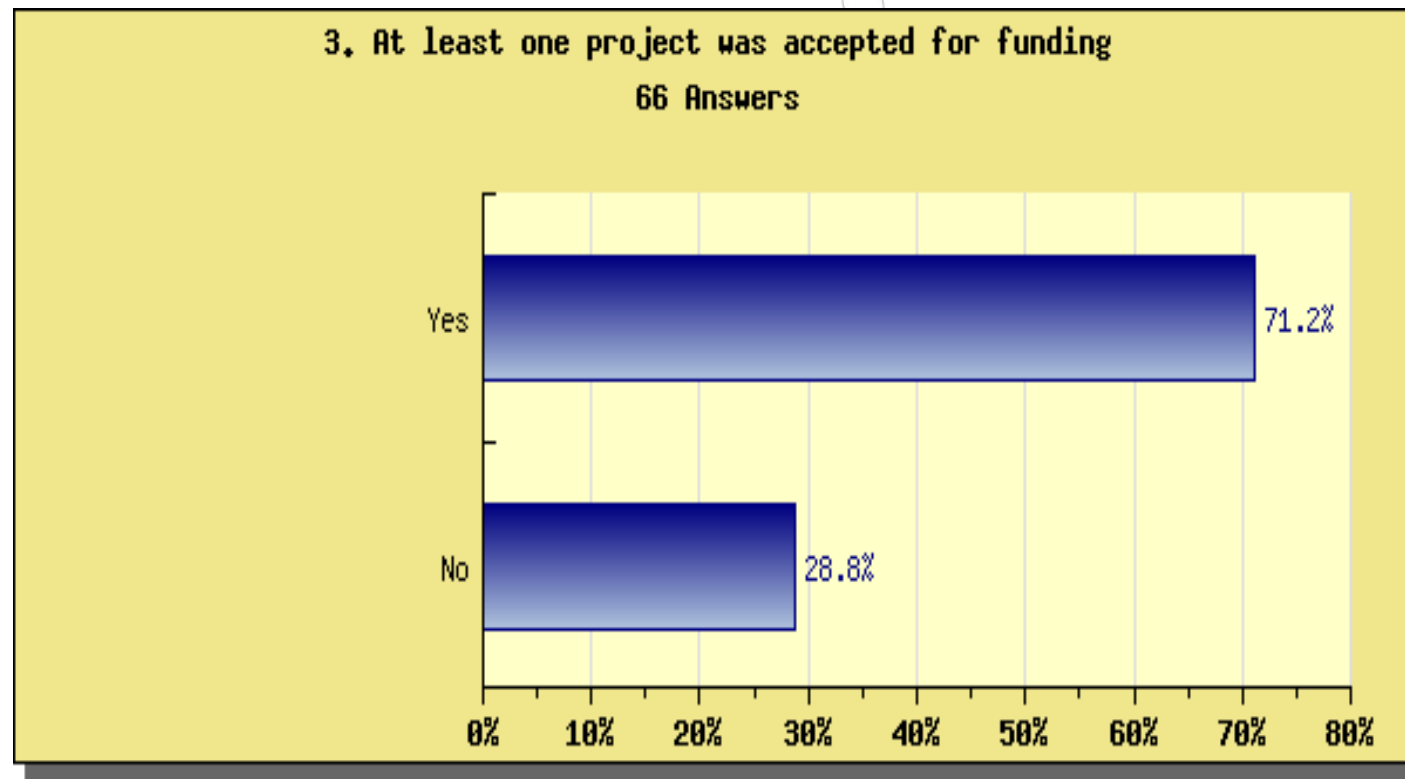


Which funding programmes? Russia



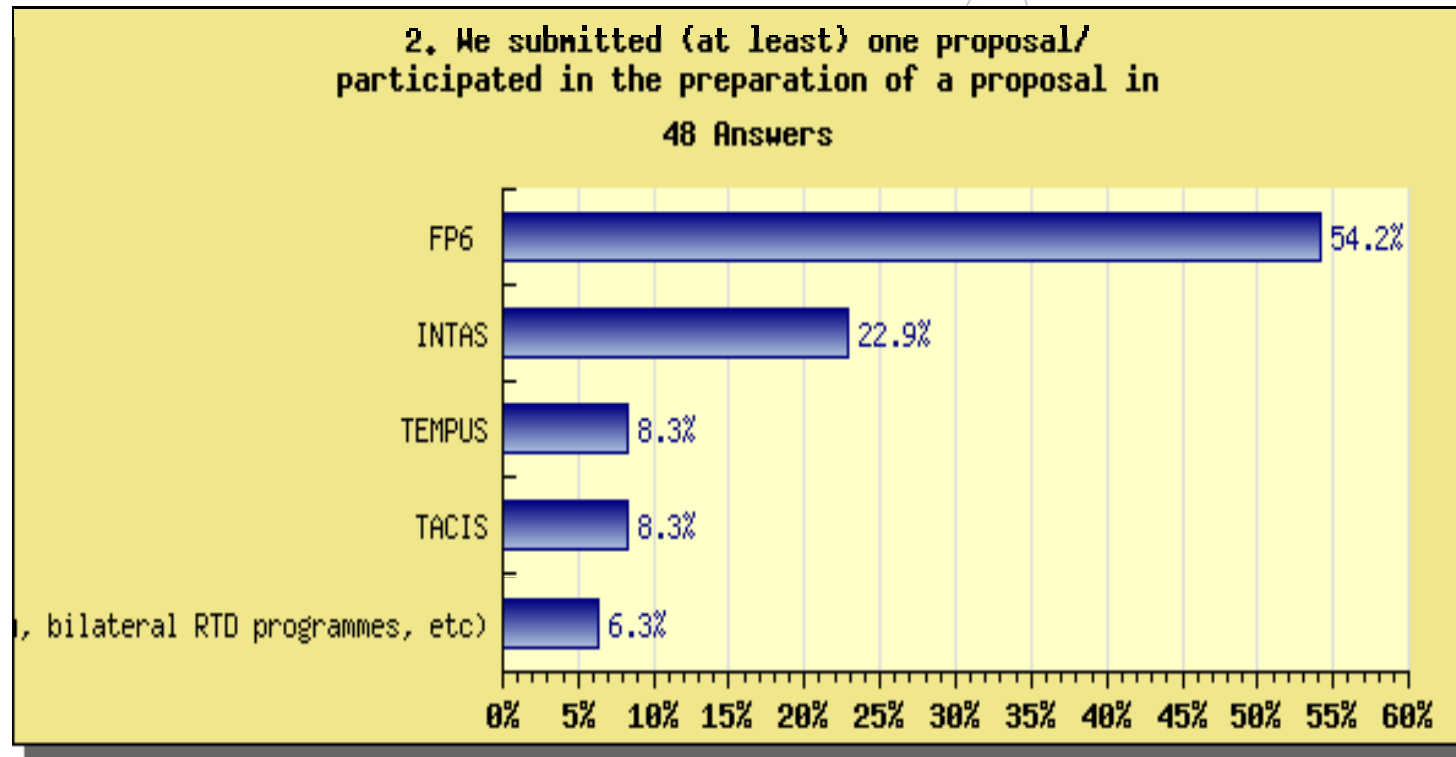


...with 71,2% of Russian respondents being successful



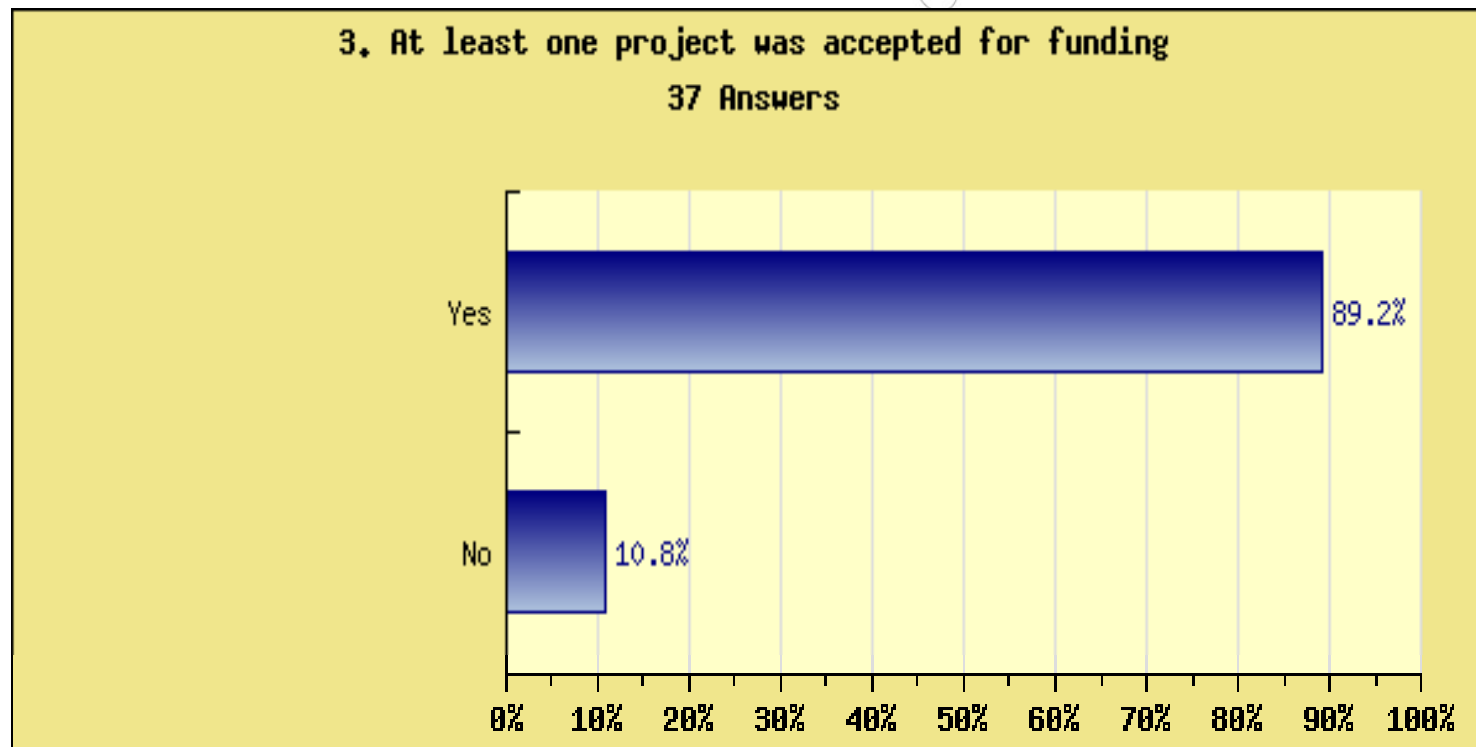


Which funding programmes? Europe





...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 provide highly appreciated support to EU-coordinators



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 use 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 project management
- Insufficient support with EC-funding programmes
- Difficult relationships of researchers with their own institution
- Deficiencies of the money transfer system
- Remote geographical locations challenging the maintenance of 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



... 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-Russia 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



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
- Key messages and conclusions

Target groups:

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

How to receive the report?

<http://www.rusera-exe.ru>



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