# **European Union Financing Opportunities for Cultural Cooperation**

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The European Commission’s EuropeAid cooperation office manages EU external cooperation programmes and ensures that assistance is delivered worldwide. Main mission of the office is to implement the Commission’s external aid instruments, both those funded by the Union’s budget and the European Development Fund. To ensure coherence, complementarity and coordination in implementing external assistance programs worldwide, EuropeAid works in close collaboration with its various partners (civil society, international organisations, EU institutions and governments of EU member States).

In line with the European Union decision to manage the financial cooperation with the Neighborhood Countries through EuropeAid programmes, also the Russia financial cooperation falls under the management of the Office. The EU has a comprehensive cooperation with Russia for 20 years. Financial cooperation with Russia began in the early 1990s, under the then TACIS program. Pursuing the aim to make external aid process more efficient, in 2005 European Commission and all the EU Member States signed a Declaration on aid effectiveness in Paris. Russia is also a signatory of the Paris Declaration as a donor country. Following this, European Commission started to work on getting into those goals. One of the most important and visible change was that it came down from over thirty instruments reserved for external cooperation to ten instruments.

Currently, the framework for relations with Russia is a Strategic Partnership based on Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, concluded in 1994, and its reinforcement in the form of Four Common Spaces, agreed in Summit in St. Petersburg in 2003, covering the following areas of cooperation:

1. The [Common Economic Space](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/common_spaces/economic_en.htm), covering economic issues and the environment
2. The [Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/common_spaces/fsj_en.htm);
3. The [Common Space of External Security](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/common_spaces/external_security_en.htm), including crisis management and non-proliferation;
4. The [Common Space of Research and Education](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/common_spaces/research_en.htm), including **cultural aspects**.

Financial cooperation is now carefully targeted to meet the objectives defined in the road maps to the Common Spaces, agreed in Moscow in 2005. Cooperation is carried out on the basis of co-financing by the EU and Russia.

Funding is sourced mainly from the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which is a common financial instrument for the European Union Neighbourhood countries and since 2007 has replaced the cooperation programs TACIS (for the Eastern European countries) and MEDA (for the Mediterranean countries) and certain other instruments. The main purpose is to abolish dividing lines in Europe and its vicinity and to create an area of shared objectives, stability and prosperity, enhanced cooperation and deeper economic and regional integration by covering a wide range of cooperation areas, including cultural cooperation. The overall allocation for the ENPI instrument amounts to almost €12 billion for the seven-year period 2007-2013.

For this period under the ENPI several Regional Strategy Papers (RSPs) for the Eastern Region (including the Russian Federation), Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Interregional and Cross-Border Cooperation were developed. The “Eastern Regional Program Strategy Paper 2007 – 2013” is intended to complement the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and National Indicative Programme (NIP) produced for each country in the region. The Strategy papers set the overview of all priorities and the related national, regional and cross-border indicative programmes define the details about target areas for cooperation. The principles of the bilateral country cooperation are agreed with the Russian Government and the annual programmes, following the Indicative Programmes, are approved by EU Member States. They set out respectively allocations for cooperation with the Russian federal authorities, with a number of countries in the region and for cooperation between local authorities and civil society on either side of the Russia-EU border.

The RSPs are followed by Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes for the period of 2007 -2010. The “Russian Federation Indicative Programme 2007 – 2010”, under which the cooperation with Russia is implemented, is coming to the end in 2010 and then as a result of the review of the cooperation a new way of working for the rest of the strategy will be introduced. Now there is a process of the renewing and reflecting to how the EU is going to cooperate with the Russian Federation in future. There are other new elements. For instance, Russia has made a significant co-financing of programmes that also operate in the European Union territory (Cross-Border Cooperation). It is the first time in history, when the former assistance receiver has started to finance common activities also in the European Union.

Attached to Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes every year the Annual Action Programmes are developed, which include an exhaustive list of specific project areas/activities and budget. So, if you want to establish a projection on what the European Union is about to do in the coming years, it’s a very good idea to start from the strategy. Then you need to go to the multi-annual indicative programme and finally see each year the Annual Action Programme when it’s published. At the moment there is no annual action programme for 2010 published because of renewing our cooperation with Russia. Other funding sources are the thematic assistance programmes concentrating on different issues. A good way to obtain information on the cooperation is to contact the EU Delegation in Moscow: http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu .

I would like to provide some more details on our cooperation. At the moment, there are still over 400 open contracts running in Russia under the TACIS Programme. Some of them are projects where the actual project activities are ended, but there may be a final report coming out et cetera. This is a significant amount - we still have TACIS programme operating in the level of over 312 ml. Euro. As already mentioned above, there is new ENPI programme replacing the TACIS Programme. The few projects that have started are already calculated there. However, in the renewing of our cooperation instruments the last annual programme for 2006 under the TACIS was signed in 2007 and the projects activities will still continue until the end of 2013.

The ENPI is our new child. The Commission decided that external relations toward the immediate neighborhood will be treated with the special attention and this attention will require also an instrument for actions. For the first time in indicative programme period 45 million from 2007 to 2010 were programmed. These are significant decrees in the need for financing or financial cooperation. As it was mentioned above, Russia is not backing for assistance and the approach is in cooperation as partner. Now there is the experience of significant coherences as well. The bulk of the programmes are managed by the EU Delegation, which is an important notion, as delegation is always a first and the best contact point in obtaining information in Russia and also in most cases outside of Russia.

The Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBPP), which also envisages the “culture window” (2007 – 2009, € 2 million/year), has been financed from the ENPI bilateral annual programme for Russia. ENP instrument also finances regional and interregional programmes. The programmes for similar needs for the region in the Neighborhood East have been identified. In addition there are inter-regional programmes that also include countries from the Neighbourhood South. This would be the programmes, where the participation of the education and culture are presently being studied, including direct inter-regional-led programmes. The regional programme also has financed the 'Media' programme. At the moment there is a process of redefining the ways of financing and the possibility to finance these programmes. There are several fabulous examples on how a project finally turns into life. And earlier we had examples of these IBPP financed cultural projects. This programme is aimed at strengthening the civil society and in this case working in culture. It always has the European Union dimension in a form of cooperation with European Union Member State partner. For the “culture window” there was a financing of 6 million, and the European Union or European Commission’s approach is always to make pushing intervention in the beginning for some action that will then sustainably fly forward. The principle of our programmes is never to stay in place and continue forever with the funding. We want to give the impulse in the beginning and then upgrade to a new form, because the environment is also changing. Overall 18 projects worth 100 000 - 300 000 Euro have been financed and the call for proposals of 2009 year was closed in the end of October 2009 by the EU Delegation in Moscow. According to evaluation, roughly 80 proposals can get started. More information on the projects that will be selected can be found on the website: http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/en/p\_634.htm

What was meant in the beginning of the instrument for the neighborhood to become the spine and the backbone of all cooperation is the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme? Obviously this is strong European Union interest, because it is focusing on the borders of the European Union, mainly land borders. There are also sea-crossing and sea-basin programmes, but Russia is only participating to five land border programmes - Kolartic-Russia, Karelia-Russia, South-East-Finland-Russia, Estonia-Latvia-Russia and Lithuania-Poland-Russia (so-called Kaliningrad Programme). Russia's participation to later join the Baltic Sea programme is under enquiry. What is essential, that all these five cross border cooperation programmes include important cultural component. Also the over-all financing is significant − 438 ml. Euro. Obviously, this is not all for culture, but available for regional development in times of economic crisis, when the governments may find it challenging to fund activities of these kinds alone by themselves. The EU financing is 267 ml. Euro, the Member States are bringing another 67 ml. and the Russian final contribution is just under 104 ml. That is a significant funding, and this has shown the legal way for co-financing activities by both sides of the EU border. These programmes are managed by the Joint Management Authorities placed in the European Union participating Member States. This means that the European Commission is not participating actively in the management of the projects. For instance, the Kaliningrad Programme Joint Management Authority would be the Ministry of Regional Development in Warsaw. Specific defined regions and cultural actors registered in these regions can only participate.

It is also worth to mention the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture. This is the new partnership that is only about to start and, therefore, in the course of the mid-term programmes review we are looking for the ways for the European Union funding of this partnership. It will be a cultural partnership between the Northern Dimension Countries (including Russia) operating in all the participating countries, and, therefore, the potential co-financing aspects have now already been tested through the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. We just have to see what the modalities will be and then come up with financing mechanism.

In addition to the ENPI there are Thematic Programmes that operate everywhere in the world. At the moment, the inclusion of Russia in the “Non-state Actors and Local Authorities” Programme is being studied. This programme will be focused on empowering the cooperation and social influence of non-state actors and local authorities together and also toward the central and regional governments. There will be global calls for the whole world, which are always published by EuropeAid headquarters in Brussels and partially by the Moscow Delegation. Once the decision for potential Russian inclusion would be taken, the EU Delegation in Russia would put forward PR or information activities before a programme coming into line.

Another global Thematic Programme would be “Investing in people”. It has several priorities and, being a bureaucrat, priority number *six* is aimed at culture. It includes promotion of access to local culture, and also other interesting issues for such vast multicultural country like Russia - promotion of cultural diversity and protection of culture. Calls for “Investing people” are always published in EuropeAid alone. How active Russian players have been within the framework of this programme? In 2007 call there was only one proposal coming from Russia, and 2008 call there were four proposals. We believe that this would be something that would give European Commission a reason to promote this potential more. But obviously all instruments of this kind are being discussed and reviewed - how they will serve the action plan for the cultural cooperation and how best target the cultural actors.

In February 2010 a jointly managed programme with the Council of Europe will start as a special measure. We call it the Minorities in Russia and it is targeted at media, cultural skills, cohesion of different Russian ethnic minorities. The call for proposals will be closed in January 2010. The amount dedicated for this programme is € 900 000 on-going (€ 30 000 – 40 000).

The most important thing is that when operating with the European Commission there are several financing methods or instruments that try to comprehensively cover the target, the objectives. More detailed information on the financing of cooperation programmes can be obtained at the following web-sites:

* EuropeAid (ec.europa.eu/[europeaid](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid));
* EC-Russia financial cooperation (http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/russia/russia\_en.htm);
* EC Delegation Moscow ([www.delrus.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/));
* EU-Russia Relations ([ec.europa.eu/external\_relations/russia/index\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/index_en.htm)).

As a conclusion I would like to reinforce the words of the previous author that we like the way: networks bring projects. The European Union general approach is to have multi-country activities. It is also called as the value for money. The more people and actors can be involved the more valuable and more sustainable that approach is.