

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT  
AND  
THE RUSSIAN FOUNDATION FOR BASIC RESEARCH

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (hereinafter referred to as DFG) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (hereinafter referred to as RFBR) have agreed to cooperate in supporting joint scientific projects (JSP) developed and executed by the researchers from Russia and Germany.

**Article I**

JSP cover all recognized branches of fundamental research, including humanities and social sciences.

**Article II**

The cooperation may include the following bilateral activities:

- a) supporting of joint research projects conducted by scientists of both countries;
- b) supporting of joint seminars, symposia and other scientific meetings;
- c) supporting of German-Russian International Graduate Colleges (Internationale Graduiertenkollegs – IGK)
- d) supporting of German-Russian Collaborative Research Centres with long-term cross-disciplinary research programmes (Sonderforschungsbereiche – SFB)
- e) other cooperative activities as may be mutually agreed upon.

**Article III**

JSP to be carried out should meet the following requirements:

- all collaborative activities must be of high scientific standard and beneficial to the advancement of science.
- each collaborative activity should be significant, from a scientific point of view, and as a project for bilateral cooperation, performed on a basis of mutuality and equality.
- scientists of each country shall participate in their capacity as individuals.

**Article IV**

Generally, the initiative for and the planning of collaborative activities shall be taken by scientists who are interested in such cooperation.

#### **Article V**

JSP shall be implemented in conformity with the Joint Guidelines that are to be established by the two sides.

#### **Article VI**

JSP are subject to the budgetary appropriations available to each side and the applicable laws and regulations of each side.

#### **Article VII**

This MoU shall be valid for a period of five years and shall subsequently extend thereafter annually, unless a written notice of termination has been given by either side six months in advance. Termination of this MoU will not affect JSP already approved jointly or in progress in order to finish it in due time.

#### **Article VIII**

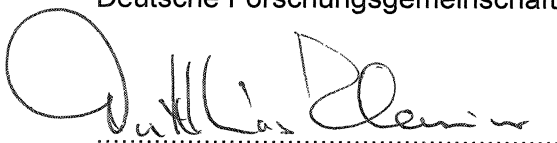
This MoU shall come into force when signed by the representatives of the two agencies and after official approval by their respective governing bodies.

#### **Article IX**

This MoU may be amended by mutual agreement of the two sides.  
This MoU is documented in two originals in English, both texts being equally valid.

Moscow, February 29, 2012

On behalf of the  
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft



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Prof. Dr. Matthias Kleiner  
President of DFG

On behalf of the  
Russian Foundation for Basic Research



.....  
Academician Vladislav Y. Panchenko  
Chairman of the RFBR Science Council

JOINT GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT (DFG)  
AND  
THE RUSSIAN FOUNDATION FOR BASIC RESEARCH (RFBR)

In accordance with the Article V of the MoU the following Joint Guidelines are agreed upon between the DFG and the RFBR to provide methods of implementation of the Program referred to in the MoU.

## **I. Forms of Cooperation**

### I.1. Joint Research Projects

The duration of a joint Research project is normally up to three years. However, extension may be granted, if deemed appropriate. Joint research projects are carried out, in principle, by two research teams, one of each side.

### I.2. Joint Seminars, Workshops, Symposiums

Small scale meetings for a period of up to one week like seminars, workshop and symposiums are held in either Germany or Russia with participation of up to ten scientists from each side including one organizer. An extension of a stay for a scientific purpose can be arranged by mutual consent and if additional funding is available.

### I. 3. German-Russian International Graduate Colleges (Internationale Graduiertenkollegs – IGK)

The DFG has established the program of IGKs in order to promote doctoral researchers. The RFBR has joined the program of IGKs in order to promote fundamental research carried out by young scientists. The German-Russian IGKs are aimed to encourage bilateral scientific collaboration between German and Russian universities and research institutes involving graduate and postgraduate (doctoral) researchers. They offer doctoral researchers an extended (app. six to twelve months) period of research work at the respective foreign partner's site and also a joint supervision of their theses. Each IGK has its own research program designed and implemented jointly by its participants from the respective German and Russian university or research institute. The doctoral researchers work under the supervision of the principal investigators (PIs) in small teams on research projects coordinated within the research program of the IGK. Criteria for approving of a new IGK include scientific excellence of the individual research sites as well as mutual benefit from complementary expertise.

## **II. Funding of collaborative activities**

### II. 1. Joint research projects.

Subject to the availability of appropriate funds, each side shall support mobility of its own country's research team by covering its travel fares and living costs, while the receiving side shall provide the visitors with the necessary resources to carry out their joint projects and cover their research costs. In general, the Russian and German researchers' activities will be supported according to the relevant RFBR and DFG rules respectively. When appropriate, other financial arrangements can be agreed on. It is expected that, in addition to above funding to cover the costs of visiting the counterpart's country, participating scientists will obtain research funds in their own country.

#### II. 2. Joint Seminars, Workshops, Symposiums

Generally, the sending side shall support the travel fares and living costs of the participants from its own country, while the receiving side shall support the costs related to the meeting. When appropriate, other financial arrangements can be agreed upon.

#### II. 3. German-Russian International Graduate Colleges

Subject of funding are research projects coordinated within the research program of the IGKs. IGKs are funded for a period of up to nine years. The DFG grants a maximum of two funding periods of 4.5 years each. RFBR offers alternating funding periods of 3 years and after new applications of another 2 years plus 3 years plus 1 year. Both sides fund the projects according to their financial possibilities and rules.

Both sides provide funding for the (post)doctoral researchers, including consumables, small equipment and mobility funds for visits at the respective partner site. In addition, DFG allocates within the IGK program funds for mobility, joint seminars, workshops and symposia. The Russian participants of the IGK are encouraged to submit proposals for additional travel grants, joint seminars, workshops and symposia within the RFBR programmes to promote mobility and research activities of young scientists. Generally, the sending side will assume the international and domestic travel fares and living costs of the doctoral students and the senior researchers participating in the scientific exchange, while the receiving side shall support the research costs, as described in paragraph II.1. When appropriate, other financial arrangements can be agreed upon.

#### II.4. Health Insurance

A sufficient international health insurance is subject to the care of the participating scientists.

### **III. Applications**

Counterpart scientists from the two countries should consult with each other in advance and submit their joint proposal harmonized and simultaneously to their respective institution at any time. Proposals should comply with the formal requirements set forth by DFG and RFBR. The respective proposal guidelines are published on the websites of both DFG and RFBR. The proposals should contain:

- a detailed description of the objectives, methods and cost of research projects/seminars;
- a detailed implementation schedule of seminar topics;
- biographical data and the qualification of the participating scientists.

For establishment proposals for IGKs the application procedure includes the following steps:

- a joint draft proposal (in English, according to DFG guidelines), submitted to DFG by the German and Russian coordinators,
- a joint full proposal (in English, according to DFG guidelines), submitted to DFG and RFBR by the German and Russian coordinators,
- individual proposals (in Russian, according to RFBR guidelines) for the joint research projects, submitted to RFBR by the Russian PIs.

For renewal proposals for IGKs the application procedure includes the following steps:

- individual proposals (in Russian, according to RFBR guidelines) for the joint research projects, submitted to RFBR by the Russian PIs, for renewal after the first 3 years (for another 2 years) of funding,
- a joint renewal proposal (in English, according to DFG guidelines), submitted to DFG and RFBR by the German and Russian coordinators, for renewal after the first 4.5 years of funding.
- individual proposals (in Russian, according to RFBR guidelines) for the joint research projects, submitted to RFBR by the Russian PIs, for renewal after 5 years (for another 3 years) and after 8 years (for the last year) of funding.

#### **IV. Proposal Selection**

Based on peer reviews by the DFG and the RFBR using their normal procedures, the two sides will consult with each other and give their final coordinated approval on pending proposals.

The review process for IGK proposals includes the following steps:

- The draft proposals for establishment of an IGK are subject to review and evaluation by the DFG. In case of a positive evaluation, the applicants are invited to submit a full proposal.
- DFG and RFBR will carry a joint evaluation of the joint establishment proposals and of the joint renewal proposals for renewal after the first 4.5 years of funding. RFBR experts join their DFG counterparts for an on-site evaluation. DFG will reimburse the travel costs of the Russian reviewers for participation in on-site-evaluations in Germany.
- On the basis of the on-site evaluation the DFG Grants Committee on International Graduate Colleges (IGK) decides on the funding of the German side of the IGK.
- In case of approval by the DFG, the Russian PIs of the IGK are invited to submit their individual proposals for their joint research projects for registration and review according to RFBR requirements. On the basis of the on-site evaluation, the RFBR-Board decides on the funding of the Russian side of the IGK. RFBR will implement a mechanism to ensure that the interdependency between the individual proposals will be adequately represented in the evaluation process.

## V. Assistance

Whenever necessary, DFG and RFBR shall offer their assistance in identifying research partners and in establishing contacts.


## VI. Others

Communication with regard to the implementation of the program will be carried out between the DFG Department of International Scientific Relations and the RFBR International Relations Department.

These Guidelines shall come into force when signed by the representatives of the two sides and may be modified by mutual agreement.

Moscow, February 29, 2012

On behalf of the  
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft



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Prof. Dr. Matthias Kleiner  
President of DFG

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Russian Foundation for Basic Research



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