

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENTIFIC 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 continue the successful Programme on Scientific Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Programme).

Article I

The Programme covers all recognized branches of fundamental research, including humanities, social sciences, economics and engineering.

Article II

The Programme includes the following collaborative activities:

- a) supporting of joint research projects conducted by scientists of both countries
- b) supporting of joint seminars, , symposiums, workshops and other scientific meetings
- c) supporting of joint research projects conducted by both countries
in the framework of the programme "International Research Training Groups"
- d) supporting of mobility of young researchers e.g. travel grants for attending seminars, workshops and other scientific events
- e) other cooperative activities as may be mutually agreed upon.

Article III

The collaborative activities to be carried out under the Programme 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 or in case of International Research Training Groups as representatives of institutes or universities.

Article IV

The initiative for and the planning of collaborative activities shall be taken by scientists who are interested in such a cooperation. Applications shall be submitted in accordance with the statutes of the respective universities of the applicants.

Article V

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

Article VI

The Programme is subject to the budgetary appropriations available to each side and the applicable laws and regulations of each side.

Article VII

This Memorandum 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 agreement will not affect activities already approved jointly or in progress under the terms of this Memorandum.

Article VIII

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

Article IX

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

Moscow, 19 .6. 2007

On behalf of the
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

On behalf of the
Russian Foundation for Basic Research

.....
Prof. Dr. Matthias Kleiner
President of DFG

.....
Academician Vladislav Khomich
Chairman of the Board of RFBR

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

In accordance with Article V of the Memorandum of Understanding between DFG and RFBR the Joint Guidelines provide methods of implementation of the programmes between the two sides.

I. Form of Cooperation

(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.

(2) Joint Seminars, Workshops & Symposiums

Joint seminars, workshops, symposiums are held in either Germany or Russia for a period of up to one week. An extension of a scientific stay can be arranged in mutual consent and if additional funding is available. Joint seminars, workshops, symposiums are defined to be small scale meetings comprising one organizer and up to ten participating scientists from each side.

(3) Joint research projects in the framework of the programme International Research Training Groups

German-Russian International Research Training Groups (IRTG) aim to encourage bilateral cooperation in research between Russian and German universities and research institutes conducting graduate programmes.

Joint research projects in the framework of the programme International Research Training Groups focus on a research programme designed and implemented jointly by research groups at a university or scientific institute in Russia and Germany. They provide a coordinated research programme for doctoral students at both locations, offer joint supervision of dissertations and include an extended period of research of the doctoral candidates at the respective partner site, of approximately six to twelve months. Criteria for funding include scientific excellence of the individual research sites as well as mutual benefit from complementary expertise.

The funding periods for joint research programmes within the IRTG are 4.5 years by DFG and 3 years by RFBR. Extensions may be granted when considered appropriate.

(4) Travel grants for young scientists

Travel grants for young scientists are allowed with the aim to integrate them into the international scientific community.

II. Funding of Collaborative Activities

(1) Joint Research Projects

Subject to the availability of funds, each side shall support the travel fares of its own country's research team to the place of work, while the receiving side shall support the living costs of the counterpart's researchers for the duration of their cooperation visit at the partner site. Furthermore, the Russian side will support the research activities of Russian researchers according to the relevant guidelines of RFBR.

When appropriate, other financial arrangements can be agreed on.

It is hoped that, in addition to this funding to cover the costs of visiting the counterpart's country, participating scientists will obtain research funds in their own country.

(2) Joint Seminars, Symposiums, Workshops

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

(3) Joint research projects in the framework of the programme International Research Training Groups

Both Sides fund the projects according to their financial possibilities and rules. Generally the sending side will assume the international and domestic travel fares of the doctoral candidates and the senior researchers participating in the exchange, while the receiving side shall support the living and research costs. Expenses for joint symposia, workshops and meetings of the participants of the projects will be shared according to the guidelines described in paragraph (2). When appropriate, other financial arrangements can be agreed upon.

(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 proposals harmonized and synchronously to their respective institution at any time.

Proposals should comply with the formal requirements set forth by DFG and RFBR. They 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.

Applications for funding of joint research projects in the framework of the International Research Training Groups programme must comply with the Proposal Guidelines published on the websites of both Sides. Pre-proposals for the establishment of International Research Training Groups are submitted only to the DFG. They can be submitted anytime.

IV. Proposal Selection

Based on scientific reviews made independently by each side using their normal procedures, the two sides will consult with each other and give their final approval on pending proposals.

Pre-proposals for the establishment of International Research Training Groups will be reviewed and evaluated by DFG. After a positive review of the preliminary proposal, the applicants are invited to submit a full proposal.

The identical full applications are simultaneously submitted to DFG and RFBR, according to DFG guidelines, in English.

The review process will be accomplished by DFG with participation of Russian experts. In case of a funding decision DFG informs RFBR. The applications from Russian partners are then submitted to RFBR, according to the RFBR guidelines, in Russian..

Jointly evaluation of proposals is intended. DFG shall support the living and travel costs of the experts.

The main criterion for evaluation will be the scientific potential of the proposed cooperation. Young researchers are specially encouraged to submit proposals.

V. Assistance

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

VI. Other Matter

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

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

Moscow, 19.6.2007

On behalf of the
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

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Russian Foundation for Basic Research

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