

## **ENHANCING UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY (EURECA)**

The Enhancing University Research and Entrepreneurial Capacity (EURECA) project, funded by the U.S.-Russia Foundation (USRF), brings together public research universities in Russia and the U.S. to develop new capacities, and new products and services for technology transfer and IP commercialization and collaboration. The EURECA project funded by USRF at 3.34 million, with obligations of 3.1 million from Russia for a two-year pilot, supports high-level, mutually beneficial cooperation in technology transfer – a fundamentally new direction in U.S.-Russian university cooperation. The larger global innovation community has taken note of Russia’s passage in 2009 of enabling legislation, as well as of the government’s substantial financial commitment of \$52 million per university to develop 29 National Research Universities (NRU). EURECA is a catalyst of new mutually beneficial U.S. and Russian initiatives designed to bring products and services to market.

EURECA’s primary goal is to strengthen Russian university capacity in technology transfer, which will enable Russian higher education to participate fully in the marketplace of innovation. Although EURECA is seated squarely in the university domain, its effects will be felt in the economic and social development of Russia and the United States overall. EURECA has the potential to fill the role of an innovation intermediary, bringing together the capacities and needs of those interested in building a cooperative U.S.-Russia innovation sphere.

EURECA implementers American Councils for International Education in the U.S. and New Eurasia Foundation (NEF) in Russia are bringing Russian NRUs into substantial contact with the larger international innovation community and its major networks, while fostering understanding within that international community of the emerging potential for cooperation with Russia. American Councils and NEF are well-grounded in the educational, business and political systems, languages, and developmental cultures of both countries; they are thus well-positioned to support both Russian and U.S. participants in EURECA, and to provide timely analysis of factors affecting project needs, opportunities, and constraints.

The EURECA project creates university partnerships in which two pilot Russian NRUs and four U.S. universities will implement four specific modular projects and follow-on replication programs to benefit all 29 Russian NRUs. Modular activity is focused on building tech-transfer services at universities to serve and integrate internal groups like students and faculty, and to connect the university with investors, industry, and entrepreneurs.

The participants and stakeholders in EURECA share strong interest in the international innovation ecosystem, and in Russia’s inclusion and engagement in this community. Key partners in the effort to maximize the impact of EURECA are the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia, and the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Leading Russian Research Universities (ARU), professional associations such as the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), the National Association of Seed and Venture Funds, Innovation America, and others.

The six institutions participating in the initial EURECA pilot are: University of Nizhny Novgorod (UNN); St. Petersburg Institute of Technology, Mechanics, and Optics (ITMO); Purdue University; University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); and University of Washington (UW).

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