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Abstract	The current report summarizes a continuous consultancy services provided by BelISA mainly for the INP BSU staff but also for some other Belarusian researchers in using the EU funding instruments, setting up consortia and developing proposals for FP7 and other EU-funded programs. The activities described complement the cycle of trainings developed under the Task 3.1 and implemented under the Task 3.2 in May 2011, October 2011 and September 2012 with the overall goal to improve cooperation potential of the INP BSU and assist its staff in integration in the European research area.
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Versioning and Contribution History

Version	Date	Modification reason	Modified by
v.01	23 October 2013	Initial draft report	Olga Meerovskaya, BelISA
v.02	25 October 2013	Editorial comments	Polina Kuzhir, INP BSU
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The target of the constant personalized consulting services provided for the INP BSU by the BelISA is to assist its staff along its way to the FP7 and other EU-funded programs. The assistance is based on the good knowledge by the consultancy provider of the FP7 and the INP BSU strengths and weaknesses.

The consultancy services were provided mostly during the second half of the project, from March 2012 till its end in October 2013 in the form of

- face to face meetings,
- joint brainstorming meetings,
- presentations at workshops and conferences organized by the INP BSU,
- collecting and providing information by email.

The main recipient of consultancy is the INP BSU, however in some cases information and advice were provided for the BYNANOERA consortium members and other Belarus research teams as well.

1 THE OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS

The objectives of the consultancy services are to assist the INP BSU in

- searching for new opportunities for collaboration in the FP7 and beyond,
- identifying suitable partners and setting up consortia, and
- developing applications for FP7 calls.

The consultancy services were provided mostly during the second half of the project, from March 2012 till October 2013.

The list of the main services provided is available in the Annex.

The assistance was delivered in the form of

- face-to-face meetings,
- joint brainstorming meetings,
- presentations at workshops and conferences organized by the INP BSU,
- collecting and providing information by email.

The distribution of different forms is presented in the Figure 1 below.

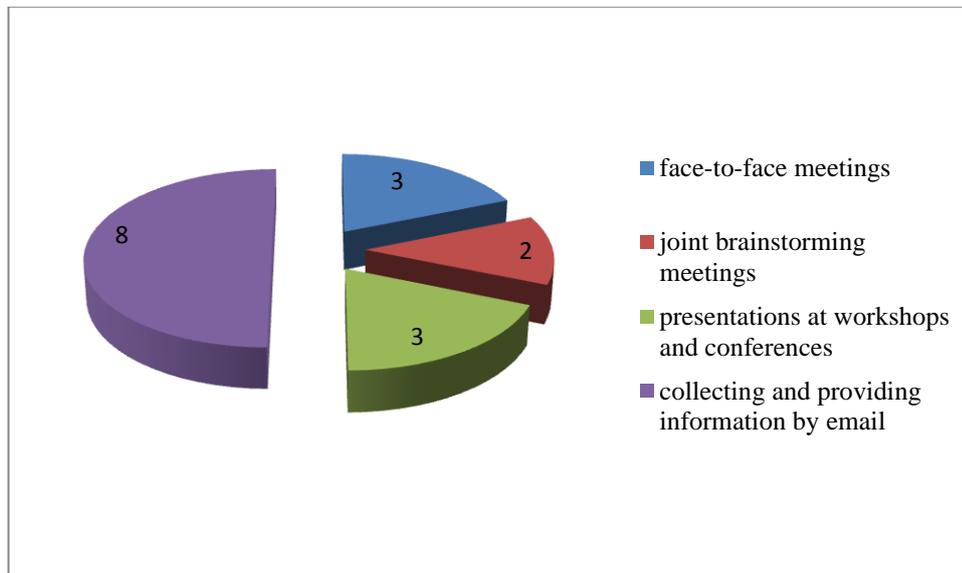


Figure 1 – Distribution of consultancy services by forms.

Altogether, the joint brainstorming sessions (usually in a small group) and face-to-face meetings presented one-third of the total number of activities.

The brainstorming meetings with the INP BSU team leaders were devoted to rather long and serious discussions on the appropriateness of the R2I Call for the current needs of the team, possible composition of the consortium, proposed activities against activities the INP BSU would actually like to be involved in, selection of a societal challenge, etc. The need of the external consultant (BelISA) was caused by the specific goals and activities of R2I which were completely different from typical R&D activities the INP BSU was used to. The final decision to quit was based on a deep analysis of the INP BSU team needs against the conditions and rules for participation of the Call.

The face-to-face meetings were held at the time when 2 different proposals for IRSES Call 2013 (in “People” Programme of the FP7) were developed by Dr Maksimenko (“Carbon-nanotube-based terahertz-to-optics rectenna”, CANTOR) and Dr Kuzhir (“Nano-thin and micro-sized

carbons: Toward electromagnetic compatibility applications”, NAmiceMC). They both actively participated in proposal drafting and asked the BelISA to check some non-research parts of the proposals (transfer of knowledge, input, etc) against the Commission’s evaluation criteria. At the meetings, recommendations and suggestions have been proposed by the BelISA and discussed in depth.

Upon the request of the INP BSU, the BelISA has delivered several presentations at the international events (conferences and workshops) organized by the INP BSU in Belarus and abroad. The main topic of these presentations was a “Horizon 2020”, new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and transition to it from the FP7. Starting with a very generous presentation of H2020 based on the Commission proposal (May 2012), with the time, the content of presentations became more detailed and covered such issues as International Cooperation and provisional topics of the future calls for proposals (October 2013). Naturally, information provided at the events targeted not only the INP BSU staff, but also the other Belarusian research teams and the BYNANOERA consortium partners from the EU-side.

Another important way of supporting the INP BSU was a collecting of information which, in view of the BelISA, could be of interest for the focus team. Such information covered new EU initiatives in nanoscience and nanotechnologies open for third countries, FP7-connected events, bi-lateral calls for proposals with EU MS and EE countries, changes in the rules for participation in COST, etc. All in all, providing this sort of information was aimed to feed the INP BSU staff with the new, “ready to consume” opportunities to increase collaboration in the FP7 and beyond.

As the figure 2 demonstrates, in 56% cases the consultancy was provided upon the request of the INP BSU, while the rest was done at the initiative of the BelISA.

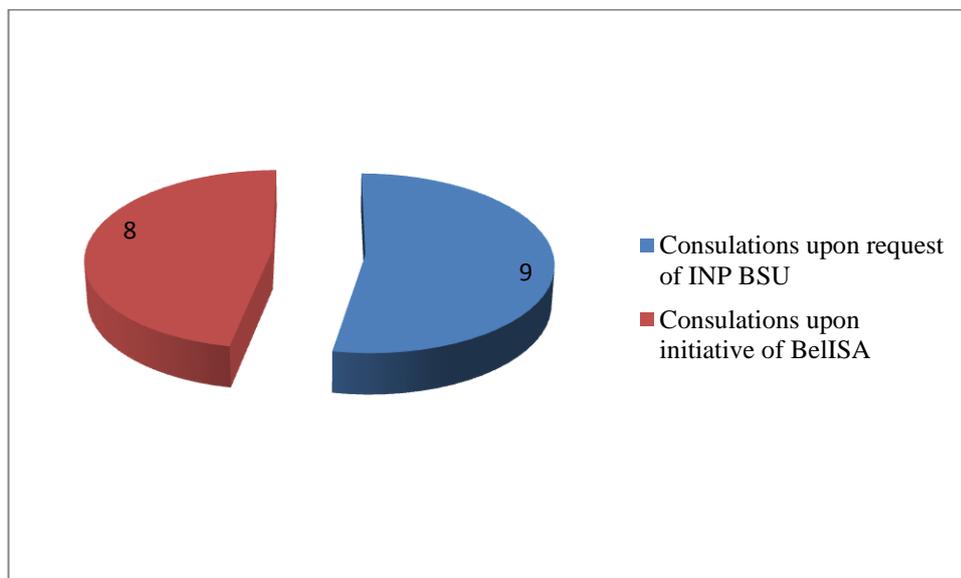


Figure 2 – Consultancy services by source of request.

The main recipient of consultancy is the INP BSU, however in some cases information and advice were provided for the BYNANOERA consortium members and other Belarus research teams.

2 CONCLUSION

The personalized consultancy services provided for the INP BSU within the Task 3.3 contributed to achieving the project goals in terms of enhancement of the INP BSU participation in the FP7 and other EU-supported programs.

3 ANNEX List of the main consultancy services

Date	Topic	Type of services (face to face meeting, presentation at a workshop, providing information by email)	Content	Recipients
28-29 October 2013	INCO in Horizon 2020, provisional topics in nanosciences and materials in the draft Work Programmes “Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies” and “Health, demographic change and wellbeing”	Presentation at the final BYNANOERA workshop Minsk, Belarus	The presentation titled “Horizon 2020: opportunities for international cooperation in nanotechnologies and materials” described how the INCO would be organized in Horizon 2020 (with the reference to the new EU Strategy of INCO. It also showed the niches for nano-researchers and material scientists in different parts of H2020 with a special focus on provisional topics in these areas in the LEIT part of the Programme, and also in the SC “Health, demographic change and wellbeing”. The last was caused by a particular interest of several BYNANOERA partners towards using nanomaterials for drugs delivery.	INP BSU staff, BYNANOERA consortium, representatives of BSU and other Belarus research centers
10 October 2013	EU Graphene Flagship Open Call – is the INP BSU eligible?	Information provided by email	Belarus (INP BSU) as an ICPC is in principle eligible to the call. However, legal entities from third countries may receive funding only in very restrictive cases. The overall recommendations are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) try to apply not as an individual partner (though it’s not forbidden to apply individually), but in a consortium with an experienced and well standing EU partner 2) check the conditions again and in detail after the launch of the call on 25 November 2013 	Polina Kuzhir, INP BSU
1 October 2013	INCO in Horizon 2020, provisional topics in nanosciences and materials in the draft Work Programme	Presentation at the international conference “Nanosciences and nanotechnologies2013”, Frascati, Italy	The presentation titled “From EU Framework Programme 7 to Horizon 2020: opportunities for international cooperation in nanotechnologies and materials” described how the INCO was organized and how it changes from FP6 to FP7 and further to Horizon 2020. It covered the new EU Strategy for international cooperation of September 2012. It also showed the niches for nano-	Participants of the conference, including INP BSU staff and their partners in current FP7 projects from Italy, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia,

	“Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies”		researchers and material scientists in different parts of H2020 and gave an overview of the provisional topics in these areas in the LEIT part of the Programme.	etc.
I September 2013	Revision of the COST rules for participation of 28 June 2013	Information provided by email	In June 2013, COST introduced some measures to increase participation by neighbor countries. Funding for participants from COST Near Neighbor Countries has been increased, and the procedures to allow scientists from these countries to participate in COST Actions have become much faster. The details of the changes have been explained. Taking in mind the first stage proposal to the new COST action submitted by the INP BSU’s partners in September 2012, at the second stage Belarus can be involved from the very setting up of an action.	INP BSU staff
25 June 2013	Information on „NanoBRIDGE“ - German - Russian Nanotechnology Network	Information provided by email	The overall aim of the German-Russian network NanoBRIDGE is to intensify the S&T cooperation in nanotechnology especially in biomedical applications, nanoanalytics and applied nanotechnology. http://www.uni-kassel.de/projekte/owwz-projekte/nanobridge/home.html . The information was provided to the INP BSU for exploring the possibility to join this network and/or think of the similar bi-lateral undertakings with partners from the EU MS with whom the instruments to support INCO exist from both sides (Germany, Italy, France, Latvia, Lithuania, etc). Last but not least, the information was complemented by a comprehensive presentation of the German financial instruments for supporting research and INCO in nanotechnology.	INP BSU staff
20 April 2013	Information about the launch of the Belarusian-Latvian call for research projects for 2014-2015 & rules for participation	Information provided by email	Knowing that the INP BSU has partners in Latvia, the idea was to provide them with the timely and relevant information on the opportunity to apply for funding for a joint research project with their Latvian colleagues. The call is organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia and the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus.	INP BSU staff
13 March 2013	Information about the launch of the Belarusian-Ukrainian	Information provided by email	With a reference to existing partnerships of the INP BSU with Ukraine, this information was provided to stimulate a new joint application to the call organized by the State Agency for Science,	INP BSU staff

	call for research projects for 2014-2016 & rules for participation		Innovation and Informatization of Ukraine and the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus.	
12 February 2013	Information about Lithuanian state scholarship program for Belarus for 2013-2014 & rules for participation	Information provided by email	Lithuanian state scholarships programme is designed for the academic researchers from Belarus for studies or research visits at higher education and research institutions of Lithuania. It can additionally support mobility of the INP BSU staff and especially PhD students and early stage researchers.	INP BSY staff, mainly young researchers
10 January 2013	Information on EuroNanoForum 2013, Dublin, 18-20 June 2013	Information provided by email	This is to timely inform the INP BSU about one of the largest European events on enabling technologies, industrial application & commercialization in nanotechnology, pilot lines and demos, financial instruments, healthcare, environment & water, food, transport, nanoelectronics, nanosafety and measurement tools. It is a suitable place for presenting the INP BSU activities and making contacts with industry which are of great importance for further development of the INP BSU.	INP BSY staff
4 January 2013	Developing a proposal for FP7	Face-to-face meeting at the BelISA premises	The proposal “Nano-thin and micro-sized carbons: toward electromagnetic compatibility applications” (NAmiceMC) is being developed for the IRSES Call 2013 in the “People” Programme of the FP7 (deadline – 17 January 2013). Dr Kuzhir is a team leader in the INP BSU and actively takes part in the proposal developing and drafting. A preliminary check of the draft proposal was done upon her request by the BelISA. The meeting itself was a final stage of several interactions on this issue. It was aimed to discuss recommendations proposed by the BelISA for non-research parts of the proposal with the overall aim to improve its quality.	Polina Kuzhir (INP BSU)
19 December 2012	Developing a proposal for FP7	Face-to-face meeting at the INP BSU premises	The INP BSU is going to apply to the IRSES Call 2013 in the “People” Programme with a deadline 17 January 2013. The project entitled “Carbon-nanotube-based terahertz-to-optics rectenna” (CANTOR) is above to be finalized soon. Dr Maksimenko, the INP BSU team leader in this application asked the BelISA to check the “Transfer of knowledge” and “Input” parts of the proposal against the criteria of the Call.	Sergey Maksimenko (INP BSU)

			The meeting was aimed to explain and discuss the improvements recommended by the BelISA.	
16 August 2012	Organizing a new COST action – how the INP BSU could be involved?	Face to face meeting at the INP BSU premises	The INP BSU is going to take part of the new COST action (the proposal is currently under development by several EU partners of the INP BSU) to Materials, Physics and Nanosciences domain, deadline in September 2012. The rules for participation of third countries have been explained and discussed in details. They state that “third countries” can only join an action after it’s officially approved but not at the proposal stage. Nevertheless, it’s worth to be involved non-officially in goals setting and planning of activities, etc. from the very beginning having in mind the future aligning the network.	Sergey Maksimenko, Polina Kuzhir (INP BSU)
26 July 2012	Developing a project idea for R2I Call 2013	Brainstorming meeting at the INP BSU premises (2)	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to discuss again</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the pros & cons of developing a proposal to R2I Call as its initiator - composition of a non-research part of the consortium (as an input for the discussion, a list of the EU consultancy companies (innovation intermediaries) has been developed by BelISA, these companies could be requested to lead the project) - proposed activities against activities the INP BSU would actually like to be involved in - selection of a SC (energy, health) which strongly depends on the existing links with the industry - possibility for INP BSU to represent the whole university in such a proposal - possibility for the INP BSU to align with the other BSU-related organizations - etc. <p>The outcome of the meeting was a decision not to take part in the R2I Call and concentrate the efforts of the team on the other FP7 calls which support R&D activities (CP projects) and staff exchanges (IRSES).</p>	Sergey Maksimenko, Polina Kuzhir (INP BSU)
25 May 2012	Future EU programme for research and innovation	Presentation at the international conference “FANEM2012”, Minsk	The goals of the presentation entitled “EU programs for research and innovation - 7 Framework Programme and “Horizon 2020”: opportunities for cooperation” were	INP BSU staff and participants of the international conference,

	“Horizon2020” – how it will look like?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to give general statistics of Belarus and 3rd countries participation in the FP7, 2) to present NMP, People and R2I/Capacities calls 2013, 3) to give an overview of the future programme H2020 basing on the available information, mainly on the Commission’s proposal. 	including BYNANOERA partners
16 April 2012	Developing a project idea for R2I Call 2013	Brainstorming meeting at the INP BSU premises (1)	<p>The meeting was focused on in-depth discussion of the R2I call idea and proposed activities – how much do they fit the interests of the core INP BSU team which is mostly concentrated on research? Which new opportunities can provide (new partnerships with industry, setting up a startup, etc)? Which current partners can be included in the consortium? Which other types of partner organizations are needed and how to find them? Which SC could be chosen?</p> <p>The general conclusion is that the INP BSU is rather interested than not and that Sergey Maksimenko will develop a short abstract of the future proposal by mid-May in order to discuss it with some potential partners during the FANEM2012 conference.</p>	Sergey Maksimenko, Polina Kuzhir (INP BSU)
12 March 2012	Preliminary information about R2I Call 2013/Capacities	Information provided by email	Preliminary information about the R2I call – idea, goals, composition of consortium, typical activities as a “food for thoughts”	INP BSY staff

