



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN RUSSIA

PRESS RELEASE

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The Russian-European Centre for Economic Policy begins a new phase

The European Union's Tacis Programme has financed the establishment and operation of the Russian-European Centre for Economic Policy (RECEP) to provide policy advice to key officials in the Russian Government, Parliament and Presidential Administration since February 1995. Today, a twelve months phase is being launched in partnership with the Working Centre for Economic Reforms and a budget of 2 millions euro, with the possibility of an extension for the same duration and budget.

The new contractor is the University Pierre Mendes France of Grenoble (France) in association with CERT (UK), ETLA (Finland) and OTAC (UK). These institutions have deep experience of Russia and the transition economies, and will provide high level experts for policy advice and research not only from their own countries, but also from other leading sources in the t EU .

The new RECEP will be not less academic than its predecessors, but will be more policy-oriented. That means that academic research will aim at providing practical conclusions for a wide range of decision-makers in the Russian Government.

In this new phase, RECEP aims at enlarging its client base by using its established reputation for first-class independent policy advice and economic research. Alongside this objective, RECEP's structure will open up to a wider group of policy and decision-makers, encouraging and supporting links between Russian and EU research institutions, while the Centre outputs will focus on short, medium and long-term economic and social policy.

This Tacis project will continue to strengthen Russia's capabilities for economic analysis, social policy and decision making. The new RECEP is recruiting new Russian staff from several well-known and leading research organisations. RECEP's training activities will be strengthened with fellowships in the EU for top-level researchers and advisers and EU study tours for Russian experts.

RECEP will constitute an essential instrument supporting inter-ministerial and Russian-EU exchanges of views. Therefore, RECEP will involve high-level EU personalities in the area of economic and social policy and through joint policy groups and publications, notably Russian Economic Trends, contribute to the EU-RF policy dialogue in these fields. Where appropriate, use will be made of relevant EU experiences in the implementation of systematic reforms.

The programme's main components will include the following:

- Analysis and exchange of views between Russian and EU economic and social policy and decision makers;
- Short, medium- and long-term policy analysis in key areas of economic and social reform;

- Developing RECEP's role as an instrument for the EU-RF policy dialogue, particularly informing EU support for the new Government's economic programme, in relation to the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement and EU-RF bilateral institutions such as the Co-operation Council;
- Issuing regular publications on Russia such as Russian Economic Trends and working papers on particular policy areas.

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The Tacis Programme is a European Union initiative, which provides grant finance for know-how to foster the development of market economies and democratic societies in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

For further information, please contact the Press and Information Section of Delegation of the European Commission in Russia; telephone (095) 956 36 00