



Interlink

Feedback from EU community

Cooperation with INCO countries is a good way to open new markets and to collaborate on subjects not limited by institutional or formal frontiers

You have been part of an INCO project in the scope of the last European Framework Program, FP6. What was the project about? Which countries or regions were part of the project?

MAPO enhanced research and development projects involving SMEs in order to set up technological partnerships and find solutions to struggle against various marine pollutions. The project regions involved were located in Europe and Eastern Europe, in particular: France, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Belgium, Italy, Iceland, Germany, Lithuania, Spain and Turkey.

How did you choose your INCO partners? Was the integration process easy?

The main idea when setting up the consortium was to cover all European seas, and that was the main reason why a partner from the Ukraine was chosen. We as coordinator did not know the Ukrainian partner before. His contact was found on the CORDIS website where he had filled-in an offer for partnership. The integration process was quite easy. We sent to him a first summary of the project. He confirmed his interest. Administrative procedures were a little more complex than for other partners because he needed some special documents for his national authorities.

What were the main benefits/drawbacks of such cooperation for your project?

The Ukrainian partner was especially motivated to improve and support good work and results during the project. So he was a very active consortium member. Overall, this collaboration was good for the project because it allowed a better geographical coverage and it was a good way to include in our competencies' database new actors skilled in the thematic area. The collaboration between European partners and the third-country partners can be considered a success and produced mutual benefits for all partners. In the field of MAPO, we had to take into consideration the problem of marine pollution in a very large scale because seas don't have frontiers and if we had considered the subject only at a European scale, the solutions suggested would probably not have been efficient.

Would you consider working on a European INCO project again? On which topic?



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Yes, we would like to participate again in FP projects. The collaboration with INCO countries is a good way to open new markets and to collaborate on subjects as environmental aspects not limited by institutional or formal frontiers. In this regard, especially marine technology related topics are very interesting especially for third countries.