Call for Participation

4th German-Russian Young Researchers Forum

4. Deutsch-Russisches Forum junger Wissenschaftler
4-й Российско-Германский форум молодых ученых

organised by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Junge Akademie and the Council of Young Scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences

In cooperation with

Ever-committed to the New?
Rethinking the Sciences and Humanities

Time 6 – 10 July 2014
Place Saint Petersburg, Russia
Venues St. Petersburg State University
(Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет / СПбГУ)
St. Petersburg Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences
(Санкт-Петербургский научный центр РАН / СПбНЦ РАН)
St. Petersburg Academic University of the Russian Academy of Sciences
(Санкт-Петербургский академический университет / СПбАУ)

Objectives

The German-Russian Young Researchers Forum was initiated within the German-Russian Year of Education, Science and Innovation 2011/12. The three previous editions took place in Moscow (2011), Halle/Saale & Berlin (2012) and Bonn, Köln & Jülich (2013), and brought together outstanding young scientists from Russia and Germany. The forum offers a dialogue and reflection platform, covering a specific spectrum of topics related to higher education, research, innovation and science-based political and societal advice, of mutual interest for Russia, Germany and Europe. It brings together researchers who are at an early stage of their career to discuss their work, gain insight into new research approaches from other disciplines, and also identify possibilities for future collaboration. The forum is designed to foster cross-disciplinary exchange.

young.forum@leopoldina.org
The focus topics chosen for each year's forum are meant to highlight specific issues young scholars are confronted with and address the role of early career researchers in the scientific community. This year's forum will be devoted to questions related to innovation and novelty in research: to what extent should research be committed to novelty; what role does novelty play for early career researchers; how to keep the balance between well-established and novel approaches in research; and are there any limits to originality and innovation in the sciences and humanities?

**Topics**

Based on the success of past editions, this year's forum is organised in **three main sections:**

1. **Presentations of innovative research projects** in an interdisciplinary perspective, which illustrate progress in science and challenges for future research as well as open up possibilities of transnational collaboration;

2. **Rethinking the science and humanities:** (plenary) debates and round tables to (a) define the concept of the ‘new’/novelty in various research-based approaches and their role in multi- and interdisciplinary research, (b) address the added value of novelty, and (c) connect recent advancements in research with new approaches in education, reflecting upon the impact of scientific findings.

3. **Exchange of different views on the role, status, and perspectives of early-career researchers** within the scientific community, paying specific attention to new forms of PhD- and Postdoc-cultures, while also addressing the various aspects of resilience in different scientific systems.

**As added value,** all participants will gain insight into the German and Russian science systems as well as into the possibilities, mechanisms and potentials of international cooperation. The forum offers a wide range of networking opportunities as a possible starting point for future collaboration and enables mutual knowledge exchange on cross-disciplinary research topics. It provides a high-level multidisciplinary platform for young researchers from both the humanities and the sciences. Therefore, participation is open to researchers from all disciplines.

**Preliminary programme (subject to changes)**

| Sunday, 6th July 2014 | Arrival of participants, Accommodation at Sokos Hotel Vasilievsky St. Petersburg  
Informal get-together |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, 7th July 2014 | **Official opening ceremony, plenary introduction of participants**  
**Presentations by the German and Russian National Academies and Young Academies**  
**Science Slam 1 Progress in Research** Presentation of innovative research projects by the forum participants, followed by reviews in form of Q&A sessions  
**Science Talk 1 Need for New PhD and Postdoc Culture(s)?** Discussion with young and senior researchers, science policy makers and academic experts from Russia, Germany and Finland  
Cultural programme and official opening dinner |
| SPbGU | **Science Slam 2 Progress in Research:** continuation from Monday  
**Workshop 1 Soft Skills in Science & Academia:** professional coaching on soft skills and the conceptualisation and operalisation of a research proposal/grant application |
Presentation of German-Russian cooperation in the sciences and possibilities for scholarships and grants in Germany & Europe for young researchers (prepared by the German Science and Innovation House Moscow)

**Science Talk 2** Resilience of the Science System: Solving the National and Cross-Border Equation Discussion with experts, young and senior researchers from Russia, Germany and the European Union institutions

Practical insights during an on-site visit of the Nanotechnology Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg (Academic University) followed by dinner

**Wednesday, 9th July 2014**

Welcoming address by the SPbNC RAN

**Science Talk 3** Ever-Committed to the New? Rethinking the Sciences and Humanities in form of a mini-conference with selected presentations, followed by a general debate

**Workshop 2** Young Researchers’ Role in the Advancement of Science, Policy and Society: Identification and discussion of key issues regarding academic positions, research projects and policies as well as means of internationalisation.

Cultural programme: visit of Tsarskoye Selo / Pushkin (Царское Село / Пушкин) and Catherine Palace (Екатерининский дворец)

Assessing the workshops’ results, identifying further perspectives of the German-Russian academic cooperation

Neva river cruise and official closing dinner

**Thursday, 10th July 2014**

Departure of participants

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**Application and selection procedure**

We would like to invite potential participants (young researchers) to submit their application for participation until 30th April 2014.

The applications will be assessed by a joint group of representatives of the organising academies. The organisers will cover travel expenses, accommodation and boarding during the event.

Please note the following requirements for the application:

- **Target group** are young researchers/scientists (Postdocs and advanced PhD-students) affiliated to research institutes and accredited universities from Russia and Germany. Applicants from other countries with proven links to both countries will also be accepted.

- The call is **open to all disciplines**;

- Potential participants are supposed to act as multipliers in their academic environments, so an interest for current science and societal issues is a strong asset.

- Proficiency in the **English** language, both written and oral fluency, is **must-be** criterion, as the conference language will be English. Therefore, please submit your applications in English.
The application must comprise the following:

1. **motivation letter** – should not exceed one page (please provide full contact data, an e-mail address and website of the institution of affiliation);

2. **short abstract** on one innovative research project, currently on-going or as a proposal for possible international cooperation – should not exceed one page;

3. **short academic CV**, including specific reference to higher education and current research interests;

4. **formless personal statement**, hand signed and scanned, confirming the validity, correctness and accuracy of the information provided in the application.

Applications should be sent **exclusively via e-mail to** young.forum@leopoldina.org. Please send us the files as PDF (preferably bundled into one file).

**Important dates**

- **30th April 2014** – Closing date for submitting the application for participation
- **End of May 2014** – Notification on the outcome of the application
- **Beginning of June 2014** – Formal invitation for participation
- **June 2014** – Communication of organisational details
- **6th – 10th July 2014** – 4th German-Russian Young Researchers Forum in St. Petersburg

**Website**

[www.leopoldina.org/de/youngforum](http://www.leopoldina.org/de/youngforum)

**Contact**

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We are looking forward to receiving your application!

Wir freuen uns auf Ihre Bewerbung!

Мы с нетерпением ждем получения Вашего заявления!