



Leopoldina  
Nationale Akademie  
der Wissenschaften



Die Junge Akademie



## Call for Participation

# 4<sup>th</sup> 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



Санкт-Петербургский  
государственный  
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Deutsches Wissenschafts- und  
Innovationshaus – Moskau  
  
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Land der Ideen

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## 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](http://spbu.ru))<sup>1</sup>  
St. Petersburg Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
(Санкт-Петербургский научный центр РАН / [СПбНЦ РАН](http://spbncc.ru))<sup>2</sup>  
St. Petersburg Academic University of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
(Санкт-Петербургский академический университет / [СПбАУ](http://spbau.ru))<sup>3</sup>

### 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.

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, 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	Arrival of participants, Accommodation at Sokos Hotel Vasilievsky St. Petersburg Informal get-together
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2014 SPbGU <sup>1</sup>	Official opening ceremony, plenary introduction of participants Presentations by the German and Russian National Academies and Young Academies <b>Science Slam 1 Progress in Research</b> Presentation of innovative research projects by the forum participants, followed by reviews in form of Q&A sessions <b>Science Talk 1 Need for New PhD and Postdoc Culture(s)?</b> Discussion with young and senior researchers, science policy makers and academic experts from Russia, Germany and Finland Cultural programme and official opening dinner
Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	<b>Science Slam 2 Progress in Research</b> : continuation from Monday <b>Workshop 1 Soft Skills in Science &amp; Academia</b> : professional coaching on soft skills and the conceptualisation and operationalisation of a research proposal/grant application

SPbGU <sup>1</sup> & SPbAU <sup>2</sup>	<p>Presentation of German-Russian cooperation in the sciences and possibilities for scholarships and grants in Germany &amp; Europe for young researchers (prepared by the German Science and Innovation House Moscow)</p> <p><b>Science Talk 2 Resilience of the Science System: Solving the National and Cross-Border Equation</b> Discussion with experts, young and senior researchers from Russia, Germany and the European Union institutions</p> <p>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</p>
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2014 SPbNC RAN <sup>3</sup>	<p>Welcoming address by the SPbNC RAN</p> <p><b>Science Talk 3 Ever-Committed to the New? Rethinking the Sciences and Humanities</b> in form of a mini-conference with selected presentations, followed by a general debate</p> <p><b>Workshop 2 Young Researchers' Role in the Advancement of Science, Policy and Society:</b> Identification and discussion of key issues regarding academic positions, research projects and policies as well as means of internationalisation.</p> <p>Cultural programme: visit of Tsarskoye Selo / Pushkin (Царское Село / Пушкин) and Catherine Palace (Екатерининский дворец)</p> <p>Assessing the workshops' results, identifying further perspectives of the German-Russian academic cooperation</p> <p>Neva river cruise and official closing dinner</p>
Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	Departure of participants

### Application and selection procedure

We would like to invite potential participants (young researchers) to submit their application for participation **until 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:young.forum@leopoldina.org)**. Please send us the files as PDF (preferably bundled into one file).

**Important dates**

30 <sup>th</sup> 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
6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	4 <sup>th</sup> German-Russian Young Researchers Forum in St. Petersburg

**Website**

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

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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!**

