

**БЕЛОРУССКИЙ РЕСПУБЛИКАНСКИЙ ФОНД
ФУНДАМЕНТАЛЬНЫХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ**

**BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN FOUNDATION
FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH**



COOPERATION AGREEMENT

in Science and Technology

between

International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet)

and

Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR)

The International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet), whose headquarters is located at Piazza della Repubblica, 10 – 65122 Pescara, Italy, in this act represented by its Director, Prof. Remo Ruffini,

and

the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR), located at Nezavisimosti ave. 66, 220072 Minsk, Belarus, in this act represented by its Director, Academician Sergey Gaponenko,

(Hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Parties” or individually as the “Party”),

Considering the interest in deepening academic cooperation between scientists from Belarusian institutions and ICRANet, in order to promote the development of science and technology and relativistic astrophysics in particular;

Wishing to strengthen and develop scientific and technological co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Preamble

The present Agreement intends to provide a legal framework for the establishment of programs and actions that aim to deepen the cooperation between researchers and academics from institutions based in Belarus, and from ICRANet, according to the provisions of this Agreement and the existing legislation and regulations of Belarus and ICRANet.

Article 2 Forms of Co-operation

The Parties shall promote such co-operation, observing their international obligations and national legislation as well as other valid regulations and agree to develop collaborative activity that may come in the form of:

- 2.1. Joint research and development projects, including exchange of research results and exchange of scientists, specialists and researchers;
- 2.2. Scholarship programs;
- 2.3. Organization of seminars, workshops, symposia or other scientific meetings of mutual interest;

- 2.4. Exchange of scientific and technical research results, information and documentations arising from the bilateral scientific and technological cooperation;
- 2.5. Other forms of scientific and technological co-operation which may be mutually agreed upon.

Article 3 Finance

- 3.1. Each Party will facilitate and fund the mentioned activities through their regular funding programs taking into account any constraints of time, funding and other relevant resources.
- 3.2. The costs of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists, resulting from this Agreement, unless mutually agreed otherwise in writing, will be covered on the following basis: the sending Party will meet all related costs connected with travel, lodging and allowances according to its own regulations and allowances; the sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists.
- 3.3. Students and researchers taking part in activities under the scope of this Agreement shall be exempt of ICRANet tuition fees.
- 3.4. ICRANet and BRFFR undertake to encourage researchers supported under the scope of this Agreement to mention the Parts in any scientific work or paper.

Article 4 Joint Committee

- 4.1. For the purpose of implementing this Agreement, a Joint Committee, composed of equal number of representatives designated by the two Parties, shall be established. The tasks of the Joint Committee shall be as follows:
 - a. Identifying the fields of co-operation on the basis of information delivered by institutions of each country and the national policies in science and technology;
 - b. Creating favourable conditions for the implementation of this Agreement;
 - c. Facilitating the implementation of joint programmes and projects;
 - d. Encouraging exchange of experience arising from the bilateral scientific and technological co-operation and evaluating proposals for its further development.
- 4.2. It is the responsibility of the Joint Committee to resolve any technical, and/or administrative questions that may arise during the execution of this Agreement, as well as to oversee its overall functioning, consulting with their respective superiors of each institution, if the need should arise.
- 4.3. The Joint Committee meetings are arranged by mutual agreement when matters requiring detailed discussion arise. However, the Joint Committee may also operate by correspondence.
- 4.4. The Joint Committee may elaborate its own rules of procedure.

Article 5

Joint Research and Development Projects

In accordance of the provisions of the Article 2.1., the joint research and development projects will be implemented as follows:

- 5.1. The Parties will publish simultaneously a Call for Proposals every two years.
- 5.2. Project proposals have to provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.
- 5.3. Project proposals prepared in English should be submitted for evaluation and approval simultaneously to ICRANet and the BRFFR. Unless both sides agree otherwise in writing, proposals will be independently evaluated and approved by each of the two Parties, following their own rules and regulations, and only those proposals which are approved by both Parties will be supported.
- 5.4. The execution period of a joint research project should not exceed two years.
- 5.5. Each scientific visit has to be reported by the ICRANet scientists to ICRANet Director and by the Belarus scientists to the BRFFR one month in advance. The application must include a brief description of the work to be performed during the planned visit.
- 5.6. Within two months after completion of the execution period, a final report, presenting the work carried out and the results obtained, will be prepared in English jointly by the two research teams and submitted to ICRANet and to BRFFR.
- 5.7. Besides the financial support towards the exchange of project researchers mentioned above, the Parties may provide additional research funds to their respective project teams whenever they consider it appropriate. It is desirable but not essential to fund the two sides equally.

Article 6

Dissemination of Resulting Information

- 6.1. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the co-operation activities under this Agreement, will be shared, announced, published or commercially exploited with the written consent of both cooperating partners and according to the international agreements concerning intellectual property rights to which states of the both Parties are signatories.
- 6.2. Scientists, technical experts and institutions of the third countries or international organisations may be invited, upon written consent of the both co-operating partners, to participate in projects and programmes being carried out under this Agreement. The cost of such participation shall normally be borne by third countries, unless both sides agree otherwise in writing.

Article 7
Implementation and Legal Aspects

- 7.1. This Agreement is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute an agreement binding upon the States of the Parties under international law. No provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or commitments for the States of the Parties.
- 7.2. Any dispute related to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled through consultations within the Joint Committee or between the Parties.
- 7.3. With respect to the co-operation activities established under this Agreement, each Party shall take, in accordance with the respective national legislations of their States, all necessary measures to ensure the best possible conditions for their implementation.
- 7.4. This Agreement shall not affect the validity or execution of any obligation arising from other international treaties or agreements concluded by the States of the Parties.
- 7.5. This Agreement may be amended at any time through mutual consent of the Parties, in writing.

Article 8
Validity and Termination

- 8.1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date when it is signed by both Parties.
- 8.2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall automatically be renewed for further periods of five years, unless either Party notifies in writing its intentions to terminate this Agreement.
- 8.3. The termination will come into effect in six months from the receiving date of the written notification. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the projects or programmes undertaken under this Agreement and not fully executed at the time of the termination of this Agreement.

Signed in two original copies in English by both Parties.

Date and Venue: 26-Aug-2017, Minsk

For International Center for Relativistic
Astrophysics Network

Prof. Remo RUFFINI
Director



Date and Venue: 26-08-2017, Minsk

For the Belarusian Republican Foundation for
Fundamental Research

Prof. Sergey GAPONENKO
Chairman of Board & Director

