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Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI): An Overview of the Current Studies in Northern Asia

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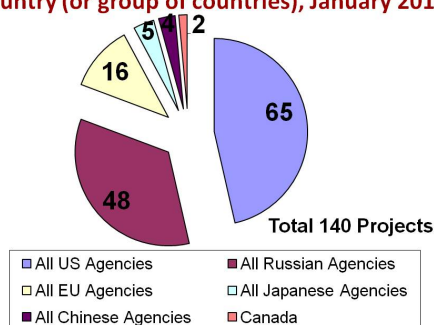
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Six years ago NEESPI was launched with the release of its Science Plan (<http://neespi.org>). Gradually, the Initiative was joined by numerous international projects launched in EU, Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and China. Throughout its duration, NEESPI served and is serving as an umbrella for more than 140 individual research projects (always with an international participation) with an annual budget close to 15 million US dollars (cf., Figure, where international NEESPI projects are grouped by the major national funding source). Currently, the Initiative is in full swing. A new crop of NEESPI projects was launched in 2010 to compensate for the projects that have been completed and the total number of the ongoing NEESPI projects (76) changed but slightly compared to its peak (87 in 2008). Since 2008 NEESPI has been receiving an intergovernmental level of support in Russia, the United States, and Ukraine.

The past year was extremely productive in the NEESPI outreach. In 2010, more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and/or book chapters were published or are in press (this list is still incomplete and is anticipated to nearly double). A suite of 34 peer-reviewed NEESPI articles were published in the third Special NEESPI Issue in Environmental Research Letters (ERL; 2009, No. 4, and 2010, No.1). Several books and White Papers were published by Springer (Baltzer ed., 2010; Gutman and Reissell eds., 2010), and the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Lyalko, ed. 2010), and FAO (Matyas, ed., 2010). Two more books devoted to Siberia and Eastern Europe prepared by the members of the NEESPI team are scheduled to appear before the end of this year. Preparations have been started to complete the circle of regional monographs on Environmental Changes in the NEESPI domain with a book focusing on the dry land areas of Northern Eurasia. Submissions, reviews, and publication process for a new Special NEESPI ERL Issue "Environmental, socio-economic and climatic changes in Northern Eurasia and their feedbacks to the Global Earth System" are ongoing.

The description of the NEESPI Program will be complemented with an overview of the results presented in book "Regional Environmental Changes in Siberia and Their Global Consequences" scheduled to be submitted to Springer at the time of this Symposium.

Completed and ongoing NEESPI Projects by country (or group of countries), January 2011



Keywords: NEESPI, Northern Asia, environmental changes, climate changes, international projects