



Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative in 2011-2012: An Update

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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 145 individual research projects (always with an international participation) with an annual budget close to 15 million US dollars. Currently, the Initiative is in full swing. A new crop of NEESPI projects was launched in 2010 and 2011 to compensate for the projects that have been completed and the total number of the ongoing NEESPI projects 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 2011, 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 peer-reviewed NEESPI articles has been published in the Forth Special NEESPI Issue in "Environmental Research Letters". At the time of this abstract preparation this Ongoing Special Issue has 25 manuscripts in different stages of publication/review process: twenty of them have been already published (cf., <http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/focus/NEESPI3>)

Northern Eurasia is a large study domain. Therefore, it was decided to describe the latest findings related to its environmental changes in a suite of regional monographs in English. Two books on Environmental Changes in the NEESPI domain were published by Springer (Gutman and Reissell, eds., 2011) and "Naukova Dumka" of Ukraine (Groisman and Lyalko, eds. 2012) being devoted to the high latitudes of Eurasia and to Eastern Europe respectively. One more book devoted to Environmental Changes in Siberia has been prepared by the members of the NEESPI team (Gutman and Groisman, eds). It is 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.

The description of the NEESPI Program will be complemented with an overview of the results presented in two books "Earth System Change over Eastern Europe" and "Regional Environmental Changes in Siberia and Their Global Consequences" scheduled to be published or be in press ("Naukova Dumka" and "Springer" Publ. Houses respectively) at the time of the Assembly.