
Performer: National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
Project Lead: Rita Guenther
Project Cost: $250,000
FY15-16

Objective:
A positive U.S.-Russia relationship is important for world peace and security; however, the current relationship is broken. It is deteriorating over issues such as Ukraine, INF treaty violations, and disagreements over conflicts in the Middle East. The NAS Committee on International Security and Arms Control (CISAC) maintains a scientific-technical dialogue with the Russian Academy of Sciences to promote better understanding of each other’s plans and actions and seek opportunities for cooperation. This project will develop new concepts for promoting constructive engagement. In addition, the dialogue functions as a mechanism for building ties between U.S. and Russian technical specialists on nuclear, dual-use science, and strategic stability issues.

Approach:
As part of this project, CISAC will conduct two bilateral meetings (one in the United States and one in Russia). Each three-day meeting will involve six to eight experts from each side. Prior to the meeting, participants will draft and exchange papers and CISAC will seek input from U.S. government officials on the agenda. Following the meetings, CISAC will also brief U.S. government officials on the outcomes. Topics for discussion will include nuclear materials and nuclear terrorism, especially insider threats and sabotage; monitoring of nuclear materials, including tracking; science and technology for nuclear verification; ballistic missile defense in the context of strategic stability; and other topics as agreed upon.