

RIIG Inception Meeting

As part of the G20 Presidency, India is holding the Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG). Alexey Ivanov, Director of the International BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre and Research Director of the Centre for Technology Transfer at National Research University Higher School of Economics, participated in the RIIG Inception Meeting as a representative of Russia. The event was held on February 8-9 in Kolkata.

The meeting aimed to address the challenges of achieving socio-economic equity through research and innovation and proposed the establishment of a G20 Working Group on Research, Innovation, and Equity, which would bring together leading economic powers to address these challenges.

Working Group on Innovation has a long history in the G20 activities, in 2012-2013 Alexey Ivanov served as a B20 Sherpa as part of the Taskforce on Innovation and Development under the Russian and Australian G20 presidency. In 2017, under the German presidency, the WG on Innovation was put on ice, and this year India revitalized it with the goal to promote international scientific cooperation and develop sustainable solutions for science-driven equity.

The group was divided into four subgroups according to its priority areas - Biodiversity and Bio-economy; Materials for Sustainable Energy; Scientific Challenges and Opportunities towards achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy and Eco-innovations for Energy Transitions. Each subgroup will continue the work independently to address the problem issues that should receive their closest attention by holding the thematic discussions, working closely with the experts, drafting reports, etc.

The contribution to the RIIG agenda from the Russian side targets the development of carbon farming programmes, which promote the adoption of carbon sequestering methods. The climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement cannot be met without the development of carbon dioxide removal. One of the most effective solutions is biological sequestration of carbon. “Biological sequestration and bioeconomy may thus engage in a positive feedback loop where the development of one leads to further development of the other”, stated Alexey.