This paper gives a brief overview of the Tempus SEXTANT project. The project was running from January 2008 till July 2010. Two Russian and three European higher educational institutions were gathered in a consortium. The interaction and relationship between the consortium members is described and problems discussed. Conclusions finalize the paper.

Introduction
Tempus is a series of projects aiming to develop the cooperation between higher educational institutions of the European Union (EU) and former Soviet republics, including Russia. The main idea of this cooperation is the formal unification of the EU educational programs and standards and Russian while the Bologna declaration and Bologna process play important role.

Tempus SEXTANT is one of the Tempus III framework project with five consortium members: Moscow State Pedagogical University (MSPU, Moscow, Russia), Dagestan State Pedagogical University (DSPU, Makhachkala, Russia), Newman University College (NUC, Birmingham, the United Kingdom), Krakow Pedagogical University (KPU, Krakow, Poland) and University College Ghent (UCG, Ghent, Belgium).

The project began in January 2008 with a start-up meeting of all consortium partners; the meeting was hosted by MSPU.

Tempus Project Call for Proposals
One year back in time.
In order to get the funding from the European Commission and make participation in the Tempus framework possible it was necessary to find a relevant call for project proposals, gather a consortium by signing a consortium declaration of intentions, compose a proposal according to the standard form and submit it with all the necessary documents in time. If the proposal is eligible (all legal and formal requirements are satisfied), then it will participate in the competition and have a chance to win, which means that the project would be funded.

This was the case with the Tempus SEXTANT project, it proposal contained about 100 pages and its writing involved many efforts from all partners, which was proof of good understanding between partners and starting point for further cooperation.

Project Objectives
We point out the major project objectives:
1. Develop further academic (students, teaching, scientific and administrative staff) mobility between the partner institutions.
2. Develop online ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) course catalog in English and Russian languages by the Russian partners.
3. Develop courses in English and Russian according to the standardized course structure to be included in the ECTS course catalog.

**Project On the Way**

Project work included various activities both external between partners and internal inside each institution. During technical meetings partners shared experience and expertise with each other on the ECTS catalogue, course structure, student application form, quality control and other technical aspects of the project. Administrative meetings included budget planning, general project management and others.

It wasn’t easy to carry out all the meetings, some technical and administrative points were matters of long discussions but finally it was possible to solve the problems in this or that way.

**Project Outcomes and Achievements**

The project in general achieved its set objective accordance to the needs identified in the original application. The online ECTS catalogue of courses with internal database for exchange students, electronic student mobility support system (e-SMOSS) was designed and implemented, please visit [http://www.ects.su](http://www.ects.su) (free user access, last accessed October 20, 2010).

Pilot student mobility was organized between all partners, students obtained courses for the subjects they studied. Administrative and scientific staff improved their qualifications during seminars, workshops and lectures organized within the project.

We also must emphasize that among the project results there are some that are indirect. Bilingual cooperation agreements were signed between some partners; this fact means that the cooperation on mobility and science will be continued.

Also it was very useful for everyone who participated in the project, to meet different cultures, know habits of various nations and despite all the differences every discussion came to the positive conclusion. The intercultural exchange created friendly link between participated nations, and it is a good start for bridging the gap existed in the past.