

## European Research Council: basic, frontier research on the spotlight

A new mechanism that places excellence in the centre of European research is introduced in the 7th Framework Programme. It is the European Research Council (ERC), the first pan-European funding agency for frontier research, which will implement the programme "Ideas" of FP7.

The "Ideas" programme will enhance at European level the competition of research teams, on the basis of excellence, for funding of research areas of their interest, namely applied engineering, human and social sciences, etc. ERC is responsible for setting up the workprogramme, supervising its implementation, defining the evaluation procedures and ensuring the scientific quality. It consists of a Scientific Council, composed of 22 eminent scientists from across Europe and from many different disciplines. The President of the Scientific Council is the Prof. Fotis Kafatos, from Greece. The Scientific Council is supported by a Dedicated Implementation Structure (DIS), responsible for all aspects of administrative implementation and for carrying out the work programme.

ERC has recently published a launch strategy for funding basic research. The main parameters, which may be further elaborated and modified upon the comments received, concern a "bottom-up" approach for two funding streams: the

ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant Scheme and the ERC Advanced Investigator Grant Scheme. The proposals will be submitted electronically, following a two-step procedure, and will be evaluated based on the potential of the researchers and the excellence of the project. Approximately 15 panels of 10 members will be established for the evaluation of the proposals. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grants will be offered at pre-set discrete levels, for example between 100.000 and 400.000 euros per year (in increments of 50.000 euros), for a period of up to 5 years. The first calls for these Grants will be published as soon as FP7 is approved. The ERC Advanced Grant Scheme will be implemented shortly afterwards.

### European Research Council

<http://erc.europa.eu>

### Future European Union research policy (europa)

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/future/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/future/index_en.cfm)

### 7th Framework Programme (CORDIS)

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>

### "Research and Innovation" website (EKT)

<http://www.ekt.gr/research/en>

## International Conference on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in research

An international conference for the enhancement of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in research and technology took place on 22-23 March 2006, in Paris, as the closure event for the Euro-MEDANet and Euro-MEDANet2 projects. Both projects, coordinated by EKT, were co-funded by the European Commission (INCO programme, FP6) to create Information Points for European research programmes in seven Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia).

More than 120 participants from universities, research centres and enterprises attended the event, which included presentations on the projects' results and on the main achievements of the Euromediterranean cooperation in research in the last decade, as well as suggestions for the future, especially in view of the 7th Framework Programme.



**Euro-MEDANet and Euro-MEDANet2 website**  
<http://www.euromednet.gr>



### IRC Future Match

<http://www.futurematch.cebit.de>

### CeBIT 2006

<http://www.cebit.de>

### IRC Hellenic

<http://www.hirc.gr>