



INNOVATION

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

Cultural treasures go on-line

The preservation and promotion of cultural heritage through digital applications, and making it accessible to everyone, is a priority for Europe and indeed for the world. Several initiatives and projects support this policy: the UNESCO Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage; the selection of "Digital Libraries" as one of the main initiatives of the European Commission; and the announcement of digitalization projects on culture by organisations such as Google, Microsoft and Yahoo.

Greece is committed to digital convergence, with initiatives to promote the digitalization of collections on history and civilisation, to improve broadband services, and to spread new technologies to wider and more diversified target groups. To achieve these goals there are new funding schemes, initiatives such as the Digital Culture Awards, as well as online collections and projects, all involving key players from the academic, research and business communities.

Indicative online collections are: PANDEKTIS - A Digital Thesaurus of Greek History and Culture; Digital Crete: Mediterranean Cultural Routes; a Cultural Thesaurus of the Greek Language; a Cultural Portal of the Aegean Archipelago; and the Digital Archives of Konstantinos Karamanlis Foundation.

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- <http://pandektis.ekt.gr>
- <http://digitalcrete.ims.forth.gr>
- <http://www.potheg.gr>
- <http://www.egeonet.gr>
- <http://www.karamanlis-foundation.org>
- <http://www.michael-culture.org>
- <http://www.athenaurope.org>
- <http://www.europeana.eu>
- <http://www.wdl.org>

New funding opportunities for Research and Entrepreneurship

Three new funding programmes related to research and entrepreneurship have been recently announced under the National Strategic Reference Framework (ESPA) 2007-2013. The first, with a budget of 122 million euros, aims to link research with the market and includes 3 actions (Cooperation, New innovative enterprises, Groups of SMEs). The second programme, with a budget of 40 million euros, supports young people and women in starting their own business. The third, with a budget of 136 million euros, funds Green Entrepreneurship and includes 3 different activities (Green Infrastructures, Green Enterprise and Re-Installation).

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National Strategic Reference Framework (ESPA) 2007-2013
<http://www.espa.gr>

General Secretary for Research and Technology
<http://www.gsrt.gr>

Hellenic Organization of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and Handicraft (EOMMEX) S.A.
<http://www.eommex.gr>

RAF-REGIONS: Food research clusters

The RAF-REGIONS project brings together three regional research-driven clusters in Greece, Italy and Bulgaria, aiming at enhancing economic development through science and technology that focuses on the AgroFood Sector. The project is funded by the Regions of Knowledge Programme (FP7) and is coordinated by the Greek company Euroconsultants SA. Mr Giannoulidis, in an interview given to our magazine, explains the benefits of such a project and the synergies between research organisations, enterprises and regional authorities. He also refers to the European 'Food Cluster Initiative' and the expected results for the organizations involved.

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RAF REGIONS
<http://www.rafregions.eu>

European Inventors of the Year: Improving Health and Environment

The sectors of Health and Environment were the major winners of "European Inventors of the Year 2009", awarded by the European Patent Office and the European Commission at a special ceremony in Prague.

The "Lifetime achievement" award went to Adolf Goetzberger (Germany), founder of the Fraunhofer-Institut for Solar Energy. Jürg Zimmermann and Brian Druker (Switzerland) won the category "Industry" for a new treatment for Chronic Myelogenous Leukaemia (CML). The "SMEs/research" prize was awarded to Joseph Le Mer (France) for a condensation heat exchanger adapted to interface with a gas or fuel-oil burner. Finally, the Chinese team of Yiqing Zhou, Dianxi Ning, Shufen Wang, Deben Ding, Guofu Li, Chengqi Shan, and Guangyu Liu collected top honours in the category "Non-European countries" for their anti-malaria composition (marketed as Coartem).

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European Inventor of the Year 2009
<http://www.epo.org/about-us/events/epf2009/inventor.html>

The European Patent Office (EPO)
<http://www.epo.org/>

European Patent Forum and PATINNOVA 2009
<http://www.epo.org/about-us/events/epf2009/forum.html>

24-hour public service by the portal ERMIS

A new electronic tool that facilitates greater interaction between citizens and public administration - the Hellenic government portal ERMIS - was recently launched by the Ministry of Interior and the company "Information Society S.A.". The aim is to modernise Public Administration, bringing the benefit of added-value services to the citizen. This government portal will provide citizens and enterprises with a complete briefing of all their transactions with the Public Administration (manual or electronic), as well as certain electronic transactions, all from a single access point.

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Hellenic government portal ERMIS
<http://www.ermis.gov.gr/>