



Greek ERA Chairs Day

September 26, G. Lianis Amphitheater, FORTH

The Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH) is pleased to announce the inaugural day event of the seven ERA Chair research projects, coordinated by Greek Research Centers and Universities, within the framework of the Horizon Europe program. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2023, and will be hosted at the FORTH facilities in Heraklion, Crete, specifically in the G. Lianis Amphitheater. The event is included in the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of FORTH.

The "European Research Area Chairs" (ERA Chairs) program has the overarching aim of drawing in outstanding scholars and researchers from international backgrounds to Greek academic institutions, with the ultimate objective of advancing research excellence. This initiative seeks to both attract and retain top-tier talent under the guidance of the ERA Chair appointee. Additionally, the ERA Chair holder will be responsible for suggesting and supervising organizational enhancements geared towards fostering excellence within a sustainable framework.

Greece has achieved remarkable success in the recent call for proposals under this program, leading to the establishment of seven ERA Chairs across five different institutions. Specifically, these Chairs will be located at FORTH (three Chairs), the National Research Foundation (one Chair), the Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexandros Fleming" (one Chair), the University of Crete (one Chair), and the University of Patras (one Chair). These projects, boasting a combined budget of 17.5 million euros, will pave the way for the development of Centers of Excellence in cutting-edge scientific domains, including computational astrophysics, computational biodiversity, the advancement of microbial biopesticides, molecular biophysics and structural biology, cryogenic electron microscopy, biomolecular engineering and synthetic biology, and digital humanities.

The event will provide a valuable platform for showcasing the ambitious research objectives of the seven ERA Chairs, as well as outlining the efforts they plan to undertake, in collaboration with the institutions' administrations and in cooperation with political and regional leaders, on matters concerning research and the advancement of innovation in Greece.

The tentative program of the event follows. The event will be live-streamed at the following link: <https://diavlos.grnet.gr/event/e4271>. More information may be obtained by contacting Ms. Eleni Orfanoudaki (eleni@ics.forth.gr, phone: +30 2810-391702), and Ms. Chrysoula Iliaki (chrys@ics.forth.gr, phone: +30 2810-391603).

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26/09/2023

Tentative Agenda - Meeting Language: English

- 09:00 - 11:00 **Closed Session**
Discussion of challenges and identification of synergies
ERA Chairs and project coordinators only
Moderator: A. Stamatakis
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30 - 13:30 Main event – morning session
- **Welcome notes** (N.Tavernarakis, President of FORTH; D. Plexousakis, FORTH-ICS Director; I. Vontas, FORTH-IMBB Director)
 - **Brief Statements** by Vice-Minister M. Senetakis, General Secretaries A. Kyriazis and O. Zorras, Region of Crete Governor S. Arnaoutakis

 - **“Increasing the research and innovation potential by investing in integrated structural cell biology at Patras University”**
ESPERANCE, Anastassis Perrakis, ERA Chair, University of Patras

 - **“Microbial biopesticides to control disease vectors and agricultural pests”**
MicroBioPest, John Vontas, ERA Chair coordinator, FORTH-IMBB

 - **“Artificial Intelligence for humanities and social sciences”**
TALOS, Christophe Roche, ERA Chair, University of Crete, and Melina Tamiolaki, coordinator
- 13:30 - 15:00 Lunch
- 15:00 - 17:00 Main event – afternoon session
- **“Necessary reforms in the greek academic system”Comp-Biodiv-GR**
Alexandros Stamatakis, ERA Chair, FORTH-ICS

 - **“Boosting bio-innovation by enhancing excellence in the biosciences and promoting bio-entrepreneurship”**
Boost4Bio, Georgios Skretas, ERA Chair, Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming"

 - **“Mapping and analysing the mysterious dark matter mass of the universe”**
TITAN, Jean-Luc Starck, ERA Chair, FORTH-ICS

 - **”Hot4cryo: Bringing the resolution revolution of cryo-EM to Greece and Southeast Europe”**
Hot4Cryo, Panagiotis Kastritis, ERA Chair, Institute of Chemical Biology, National Research Foundation
- 17:30 - 19:00 **Round table discussion**
Potential reforms of the Greek academic system
ERA Chairs, ERA Chair coordinators & policy makers
Moderator: D. Plexousakis