**ERC Competitive Grants to the University of Cyprus**

Since 2007, the year the European Research Council (ERC) was established, 51 projects in Greece and Cyprus have been funded via competitive procedures. University of Cyprus (UCY), along with the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH) are in the top ranks with an equal number of funded programmes. Following, are the National Technical University of Athens with four programmes, the National Center For Scientific Research “DEMOKRITOS” with three programmes, while two programmes were ensured by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Biomedical Science Research Center “Alexander Flemming”.

ERC is the entity responsible for funding basic research at European level, providing in this way the best scientists with the opportunity to optimize their abilities for innovative research. ERC’s main objective is to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting and encouraging the best, truly creative scientists, scholars and engineers, who are invited to submit their proposals in any field of research.

Specifically, Cyprus has 13 holders of ERC’s projects, of which 10 are UCY researchers. The total approved funding of the ERC’s projects for the UCY amounts to €10,019,755.71.

ERC’s funding absorption in UCY, the Rector, Professor Constantinos Christofides, noted: “ERC’s projects reveal the quality of faculty of each university and research institution. The University of Cyprus, proportionally to its size, ranks among the first universities in Europe which secure ERC’s projects. It is my deep conviction that the vast majority of colleagues have the potential to obtain an ERC funded project. Furthermore, the University will open its academic positions for ERC holders from across Europe”.

The University of Cyprus is the first among the organizations with the greatest absorbency of competitive projects. Specifically, the University of Cyprus has a
total of 104 participations in the 7th Framework Programme projects, with a total funding of €30.21 million.