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), together with the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH) ranks among the top institutions with an increased number of ERC grant holders and an equal number of funded programmes.

The European Research Council (ERC) is the body responsible for funding basic research at European level, providing 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 research field.

In detail, Cyprus has 13 ERC grant holders, of which 10 are UCY researchers. The total approved funding of the ERC’s projects for the UCY amounts to more than 10 million Euros. Referring to ERC’s funding absorption in UCY, Rector, Professor Constantinos Christofides, said that ERC’s projects reveal the quality of faculty of each university and research institution. University of Cyprus, proportionally to its size, ranks among the first universities in Europe which secure ERC’s projects. He strongly believes that the vast majority of the UCY academic stuff has the potential to obtain an ERC project. Furthermore, the University will open its academic positions for ERC holders from across Europe.

University of Cyprus is the first among similar organizations with the greatest absorbency of competitive projects. Specifically, University of Cyprus has a total of 104 participations in the 7th Framework Programme projects, with a total funding of more than 30 million Euros and ranked on the 76th position between 7804
organizations that have received funding under the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 (Horizon 2020).