



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE



23.10.2009

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... Commission

COM (2009) 552 COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL - MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF WORLD CLASS EXCELLENCE.

The European Research Council (ERC) is a new component of the EU's research policy, introduced under the provisions of the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7). It is the means for implementing the Specific Programme "Ideas", which is endowed with a substantial budget (€7.51 billion over the period 2007-2013). The ERC's architecture comprises an independent Scientific Council, composed of 22 eminent researchers, supported by a Dedicated Implementation Structure (DIS) in the form of an Executive Agency of the Commission.

The ERC was set up as an entity to fund investigator-driven frontier research of world class quality at European level, with the aim to advance Europe's scientific performance at the highest levels of excellence. The ERC is establishing new parameters for research activity at Community level. For the first time, a Community research programme is operating on the basis of open European competition between individual research teams, independent scientific governance, and autonomous execution via an executive agency (ERCEA).

The ERC has already become a highly visible and influential component of the European Research Area.

The Communication takes stock of the progress achieved after two and a half years from the start of FP7 and the implementation of the "Ideas" programme.

The ERC is now entering the second stage of its development. On the basis of early evidence, the ERC is set to become an important and stable part of the European research landscape and in order to reach its full potential, it will also need the support of the other institutions and stakeholders.

By testing new ways for research to be carried out in the Community context, the ERC actually stimulates a broader process of learning and adaptation and constitutes a true "agent of change" in the European Research Area.



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This Communication sets out a series of actions which meet Europe's ambitions for the ERC, takes duly into account the recommendations of the Review panel and accommodates the Commission's own assessment of experience.

Next Steps

Starting immediately, the Commission and the ERCEA will take initiatives under their respective competences to ameliorate the governance and administrative flexibility of the ERC within the current regulatory framework. The Commission will also actively work with other stakeholders, including the Scientific Council, to ensure their continued support on the way forward and the parallel improvement and "professionalization" of activities under their own responsibility.

The Commission will engage in due course, and within the review of the Financial Regulation, into a broader and substantial debate with the European Parliament and Council on the regulatory framework for research and technological development. It will aim at ensuring that the appropriate balance is found between the risks inherent to research activities and the efficient use of EU funds, and that appropriate structures and mechanisms can be provided for externalised research management. The overall aim is that Community financial and administrative framework can be best used to serve the policies aimed at boosting new sources of sustainable growth.



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Lifelong Learning Programme – 2010 call for proposals published

The general call for proposals for 2010 has just been launched. Both citizens and organisations in the field of school and higher education, vocational training and adult learning can now apply again for the numerous activities supported by the programme, which includes the Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig sub-programmes.

Through the Lifelong Learning Programme the European Union offers interesting learning opportunities to individuals at all stages of their lives. It helps them go on learning periods abroad and also supports co-operation between schools, universities and enterprises in different European countries.

New developments in education and training policy have been taken on board and are set out in the call. A novelty is also that the call widens opportunities for co-operation actions with countries not participating in the programme.

All information needed to apply for participation in the Lifelong Learning Programme, in particular the priorities of the Call for Proposals 2010 and the Guide to the programme, are available online at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm

The deadlines for submission of applications, which vary according to the part of the programme, can be found in [the Official Journal of the European Union](#).

To know more

- The Lifelong Learning Programme – [an overview](#)



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The Creativity & Innovation Citizens' Forum: *The relevance of research and innovation in today's society*

The European Parliament Office in Malta and Malta Council for Science and Technology have pleasure in inviting you to the Creativity and Innovation Citizen's Forum.

The event, being held on the **29th October 2009 at the Grand Hotel Excelsior** between 9am and 2pm, aims to raise awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development; to disseminate good practices, stimulate education and research, and to promote policy debate on related issues.

The activity targets a range of different groups including researchers, young people, educators, SMEs and policy makers and the general public.

The Forum will consist of three debates in which the audience will be encouraged to actively participate. The first panel discussion will focus on Rising to the Challenge of the European Research Area: The Maltese Perspective. This debate will tackle local development strategies based on creativity and innovation in the public, academic and private spheres..

The second debate, Creative Malta: Developing a National Pro-innovation Culture will focus on whether science and technological studies are promoting an active, innovative mindset and how an entrepreneurial attitude is a prerequisite for continued prosperity. The last session will showcase a variety of innovative projects which have helped organisations be competitive in their respective fields.

Please confirm your attendance at: <http://www.mcst.gov.mt/events.aspx?nid=184> or call Ms Christine Grixti on 23602 118. Please [click here](#) for Programme.

We look forward to meeting you at the event.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Julian Vassallo
Head, EP Office in Malta

Dr. Ing. Nicholas J. Sammut
Chairman, MCST



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Education and Culture DG

Culture Programme



Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Representation in Malta

CCP PRESENTS:

INFORMATION SEMINAR ON EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LITERARY TRANSLATION

The Cultural Contact Point (CCP), within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is the national focal point promoting the EU Culture Programme in Malta.

One of the areas of funding of the Culture Programme is literary translation: financial support is provided to translations of books from one European language to another. Publishing houses are invited to apply under this strand by 1st February each year.

In this regard, CCP is organising an information session on EU FUNDING FOR LITERARY TRANSLATION. Apart from providing information about the specifications of this call, the session aims at discussing and analyzing in detail the Maltese situation and the difficulties met by local operators in accessing literary translation funds under the Culture Programme.

The information session will also be addressed by Ms. Alexandra Buchler, a professional translator and founding director of *Literature across Frontiers*, a programme of international literary exchange based in the UK.

This event is aimed at publishers, translators, and authors and would also be of interest to others working within the literary field.

Date: Thursday 5th November 2009 Venue: Dar l-Ewropa, European Commission
Representation in Malta – 245, St Paul Street, Valletta. Time: 10:30-13:00

Those interested in participating are kindly requested to register by sending an e-mail to: andrea.scorcia@gov.mt by Thursday 6th November 2009 at 12.00hrs.

Participation is free of charge.

For further information visit: www.culture.org.mt

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