



INNOVATION

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

Funding opportunities for SMEs

Greece is indeed a country of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), since 99.8% of the enterprises employ less than 100 workers. Their role is essential for economic growth, especially in the current circumstances of competition and global market instability.

New policies and initiatives, both at national and European level, aim to cover the specific needs of SMEs: recent surveys of the National Observatory for SMEs and the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research reveal a profile of Greek SMEs. A short guide provides information on funding opportunities, support networks and useful links. EKT actively supports Greek SMEs through the Enterprise Europe Network-Hellas that provides integrated services for boosting competitiveness based on knowledge and innovation.

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<http://www.enterprise-hellas.gr>
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme/index_en.htm

David C. Prosser: "Soon, it will be unusual for a funding body or university not to have an open access policy"

David C. Prosser, Director of SPARC Europe (alliance of 110 European research libraries in 14 countries), in his interview, underlines that research funding bodies and universities will realize their responsibility to ensure that the results of all the research they fund are openly accessible. Soon, it will be unusual for a funding body or university not to have an open access policy. Any country, such as Greece, that wishes to promote itself internationally as a country that takes research seriously will need to address the issue of open access policies.

Ioannis Ioannidis: "Open Access will 'democratise' the access to knowledge"

Ioannis Ioannidis, Professor at the University of Athens, in his interview takes the "intermediaries" out of the lifecycle of knowledge production and promises that research results will come to the surface more directly, without any censorship burdens. The benefits of Open Access are obvious for the society. However, the culture of the academic community has to change, especially regarding the quality assurance of scientific publications.

High technology ground coupled heat pumps developed by CRES

The project GROUNDHIT "Ground Coupled Heat Pumps of High Technology", coordinated by the Greek Centre for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES), received the Energy Globe Award - one of the most prestigious international environmental awards - as the best environmental project in Greece in 2008.

The project GROUNDHIT aims at improving the cost-effectiveness, competitiveness and market penetration of ground coupled heat pumps. The Ground Coupled Heat Pumps are a reliable and environmentally friendly technology that utilises the soil temperature, which is near-constant irrespective of the external weather conditions, and provides buildings with efficient heating, cooling and warm water.

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CRES
<http://www.cres.gr>

GROUNDHIT
<http://www.groundhit.eu/>

Energy Globe Award
<http://www.energyglobe.com/en/energy-globe-award/>

Greek researchers reveal a new mechanism for mitochondria biogenesis

Recent research at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the Foundation for Research & Technology-Hellas (FORTH) - the results of which are published in the Nature Structural and Molecular Biology Journal, one of the most prestigious international scientific magazines - reveals a new mechanism for mitochondria biogenesis. The research will contribute to innovative, targeted, therapeutic approaches to several mitochondrial diseases, such as ageing and cancer.

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Research team at FORTH
<http://www.imbb.forth.gr/people/tokatlidis>

Nature Structural and Molecular Biology Journal
<http://www.nature.com/nsmb/journal/v16/n2/index.html>

Research and Regional Policy at the EU

"Innovation, Research and Technology at the framework of the European Regional Policy" was the topic of the information event organised by the Member of the European Parliament Emmanouil Angelakas, in February, in Athens. The event was attended by the Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hubner and attracted high level officials from Greece and abroad.

The winners of the RegioStars 2009 Awards were also announced on 16th February 2009 during the Regions for Economic Change conference. The objective of the RegioStars Awards is to identify good practices in regional development and to highlight original and innovative projects which could be attractive and inspiring to other regions. The winner under the category "Audiovisual spot or programme highlighting the contribution of Cohesion Policy", entitled "Do you know about ... ESPA?", was conceived by the Greek Ministry of Economy and broadcast on main Greek public TV channels. In the spot, the famous actor Thodoris Atheridis explains the meaning of "ESPA" which is the "National Strategic Reference Framework", defining the priorities of Cohesion policy in Greece.

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RegioStars 2009 - The Awards for Regional Innovative Projects
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/regiostars_09_en.cfm?nmenu=4