

Norbert Kroo

*Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the
Scientific Council of the European Research Council
Hungary*

Science, Traditions And The European Innovation Union

The world is changing and so does science. In this changing world the significance of knowledge, including scientific knowledge is increasing. The role of talents is similarly getting more important. We are facing in this changing world challenges as never before. How does Europe react to these challenges in the field of research and development?

The building of an European Research Area (ERA) is part of the answer and the R&D Framework Programmes are the main instruments in the realization of this vision. Four Specific Programmes of the last programme, namely FP7 and one of them, namely the Ideas Specific Programme, run by the European Research Council (ERC) is the newest. ERC runs two grant systems, one for the young generation of scientists (Starting Grant) and one for the seniors (Advanced Grant), open for anyone in any fields of science. Individuals may apply for the grants and the only selection rule is excellence of the applicant and the proposed project. Some details of these ERC programmes are presented, including typical statistical data.

The activity of ERC is one of the newest elements of European science policy which is expected to be followed by other ones in FP8, planned as a Common Strategic Framework of research and innovation, with science for science, science for competitiveness and science for society elements in it. The present state of art in the planning of this R&D programme is briefly presented.