

Sabanci University

**RESEARCH AND
GRADUATE POLICY
DIRECTORATE**

**SUPPORTS YOUR
RESEARCH AT SU**

in January 2008, features

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1. Sabancı University Internal Research Grant “IRG”; Focus on IRG and Tips for Applicants

Sabancı University has initiated the IRG program as a vehicle to support frontier research activities at Sabancı University. The projects supported through Sabancı University IRG should :

- Integrate multiple disciplines;
- Carry the potential of contributing to inter-faculty collaboration and scholarly endeavors;
- Demonstrate scientific, technological and/or social merit, while not having an opportunity for immediate external funding;
- Be at the level of incubator stage research projects prior to entering a commercial phase
- Have a high potential of strengthening the social image of the university;
- Contribute to the practical learning stage in highly critical / developing research areas.

Application Procedure : The total application file consists of 2 sections: The Proposal Form (word document) and the Budget Form (excel document)

- Download and fill out both the Internal Research Grant Application Form (FRG-C47004-01) & Internal Research Grant Budget Form (FRG-C47004-02);
- For assistance in the completion of these forms applicants should contact the RGP representative during the preparation of the application. See contact information below.
- Email the completed forms to: internalgrants@sabanciuniv.edu. Any incomplete applications will be returned.
- The University Research Council (URC) undertakes an initial evaluation of the proposals and establishes a list of candidate proposals on the basis of priority.
- Acting on behalf of URC, the RGP Director sends the list of recommended projects to the President.
- Candidates named to the second phase of the evaluations award present their proposals in a meeting to be attended by the members of URC and the President.
- Final award list is approved by the President.

Deadline for "IRG" 2008: April 15, 2008.

Detailed information regarding this grant and the application forms can be reached at the following website: <https://mysu-sabanciuniv-edu.intweb.sabanciuniv.edu/yonerge/ALP/E-PRG-C470-0401.html>

1.1 Prof. Dr. Kemal Inan’s perspective on IRGs as a URC member

<p>Prof. Dr. Kemal Inan’s perspective on IRGs as a URC member</p>	<p>KemalInan</p>
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The funding of specifically selected research projects internally, using scarce university funds, is not a common practice used by universities worldwide for as, generally speaking, universities limit such activities to the usual indirect support - not project specific - given to the faculty and the students in terms of teaching assistantships, traveling funds, laboratory maintenance and renewal, as well as some initial infrastructural investment. There are two good reasons for not funding research projects internally:

First is the question of fairness and transparency in the selection of projects to be funded. In the recent past some Turkish state universities have tried to circumvent this problem in a typically bureaucratic manner by distributing internal research funds to the academic departments in an egalitarian manner and, if necessary, by generating token departmental project titles so that the funds seem to have a purpose, while being dispensed without serious scrutiny of their research output. One of the reasons leading to such a practice was the insufficiency of available research funding, either through state organizations such as TUBITAK, DPT etc. or through the industry.

The second reason is that of giving the wrong signal to faculty members. It is the responsibility of a faculty member to seek and find resources for her/his research activities by demonstrating a willingness to be evaluated by peer referees, both for initially receiving such a research grant and finally proving the value of the output generated. In the absence of such a signal a competitive and dynamic research environment ceases to prevail, which in the long run reflects on the research evaluation of the faculty members in a negative manner. Recently, the amount of national funds earmarked for research has increased by an order of magnitude; thus, the principal justification for the practice of funding

research internally by the scarce university funds is fading away.

Yet there are exceptions to the considerations summarized above and the internal research funding institutionalized within the Sabancı University through the URC is based on these exceptions. These exceptions are summarized below:

1. One characteristic of frontier research in contemporary technology is its interdisciplinary and emerging nature. New areas and possibilities emerge as a result of likely, or sometimes unlikely, collaboration between different specialization areas. Technologically ambitious, interdisciplinary inter or intra faculty research projects may have difficulty in finding initial external funding due to conservative refereeing that views the background of the faculty members as inexperienced for the project. Such projects carry a risk because of their frontier nature, as opposed to projects in mature areas where the applicants have ample experience and past credentials. Under such circumstances a short term - preferably one year, maximum two years after intermediate evaluation - funding for the project may be available for such projects. Criteria of acceptance would involve concrete evidence and reasons for lack of external support, the level of technical sophistication and interdisciplinary participation. The general understanding is that as soon as convincing outputs are generated the researchers should seek external funds for future continuation of the project. In such cases internal funding plays an important provocative role in starting such ambitious, interdisciplinary projects.

2. Sometimes a commercially viable idea requires a quick incubation support for research before the stage of commercialization or before a much larger research funding potential through the EU. In such a situation, external support may be neither possible, nor - because of commercial reasons - desirable. Short term incubation support for such projects lie within the scope of internal research funding. Criteria of acceptance involve a demonstration of the feasibility of the idea even at the incubation stage. Here, because of commercialization prospect or potential EU funding, the critical factor is time and even if external funding is available in the future, a quick initial starting fund may play a positive role.

3. There may be situations where a research project - especially an inter faculty one - carries the potential of raising the social profile of the university. Projects of such nature are also candidates for short term internal funding if for various - such as institutional competition - reasons external funding is not possible. Criteria for the acceptance of such projects must demonstrate how the project contributes to the social profile and, under the circumstances, the consent of the university administration may play a decisive role.

The URC does not take the exceptions listed above for granted and practices continuous critical scrutiny of the internal funding system as it evolves over time. The URC is active not only in the selection of new projects but also in intermediate project reviews and in the final evaluation of terminating projects. The system is relatively new and our experience with it is not at this time sufficient to make any meaningful remarks on its progress. Although as of yet no external referee has been used for evaluation, such a practice has not been ruled out. After a reasonable period of time - perhaps five years - the system of URC internal funding should be reviewed and re-evaluated. Internal projects are usually high risk enterprises, especially those selected according to exception (1) above, and as such have a philosophical resemblance to venture capital practices, in that one important success story can easily justify the system.

1.2 Dr. Selim Balcısoy's perspective on IRGs as a principle investigator of an IRG project

As a team consisting of designers and scientists we had an idea that information visualization is a key problem and that we could make a contribution in this research area by looking at an engineering problem from a different perspective. We first did some research on the important challenges of the topic. Secondly, we focused on what we could contribute to the issue and then tried to set measurable goals. Finally we put together a rough draft of a project proposal and started to look around for suitable funding organizations.

As we scanned the proposals we could not find any potential source which accords with our project. At that time we learned about the Internal Projects and submitted our proposal. The URC presentations aided us on focusing on the measurable outputs of the project.

We suggest that researchers who are planning to apply for internal projects find an interdisciplinary and cutting edge topic. In the process of writing the proposal they should consult with the RGP team, especially so when determining budget details

Our project is on information visualization. We wanted to design and develop software and hardware systems to interact with large data in a natural way. During our research we have examined different approaches and tested several solutions. We have also started to monitor what is happening in the field and how we can contribute with our new resources. We have presented our early results to IBM Turkey and drafted a research plan with them. Our efforts led to our team being granted an IBM Faculty Award.

1.3 2006-2007 IRG Projects

2006 IRG Project

Dr. Selim Balcısoy; Novel Representation and Interaction Techniques of Complex Datasets

SELIM_BALCISOY

In this project we are attempting to address and solve issues related to navigation, interaction, perception and consciousness deriving from the management of complex data sets, utilizing artistic/design and sound production practices in virtual reality/environments. To do so this project is gathering a team of designers, artists and computer scientist in a trans-disciplinary framework. We think only such a team can propose scientifically and commercial successful radically different data representation and interaction methods. Currently we are working on analysis of temporal data, analysis of heterogen datasets and evaluating virtual reality interaction techniques for information visualization.

2006 IRG Project

Dr. Serhat Yeşilyurt; Design and demonstration of the traveling-wave actuator for viscous propulsion of microswimmers

SerhatYesilyurt

Our aim is to design and demonstrate a biologically-inspired propulsion mechanism that uses a piezoelectric polymer-composite traveling planar-wave actuator, which does not cause excessive waste, heat, and mechanical stress in biofluids.

2006 IRG Project

Dr. Mustafa Ünel; Integrated Visual Servoing and Force Approach to Micro/Nano Object Manipulation

This project aims to develop a novel approach to micro/nano object manipulation by developing robust and provably correct generic algorithms based on feedback provided from various imaging sensors (e.g. optical microscopes equipped with CCD cameras, AFM, SEM etc.), which will greatly enhance our ability to monitor and interpret microscopic images and contribute to applications ranging from biotechnology to MEMS. Tremendous progress has been made within the past decade in micro/nano systems technologies. However, the tools for manipulating micro/nano objects and obtaining mathematical descriptions of the underlying content lag behind. The proposed research effort addresses this issue by developing computational dynamical models that represent the temporal evolution of the microscopic image sequences. Object manipulation is achieved using vision guided microrobots. Unlike the more traditional look-and-move approach, microrobots are guided using full visual feedback at each control iteration.

The first interim progress reports of these projects have been submitted in May 2007.

2007 IRG Project

Prof. Dr. Zehra Sayers; Feasibility Study for use of Metallothioneins as Metal Biosensors

Zehra_Sayers

Biosensors make use of biological molecules as recognition elements and offer a unique opportunity for combining biotechnology, material science and microelectronics. These molecules show high sensitivity for metals and biosensors have diverse applications in medical and environmental sciences as well as in food industry. In this project the possibility of using a wheat protein, metallothionein, for detection of cadmium in solution will be explored. Since cadmium is one of the major contaminants in the environment, an obvious application would be determination of soluble forms of cadmium either in soil or in seeds.

The Project starts in January 2008.

2. Open Call for Proposals

EU 7TH FRAMEWORK - TUBITAK - SAN-TEZ

Sponsored Institution	Call Title	Deadline for Submission	Theme
EU 7thFramework Program (FP7) Ideas Specific Program			
EU FP7-Ideas	Call for ERC Advanced Grant (Physical Sciences & Engineering) Identifier: ERC-2008-AdG_20080228	28 February 2008	ERC
EU FP7-Ideas	IDEAS Coordination and Support Action (CSA) Identifier: ERC-2008-Support	06 March 2008	ERC
EU FP7-Ideas	Call for ERC Advanced Grant (Social Sciences & Humanities) Identifier: ERC-2008-AdG_20080318	18 March 2008	ERC
EU FP7-Ideas	Call for ERC Advanced Grant (Life Sciences) Identifier: ERC-2008-AdG_20080422	22 April 2008	ERC
EU 7thFramework Program (FP7) People Specific Program			
EU FP7-People	Researchers' night Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-NIGHT-2008	05 March 2008	People
EU FP7-People	Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programs (COFUND) Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-3-COFUND	13 March 2008	People
EU FP7-People	FP7-PEOPLE-IAPP-2008 Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-IAPP-2008	25 March 2008	People

EU FP7- People	FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES-2008 Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES-2008	28 March 2008	People
EU FP7- People	FP7-PEOPLE-IRG-2008 Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-IRG-2008	03 April 2008	People
EU FP7- People	FP7-PEOPLE-ERG-2008 Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-ERG-2008	31 December 2008	People
EU 7th Framework Program (FP7) Capacities Specific Program			
EU FP7- Capacities	Activities of International Cooperation Identifier: FP7-INCO-2007-3	12 February 2008	Activities of International Cooperation
EU FP7- Capacities	Call 3: FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2008-1 Identifier: FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2008-1	29 February 2008	Research Infrastructures
EU FP7- Capacities	Analysis, mentoring, integration of research agendas and definition of joint action plans Identifier: FP7-REGIONS- 2008-1	14 March 2008	Regions of Knowledge
EU FP7- Capacities	Facilitating the emergence of new regional research driven clusters and mutual exchange of information Identifier: FP7-REGIONS-2008-2	14 March 2008	Regions of Knowledge
EU FP7- Capacities	Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities established in the EU's Convergence Regions and Outermost regions Identifier: FP7-REGPOT- 2008-1	14 March 2008	Research Potential
EU FP7- Capacities	Providing evaluation facilities for research entities in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions Identifier: FP7-REGPOT-2008-2	14 March 2008	Research Potential
EU FP7- Capacities	EU FP7- Capacities	14 March 2008	Research Infrastructures
EU 7th Framework Program (FP7) Cooperation Specific Program			
EU FP7- Cooperation	FP7-ENV-NMP-2008-2 Identifier: FP7-ENV-NMP-2008-2	25 February 2008	Environment, Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
EU FP7- Cooperation	FP7-ENV-2008-1 Identifier: FP7-ENV-2008-1	25 February 2008	Environment (including Climate Change)
EU FP7- Cooperation	General call 3 Identifier: FP7-KBBE-2008-2B	26 February 2008	Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology
EU FP7- Cooperation	Joint Energy NMP Call Identifier: FP7-ENERGY-NMP- 2008-1	26 February 2008	Energy, Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
EU FP7- Cooperation	Energy Call Part 1 Identifier: FP7-ENERGY-2008-1	26 February 2008	Energy
EU FP7- Cooperation	Energy FET Call Identifier: FP7-ENERGY-2008-FET	26 February 2008	Energy
EU FP7- Cooperation	Energy EU-Russia Call Identifier: FP7-ENERGY-2008- RUSSIA	26 February 2008	Energy
EU FP7- Cooperation	FP7-GALILEO-2007-GSA-1 Identifier: FP7-GALILEO- 2007-GSA-1	29 February 2008	Transport (including Aeronautics)
EU FP7- Cooperation	Theme 4 - NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies Identifier: FP7-NMP-2008-SMALL-2	06 March 2008	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
EU FP7-	Theme 4 - NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies,	06 March	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies,

Cooperation	Materials and new Production Identifier: FP7-NMP-2008-LARGE-2	2008	Materials and new Production Technologies
EU FP7-Cooperation	Information and Communication Technologies Identifier: FP7-ICT-2007-3	08 April 2008	Information and Communication Technologies
EU FP7-Cooperation	Theme 4 - NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies Identifier: FP7-NMP-2008-CSA-2	24 April 2008	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
EU FP7-Cooperation	Theme 4 - NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies Identifier: FP7-NMP-2008-EU-India-2	24 April 2008	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7 - AERONAUTICS and AIR TRANSPORT (AAT) - 2008 - RTD-1 Identifier: FP7-AAT-2008-RTD-1	07 May 2008	Transport (including Aeronautics)
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST)-2008-RTD-1 Identifier: FP7-SST-2008-RTD-1	07 May 2008	Transport (including Aeronautics)
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7- SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST) 2008 TREN 1 Identifier: FP7-SST-2008-TREN-1	07 May 2008	Transport (including Aeronautics)
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-Transport (TPT)-2008-RTD-1 Identifier: FP7-TPT-2008-RTD-1	07 May 2008	Transport (including Aeronautics)
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-Transport (TPT)-2008-RTD-1 Identifier: FP7-TPT-2008-RTD-1	07 May 2008	Transport (including Aeronautics)
EU FP7-Cooperation	Support to bottom up policy coordination initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions (OMC-NET) Identifier: FP7-COH-2007-2.2-OMC-NET	26 June 2008	Support for the coherent development of research policies
EU FP7-Cooperation	Information and Communication Technologies Identifier: FP7-ICT-2007-C	31 December 2008	Information and Communication Technologies
TUBITAK			
TUBITAK	Global Researcher Program (1010)	05 May 2008	-
TUBITAK	Career Development Program (3501)	04 August 2008	-
TUBITAK	Visiting Scientists Fellowship Program (2221)	End of every month	-
TUBITAK	Support Program for the Initiative to Build Scientific and Technological Cooperation Networks and Platforms (1301)	Open	-
TUBITAK	The Program for Participating International Scientific Research Projects (1011)	Open	-
TUBITAK	Support Program for Research Projects of Public Institutions (1007)	Open	-
TUBITAK	Short-Term R&D Funding Program (1002)	Open	-
INDUSTRY THESIS (SAN-TEZ)			
Ministry of Trade and Industry	2008 Industry Thesis (SAN-TEZ) Program	07 March 2008	-

3. RGP News

Proposals and Activities of RGP Directorate in November and December 2007

The RGP Office has processed twelve proposals for the following sponsoring agencies from November through December 2007.

- One proposal for TUBITAK Support Program for Research Projects of Public Institutions (1007)
- Ten proposals for TUBITAK Support Program for Scientific and Technological Research Projects (1001)
- One proposal for TUBITAK Global Researcher Program (1010)

EU FP7 "Ideas and Capacities Specific Program" Information Day

EU FP7 "Ideas and Capacities Specific Program" Information Day was held on November 21, 2007 at Sabancı University in cooperation with the TUBITAK FP7 National Coordination Office (NCO). Mr. Hakan Karataş, EU FP7 Ideas and Capacities National Contact Point (NCP) gave information currently open calls regarding Research Potential of Convergence Regions (REGPOT), European Research Council's (ERC) IDEAS Programs for Advanced Investigator Grant and Starting Independent Researcher Grant. For more information please visit:

<http://rgp.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/?Announcements/21112007.html>

EU FP7 "Sustainable Surface Transport" Research Information Day

EU FP7 "Sustainable Surface Transport" Research Information Day was held on November 23, 2007 at Sabancı University in cooperation with TUBITAK FP7 NCO. The topics of the presentations highlighted the following topics: "Greening of Transport", "Co-modality", "Urban Mobility", "Safety and Security", and "Competitiveness". For more information please visit:

http://www.fp7.org.tr/AB_14/tabid/456/forumid/29/threadid/1359/scope/posts/Default.aspx

TUBITAK "1001 Program" Information Day

TUBITAK "1001 Program" Information Day was held on December 13, 2007 in the RGP conference room. Dr. Nilay Papila provided information for the faculty members who had applied for the TUBITAK 1001 Program for the January 2nd deadline.

Meetings and Events of RGP Directorate in November and December 2007

- Akbank EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Program) Innovation Conference, Istanbul, November 6, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan, the RGP Director, attended the Akbank EDP Innovation Conference at The Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre (ICEC).
- Competitiveness Congress 2007, Istanbul, November 8, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan attended the Competitiveness Congress 2007 held at the Conrad Hotel.
- RIS-Mersin Project 3th Regional Innovation Forum, Mersin, November 9-10, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan, made a presentation at the RIS-Mersin Project 3th Regional Innovation Forum. Dr. Arıkan also acted as one of the assistors in this forum.
- FP7 Mobility Summit, Ankara, November 26-27, 2007. The RGP Directorate (Dr. Nilay Papila, Ebru Ocak, Yeşim Kaya, Sezen Sefayi and Işıl Uğurlu) attended the FP7 Mobility Summit. Dr. Nilay Papila made a presentation on "Path to Success" on the first day and "Tips for Success in IRG Funds" on the second day of this conference.
- ISO 6th Industry Congress, Istanbul, November, 27, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan attended ISO 6th Industry Congress. Dr. Arıkan was chairman of the "Enabling Technological Progress and Innovation: International Experience" session.
- Taftie Annalis'07, Istanbul, November 28, 2007, Dr. Cemil Arıkan attended the Taftie Annalis'07 Conference.
- IBM Faculty Award Ceremony, Istanbul, November 29, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan and Prof. Dr. Albert Erkip attended the IBM Faculty Award Ceremony where Dr. Balcısoy received the IBM faculty award.
- "UK Research Office (UKRO) - FP7/ERC Advanced Investigator Grants Information and Proposal Writing Event", University of Cambridge, UK, December 5, 2007. Dr. Nilay Papila and Işıl Uğurlu attended the FP7/ERC Advanced Investigator Grants Information and Proposal Writing Event.
- TESİD Award Ceremony, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, December 6, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan attended the Kadir Has University TESİD Award Ceremony.
- National Constitution Platform Workshop, Ankara, December 8-9, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan participated in the National Constitution Platform Workshop as the jury member.
- 5th Kobi Summit, Istanbul, December 14, 2007. Dr. Cemil Arıkan has attended as a speaker participated in 5th Kobi Summit as a speaker

4. FENS Faculty Member Dr. Cleva Ow Yang Describes Experience with TUBITAK and FP7 projects

FENS Faculty Member Dr. Cleva Ow Yang Describes Experience with TUBITAK and FP7 projects

I first heard about the REGPOT program at the FP7 Information Day organized by Tubitak at SU. Over the past few years, the MAT group has been submitting proposals to DPT and to the European Commission (EC) every year towards upgrading the Materials Characterization Laboratory (MCL) facilities with a transmission electron microscope (TEM). With the new FP7 initiatives, it made sense to try again, this time through the REGPOT-1 mechanism. However, at the information session, there was a strategically sound suggestion of applying first for the REGPOT-2, an instrument in which expert evaluators would visit and evaluate the nanoscale characterization capabilities of the MCL. The results of the evaluation could then be incorporated into a subsequent, stronger REGPOT-1 proposal. After reading all of the FP7 documentation to pick up the bureaucratic language and style of the EC writing, I set to work simultaneously on this REGPOT-2 and another FP7 call for proposals, as they were both due within 24 hours of each other. Setting up the technical concepts and determining the plan of execution were the easy parts. For the last stretch, in regards to the financial and legal issues, I received incredible support from Dr. Nilay Papila and the RGP team. They were very knowledgeable about all of the various proposals. If they didn't have the answer (this was the first round of FP7 calls opened, after all), they made it their mission to know the differences between the highly specific requirements and strategies for each of the different types of proposals. It was an exhilarating team effort to learn on the fly together.

By the time the reviewer score sheets arrived, I had completely forgotten about this proposal, being preoccupied with the usual chaos. The numbers and the comments weren't particularly helpful until a month later, when another letter arrived from the Commission, informing us that our proposal had scored enough points to be invited for negotiation meetings in Brussels. The letter explicitly pointed out that these were merely negotiations, and that there was no commitment to fund our proposal yet, until the accompanying list of concerns from the reviewers were addressed. I took that to heart and ended up basically rewriting the proposal.

An important lesson that I had learned in the re-writing process was appreciating the difference between writing a purely technical proposal, such as a Tubitak 1001, and something more administrative in nature, such as this REGPOT-2. Although the original motivation was still there, i.e., to bring in a few independent, expert evaluators to review the capabilities of the MCL, I began to appreciate that the MCL, a multi-user facility is a very unique one in Turkey, and one of few like it in the world. To some extent, the U.S. National Labs and some of the Max Planck Institutes have a vaguely similar charter. For the benefit of all the stakeholders, such a review would be invaluable for the experience and for the action plan that would be developed and implemented based on the evaluations. However, what was clear to us about the facility was not expressed sufficiently clearly in the first draft of the proposal. In defining more clearly who the stake holders are and the management structure of the MCL, our mission became clearer, and the point of this evaluation took on a whole new meaning. The focus was no longer on just evaluating the facilities and the equipment; rather, we realized that we could benefit from evaluating and then improving the effectiveness of the operation of such a multi-user facility.

There were a number of forms, which had to be prepared in rather specific formats, and as Murphy would have it, the software programs weren't exactly operational by their "live" dates. Nonetheless, the EC staff was very supportive and flexible in helping us deliver the correctly filled forms, as was RGP in supporting our preparations for the negotiation trip. In particular, Dr. Papila was again a very helpful sounding board for strategic issues and accompanied me to the Brussels meeting. We also received support from the TURBO office in Brussels, which has a constant 3-month rotation of dynamic young staff members from Tubitak's National Contact Point office. Having sat in on some grant negotiations the previous week, Ms. Didem Celikkanat shared some of her experiences and joined us for our negotiation meeting. Although we were primed for a protracted debate, our hyper-prepared forms had apparently met all of the criteria and concerns for the EC side, and the negotiation meeting turned into two short informational meetings describing the subsequent steps toward signing the contract. The situation clearly called for Pad Thai!

On the part of FP7, I was very impressed with the level of organization and detailed feedback that was provided for all proposals; the coordination was amazing, given the numbers the Commission was dealing with! We've just been contacted by the EC again to specify which part of the proposal could be released to the potential evaluators; once we receive the CV's of candidate evaluators, we will draw up a short list and prepare contracts for their evaluation visits. We're really looking forward to the project kick-off on February 1st, 2008!

5. Latest Research News

TUBITAK awards Sabanci University Faculty with six new 1001 Research Projects

Dr. İsmet İnönü Kaya, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for his project entitled, "Quasi-Ballistic Transport in Graphene".

Dr. Ali Koşar, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for his project entitled, "Boiling Heat Transfer and Boiling Instabilities in Microchannels".

Dr. İnci Gümüş, faculty member at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled, "The Effect of the Exchange Rate Policy on Sovereign Default Risk in Developing Countries".

Dr. Fulya Nimet Beriker, faculty member at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled, "Liberal International Relations and Instruments of Foreign Policy : An Integrative Approach".

Dr. Berrin Yanıkoğlu, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled, "Recognizing Online Handwritten Mathematical Formulas".

Dr. Esra Erdem, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled, "Inferring the Evolutionary History of Turkic Languages using Answer Set Programming".

TUBITAK awards Sabancı University Faculty four new 2007 Career Projects

Dr. Volkan Patoğlu, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK Career Grant for his project entitled, "Manual Skill Training and Rehabilitation via Force Feedback Devices".

Dr. Şevket İlker Birbil, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK Career Grant for his project entitled, "Multiagent Environment for Global Optimization".

Dr. Ayşe Karaevli, faculty member at the Faculty of Management, has been awarded a TUBITAK Career Grant for her project entitled, "Turkish Business Groups' Strategic Change During Global Integration Process: Comparative Case Studies on Refocusing Strategies".

Dr. Kemal Kılıç, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK Career Grant for his project entitled, "A Decision Support System for Developing Innovation Policies".

Ministry of Trade and Industry awards Sabancı University Faculty with two new 2007 Industry Thesis (SAN-TEZ) Program Grants

Dr. Yusuf Menceloğlu, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a SAN-TEZ Grant for his project entitled, "Development of an active spin finish formulation with improved adhesion activation for polyethylene terephthalate (PET) continuous fibers". (Project Partner from Industry: KORDSA)

Dr. Volkan Patoğlu, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a SAN-TEZ Grant for his project entitled, "Automation of Manual Thread Loading Process during Truck-Bus Tire Manufacturing". (Project Partner from Industry: BriSA)

USGA awards Sabancı University Faculty with new grant

Dr. Hikmet Budak, faculty member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a USGA Grant for his project entitled "Grass Functional Genomics"

6. Upcoming Events

- January 9, 2008, Sabancı University, Istanbul: "Workshop on COST/EUREKA"
- January 9, 2008, Champéry, Switzerland: " Nano2Life Annual Meeting "
For further information please visit: <http://www.nano2life.org/>
- January 10, 2008, Luxembourg, "ICT-2007.2.1 "Cognitive Systems, Interaction, Robotics"
For further information please visit: http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/cognition/infoday_100108.htm
- January 11, 2008, Ankara, Turkey, "Opening Conference of the ERC".
For further information please visit: <http://www.fp7.org.tr/erclaunch/>
- January 14, 2008, Brussels, Belgium, "Conference on Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways "
For further information please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>
- January 17, 2008, London, UK, " Nanotechnology for Security and Crime Prevention "
For further information please visit: <http://www.nano.org.uk/events/ionevents.htm>
- January 21-25, 2008, Frascati, Italy, "ESA Workshop on Advances in Synthetic Aperture Radar Oceanography"
For further information please visit: <http://earth.esa.int/workshops/seasar2008/>
- January 23, 2008, Brussels, Belgium, "Information Event - FP7 - Call 3"
For further information please visit: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/fet-proactive/ie-jan08_en.html
- January 23, 2008, Istanbul, Turkey, "FP7 ICT Turkey Conference"
For further information please visit: <http://www.fp7ict-turkey.org/>

- January 23-24, 2008, Brussels, Belgium, "MINAM Launch and Brokerage Event".
For further information please visit: <http://www.minamwebportal.eu/index.php?m1=Public-Area>
- January 25-26, 2008, Brussels, Belgium, " Workshop on the Governance of the European Union "
For further information please visit: <http://www.cinefogo.org/>
- January 29-30, 2008, Bilbao, Spain, " Conference on Regional Innovation "
For further information please visit: <http://www.innovating-regions.org/>
- January 29-30, 2008, Berlin, Germany, "SusChem Stakeholder and Brokerage Event"
For further information please visit: <http://www.suschem.org/content.php?pageId=2494>
- January 30 -February 1, 2008, Vienna, Austria, " Seminar on EU-Russia Research Cooperation "
For further information please visit: http://rp7.ffg.at/ruseraexe_trainingcourse
- February 4-8, 2008, Les Houches, France, " Workshop on Imaging of Nano-Objects "
For further information please visit: <http://www.e-smi.eu/>

7. Editorial

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