

Sabanci University

**RESEARCH AND
GRADUATE POLICY
DIRECTORATE**

**SUPPORTS YOUR
RESEARCH AT SU**

in October 2008, features

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1. FP7 Ideas Program; Zoom to European Research Council (ERC) Grants

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding body set up to support investigator-driven frontier research. Its main aim is to stimulate scientific excellence by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative scientists, scholars and engineers to be adventurous and take risks in their research. The scientists are encouraged to go beyond established frontiers of knowledge and the boundaries of disciplines.

The ERC complements other funding activities in Europe such as those of the national research funding agencies, and is a flagship component of the 'Ideas Programme' of the European Union's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7).

The Scientific Council decided that the ERC funding activities involve two major grant schemes: The ERC Starting Independent Researcher grant scheme (ERC Starting Grants) and The ERC Advanced Investigator grant scheme (ERC Advanced Grants).

1. 1. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant

Europe currently offers insufficient opportunities for young investigators to develop independent careers and make the transition from working under a supervisor to being independent researchers in their own right. This structural problem leads to a dramatic waste of research talent in Europe. It also limits or delays the emergence of the next-generation of research leaders, who bring new ideas and energy, and it encourages highly talented researchers at an early stage of their career to seek advancement elsewhere. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grants (ERC Starting Grants) aim to support up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish or consolidate a proper research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe. The scheme targets promising researchers who have the proven potential of becoming independent research leaders. It will support the creation of excellent new research teams and will strengthen others that have been recently created.

The 2008 call for ERC Starting Grant proposals was announced on 24 July 2008. The Starting Grant scheme and submission process includes the following guidelines:

- Minimal and symmetric reduction of eligibility window (3-8 years post PhD with justifiable extensions of this period still possible) and assessment of Principal Investigator taking into account the stage of evolution of his/her career and the research team
- Indications on the expected profile of a competitive ERC Starting Grant applicant ("benchmarks")
- Implementation of the "Principal Investigator can apply every other year" rule for the ERC Starting Grants (with some exemptions).

Submission deadlines for the three different subject areas included in the call for proposals are indicated below:

- Deadline for Basic Sciences and Engineering Projects, 29 October 2008
- Deadline for Social Sciences and Humanities Projects, 19 November 2008
- Deadline for Life Sciences Projects, 10 December 2008

Costs which are directly eligible for ERC funding include :

- Personal Costs
- Equipment and infrastructure
- Consumables
- Travel Costs
- Publication costs, and any envisaged subcontracts.

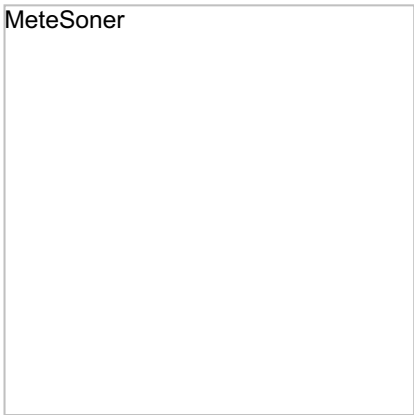
1.2. ERC Advanced Investigator Grant

The ERC Advanced Investigator Grant (ERC Advanced Grant) funding scheme complements the ERC Starting Grant funding scheme by targeting researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right. ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional established research leaders in any field of science, engineering and scholarship to pursue frontier research of their choice. They aim to encourage risk-taking and interdisciplinarity, and supports pioneering frontier research projects.

For further information please visit:

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm>

2. ERC Success Story: FMAN Faculty Member Dr. Halil Mete Soner Describes His Experience with the ERC Advanced Investigators Grant

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Independent research grants are awarded for ambitious projects by the European Research Council (ERC). These are unique EU research grants as they support individuals rather than large groups. All research fields are eligible and an average ERC grant is around two million Euros. Besides this, ERC also has a parallel program for starting projects (ERC Starting Grants). The only difference is that the principal investigators for starting projects must be within eight years of their PhD's. Together with the budget flexibility, these grants will certainly make a great contribution to one's research. In my opinion, it is beneficial for every scientist to plan on applying for an ERC grant at the appropriate stage of their careers.

My introduction to the ERC program was through an e-mail in January from the RGP office. This was a bulletin, sent to the entire university, about ERC's invitation to its informational seminar. Immediately after, this was followed by a personal invitation. At that time I was working with mathematicians from all over the world at the Oberwolfach Institute which is situated in the German Black Forest near the Swiss border. It did not take much time for to send a negative answer. Upon my return to Istanbul, Nilay Papila from the RGP office convinced me to attend the seminar.

During the course of this informational seminar, I became very interested in the specifics of the grant program. With the details of the ERC projects and the experience of the RGP office, I realized that applying would be easier than I had thought. I only had to focus and redirect my recent ongoing research. This was a very beneficial mental exercise. Also, I have been accustomed to doing it at certain intervals throughout my career as it had given me an opportunity to critically evaluate my own research. Despite the fact that the success probability of an ERC application was quite low, I decided to consider applying. During the next week, I concentrated on this project without getting into details. I decided to apply when I came up with the title of FiRM (Financial Risk Management).

With the application deadline approaching it became necessary to work quite intensely. Important components of the application included a budget as well as the scientific abstract, a bureaucratic portion, and information about my last ten years of work. The format, as with all EU projects, was rigorously defined. Completing the project with Nilay Papila provided a huge advantage. Her help in understanding and adhering to the format as well as the details regarding the content was instrumental in our eventual success. She continuously advised me on a number of points about the description of my last ten years. She also helped on the technical part on issues ranging from the exposition to the connections to the general EU research philosophy. I am certain that I would not have given proper attention to these very important details which I appreciated later. All the bureaucratic tasks were overseen by the RGP office. After my providing a rough framework, they prepared a budget. I finally completed the research section by working every night in the hotel during a nine day trip to Portugal. We submitted the application in February 2008.

I learned outcome at the end of July. No significant modifications except a reduction in the budget were required. Nevertheless, ahead of us was a process whose philosophy I didn't quite understand and Mrs. Papila was on maternity leave. Despite that she continued to help from Canada throughout this period. Ebru Ocak and Didem Kılıçoğlu from the RGP office also provided critical support at every difficult stage of the bureaucratic process. By the end of August the

project was accepted in its entirety and it is now ready to be signed. I knew that a colleague from Cambridge who had received a Starting Grant had started the final steps in February and the process was finalized in September. This provides an outside proof of the effectiveness of our office.

Now an exciting period is in front of us.

3. FASS Faculty Member Dr. Ersin Kalaycıoğlu Describes His Experience with the TUBITAK Participation Program for International Scientific Research Projects (1011)

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ErsinKalaycioglu

The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) is a program in which we (Turkey - Sabanci University/IPC - Ali Çarıkoğlu - Ersin Kalaycıoğlu) are currently participating. This is a cross-national collaborative program involving 43 countries, which annually conduct surveys on modules determined two years in advance. Data collection via national surveys in the member countries is conducted by national representatives of the ISSP. Data collected for ISSP is part of an international sociology project shared both with its own members as well as with social scientists in general. A global network is comprised of the General Secretariat located in Bergen, Norway, the data archive in Cologne, Germany, and member countries reaching from Chile to North America, from China and Japan to Israel, South Africa, Britain, Finland, and Denmark.

While participating in a variety of international conferences colleagues they are acquainted with had been asking Ali Çarıkoğlu and Ersin Kalaycıoğlu whether they would be interested in this network. Eventually, at the end of 2003, they got in touch with the general secretariat in Bergen and agreed in principle to function as the Turkish representative for the ISSP through the Istanbul Policy Center at Sabanci University. After discussing such things as how they would participate in the data gathering process and develop the sampling procedure, their proposals were presented to the ISSP Methodology Committee which addressed this subject at its 2005 meeting and made several suggestions. In order to implement these suggestions, the resources available at the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) and the High Election Commission (YSK) were considered and both agencies were approached for collaboration. As a result of the contacts with the YSK it was determined that it would be impossible to use their resources in drawing the nationally representative sample of our project, as they had not fully stored their data electronically. Upon confirming this, and after determining how we could use the resources of the Turkish Statistical Institute the discussions with the ISSP resumed. In 2006, having resolved our differences we were invited to become members of the ISSP.

Two basic requirements must be met for sustainable ISSP membership, one of which is to do the annual surveys and deposit the data to the central archives and the other is to participate in the annual conferences of the ISSP network, where the future survey topics and designs are deliberated. The first of these is realized through participation in the annual surveys and deposition of the data from that year's survey into their archives in Cologne. We were unable to participate in the work conducted in 2007 despite the fact we were invited to the meeting in Taipei, Taiwan as observers. Due to financial constraints, we were unable to take a place in the data collection field work that year. However Ersin Kalaycıoğlu did attend the 2008 annual meeting held in Chicago, Illinois as an observer. With his participation in the deliberation of the development of the final survey instrument for the 2009 module of Social Inequality and the beginning of the survey work for the 2010 research project on the Environment, one of the conditions has thus been met. The only constraint remaining seemed to be funding for the national survey on Religiosity in 2008. Therefore, the search for financial support for the national survey of 2008 took a critical turn.

The search revealed that it would be possible to find a source for funding within the framework of support included in the TUBITAK Participation Program for International Projects (1011). Our team filled out the necessary application forms and applied to TUBITAK for funding in early May 2008. For this they needed to determine the scope of their budget. They acquired a proforma invoice from a field research company in order to ascertain a realistic estimate of what the real cost to perform the field research would be. The research team also produced a statement for the academic justification of the project, explained the ISS Program, and pointed out what the contribution of the IPC / Sabancı University team would consist of. The final version of the document was submitted to the Sabancı University's RGP office. Drawing upon the RGP's expertise in preparing application forms for TUBITAK, the final touches of the document for the Participation Program for International Projects (1011) were made, and the final document was expedited to TUBITAK.

TUBITAK contacted both the project implementation leader Dr. Kalaycıoğlu and the RGP office of Sabancı University to inform them that their project had successfully passed the academic panel evaluation and had been accepted as worthy

of support within the framework of the Participation Program for International Projects (1011). Upon completion of our research on the Religiosity module in 2008, the second and final condition for ISSP membership will be successfully met. The completion of the current project will also create an opportunity for the ISSP database to include a country with a large Muslim population whose performance of religiosity will be available for comparative research. Similarly, we will also have at our disposal data sets from 42 different countries as well. We believe that such a rich source of data will further enable us to better assess the social phenomena of religiosity in Turkey vis-à-vis similar phenomena in a large number of nation-states across the globe.

4. Open Call for Proposals

EU 7TH FRAMEWORK - TUBITAK- ESF

Sponsored Institution	Call Title	Deadline for Submission	Theme
EU FP7 People Specific Program			
EU FP7- People	FP7-PEOPLE-2009-NIGHT	14 January 2009	People
EU FP7- People	FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IRG FP7-PEOPLE-2009-ERG	02 April 2009	People
EU FP7 Capacities Specific Program			
EU FP7- Capacities	FP7-INCO-2009-1 FP7-INCO-2009-4	12 January 2009	Coordination Actions
EU FP7- Capacities	FP7-INCO-2009-2 FP7-INCO-2009-5	12 January 2009	Support Actions
EU FP7- Capacities	FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2009-1	13 January 2009	Small or Medium- scale focused Research Project, Coordination Actions , Support Actions , Small or Medium-scale focused Research Project specific cooperation actions
EU FP7- Capacities	FP7-REGIONS-2009-1	27 January 2009	Coordination Actions
EU FP7 Ideas Specific Program			
EU FP7- Ideas	ERC-2009-SUPPORT	12 November 2008	Coordination and Support Actions
EU FP7- Ideas	ERC-2009-StG_20081119	19 November 2008	Starting Grant for Social Sciences and Humanities
EU FP7- Ideas	ERC-2009-StG_20081210	10 December 2008	Starting Grant for Life Sciences
EU FP7 Cooperation Specific Program			
EU FP7- Cooperation	FP7-ENERGY-2009-1 FP7-ENERGY-2009-3	25 November 2008	Energy
EU FP7- Cooperation	FP7-2009-BIOREFINERY_CP FP7-2009-BIOREFINERY_CSA	02 December 2008	Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology, Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies, Energy, Environment (including Climate Change)
EU FP7- Cooperation	P7-Health-2009-single-stage FP7-Health-2009-two-stage	03 December 2008	Health
EU FP7- Cooperation	FP7-SEC-2009-1	04 December 2008	Security
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EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-SPACE-2009-1	December 2008	Space
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-ENV-2009-1	08 January 2009	Space
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-SSH-2009-A FP7-SSH-2009-B FP7-SSH-2009-C	13 January 2009	Environment (including Climate Change)
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-KBBE-2009-3	15 January 2009	Socio-economic sciences and Humanities
EU FP7-Cooperation	FCH-JU-2008-1	15 January 2009	Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-ICT-2007-C	31 December 2008 20 January 2009	Joint Technology Initiatives (Annex IV-SP1)
EU FP7-Cooperation	FP7-ENERGY-2009-2	29 April 2009	Information and Communication Technologies
TUBITAK			
TUBITAK	Bilateral Cooperation	17 November 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	Patent Application Promotion and Support Program (1008)	Open	-
TUBITAK	Short-Term R&D Funding Program (1002)	Open	-
European Science Foundation (ESF)			
ESF	Research Networking Programmes	23 October 2008	-
ESF	SIZEMIC Working Group	31 October 2008	-
ESF	Behavioural Ecology of Insect Parasitoids - from theoretical approaches to field applications (BEPAR)	Open	-
ESF	Integrating population genetics and conservation biology: merging theoretical, experimental and applied approaches (ConGen)	Open	-

5. RGP News

Proposals and Activities of RGP Directorate in July through September 2008

The RGP Office has processed 22 proposals for the following sponsoring agencies from July through September 2008.

- 6 proposals for TUBITAK Career Development Program (3501)
- 6 proposals for TUBITAK Support Program for Scientific and Technological Research Projects
- 3 proposals for TUBITAK Support Program for Research Projects of Public Institutions (1007)

- 2 proposals for FP7 Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships (IEF)
- 1 proposal for FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN)
- 1 proposal for SAN-TEZ Industry Thesis Program
- 1 proposal for TUBITAK Visiting Scientists Fellowship Program (2221)
- 1 proposal for European Science Foundation (ESF) Research Conferences Program
- 1 proposal for Bilateral Collaboration with China (TUBITAK)

6. Latest Research News

Sabancı University has been awarded with the first Advanced Investigators Grant of Turkey by European Research Council (ERC) Program

Prof. Dr. Halil Mete Soner, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Management, has been awarded a grant for his project entitled "Mathematical Methods for Financial Risk Management".

Sabancı University has been awarded with two new grants from the TUBITAK Global Researcher Program (1010)

Dr. Mine Hatice Aksu, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Management, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1010 Grant for her project entitled "Value Relevance of Reported Accounting Numbers in the ISE and the Impact of Recent Corporate Governance Developments"

Dr. Emrah Kalemci, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1010 Grant for his project entitled "Developing Space Born Detectors For High Energy Astrophysics"

Sabancı University has been awarded with ten new grants from the TUBITAK Support Program for Scientific and Technological Research Projects (1001)

Dr. Burçin Bozkaya, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Management, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for his project entitled "Exploring Value in Logistics Integrated Service Solutions: A Strategic Assessment for e-Retailing in Turkey"

Dr. Erhan Budak, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for his project entitled "Development of Advanced Process Stability and Machine Tool Dynamics Models for High Performance Machining"

Dr. Aytaç Göğüş, Academic Support Programs Specialist of Center for Individual and Academic Development, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled "Evaluation of Mental Models (EMM)"

Dr. Selmiye Alkan Gürsel, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled "The Synthesis Of Low Cost Alternative Proton-Exchange Membranes For Fuel Cells And The Utilization Of Conducting Polymers As The Catalyst Support"

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 "Development of A New Displacement Sensor for Nanoelectromechanical Systems"

Dr. Levent Öztürk, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for his project entitled "Characterization of Physiological Mechanisms Involved on Deposition of Zn into Wheat Grain"

Dr. Annedith Schneider, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled "Turkish-French Artists: A New Cultural Perspective"

Dr. Kürşat Şendur, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for his project entitled "Modeling, Design, and Manufacturing of Nano-Optical Systems"

Dr. Gözde Ünal, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for her project entitled "Novel Medical Image Analysis Methods for Cancer Treatment Monitoring and Probabilistic Tumor Atlas Formation"

Dr. Mehmet Yıldız, Faculty Member at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been awarded a TUBITAK 1001 Grant for his project entitled "Structural Health Monitoring of Polymer-based Composites Using Fiber Bragg Grating (FBG) Sensors"

Bilateral Cooperation Open Call/17 November 2008

Researches of materials field have become more dependent on studies in different disciplines thereby requiring closer relationships between International Science and Technology Firms. Toward this end, the NSF (National Science Foundation) places importance on the cooperation between American researchers and their colleagues in the materials research field. With this aim the NSF works with regional, national, and international fund organisations. Our researchers who want to work on joint projects with American scientists in the materials research field, can present joint projects proposals within the TUBITAK-NSF Bilateral Cooperation programme. Application forms can be obtained from NSF. American researchers should submit project proposals to NSF while Turkish Scientists should submit their project proposals to TUBITAK. The deadline for programme applications is 17 November 2008. For further information about program please visit:

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12820&org=NSF&from=home

7. Upcoming Events

- October, 20-21, 2008, Van (Yuzuncu Yil University), "Seventh Research Framework Program (FP7) Info-Day and Workshop"
- October, 22, 2008, Hamburg, Germany, "Workshop on Ethical Issues in ICT Research and Development"
- October, 22, 2008, Amman, Jordan, "Euro-Mediterranean Symposium on Innovation"
- October, 22, 2008, Stockholm, Sweden, "The eChallenges e-2008 Conference"
- October, 23, 2008, Brussels, Belgium, "ICT Biomedical Sciences 2008 Conference"
- **October, 23, 2008, Istanbul (Sabanci University), Turkey, "FP7 ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant Workshop"**
- October, 28, 2008, Nice, France, "Conference on Preservation of Digital Content"
- October, 28, 2008, Brussels, Belgium, "Symposium on Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change"
- October, 30, 2008, Barcelona, Spain, "Workshop on Advances in Nanophotonics"
- November, 04, 2008, Montpellier, France, "Conference on Biodiversity and Agricultures"
- November, 07, 2008, Heidelberg, Germany, "Conference on Systems and Synthetic Biology"
- November, 10, 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia, "European Conference on Cultural Heritage Research"
- November, 12, 2008, Obergurgl, Austria, "Conference on Chemical Control with Electrons and Photons"
- November, 13, 2008, Istanbul, Turkey, "International Conference on Automotive Technologies"
- November, 25, 2008, Lyon, France, "ICT 2008 Conference and Exhibition"
- February, 02, 2009, Madrid, Spain, "Course on Ceramic Nanocomposites-based Products"

8. Call Forecast

Call Theme	Call to be Published
FP7 Marie Curie (MC) International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)	Call to be published in 25 November 2008
FP7 MC EURAXESS-Services Network	Call to be published in 22 January 2009
FP7 MC Intra- European Fellowships (IEF)	Call to be published in 18 March 2009
FP7 MC International Incoming Fellowships (IIF)	Call to be published in 18 March 2009
FP7 MC International Outgoing Fellowship (IOF)	Call to be published in 18 March 2009
FP7 MC Industry Academia Partnerships & Pathways (IAPP)	Call to be published in 24 April 2009
FP7 ERC Advanced Grant for Physical Sciences and Engineering, ERC Advanced Grant for Social Sciences and Humanities , ERC Advanced Grant for Life Sciences	Call to be published in Spring 2009

9. Editorial

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