

Press Release

Second Meeting: Seven ERA Chairs in Greece

June 28th, 2024, Seminar Room, NHRF

Athens, 25.06.2024

The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) and the Institute of Chemical Biology (ICB/NHRF) are organizing the second meeting of the seven Greek ERA Chairs, which are coordinated by Greek Research Centers and Universities within the Horizon Europe program. The meeting will take place on Friday, June 28, at the NHRF in Athens, in the Seminar Room.

The ERA Chairs call under the Horizon Europe program aims to strengthen and reform Greek Institutions and achieve research excellence by attracting and retaining distinguished professors and researchers from the international academic and research community for five years.

The seven esteemed scientists, holders of ERA Chairs, have already commenced their work in Greek organizations. This second meeting is an excellent opportunity to present the progress made so far, the actions they plan to undertake in collaboration with the Institutions' Administrations and the political and regional leadership to develop research and innovation in Greece, and the challenges they face during their projects' implementation.

These projects, with a total budget of 17.5 million euros, will create Centers of Excellence in cutting-edge scientific areas. Specifically, the National Hellenic Research Foundation, leveraging investment from the Recovery Fund and the European Investment Bank, is creating a cryo-electron microscopy structure, unique in Southeastern Europe. The Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming" (BSRC Fleming), through the ERA Chairs program, is staffing the new Institute of Bio-innovation with the immediate ambition of creating Biotechnopolis, the first integrated biotechnology hub in Greece. The Institute of Computer Science at the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH) focuses on developing a computational biodiversity center and a new research direction for computational astrophysics and data science. Additionally, the Departments of Pharmacy and Medicine at the University of Patras will focus on further developing activities in molecular and structural biology, while the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at FORTH will develop new-generation bio-insecticides utilizing the microbial biodiversity of Crete and the Mediterranean. Finally, the School of Philosophy at the University of Crete will create a model center for Digital Humanities, leveraging the field of artificial intelligence.

Representatives from the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI) and from the PRAXI/FORTH Network will participate in the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted in English.

Online streaming:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84115782782?pwd=SzS2Mopu3P5PzFaX0VPjAsmDPAgKee.1>

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The event program follows.

11:00 - 11:30: Introductory Remarks

- Prof. Dr. Denis Sarigiannis, Director and President of the Board, NHRF
- Dr. Alexandros N. Pintzas, Director of the Institute of Chemical Biology, NHRF
- Michael Kotsias, Head of Unit, EU & International Organizations, GSRI

11:30 - 11:55 Jun. Professor Dr. Panagiotis Kastiris, Hot4Cryo, ERA chair, Institute of Chemical Biology, NHRF, *"hot4cryo: A year of building competence in cryo-EM for Greece and South East Europe"*.

12:00 - 12:30 Coffee Break

12:30 - 12:55 Dr. Jean-Luc Starck, TITAN, ERA chair, FORTH-ICS *"Component Separation and Application in Astrophysics"*.

12:55 - 13:20 Dr. Melina Tamiolaki, Talos, Coordinator, (Christophe Roche, ERA chair, University of Crete), *"The Project TALOS-Artificial Intelligence for Humanities and Social Sciences: lessons from the first year of its implementation"*.

13:20 - 13:45 Dr. Georgios Skretas, Boost4Bio, ERA Chair, Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming", *Boosting Bioinnovation and Bioentrepreneurship by Establishing Excellence in Biomolecular Engineering and Synthetic Biology: Challenges, opportunities and successes from the first reporting period"*.

13:45 - 14:10 Professor Dr. Alexandros Stamatakis, Comp-Biodiv-GR, ERA chair, FORTH-ICS, *"Biodiversity Computing 1.5 years after project start: insights, progress, and challenges"*.

14:10 - 14:35 Professor Dr. Georgios Spyroulias, ESPERANCE, Coordinator, University of Patras, *Title to be announced*



15:00 - 15:25 Insights from Vasiliki Kalodimou and Maria Mikroni of ITE/PRAXI NETWORK, *"The Role of National Contact Points (NCPs) in ERA Chair Projects"*.