

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Panel Chair appointment by the European Research Council (ERC) for University of Cyprus Professor**

***Professor Marios Polycarpou, Director of the KIOS Research Center was appointed to Chair an Evaluation Panel for the ERC Advanced Grants granted to exceptional research leaders.***



**Professor Marios Polycarpou**, Director of the KIOS Research Center for Intelligent Systems and Networks at the University of Cyprus chaired a 15-member evaluation panel which met recently for three days in Brussels to select the recipients of this year's ERC Advanced Grants in the area of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The Evaluation Panel consisted of internationally recognized scholars, who were charged with the responsibility of selecting the top research proposals for the most prestigious funding awarded by the European Union.

In particular, Professor Marios Polycarpou had been appointed by the European Research Council to Chair the ERC Evaluation Panel PE7 responsible for the review and evaluation of ERC Advanced Grant submissions in the scientific areas of Systems and Communication Engineering. These areas include the entirety of the Electrical and Computer Engineering field, as well as certain submissions in Applied Computer Science, Applied Physics, and Applied Mathematics. Funding via the ERC represents 17% of the overall budget (€ 13.1 billion of € 77 billion), for the EU's Research and Innovation program (Horizon 2020).

Professor Marios Polycarpou is also currently a holder of an **ERC Advanced Grant**, which started in 2012. When asked about his appointment, Professor Polycarpou stated: *"Of course, I am extremely honored to serve in the capacity of Panel Chair for the ERC Advanced Grants. It is a challenging position of high responsibility, but at the same time it is rewarding to have the opportunity to witness the creativity and*

*excellence of the top European researchers in the field. Indeed, the ERC Advanced Grant is the highest level of grant available in Europe and the selection process is extremely competitive. As stated in the ERC guidelines, it is awarded to “exceptional established research leaders for pursuing ground-breaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains”.*

The Rector of the University of Cyprus, Professor Constantinos Christofides whilst congratulating Professor Polycarpou for his EU appointment stated that this award pays tribute to Professor Polycarpou’s extraordinary international profile and his high academic standing among his peers. Furthermore, the Rector believes that Professor Polycarpou’s appointment is especially significant for Cyprus explaining that *“it is an honor for Cyprus to have a member of its scientific community selected to such an esteemed and responsible position. The University of Cyprus is proud to have one of its academics contribute to ERC’s mission to promote excellence in science within Europe. This appointment will certainly help to further raise the profile of the research community in Cyprus amongst its international counterparts.”*

### **First Cypriot Scientist to be awarded ERC Advanced Grant**



### **European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

Professor Marios Polycarpou was also awarded the ERC Advanced Grant by the European Research Council (ERC). The ERC Advanced Grant provides attractive long-term research funding to a small number of exceptional researchers to undertake highly ambitious, pioneering and unconventional research projects at the frontiers of their fields. According to the official web site for the programme, (<http://erc.europa.eu/advanced-grants>) the main aim of ERC Advanced Grants is to allow exceptional, established research leaders to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains.

The research grant of over €2 million was awarded to Prof. Polycarpou and his research team to allow them to pursue pioneering fundamental research aimed at designing and analyzing “smart” algorithms for real-time data processing, capable of improving the performance and fault tolerance of critical infrastructures such as power distribution systems, drinking and waste water systems and transportation networks. Professor Polycarpou’s research team, is developing tools and design methodologies that would facilitate early detection and accommodation of “small” faults or unexpected events, before they cause significant disruption or complete system failures in complex distributed dynamical systems. In 2014, Professor Polycarpou was awarded an European Research Council (ERC) Proof-of-Concept grant for the related project “SmartTap”: Real-Time Monitoring System for Water Quality, focusing on innovation from research arising from the ERC Advanced Grant.

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