

## **RESEARCHERS IN THE ENLARGING EUROPEAN UNION - EU 15, EU25 AND BEYOND: EVERYBODY GAINS?**

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The first years of the XXI Century brought dramatic change in the political attitude towards research, education and innovation in Europe. For the first time in modern history science has been “officially” declared by all political forces as a primary driving force for not only the future development, but also a stability of Europe and well being of the European citizens.

Numerous high level political declarations (e.g. the Lisbon and Barcelona targets) seem to be soon effectively translated into reality, at least at the European Community level. These most encouraging signals and motions open the unique chance for European researchers that never existed before at such a scale. The knowledge production and knowledge transfer became pivotal economical and social factors. This political “phase transition “ must be, however translated into new pan-European initiatives requesting deep involvement of the research community, for not to become either a political bandwagon or another illusory moving target.

It is also the time for the research community to leave the “ivory tower” and to take risk of responsibility by involvement.

In my short presentation I will concentrate on 3 issues, which should be immediately addressed or we may risk of losing a chance given to the European research and academic communities.

- 1) Major macro changes and socio-economic challenges for science.**
- 2) The need of proper operational rules for the declared increase of funding basic research in Europe (in particular the model of the European Research Council/s).**
- 3) The still existing disparities in Europe, which may be turned into intellectual deserting of less rich, but still resourceful parts of Europe (i.e. New Members States and the Acceding States, not to mention already existing South-North European divide).**

Each of these issues request a separate extensive analysis, so I plan to pinpoint only the major issues for concern and pivotal actions to be taken with the emphasis given to a leading issue of the session, i.e. a European employment market for researchers: challenges and opportunities

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