

Distinguished guests,  
Dear colleagues,

It's a great pleasure for me to open today's official launching event of Republic of Moldova association to the EU seventh Framework Program for Research and Technological Development.

I'm very glad that we succeed to transform one of our aspirations in a reality. The fact that starting with January 1st, 2012 Moldovan researchers, NGOs and SMEs will have the same rights as their colleagues from the EU countries opens a new era of Moldova-European Union S&T cooperation. Research became the first area which is fully associated to the EU, and the scientific community is a member of the European Research Area.

Of course the association was not our final goal, we intended by this to create new opportunities in our country for scientists and innovators: to make the career in research more attractive, to increase the visibility of our scientific results, to open access to European infrastructure, to foster links between science and business, even at the international level.

In December 2011 the Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development adopted the Action Plan "Moldova towards Horizon 2020" in order to make benefit, as much as possible of the new status. Also recently we adopted The European Charter for Researchers and The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. We extended and foster our National Contact Points Network in order to consolidate our capacities and to increase the participation in the FP7 programs.

At the end I would like to express our enormous gratitude to our colleagues from the DG Research and Innovation, EU Delegation in Chisinau and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration for the full support and assistance we beneficiate of during the process of preparing the association.

Finally, I would like to wish good luck to our scientists in participating within FP7 programs and I'm sure that we continue to be reliable partners for our colleagues from EU countries.

Thank You.

Academician Gheorghe Duca,  
President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova