

Event on launching Moldova's association to the Seventh Framework Programme

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me on this special occasion for the research community from the Republic of Moldova - Association to the Seventh Framework Programme of the EU (as of January 1, 2012). It was a long way, but it made the result even more rewarding. Our research community is now much better prepared in terms of both capacities and knowledge to benefit from the wide range of opportunities opened as a result of the Association to FP 7.

The assiduous efforts of the Academy of Science supported by the European Commission's experts, made possible for the Republic of Moldova to consolidate its positive record of accomplishments in promoting the European integration agenda. Moldova was the first Eastern partner to sign the Additional Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, and respectively the first EaP country to become associated with FP7 that is also the first EU Program in which the Republic of Moldova will fully participate. I believe this is a good example of a more for more principle applied into practice. And we are already looking forward towards the proposals from the Commission on modalities to channel the contribution of Eastern partners to the development of a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space.

Undoubtedly, the accession to FP7 will foster a more structured and tailor made coordination between the national policy in the field of research and technological development with those of the European Union. And, I cannot but agree with you on the important role played by research and innovation for the country's development. Moreover, I do believe that participating to FP 7 will represent as well an important opportunity for my country to contribute to the scientific and technological advance of Europe.

Extending cooperation with other EU Programmes and Agencies is one of the priorities of the EU-Moldova cooperation agenda, which we see as useful tools to facilitate the process of implementation of the provisions of the future Association Agreement, adoption of the EU good practices and establishing working contacts with experts from the EU.

From the very beginning of the negotiations on the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement due attention was paid to the area of science and innovation. The Chapter on "Research, Technological Development and Demonstration" is included as part of the Working Group IV on "People to People Cooperation".

Finally, I would like to wish you many successes in exploring the huge opportunities offered by the status of a FP7 associated country and thus contributing to the achievement of the European integration objective of the Republic of Moldova.