

## **The development of novel materials for electronics within the European Research Programme (FP7)**

The European Union and its Member States will be confronted in the coming decades with growing challenges: the new industrial and trade situations, pressure on supplies and energy security, climate change, technological revolutions, increased ageing of the population, internal migrations and the availability of critical raw materials, to mention only a few.

Materials research has an essential role in supporting development of competitive and sustainable economic growth in Europe: the globalisation of the markets and the increasing complex needs of society demand improved industrial processes and products with better service performance, quality, reliability, durability, specific functionalities and end-of-life destiny.

The European Commission promotes research in materials science and engineering. The EU 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) is currently supporting research actions to overcome scientific, technological and related bottlenecks, provoking or facilitating new ideas that can give Europe a competitive advantage internationally in the forthcoming years.

This talk concerns the funding of materials research projects under FP7, especially materials for Information and Communication Technologies – the philosophy, origins and goals of the funding programmes, past and present activities in this field, as well as outlooks for the future.