ESF Member Organisation Fora

Neil Williams, ESF Associate Director

Launch Meeting of the MO Forum on Research Careers
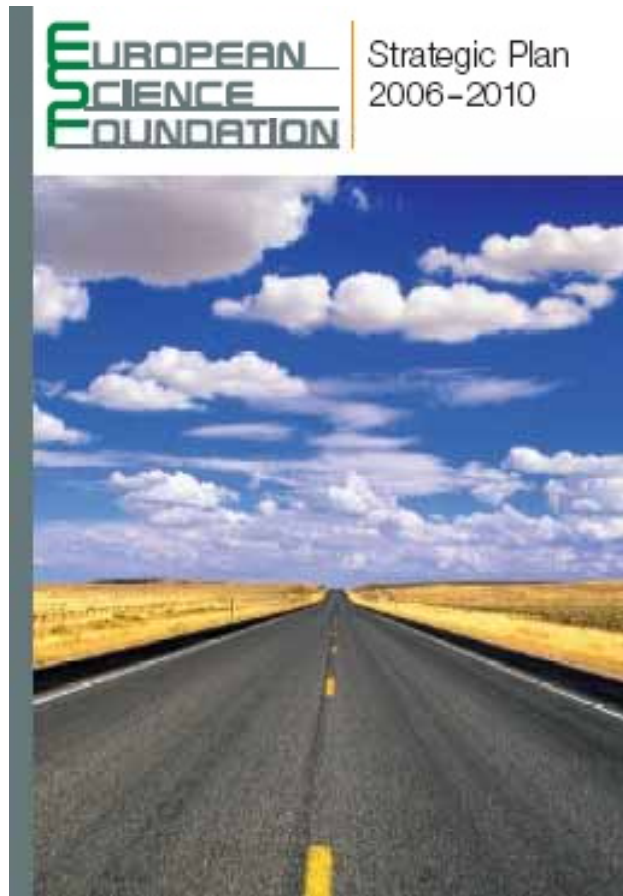**Brussels 07-11-08**

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- Briefly about ESF

- ESF MO FORA: Rationale and procedures

- Two other MO FORA

  ❖ Peer Review

  ❖ Evaluation of funding schemes and research programmes

- 75 **Member Organisations** (30 countries)
  - Research funding organisations
  - Research performing organisations
  - Learned Societies

- **Budget**: about € 40 million in 2006, including à la carte activities and external contracts.

Developed in response to clearly expressed needs from MOs in the consultations on the strategic plan, MO FORA are

"output-oriented, issue-related venues for MOs, involving others as appropriate, to (exchange information and experiences) and develop joint actions".

"ESF aims to be the actor of choice and preferred partner when national research organisations develop joint activities."

26 June 2006 ——— **Call for suggestions**

- - - - Deadline November 2006

19-20 April 2007

> *Gov Co agrees to launch*
> *- Research Careers*
> *- Evaluation of funding schemes and research programmes*

24 May 2007 ——— **Call for expression of interest**

- - - - Deadline 18 June 2007

Launch and activities

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❖ Peer Review

❖ Evaluation of funding schemes and research programmes

Further information:

http://www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora

Start

At ESF/EUROHORCS/CSF Conference *Peer Review: Its present and future state* Prague **October 2006**

Objectives

❑exchange experiences

❑develop best practices across Europe.

Participation

10 Organisations

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Activities

Initial meeting during the Prague Conference October 2006

Working group meetings
▪April 2007, Strasbourg
▪September 2007, London
▪November 2007, Brussels

An interactive workshop on Peer Review for ESF member organisations, March 2008

Objectives

- Exchange of ideas and experiences in research evaluation
- Identification of common projects (e.g. mapping study on evaluation of funding schemes)

Participating organisations

35 organisations

Activities

- Launch Conference
  22nd/23rd October 2007, Berlin
- Next steps
  Plenary meeting in April 2008
  Priority topic: case studies on evaluative surveys
  Working group meetings throughout the year 2008

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MO Forum on Research Careers

Background – Idea – Topics

Dr. Beate Scholz
Brussels, 2007-11-08

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Topics

- **The Roots – ENRC and EURYI MC**

- **The Aims – Starting Point , Vision, Goals**

- **The Topics – Three Suggested Areas**

- **The Agenda – How to Proceed Today**

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European Network on Research Careers

- Established in 2003 on the initiative of DFG

- Semi-Annual meetings (~ April, October)

- Experts on strategies and policies of research careers

Aims and Objectives

- Information and exchange on funding schemes, strategic issues and future plans

- Discussions of special topics

- Framework for cooperation

Further information:

http://www.dfg.de/en/research_careers/focus/index.html

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EURYI Award – Management Committee

- Established in 2003 on the initiative of EUROHORCs and ESF

- Experts on international relations, career strategies, programme administration and ESF coordinator

Tasks

Detailed development of the scheme

- Call for proposals, application process

- Scheme guidelines

- Availability of funding

Further information:

http://www.esf.org/euryi

Topics

- **The Roots – ENRC and EURYI MC**

- **The Aims – Starting Point, Vision, Goals**

- **The Topics – Three Suggested Areas**

- **The Agenda – How to Proceed Today**

Starting Point

- Go beyond exchange of experience and programme administration

- Address pressing issues, e.g.
  - ⇨ Access to full potential of human resources for RTD (all socio-economic backgrounds)

  - ⇨ Retainment of researchers

  - ⇨ Career development structures

  - ⇨ Intersectoral, international, interdisciplinary, inter-professional mobility

  - ⇨ Demand of the knowledge-based economy

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Vision

- Creation of a think tank for advice on research career policies

Primary goals

- Policy recommendations to member organisations on the basis of surveys and analyses

- Mutual learning of MOs ⇨ programme development and inspiration to new programmes

- Provision of an interface between the national and the supranational level (EU, ERC etc.)

- Contribution to global visibility of the ERA as RTD labour market

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- **Development of a research career structure for Europe**

- **Global Comparison on Research Careers**

- **'Intangible Assets'**

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09.30 **Keynotes**

John Smith, EUA: Structure, Functions and Output of Doctoral Training in Europe

Isi Saragossi, Directorate C "ERA – Knowledge-based Economy" of DG Research: Research Careers in Europe – the EC perspective

10.45 **Coffee Break**

11.00 **Working Groups**

- Conditions of a Research Career in Europe
- Structure and Functions of Doctoral Education
- Human Resources Development for Research and Innovation

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **Plenary Update on First Results**

13.50 **Working Groups** (cont'd)

15.15 **Coffee Break**

15.30 **Plenary Session**: Reports from Working Groups

16.30 **Conclusion and Definition of Further Steps**

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Working Groups

- Conditions of a Research Career in Europe

  22 participants

- Structure and Functions of Doctoral Education

  8 participants

- Human Resources Development for Research and Innovation

  7 participants

⇨ Potential re-arrangement: balance, interests in topics
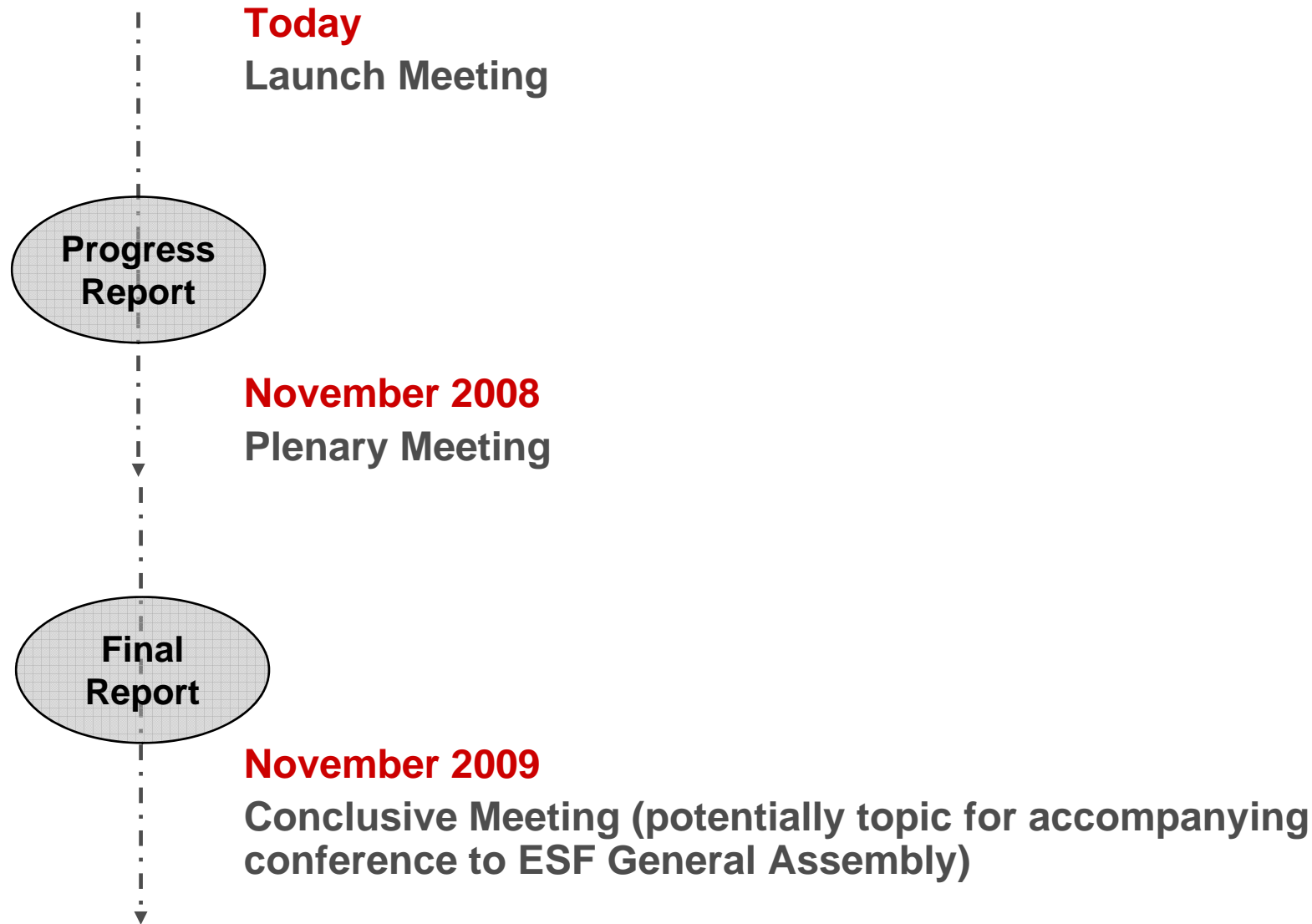
or

⇨ Merger of the smaller working groups

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What would we like to have achieved at the end of the day?

- **Working Groups**
  - ⇨ Definition of topics and priority areas
  - ⇨ Setting-up of work plan: milestones, events, share of labour, timeline
  - ⇨ Agreement on leadership

- **Plenary**
  - ⇨ Mission statement, list of topics
  - ⇨ Draft programme: next two years
  - ⇨ Proposal on overall governance structure

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Today
Launch Meeting

Progress Report

November 2008
Plenary Meeting

Final Report

November 2009
Conclusive Meeting (potentially topic for accompanying conference to ESF General Assembly)

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