Mission Statement
The European Science Foundation provides a common platform for its Member Organisations in order to:
• Advance European research
• Explore new directions for research at the European level
Through its activities, the European Science Foundation serves the needs of the European research community in a global context.

Values
The European Science Foundation’s mission is guided by shared values that characterise its specific organisational culture. These values are:

• **Excellence**: the gatekeeper criterion for all scientific activities; it will also drive the management philosophy and operating procedures;
• **Openness**: to all scientists and disciplines; no barriers between disciplines; open sharing of results; transparency to stakeholders and partners;
• **Responsiveness**: in its procedures and structure;
• **Pan-European**: rising above national interests to the benefits of science in the whole of Europe;
• **Ethical awareness and human values**: sensitive to societal and ethical considerations in all its activities; attention to gender aspects.
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2006 Highlights

2006 marks another milestone for the ESF in its 32 year-history. It was a year for the actual implementation of the much talked about Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010. From Talking to Doing. See page 10 for ESF Chief Executive Bertil Andersson's message.

Changes within the ESF
It was also a year of major changes for the organisation with its General Assembly taking the decisions to discontinue the Executive Board, make the Governing Council the meeting place for the leadership of national research organisations and to establish an independent Science Advisory Board. For more information on the 2006 General Assembly’s highlights see page 12.

Further ESF – COST Synergy
In 2006, ESF has further cemented its on-going working relationship with the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). Both parties have agreed ESF to act as the implementing agent for the office of COST during the seventh Framework Programme. See page 71 for more COST highlights.

2006 European Latsis Prize – Social & Migration issues
The ESF awarded 2006’s European Latsis Prize to Professor Rainer Bauböck from the Institute of European Integration Research in Austria for his contribution and in-depth research on migration issues. See page 15.

Life Science, Funders convergence – EuroBioFund’s 1st annual EuroBioForum
The 1st annual EuroBioFund’s EuroBioForum was held in Helsinki in December 2006, an annual event that aims to match cutting-edge pan-European research with life sciences funders. See page 17.

The Evaluation of Science – Prague Peer-review Conference
Some 150 experts from the European scientific community and institutions throughout the world (including China, Japan and Korea) convened in Prague in October 2006 to discuss the growing need for access to the best quality expert reviewers. See page 18.

Out of Europe – ESF’s Japanese link
In another sign of how ESF’s activities are breaking geographic barriers, the organisation signed an extended Memorandum of Understanding with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) in May 2006 for the facilitation of interaction between young and experienced researchers from both continents. See page 19.

New Research Conferences in a diverse range of disciplines
In 2006, ESF organised 17 research conferences and two summer schools with 11 partners. See page 42.
Although engaged with the ESF for many years as a member of PESC (Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences) and the Governing Council this has been my first year as President. This has meant a steep learning curve of people, committees, organisations and far-flung sciences. I would like to start by thanking everyone for their patience, goodwill in explanation and occasional tough arguments about ESF; its aims and indeed, budget.

2006 was a year where the alignment of ESF structures with the Strategy document produced in 2005 took lead position. There was widespread consultation and discussion about the governance of the ESF. In broad-brush terms there were three real issues: the membership, the way in which Member Organisations could feel confident that they had influence on the programmes of ESF and finally the connections between the Governing Council and the Standing Committees needed improvement.

My first real surprise as President was that the membership issue turned out to be non controversial. Professor Reijo Vinko (the former president of EUROHORCs and the former head of the Academy of Finland) traversed Europe taking soundings and integrating the Member Organisation inputs and reported a general wish that the membership remained inclusive. This was verified at a member consultation meeting. I thank Reijo for his great efforts in this area.

The other two issues could be summarised under the heading of integrating ESF and making it a more coherent and transparent body. I think the main effect of the Governance reforms will be to improve the transparency and level of trust between the different parts of the ESF: Member Organisations, Office and Scientists. The major change will only come about if the three parts engage seriously with each others agendas.

Here I would like to thank all concerned for their inputs, arguments and, in the last resort, good humour as we attempted to square the circle of the individual desires of 78.

The European science funding scene is changing rapidly. The advent of the ERC will change many perspectives. The decision to fund early stage researchers has had the effect of terminating the EURYI scheme so carefully nurtured by EUROHORCs and the ESF. Here I would like to pick out the Chairs of the ESF peer review committees for special thanks. (Dr. Tim Hunt, Professor Jane Grimson, Professor Frank Gannon, Dr. Catherine Cesarsky, Dr. Wim Blockmans, Professor Bengt
Norden and Dr. Kai Simons). They and their committees set a standard of peer review and general engagement that was a model to Europe. The growing prevalence of ERA-NET and ERA-NET+ schemes will pose a challenge to national structures. This too is an area where various ESF committees have played a strong role.

Thus, in a Europe of change, a major question for ESF has been to place itself in a distinctive position where both its strengths and weaknesses are taken into account. In the 2005 Strategic Plan great emphasis has been placed by our members on the policy role for ESF. One manifestation of this would be to produce effective and influential Forward Looks. In this context I was very impressed by the way that the Nanomedicine Forward Look influenced Commission policy and various national debates. This is an area where we particularly need engagement by Member Organisations. The best scientists will only engage and carry out the hard graft necessary for a good Forward Look if they believe that the effort will produce results in influencing policy and finance.

As well as committees and compromises ESF also brings moments of exhilaration and intellectual stimulation: hearing Professor Rainer Bauböck of explain his European Latsis Prize work on Immigration and Social Cohesion in Modern Societies (See page 15), seeing EMRC Chair Professor Liselotte Højgaard’s amazing department of Clinical Physiology, Nuclear Medicine & PET at Copenhagen’s Rigshospitalet with the tight alignment of nuclear physics, radiation treatment, PET scans and IT systems all integrated to deliver best treatment, discussing all the tensions of science funding at the Max Planck Society’s Ringberg symposium, being provoked by Commissioner Janez Potočnik to think radical thoughts about European Science beyond Framework 7 and so on.

At the end of the year we heard that our CEO Bertil Andersson would be leaving us. We will celebrate Bertil’s total ESF achievements in 2007 but I cannot leave this Annual Report without acknowledging the help Bertil has given me in my first year. His energy, enthusiasm and commitment have shone through. His astonishing achievements collecting support for the ESF conference scheme and the EuroBioFund are noteworthy.

**Professor Ian Halliday**
President
2006 was a year to put the Strategic Plan 2006-2010 to action. In other words, we went from Talking to Doing. It was also a year to change the governing structure and a year to deal with the complicated membership issues that have been lurking in the back for quite some times. We have managed nevertheless.

The emphasis of the Strategic Plan 2006-2010 is to be more aligned with the Member Organisations (MOs). That is already been done. While being more aligned with the MOs there is also the demand of the MOs to step out and to ask things from ESF – to be an active owner of the ESF. Otherwise this synergy between the two will not work. So ESF has to do its part and the MOs have to do theirs.

The changed governance is quite an impressive task considering the complexity of our memberships. ESF now has a governing structure that is simpler and more streamlined and as I see it, more operational. This change is extremely important for an organisation with the size and scope such as the ESF. I hope this would make ESF even more action oriented in order to take quicker decisions.

For this past year we have successfully settled the contract with COST (The European Cooperation in Science and Technology) – It has been possible to get everything paid for by the 7th Framework Programme for the new COST contract – with €210 million guarantee and the possibility to go up to €250 million. This is definitely a success story for the ESF as back in 2003 when we were taking on COST many were skeptical about whether we have the muscles to manage such vast undertaking – in both the administrative and the academic sides. Professor Francesco Fedi (President of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) and the CSOs), implemented reforms such as the new domain structure and the new procedures that would ensure higher quality of the COST actions. We have also managed to run COST office from an administrative point of view despite the extreme complexity of the contract.

ESF is now much bigger in size with the addition of COST. And we now have an office in Brussels with the relocation of our Conferences Unit there in 2006, situated besides the COST office. But rather than just being bigger I hope that ESF is actually better. ESF is strived to become more client-oriented. It is important that ESF actually is a service to the Member Organisations and to the European science community.
Also in 2006 we have raised the level of awareness on peer review quite considerably after our event in Prague with more than 150 experts from the European scientific community and institutions throughout the world (including China, Japan and Korea). A major concern addressed in the discussions was the growing need for access to the best quality expert reviewers. Now many MOs have turned to us to seek to do European peer review for them. In my mind, that could be a task for the ESF to take on in the future. (See page 18).

Although the European Commission has a lot of money within its Framework Programmes, which maybe being perceived as dominating the scene, independent organisations such as the ESF still have an instrumental role in taking initiatives for the ever-changing European research funding scene. ESF’s Member Organisations from 30 European countries, be they research funding agencies, research performing organisations or learned societies, with a total annual budget for over €20 billion are responsible for a substantial part of research funding at national level.

On a more personal note for my decision to leave the organisation I am going to miss the wine and the food in France and I am going to miss Strasbourg and the region around it. As for ESF most of all I am going to miss the people of the organisations, the scientists, the science policy makers from Europe and the rest of the world.

Professor Bertil Andersson
Chief Executive

Bertil Andersson left the ESF to take up the post of Rector of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, on 1st April 2007.
A New Dawn for the ESF

Longevity is something that every organisation strives to have. To achieve this goal merely having the right talents is not enough. Changing with the time is also essential.

For an organisation such as the ESF, which covers all aspects of science, making changes requires deep thinking, as any decision that it makes could significantly impact the research funding of Europe. The ESF’s Member Organisations, which comprise most national research funding agencies and research performing organisations from 30 European countries, are responsible for the delegation of about €20 billion of European research funding.

The 32nd annual General Assembly of the ESF in December 2006 cast approving votes on a series of measures that will ensure ESF’s status as a high-level policy interaction platform for its Member Organisations. These measures also aim to safeguard and develop science instruments for the organisation that has devoted itself to promoting excellence in European science since 1974. More importantly, these amendments are purposefully allowing wider participation from the ESF’s Member Organisations. In other words – enabling them to become “an active owner of the ESF.”

A number of milestone decisions were made during the Assembly. They are related to a number of important changes regarding the governance of the ESF and its scientific committee structure. One of them is the restructuring of the Governing Council, allowing only the Heads of Organisations within the ESF Membership to participate. The Assembly also passed a vote to simplify the Governance by discontinuing the Executive Board.

“We are witnessing a time of great change in Europe with the advent of the European Research Council (ERC). What we need to be asking ourselves here at the ESF is how do we improve the interaction between scientists and governance mechanisms?” ESF President Ian Halliday commented. “External pressures are not declining. They are becoming more and more visible. We see this as both a setback and as a challenge.”

The Council will now decide on which areas would benefit from a Forward Look; which topics for EUROCORES (European Collaborative Research Programmes) are of strategic importance to them and to the scientific community; in which areas Member Organisations should come together to develop joint actions or strategies, for example in peer review, research infrastructure or research integrity.

Composition of the ESF Governing Council

The Governing Council now consists of (i) the President of the Foundation, (ii) two Vice-Presidents, and (iii) a such a number of members to allow each National Group of Member Organisations to occupy one seat. Such members will be appointed by National Groups of Member Organisations and will be Heads of organisations within the ESF membership.

Science Advisory Board

Additionally, there was an agreement among the Member Organisations for the creation of a Science Advisory Board, composed of high-level scientists to cope with the demands of increasing interdisciplinarity within science, which will also play a key role in overseeing the quality of ESF’s scientific procedures. It has been decided that the Board will not be involved in the governance issues.

The Science Advisory Board will advise the Chief Executive in the following areas:

- Overseeing overall science quality of ESF’s activities, including peer review, and safeguarding interdisciplinarity of the instruments
- Scientific quality and relevance with regard to the key instruments such as Forward Looks, EUROCORES and ESF Research Conferences
• High level scientific advice to the CEO: ideas for new science actions and instruments; analyses of the evolving European and global science and science policy context.

Assembly 2007 Programme Committee and hosting of Assembly 2008

The decision was taken to change the format of the Assembly, extending the strategic element and focusing debate on European and global science and science policy issues. A small Programme Committee for the 2007 Assembly will be established.

It was also decided that the Assembly could be hosted on a rotational basis by Member Organisations. Therefore expressions of interest to host the 2008 Assembly were invited. The Assembly normally takes place in late November/early December.

New membership policy of the European Science Foundation

In an effort to strengthen its links with the different groups of possible Member Organisations the ESF adopted an inclusive policy with membership from research funding organisations, research performing organisations and academies, both with research institutes and learned societies, operating nation wide or at the European level, with no differentiation in membership rights. This new policy will strengthen ESF’s role as the European platform for policy debate and action by its members in investigator driven research.

Also the possibility was opened for science organisations at a European level, such as the ERC, to join the ESF membership.

New leadership for 2007

During the Assembly Member Organisations have voiced their support for Dr. John Marks to take over the position of Chief Executive starting from 1 April 2007 after the departure of Professor Bertil Andersson on 31 March 2007. Professor Andersson took up the post of Rector of the Nanyang Technological University of Singapore. Marks will be in place as the Chief Executive until a replacement will take office.
2006 Highlights

European Latsis Prize winner, Professor Rainer Bauböck, addressing the ESF Assembly.
ESF awards 2006 European Latsis Prize to Professor Rainer Bauböck, Visionary in Migration Issues.

The European Science Foundation awarded 2006's European Latsis Prize to Professor Rainer Bauböck from the Institute of European Integration Research in Austria for his contribution and in-depth research on migration issues.

The European Latsis Prize, valued at 100,000 Swiss francs (€65,000) is financed by the Geneva-based Latsis Foundation and awarded by the ESF to an individual or group who, in the opinion of their peers, has made the greatest contribution to a particular field of European research. The chosen field for the 2006 prize was Immigration and Social Cohesion in Modern Societies.

Professor Bauböck received the European Latsis Prize in a ceremony held at ESF's annual General Assembly in Strasbourg on 30 November 2006. "How I feel? On a scale from one to 10, I am at 11," he commented afterward.

Despite the public policy debate in which migration issues are constantly embroiled, the studying of the issue is often at the margin of scientific disciplines, according to Professor Bauböck. Devoting the European Latsis Prize to this theme contributes to strengthening its recognition as an academic field.

"Since 1999, the European Latsis Prize has rewarded researchers who have made outstanding progress in European research. Professor Bauböck is at the forefront of the migration field and his contribution to this area is unprecedented," said ESF President Ian Halliday, who presented the prize. "Professor Bauböck's works have not only affected how European societies relate to each other they have also become a critical but constructive voice in many debates on immigration policies. The European Latsis Prize ties very much into ESF's mission. It shows how committed we are to encouraging science in a very wide range of fields."

Bauböck is the vice-chair of the Commission for Migration and Integration Research at the Academy of Sciences in Austria. His research interests are in normative political theory and comparative research on democratic citizenship, European integration, migration, nationalism and minority rights.

His works have been focusing on the question of how migration challenges and changes conceptions and boundaries of democratic citizenship. His effort has combined comparative research of migrants' legal status and rights with a political theory of citizenship and the boundaries of political community.

From 1986 to 1999 Bauböck was assistant professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna. He has taught at the Universities of Vienna and Innsbruck and is a recurrent visiting professor at Central European University Budapest. He has also been a visiting academic at Yale University, the University Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, the University of Bristol, University of Malmö, the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and the University of Warwick. In 2003-2005, Rainer Bauböck was president of the Austrian Association of Political Science.

Bauböck started a new position at the European University Institute in Florence in January 2007 where he was offered a chair in social and political theory.
European Science Foundation fortifies its foundation

The European Science Foundation has further cemented its more than three-decade old foundation at the City of Strasbourg by refurbishing its main building in 2006.

Nobel Laureate Jean-Marie Lehn, the Mayor of Strasbourg Mme Fabienne Keller and the President of the Urban Community of Strasbourg, M. Robert Grossmann were all there to witness the official inauguration of the ESF’s newly refurbished Marnésia building in a ceremony held on 22 September 2006.

Thanks to the combined contributions of the City of Strasbourg, the Urban Community of Strasbourg, the Regional Council, and the Departmental Council, the ESF now boasts state-of-the-art meeting rooms, sleek and modern office facilities, full disability access and a recently re-laid garden. In addition, since 2004, a second building was made available to the ESF on Rue du Parchemin.

The European Science Foundation is proud to continue its collaboration and positive interaction with the City of Strasbourg which has supported us since our inception in 1974,” commented ESF Chief Executive Professor Bertil Andersson at the ceremony.

“With its deserved reputation as the Capital of Europe, Strasbourg is the ideal location for an organisation such as ours whose mission is to promote pan-European co-operation in all aspects of scientific endeavour”.

The ESF’s story began since 1974, the former head of Finance Jean-Pierre Roth – who also attended the ceremony, made the case for an organisation that would act as a catalyst for the advancement of European science by bringing together the continent’s leading scientists and funding agencies.

Thanks to the largesse of former Strasbourg Mayor Pierre Pfimlin, the dream soon became a reality. Under his direction, the Municipality of Strasbourg donated part of the historic Marnésia building for the nascent scientific organisation to occupy rent-free, alongside offices for the City of Strasbourg.

2006 European Young Investigator Award (EURYI)

At the 3rd European Young Investigator Award (EURYI) Ceremony, 25 young researchers from across Europe met in the Czech Republic to receive a diploma and a guarantee of project funding of as much as €1.25 million for their ideas which have the potential to have a significant impact on our everyday lives.

The brightest and most creative young minds in science were gathering in Prague on 13 October 2006 to receive recognition for their untapped potential in creating the European science’s future and for their breakthrough research ranging from voice recognition applications to the world’s smallest in vivo biofuel cell.

EURYI, which is coordinated by the ESF on behalf of the European Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCs), awarded these young researchers...
€897,500 to €1,250,000, comparable in size to the Nobel Prize. The youngest researcher from the group is 30 years of age.

“Cultivating ground-breaking scientific discoveries in Europe has always been the goal for the ESF, and EURYI has fittingly become the perfect vehicle to realise it,” commented Professor Bertil Andersson, Chief Executive of the ESF. “The Award also signifies what these young researchers could possibly accomplish with their scientific careers.”

The First Call of the EURYI scheme was launched in September 2003, and resulted in 25 awards being made in July 2004. A further 25 awards were made in 2005 after the Second Call. The list of this 2006’s awardees includes researchers who will be based in 11 countries.

The EURYI Awards are offered by 20 European national research organisations in an open competition with no “juste retour”. Candidates are selected on the basis of their future potential and their academic and research excellence. Competition has been intense, with 457 applications received for 2006.

Candidates are selected by a two-stage process, firstly at the national level by the relevant Participating Organisation and secondly at the international level by highest-level scientific panels managed by the ESF.

EURYI Awardees were being presented with their diploma by the Nobel Laureate Torsten Wiesel.

Pictures: www.scienceundmedia.de/EURYI2006/

EuroBioFund - 1st Annual EuroBioForum

To match cutting-edge pan-European research with life sciences funders, EuroBioFund, which is supported by the ESF and the European Commission, organised its first annual EuroBioForum in Helsinki in December 2006.

Professor Bertil Andersson, Chief Executive of the ESF, called the two-day event that took place on 14-15 December in the capital city of Finland “an experiment” to bring together researchers and various types of funders from across Europe. High-level representatives from public/private funding foundations, research funding organisations, national innovation agencies, academies, intergovernmental agencies and the bioscience industry participated in the event which was kicked off by the Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health, Tuula Haatainen.

“We are now setting the ball rolling and there needs to be follow-up action,” Professor Andersson told the audience. The next EuroBioForum is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal in December 2007.

In his remarks about life sciences in Europe to the some 160 participants, Professor Andersson recommended there should be a higher degree of coordination between national public funders and those who are working at the European level. He also mentioned joint efforts among various types of life sciences funders and the need for a coordinated/stronger strategy for research infrastructure in Europe.

He noted that Europe needs to be more competitive with the U.S. and Asia. Currently R & D investment is fragmented among numerous funding bodies across Europe. It continues to lag behind Asia and the US in research funding, a fact that many observers warn is crippling the region’s economic competitiveness. Efforts to correct this imbalance are urgently needed. EuroBioForum is expected to increase Europe’s scientific presence and stimulate research and technology development in the life sciences field.

During the conference, 10 research consortia presented their pioneering research programmes on topics ranging from the production of hydrogen via artificial photosynthesis (SOLAR-H) to learning how to survive without water (DryLife).

Besides match making between funders and researchers, EuroBioForum has also invited experts to discuss opportunities and challenges for the life science field. One of the topics of discussion was the promotion of Systems Biology in Europe.

Professor Rudolf Aebersold from the Institute for Molecular Systems Biology, ETH Zurich told participants that the field of System Biology is in need of new data collection technologies if it wants to deliver its promise to society. The field is expected to generate “great opportunities” for researchers, Aebersold added. On the other hand, Adriano Henney, the Director of Global Discovery Enabling Capabilities & Science at AstraZeneca, pointed out that there are still a lot of challenges ahead for the Systems Biology field such as the rising cost of R&D, the challenging of regulatory environment and the fierce competitive market for drugs development.
Wouter Spek, EuroBioFund Director commented: "Crosslinking of networks and bridging the gap between research and public/private funders is our main goal and there is still room for improvement in Europe. This first EuroBioForum has been an interesting and stimulating two days and follow-up actions to develop several of the research consortia presented have already been planned. We are definitely going to facilitate this in 2007."

EuroBioFund, which was launched in June 2006, is aimed "to promote and coordinate interaction among European life sciences researchers and funders."

Some experts have raised the concern that peer review, the internationally accepted form of scientific critique, may no longer be receptive to the novel approaches that lead to valuable scientific advances.

Speaking at the two-day international conference organised by the ESF, the Czech Science Foundation (Grantová agentura České republiky, GAČR), and the European Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCs), John O’Reilly, the Chief Executive of the U.K.’s Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) said: “The current system of peer review can at times be considered ‘tyrannical’ in its approach and it needs to evolve.”

It was agreed that overall, peer review remains the best method of judging scientific quality both in research proposals and publications, but that its inherent subjectivity and variability can cause problems.

To remedy this, issues of harmonisation of procedures and practices; across Europe and globally; education of reviewers and research management were discussed.

To aid harmonisation, the creation of guidelines and methods of best practice to be shared throughout the research community was suggested. A document already produced by Quality Assurance Netherlands Universities setting standard evaluation protocol for public research organisations was held up as an example of such guidelines.

It was concluded that problems of the contemporary peer review need a strategic evaluation at a more conceptual level, not of a specific mechanism, but of the underlying principles and ideas.

Continuously monitoring the peer review system on which the quality of science so heavily depends will contribute to its improvement. The conference represented an effort in this direction. It helped to identify the issue faced by peer review systems today, to raise awareness of potential critical pitfalls and to exchange experiences on how these are tackled by different organisations.
Concluding remarks put a great deal of focus on the opportunities that Europe has to work together. The president of the ESF, Ian Halliday, stressed that peer review could be strengthened by the provision of a platform for European countries to share scientific expertise.

“I can see a case now for all of the bids within one scientific field from across the whole of Europe being dealt with in one place at one time,” he said. “This way we could share European expertise but the money would remain national. I think that this would be a suitable alternative to current European schemes which try to share common European funding.”

When the conference concluded, Halliday spoke about the potential for the ESF to coordinate the new European panels that he proposed. “This is the kind of deal that we are in the position to set up to run,” he said.

For the ESF, this conference plays a key role in direct engagement with their member organisations. This will continue in the form of a Member Organisation Forum on peer review, to other activities which members have already been invited to participate and contribute. Further workshops and exchange experience and develop best practices across Europe are scheduled to take place in 2007.

Out of Europe: ESF, Japan Society for Promotion of Science sign agreement

In another sign of how ESF’s activities are breaking geographic barriers, the organisation signed an extended Memorandum of Understanding with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) in May 2006 for the facilitation of interaction between young and experienced researchers from both continents.

The memorandum has further sealed the close cooperation between the two organisations on the “Frontier Science Meeting Series for Young Researchers”, which bring about 80 young researchers from both Europe and Japan together with senior scientists to debate and exchange views on key topics at the cutting edge of research. These conferences, led by eminent researchers from Europe and Japan, normally take place each year, alternately in Europe and Japan. The document was formally signed by Professor Bertil Andersson, Chief Executive of the Foundation, and Professor Motoyuki Ono, President of JSPS.

The agreement provides for Follow-up Workshops to be held about 2 to 3 years after each conference to allow for the subject to be explored further in the light of new advances. Participation in the Follow-up Workshops is principally by young researchers who took part in the first conference and who can demonstrate significant progress in their research and who have, ideally, developed collaborative projects with their colleagues from the partner region/country.

The first conference, at which the first Memorandum was signed, was held at San Feliu de Guixols, Spain, in October 2003 on the topic of ‘Functional Genomics: From the bench to Bioinformatics’ and the Follow up Workshop was held in Kanagawa, Japan, in March 2006. The second conference in 2005, also held in Kanagawa, addressed the topic of ‘Quantum Information and Quantum Physics’. In June 2006, the third meeting in the series held in Nynäshamn, Sweden, on the topic of ‘Climate Change’.
New Chair of the EMRC

The European Science Foundation has named Professor Liselotte Højgaard from University of Copenhagen as the Chair of the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC).

Liselotte Højgaard is Head of The Department of Clinical Physiology, Nuclear Medicine & PET Center at Rigshospitalet, and professor in Medical Technology at The University of Copenhagen. She has held various distinguished positions: she was Editor-in-Chief for the Danish Medical Journal from 1996 to 2002, as the first woman to hold this position in the publication’s long history dating back to 1837. She was the first female Editor-in-Chief being member of “The Vancouver Group” – The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. She was until recently chair of The ESFRI Expert Group in Clinical and Translational Medical Research.

Her research interests are in pathophysiology, nuclear medicine and Positron Emission Tomography (PET). Professor Højgaard is a widely published author, and a well known international key-note speaker at congresses and scientific societies on PET and oncology. Her work has been covered in some 140 peer review publications.

The aim of the new EMRC Chair is to create the “best R&D set-ups” in Europe. This will stop the outflow of talented scientists from Europe. She is the advocacy of inter disciplinary collaborations; and will work with the newly established European Research Council (ERC) to promote and to achieve excellence in European medical research.

Professor Højgaard started her position in September 2006.

European Science Foundation adopts new logo for increased visibility

The European Science Foundation (ESF) unveiled its new logo in July 2006, marking a new era for the more than three-decade old organisation that devotes itself in promoting and influencing European science agenda.

The new logo was poised to reflect the organisation’s values and objective to enhance its visibility in a global context, and add a recognisable identity.

“It is part of our mission to be more visible and identifiable” said Bertil Andersson, ESF Chief Executive, who launched the new logo on 18 July 2006, during the ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) in München, Germany. “We do work with a large number of scientists from all over Europe; we aim at acting as a unique interface with the European scientific community, and such a renewed and progressive symbol will improve our exposure.”

The European Science Foundation’s mission is guided by shared values that characterise its specific organisational culture. These values are excellence, openness, responsiveness; pan-European, and ethical awareness and human values.
ESF in the news

Here is the breakdown of the news coverage on ESF and its related programmes in 2006.

Activities such as EURYI, Nanotechnology, Food Industry Research, Solar Energy Task Force, Research Strategy on Rheumatic Diseases, The History of Shells, Peer Review, EuroBioFund all proved to be popular with the press as reflected in the months of March, June, July and in November (see figures below).
The European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) scheme allows research funding organizations in Europe and beyond to support top-class research across all scientific areas, by matching the needs articulated by the scientific community with their strategic priorities. The scheme provides a flexible framework for researchers from Europe to address questions which are best addressed in larger-scale collaborative research programmes, it allows working “at the bench” in collaborative research projects by excellent researchers from different countries and when appropriate including colleagues from, for example, the U.S. The EUROCORES scheme is currently supported by the EC Sixth Framework Programme under Contract no. ERAS-CT-2003-980409.

For national research funding or performing agencies the attraction of EUROCORES is the possibility of supporting trans-national research projects involving several partners by simply synchronising funding decisions, without the need to transfer money into a common pot. It also offers the possibility for them to develop collaborative research in areas of common strategic priority. The high-quality international peer review operated by ESF, which is the basis for the national funding decisions, creates a quality benchmark for national research projects.

More information: www.esf.org/eurocores

From the Open Call for Theme Proposals in 2006, the ESF Standing Committees and the EUROCORES Committee have recommended to publishing the Calls for proposals for the following 6 EUROCORES Programmes:

The themes selected are

### Standing Committee for European Medical Research Councils (EMRC)

**Stress and Mental Health (EuroSTRESS)**

Repetitive and uncontrollable stress is known to be a powerful risk factor for mental disorders. Whether an individual will respond adaptively or maladaptively to a stressor is defined by his/her genetics, developmental history and the environment in adulthood. In particular traumatic experiences in early life, notably neglect or abuse during childhood, could considerably add to the risk of subsequent psychiatric illnesses including major depression, psychosis and post traumatic stress disorder. The societal and economic burden of these stress-related illnesses is enormous. Hence it is of great importance to come to a better understanding of these influences of stress on mental health.

The EUROCORES Programme EuroSTRESS will focus on two theme priorities in an interdisciplinary fashion:

- How can early life experience and genetic background in concert evoke lasting changes in signalling pathways within the brain, resulting in altered behaviour and increased vulnerability to negative effects of stress in adulthood?
- How can periods of repetitive stress or traumatic events in adulthood (against a background of life history and genetic vulnerability) disrupt brain function such that the chances on precipitation of specific psychiatric disorders are increased?

A call for outline proposals has been published and will be open until 21 May 2007. (www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/programmes/eurostress.html)

More information: www.esf.org/eurostress

### Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

**Modelling intelligent interaction – Logic in the Humanities, Social and Computational sciences (LogICCC)**

One of the most crucial and striking features of humans and their societies, is the phenomenon of intelligent interaction. Many disciplines from the humanities to the physical sciences hold separate pieces of the puzzle posed by this pervasive but also elusive phenomenon. The EUROCORES Programme “LogICCC – Modelling Intelligent Interaction” aims at a deeper understanding of intelligent interaction by letting logic in its modern guise act as a catalyst and a ‘match maker’ between these different disciplines. This will lead to
a general framework for analyzing intelligent interaction – and the key notions which it naturally brings with it, namely, communication, cognition and computation.

To achieve this goal, researchers from a wide variety of disciplines are invited to team up. Some of these researchers may be logicians, others may not. But what all participants in LogICCC projects have in common is their interest in understanding interaction, pursued with the common language and models provided by logic in its modern, pluriform, and outward-looking guise. In this way, new ideas will flow symmetrically between many disciplines, enriching logic itself in the process.

In addition, the EUROCORES Programme LogICCC is looking for a balance between fundamental theoretical advances and innovative applications of logical models in the thematic areas of interaction, communication, computation, and cognition.

The Call for Outline Proposals was launched in mid-March 2007 and the deadline for submission of outline proposals is 11 May 2007.

More information: www.esf.org/logic

Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences (PESC)

Friction and Adhesion in Nanomechanical Systems (FANAS)

Everyday operations on a broad range of scales, from nanometer and up, depend upon the smooth and satisfactory functioning of countless tribological systems. Friction is intimately related to both adhesion and wear, and all three require an understanding of highly non-equilibrium processes occurring at the molecular level to determine what happens at the macroscopic level.

The fast development, over last decades, of micro- and nano-mechanics brought up the need for a more basic understanding of the origins and behavior of friction. Standard lubrication techniques used for large objects are expected to be less effective or even not applicable in the nano-world. Novel methods for control of friction and manipulation of nanoscale objects are therefore needed. A better understanding of triboprocesses has also a major impact for the protection of the environment (reduction of lubricant and energy consumption).

The aim of this EUROCORES Programme on FANAS is to get a better insight on the origins of friction and adhesion and to learn how to control them. In particular: understanding the relationship between adhesion and friction at the nano- and microscales and the mechanisms of energy dissipation in tribological systems, bridging the gap between the nano, micro and macro scales in friction, lubrication and adhesion, control and modification of frictional properties, nanomanipulations at interfaces, studies of biomimetic tribological systems and tribochemistry.
The Call for Proposals was launched in March 2007 and the launch of this programme is expected in 2008.

More information: www.esf.org/fanas

Quantum Standards and Metrology (EuroQUASAR)

Precision measurements are at the heart of testing our physical models; they provide a strong motivation in physics and applied sciences for developing new methods and have an important place in our modern technology based society, where techniques such as GPS guide many of our day-to-day activities. The foundation for a new area of precision was laid by the latest Nobel-prize awarded achievements such as laser cooling, Bose-Einstein Condensation and precision metrology (optical comb generators). European scientists have had a significant share of contributions in realizing these achievements.

EuroQUASAR will build on European expertise to develop a new generation of quantum standards with unprecedented performance. The programme will form a cohesive platform for utilizing the latest developments such as quantum metrology and novel techniques of quantum engineering. EuroQUASAR will help paving the way for the achievement of future optical clocks and inertial sensors of record precision as well as novel fundamental tests based on atomic and molecular quantum systems with well defined, unique and perpetual features.

The Call for Outline Proposals was launched in mid-March and the deadline for submission of Outline Proposals is 11 May 2007.

More information: www.esf.org/euroquasar

Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

Cross-national and Multi-level Analysis of Human Values, Institutions and Behaviour (HumVIB)

The EUROCORES Programme HumVIB seeks to systematically analyse the now available ESS and other cross-national survey data in an innovative and comparative way on a European scale. It is the overarching objective to realise the concept of Europe as a natural laboratory for the social sciences in which the diversity of institutions, practices, histories, and resources enable researchers to analyze how human values, attitudes and behaviour are affected by the characteristics of the multi-level systems or contexts in which they occur.

The HumVIB EUROCORES Programme is designed to combine the unprecedented individual-level data resources now available in Europe and typified by the European Social Survey (ESS), the comprehensive system-level and contextual data, appropriate new methods of multi-level analysis as well as the testing of carefully elaborated theories of the effects of institutions and structures or, more generally, contextual factors on individual attitudes and behaviour.

The Call for Outline Proposals was launched in mid-March and the deadline for submission of outline proposals is 14 May 2007.

More information: www.esf.org/humvib

Other current EUROCORES programmes

EMRC  ESF Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils
SCH  ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities
LESC  ESF Standing Committee for the Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences
PESC  ESF Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences
SCSS  ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences

(Detailed programme’s description for joint activity is stated under lead unit only. Lead unit is in BOLD)

Standing Committee for European Medical Research Councils (EMRC)

Development of a Stem Cell Tool Box (EuroSTELLS)

Twenty-one research groups from 11 European countries participate in the EUROCORES Programme on Development of a Stem Cell Tool
Box (EuroSTELLS). The EuroSTELLS Programme aims at generating fundamental knowledge on stem cell biology, setting up the bases for comparative analyses of stem cells of different origins, and their clinical application in the future. The ability to isolate, culture and manipulate stem cells ex vivo is a critical step towards elucidating their biological properties and developing their biotechnological and therapeutic potential.

EuroSTELLS promotes and supports networking activities, contributing to create a critical mass of expertise in the stem cell field in Europe. The conference on “General Biology of Stem Cell Systems” held in Venice on 19-21 March 2006 fostered innovative and multidisciplinary collaborations as well as synergy with other European and international stem cell initiatives. Training activities, such as the workshop on “Exploring Chromatin in Stem Cells” held in Montpellier on 22-24 January 2007, allow harmonisation of research tools, definitions and protocols in stem cell biology and increase quality assurance.

Dissemination of EuroSTELLS activities, including a discussion of developments in the stem cell field and their impact on quality of life and public health, generated wide media impact and were covered by over twenty-eight international websites. 

More information: www.esf.org/eurostells

Pan-European Clinical Trials (ECT)

ECT is a unique programme that coordinates funding for pan-European non-commercial, investigator-driven clinical trials addressing questions that have a strong impact in the quality of life, morbidity and mortality of the European population. The ECT Programme provides a framework for the implementation of pan-European clinical trials in compliance with current National legislation and European regulations. Two pan-European clinical trials aimed at rare diseases and the paediatric population are funded under this programme: EURAMOS (a randomised trial of the European and American Osteosarcoma Group to optimise treatment strategies for resectable osteosarcoma based on histological response to pre-operative chemotherapy that involves 150 clinical centres in 11 European countries, U.S. and Canada) and PROFIDYS (a trial aimed at reducing bone morbidity using an oral bi-phosphonate in fibrous dysplasia of bone that involves clinical centres in five European countries).

By promoting and supporting networking, the ECT Programme fosters synergy with other European and international initiatives. Training activities have contributed to the development of the necessary expertise for the implementation and management of multi-centre, pan-European academic clinical trials, ensuring patient safety in compliance with Good Clinical Practice and current National and European legislation. Dissemination activities have brought together clinicians, ethicists, legal experts, policy makers, charities and funding bodies, representatives from regulatory agencies, professional associations and patient organisations to discuss current regulatory and ethical issues to ensure patient safety in the conduct of academic clinical trials. The impact of this conference is evidenced by the wide coverage in the media and specialised publications.

More information: www.esf.org/ect

Science of Protein Production for Functional and Structural Analysis (EuroSCOPE)

Joint activity with LESC

A better understanding of the function of a protein requires a detailed analysis of its structure. Such studies (e.g. carried out on crystallised protein) require substantial amounts of high quality protein. The difficulties of producing sufficient amounts of protein for structure-function analysis as well as for X-ray analysis (crystallisation) constituted thus far a major bottleneck for proteomics. Although this was and is well recognised by the scientific community, funding for a programme addressing this topic systematically has not been available since the beginning of the post-genomic phase that started proteomics.
The EUROCORES Programme EuroSCOPE bridges this gap by bundling resources within Europe to accelerate research on protein production through scientific innovation and collaboration. The Programme addresses the major stumbling blocks in the production of proteins for functional and structural analysis. With the focus on the basic understanding of the mechanisms underlying protein production, targeting, folding and stability, which eventually may result in the improvement of existing and the design of new expression systems. The detailed subfields of research include bottlenecks in gene expression; targeting the synthesised protein to a specific cellular location; and folding and stability of expressed proteins.

More information: www.esf.org/euroscope

Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

BOREAS: Histories from the North – Environments, Movements, Narratives

The circumpolar North is now widely accepted as a unique early warning system for changing relations between society and the environment. This region, which includes the Arctic and the sub-Arctic, has moved to the centre of global debates on environmental change, human adaptation, new post-cold-war partnerships and issues of post-colonial governance and strategy. However, much Arctic research has been dominated by natural science agendas, looking at the region as a natural ‘laboratory’.

Inhabitants of the Arctic are often seen as natural variables, while their understandings of the natural, cultural and spiritual processes that have shaped Arctic civilisations have not been adequately taken into account.

For political and other reasons, the circumpolar region has only recently re-emerged as “one” area, revealing past connections and current common problems and pointing to future challenges, such as the relationships between communities and the modern state (whether Soviet, post-Soviet or Welfare), NGOs and the global economy. The involvement of local populations as research partners is very advanced in the North, and BOREAS offers a unique opportunity for scholars to explore the intersections of Southern (or ‘Western’) ways of knowing the environment and their local counterparts. BOREAS can redefine the geography of knowledge in Northern Europe and relate it to circumpolar regions worldwide, by moving beyond South-North dichotomies and centre-periphery models, as well as by crossing disciplinary and national boundaries. BOREAS also invites the research community to reflect upon their own approaches to studying the North.

More information: www.esf.org/boreas

Consciousness in a Natural and Cultural Context (CNCC)

Until recently, many scientists considered consciousness to be an unsuitable topic for scientific research. Prompted by technological developments (including brain imaging techniques) as well as conceptual changes, this attitude has shifted, and scientific interest in consciousness has greatly increased during the past decade. Currently, the explanation of consciousness is considered by many to be one of the major unsolved problems of modern science.

The CNCC Programme aims to meet this need by fostering top-quality consciousness research in Europe. Given the wide variety of phenomena which fall under the heading of consciousness – perception, emotion, attention, self-awareness, sensation, intentionality, dreaming, wakefulness and others – progress will depend on the integration of available scientific resources from a variety of theoretical and empirical disciplines and methods.
Empirical data can serve to challenge and validate theoretical analyses, while conceptual analysis can provide directions and tools for the empirical scientists.

The CNCC Programme aims to support the emergence of an integrated and truly interdisciplinary science of consciousness, within the humanities and between the humanities and the social, natural, and biomedical sciences. The Programme encourages research that explicitly addresses the natural and cultural dimension of consciousness.

More information: www.esf.org/cncc

Inventing Europe: Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 to the Present

This EUROCORES Programme aims at establishing robust transnational research teams that develop novel perspectives on the mutual shaping of transnational technology developments and the process of European integration. Inventing Europe thus looks at the processes and perceptions of technological change as an important arena for constructing Europe on the material, institutional, and discursive levels. The Programme places the history of European integration within a broader transnational history of Europe, and seeks to transcend the range of national histories of Europe. From this perspective, European integration began in the latter part of the 19th century and unfolded unevenly across the 20th century through a range of multilayered and contested transnational processes in which technology was deeply implicated, alongside as much as within the political arena.

More information: www.esf.org/inventingeurope

The Evolution of Cooperation and Trading (TECT)

Joint activity with LESC SCSS

A number of disciplines have adopted a common theoretical framework for explaining biological and cultural evolution that emphasises the properties of interacting, goal-directed agents, e.g. behavioural economics, evolutionary game theory in political science and economics, evolutionary approaches in cognitive, social psychology and neuroscience, replicator chemistry, population dynamic accounts of cultural evolution within anthropology, and the continued importance of evolution in our understanding of cooperative relationships between all kinds of organisms. Methodological advances provide crucial new information about the properties of agents and their interactions. Examples include new tools from molecular genetics for inferring evolutionary relationships, new experimental work in economics, the development of neuroimaging methods, the continuing development of methods in cognitive science, and the renaissance of quantitative cross-cultural and comparative research.

The overall goal of TECT is to build a multidisciplinary research framework that encourages collaborative research into the evolution of cooperation and trading both within and between human, social, life and natural sciences.

More information: www.esf.org/tect

The Origin of Man, Language and Languages (OMLL)

Language may be considered as one of the defining characteristics of the human species. The development of linguistic and cognitive skills in the prehistoric past can be studied nowadays with reasonable expectations of success thanks to new perspectives which have been developed through the collaboration of several disciplines, including genetics, linguistics, evolutionary and palaeoanthropology, archaeology, neurophysiology, cognitive sciences and artificial intelligence studies. Comparative maps of genetic and linguistic human families suggest interesting correlations between the distribution of genetic diversities and of linguistic groups. How the development of linguistic skills can be linked to the evolution of the brain and of its cognitive strategies – both in phylogenetic and ontogenetic perspectives – can now be explored by empirical studies and modelling tools alike. The OMLL Programme supports collaborative research in this area.

More information: www.esf.org/omll
Challenges of Marine Coring Research (EuroMARC)

The EuroMARC (Challenges of Marine Coring Research) Programme focuses on three major science themes: Earth’s surface environmental change, processes and effects; the deep biosphere & sub-seafloor ocean; solid Earth cycles & geodynamics. Obtaining key cores from the sub-seafloor is crucial to progress in the Earth and environmental sciences because the oceans regulate climate, cover the sites of fundamental geodynamic, geochemical and biological processes and preserve high-resolution records of the Earth history. Over the past 30 years, European researchers have played a leading role in international marine coring that has been central to most of the important advances in global dynamics science with far-reaching implications for the Earth and environmental sciences. They have contributed markedly to important scientific discoveries such as the operation of plate tectonics and the accretion of the oceanic lithosphere. Recent scientific advances in the field include the study of deep microbial communities, the discovery of frozen methane (gas hydrates) below the sea floor, the high-resolution evidence of past extreme and rapid climate variations, the establishment of new models for passive margin evolution, the understanding and quantification of oceanic biogeochemical cycling, and the discovery of large igneous provinces associated with continental break-up at volcanic margins.

EuroMARC is an essential enabling tool to boost European leadership in the planning of marine drilling and coring expeditions and the execution of European proposals, hence ensuring the effective exploitation of research opportunities. EuroMARC is also an important contribution to the European participation in both the International Marine Past Global Change Study (IMAGES/PAGES), and the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), in liaison with the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD).

More information: www.esf.org/euromarc
Climate Variability and the Carbon Cycle – Past, Present and Future (EuroCLIMATE)

The climate for the next century, and thereafter, is expected to be largely different from the present and the recent past. CO₂ concentration is expected to reach levels unequalled over the past millions of years. Temperature is also rising rapidly. The last 150 years of meteorological observations and the reconstruction over the last millennium display a quite uniform climate. Only the reconstruction of paleoclimates extending much further back in time can help build a database with a broader climatic diversity. Such a database will, in addition, offer the possibility to test the reliability and robustness of the models used for future climate scenarios and thus to better understand how the climate system works.

EuroCLIMATE focuses both on reconstructing past climates using different well-dated and calibrated proxy records and on modelling climate and climate variations for a better understanding of the underlying physical, chemical and biological processes involved.

More information: www.esf.org/euroclimate

Dynamic Nuclear Architecture and Chromatin Function (EuroDYNA)

One of the major challenges in biology is to understand how the genome orchestrates gene expression of the many thousand genes it encodes. To tackle this issue, the ESF together with national funding agencies from eight European countries have set the stage for 40 research groups to coordinate their efforts across Europe within the framework of the European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) Programme EuroDYNA.

EuroDYNA aims at advancing our knowledge of the control of gene expression in nuclear organisation. To do this the programme gathers and combines expertise in different fields such as dynamic chromatin structure and nuclear architecture, regulation of gene expression, RNA processing and transport as well as genome surveillance. Latest technologies in molecular biology and biochemistry are employed together with advanced microscopy, structural analysis and computational approaches in order to gain a deeper insight into how the nucleus operates. Detailed knowledge on the principles and mechanisms underlying the control of gene expression is vital for understanding the cause of many diseases and for developing rational procedures for genomic engineering, including gene therapy and stem cell engineering, and for many biotechnology applications.

There are nine Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) under the umbrella of EuroDYNA which started their research in 2005. In addition to its multidisciplinary character, the programme offers a wide range of networking opportunities to the entire EuroDYNA community; providing training possibilities and establishing a platform to stimulate new research initiatives between scientists with related yet slightly different scientific interests, and to promote collaboration with other national and European initiatives.

More information: www.esf.org/eurodyna

Ecosystem Functioning and Biodiversity in the Deep Sea (EuroDEEP)

The deep sea is the largest environment on the planet, the least well known and one of the least studied. It contains extremely large, continuous habitats such as the millions of km² of abyssal plains and the 85,000 km long mid-oceanic ridge system. At the same time, it encloses relatively small (hundreds of km² to only a few m²), localised geological features such as canyons, seamounts, deep-water coral reefs, hydrothermal vents and fluid seepages on mud volcanoes, pockmarks or faults, which support unique microbial and faunal communities. What little we know about deep-sea ecosystems supports the hypothesis that more species occur in the deep sea than anywhere else on Earth. As much as 90 per cent of species collected in a typical abyssal sediment sample are new to science.
The launch of this multidisciplinary EuroDEEP Programme is foreseen in June 2007 aiming at the exploration and identification of the different deep-sea habitats, assessing both the abiotic and biotic processes that sustain and maintain deep-sea communities in order to interpret variations of biodiversity within and between deep-sea habitats and the interactions of the biota with the ecosystems in which they live. The resulting scientific data are a prerequisite for the sustainable use and the development of management and conservation options aiming at the sustainable use of marine resources that will benefit society as a whole.

EuroDEEP is a Programme for deep-sea biology and ecology that strongly depends and requires collaboration between taxonomists, microbiologists, ecologists, physical and chemical oceanographers and geologists.

More information: www.esf.org/eurodeep

European Mineral Sciences Initiative (EuroMinSci)

Joint activity with PESC

The chemistry of the crust/mantle/core depends on elements partitioning between minerals, and phenomena, such as super-plasticity or super-elasticity in minerals, could have a direct impact on large scale geological processes. Major advances in the use of physics-based experimental techniques and atomistic computer simulation now make it possible to understand the relation between the structure of minerals and their physical properties. At the same time, measurements of many minerals properties in situ at extreme conditions of temperature and pressure corresponding to those existing in the earth's interior are now feasible.

EuroMinSci draws together different experimental techniques and computational activities into integrated research projects. Sometimes it calls for separate “computer experiments” while at other times computer simulation is needed even to interpret the experimental data uniquely. It also addresses the need for young researchers with an academic background in Earth sciences to be trained more in the physics-based techniques, where the methods are very different from traditional Earth sciences.

More information: www.esf.org/eurominsci

Processes in the Passive Continental Margins (EUROMARGINS)

The nations of Europe share one of the world’s longest passive margin systems and one of the most distinctive morphological features of the world’s ocean basins. A remaining frontier for natural resources, passive margins mark the complex transition between continental and oceanic crust, with large sedimentary accumulations. In addition, passive continental margins, associated with unstable slopes, represent a major source of natural hazards, especially to the coastal communities of Europe.

The EUROMARGINS Programme provides the international framework for promoting innovative, interdisciplinary work for the imaging, monitoring, reconstruction and modelling of the physical, chemical, and biological processes in the European passive continental margins. It encourages the development of new technologies and conceptual models aiming at the advancement of integrated research into the mechanisms responsible for continental break-up and the world ocean margin formation. The pooling of human resources, training of a new generation of interdisciplinary geoscientists, and optimal sharing of observational platforms or analytical and modelling facilities are considered important value-added ingredients of the EUROMARGINS Programme.

More information: www.esf.org/euromargins

Quality Control of Gene Expression – RNA Surveillance (RNAQuality)

This EUROCORES Programme is intended to promote European collaborative research projects that aim to uncover processes that act as quality control checkpoints in gene expression and understand how these function at the molecular level.

The Programme will focus on basic mechanisms of RNA quality control that operate at different levels of RNA biogenesis. This will include studies on degradation of aberrant RNAs, the coupling between the mRNA synthesis and surveillance, and
studies on quality control mechanisms in the biogenesis of rRNA, tRNA and other non-protein coding RNAs. These post-transcriptional processes appear to be conserved throughout evolution, and studies using important model organisms will therefore allow cross-species comparisons. These analyses will reveal the key, conserved components of these pathways, and will establish the basis for the reconstruction of post-transcriptional quality control networks in humans.

More information: www.esf.org/rnaquality

Science of Protein Production for Functional and Structural Analysis (EuroSCOPE)
Joint activity with EMRC

The Evolution of Cooperation and Trading (TECT)
Joint activity with SCH and SCSS

Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences (PESC)

Cold Quantum Matter (EuroQUAM)
Quantum Matter is matter in which all constituent atoms and molecules are in a single quantum state and behave coherently as a single quantum object. It typically exists at temperatures less than one millionth of a degree above absolute zero. In the long term, quantum matter is expected to have applications in diverse areas ranging from high-precision measurement to quantum information. The field of quantum matter is a complex one that draws on atomic and optical physics, chemical physics and physical chemistry, plasma physics, statistical physics, solid-state physics and quantum chemistry.

Although the field is driven by fast advances in experimental capabilities, theoretical work is essential to guide experiments and explain their results. The EuroQUAM Programme will provide vital opportunities for scientists from different disciplines and countries to collaborate, and in particular will stimulate collaborations between experiment and theory. Major advances are expected as a result of the research being conducted within EuroQUAM. Currently the Programme is about to start its research and networking phase.

The call for Outline Proposals launched in March 2006 resulted in 24 Outline Proposals from which 17 were invited to proceed to the Full Proposal stage. The focus of the Programme is covered under four themes of: atomic quantum gases with controllable interactions; Formation of molecules in ultracold atomic gases; Cooling molecules; and Ultracold plasmas and Rydberg gases.

More information: www.esf.org/euroquam

European Mineral Sciences Initiative (EuroMinSci)
Joint activity with LESC

Fundamentals of Nanoelectronics (FoNE)
It is now widely accepted that the physics of hybrid nanostructures will underpin the microelectronics industry of the coming decades and that Europe must maintain a presence at the leading edge of this field. This EUROCORES Programme recognises that a comprehensive understanding of the above phenomena is crucial to the future development of nanoscale electronics and it aims to accelerate the pace of European research by concentrating and networking the activities of world-leading, European research groups.

The primary focus of FoNE is on fundamental nanoscale phenomena affecting electron transport. These include: quantum transport, noise and correlations in quantum dots, wires and other novel structures; molecular-scale electronics and atomic contacts; nanoscale spin-dependent transport and control; proximity effects and hybrid nanostructures.

More information: www.esf.org/fone

Self-Organized NanoStructures (SONS) I (2002 Call)
Self-organization, or self-assembly, is a process in which a supramolecular organization is established in a complex system of interlocking components. The mechanism that produces the organization is determined by the competing interactions between the components. The hierarchy of interactions determines the hierarchy of levels in the final nanostructured material. Thus self-organizing compounds allow a defined and well-controlled construction of ordered architectures on a nanometer-scale.
EUROCORES Programmes

The SONS Programme concerns the utilization of supramolecular interactions for the synthesis and positioning of functional assemblies, macromolecules, dendrimers, liquid crystals, tailor-made polymers and inorganic nanoparticles. Molecular self-assembled architectures may find applications in advanced technologies such as new chip technologies (DNA probes, lab-on-the-chip), sensors, transistors, data storage, light-emitting diodes, communication technologies, magnetic information storage, photovoltaic cells, and molecular motors and machines.

More information at www.esf.org/sons

Self-Organized NanoStructures (SONS) II (2005 Call)

For the scientific description see SONS I.

The second call for Proposals of SONS was launched in May 2005, and seven Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) were selected for funding bringing together 51 research groups from 15 countries.

More information: www.esf.org/sons2

Smart Structural Systems Technologies (S3T)

Major incidents due to failures in engineering infrastructure, modern transportation or other spheres of human activity are becoming less acceptable; zero-risk protection of citizens is now a long-term aspiration of governments. Whether it is civil infrastructure, industrial plant, or a fleet of trains or aircraft, operators and engineers are under pressure to make every possible effort to assure public safety, including the procurement of new technology, while at the same achieving substantial increases of operational efficiency and cost reduction. Consequently, there is less focus on the design of new structures and more on the long-term goal of extending indefinitely, through minimum intervention, the safe and economical operational lifetime of individual structural components and entire systems. A “smart structure” is a system that has the ability to learn about its environment, process the information in real time, reduce uncertainty, and generate and execute control actions in a safe and reliable manner to accomplish the desired objective. The EUROCORES S3T Programme seeks to lay down theoretical and experimental bases for the integration of state-of-the-art sensors into systems to monitor and control major structures. Seven projects are being launched within the S3T Programme; they bring together 45 teams from 9 countries. The topics deal with diverse areas of smart structures such as:

- Finite Element methods and Experiments;
- Smart sensing in Structural Health Monitoring;
- Aircraft Morphing;
- Shape Memory Alloys in Civil Engineering;
- Measurement and Monitoring of Ageing Underground Infrastructures using Micro Electro Mechanical Systems;
- Vibration Control in Civil Engineering; and,
- shape control of membrane reflectors.

Seven CRPs have started their research and networking activities. Several joint US-Europe activities as well as training and educational events are being organised.

More information: www.esf.org/s3t

Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

European Collaborative Research Projects 2007 Call – ECRP III

The ECRP Programme is designed to advance high-quality responsive mode, researcher-led, collaborative international research within and across all fields of the social sciences, offering opportunities to test innovative ideas, pool multidisciplinary expertise and strengthen European research capacity.

In 2007, funding agencies of 19 countries are participating in the scheme, and the deadline for submitting proposals is 27 April. Proposals will be evaluated at the European level within a common peer review process, with common criteria and procedures, after which funding decisions will be taken at the national level by the agencies concerned. The process is coordinated by ESF. The ESF web pages include a set of Frequently Asked Questions and related documentation on this EUROCORES Programme. In addition, lists of the Collaborative Research Projects awarded in the 2005 and 2006 competitions are available on the web.

More information: www.esf.org/ecrp

The Evolution of Cooperation and Trading (TECT)

Joint activity with SCH SCSS
Exploratory Workshops

These small, interactive group sessions usually take 1-3 days and are aimed at opening up new directions in research and exploring emerging frontier research fields with potential impact on new developments in science. The workshops have a wide participation from across Europe and involve young, independent researchers and scholars with leadership potential.

Successful proposals, selected following an open call for proposals and an international peer review process, demonstrate the potential for initiating follow-up research activities and/or developing future collaborative actions. Interdisciplinary topics are greatly encouraged.

The ESF funded 64 exploratory workshops in 2006:

**EMRC**  ESF Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils

**SCH**  ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities

**LESC**  ESF Standing Committee for the Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences

**PESC**  ESF Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences

**SCSS**  ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences

**EW05-038 - LESC**
Microbiological Meteorology: Working at The Intersection of Biology, Physics and Meteorology to Understand and Regulate the Microbial Component of Weather.
28 February-4 March 2006, Avignon, France

**EW05-014 - EMRC**
Attention, Action, and Time
7-9 March 2006, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**EW05-273 - SCH**
Stem Cell Cultures: Exploring The Social and Cultural Background to European Debates about Human Embryonic Stem Cells
10-12 March 2006, Nottingham, United Kingdom

**EW05-059 - LESC**
Chiral Xenobiotics in the Environment: Opportunities for Research Progress
26-28 March 2006, Birmingham, United Kingdom

**EW05-293 - SCSS**
Developing The EU Social Scientific Evidence Base on Integrated Approaches to Prevent and Address Homelessness
27-28 March 2006, York, United Kingdom

**EW05-064 - LESC**
Influence of Phytoplankton on Herbivore Reproductive Success – Impact of Infochemicals and Food Quality?
29-31 March 2006, Roscoff, France

**EW05-224 - SCSS**
Sharing and Building Knowledge through The Design and Development of a Collaboratory for Library and Information Science Research and Education
30 January-1 February 2006, Borås, Sweden

**EW05-281 - SCSS**
Health Consumer Groups and Policy Making in Europe: A Comparative and Pan-European Perspective
16-18 February 2006, Vienna, Austria

**EW05-208 - SCH**
Bridging The Gap Between Research on Second-Language Acquisition and Research on Language Testing
23-25 February 2006, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**EW05-176 - SCH**
Migration and Transcultural Identities in The Viking Age
29 March-1 April 2006, Nottingham, United Kingdom

**EW05-253 - SCSS**
Evolutionary Economic Geography
3-5 April 2006, Cambridge, United Kingdom

**EW05-153 - PESC**
New Generation Large Aperture Solar Telescopes: Science Drivers, Observational Strategies and Perspectives
9-12 April 2006, Monte Porzio Catone, Italy
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## Exploratory Workshops

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<td>Convened by: Giuseppe Tambussi (IT)</td>
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Challenges in Java Program Verification
16-18 October 2006, Nijmegen, Netherlands

EW05-013 - EMRC
Health and Environmental Disparities: The Case of Lung Disease (HED)
20-22 October 2006, Paris, France

EW05-250 - SCSS
Identity Formation and Recognition Struggles of Europe’s Racialised Minorities in The Light of Inequalities in Education
26-29 October 2006, Budapest, Hungary

EW05-309 - SCSS
Religious Ngs, Civil Society and The Aid System
8-10 November 2006, Oslo, Norway

EW05-065 - LESC
Invasion of European Shores by Sargassum Muticum: Research Integration towards the Future
9-12 November 2006, Faro, Portugal

EW05-130 - PESC
Exotic Radionuclides from Accelerator Waste for Science and Technology
15-17 November 2006, Villigen, Switzerland

EW05-107 - PESC
Advances and Opportunities in Freeform Ultra-Precision Micromanufacturing Technologies
22-23 November 2006, Nottingham, United Kingdom

EW05-135 - PESC
Physics of The Cell: From Single Molecules to Collective Behavior
29 November-1 December 2006, Barcelona, Spain

EW05-284 - SCSS
The Third Sector In A Changing Europe: Key Trends And Challenges
6-8 December 2006, Budapest, Hungary

EW05-010 - EMRC, SCH
Metacognition and mental state monitoring
7-9 December 2006, Paris, France

EW05-248 - SCSS
Making Sense in The City
17-20 December 2006, Ghent, Belgium
ESF Forward Looks is an instrument which enables policy makers from ESF Member Organisations, in interaction with Europe’s scientific community and other organisations, to develop medium to long-term views and analyses of future research developments with the aim of defining research agendas and priorities. The purpose of a Forward Look is to bring together, in a global context, scientific foresight and priority setting for research funding at the national and the European levels.

More information: www.esf.org/flooks

The following pages highlight new Forward Looks which got underway in 2006. For detailed information please visit the relevant noted location on the ESF Website. For information on all other currently running Forward Looks.

**EMRC**  ESF Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils  
**SCH**   ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities  
**LESC**  ESF Standing Committee for the Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences  
**PESC**  ESF Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences  
**SCSS**  ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences  
(Lead unit is in **BOLD**)

**European Food Systems in a Changing World 2006-2007**  
Joint activity of EMRC LESC SCH SCSS

Food security is a primary societal goal in which food systems play a pivotal role. European food systems are changing, driven by complex technological and policy factors including Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform. These changes will affect the interactions between food availability, food access and food utilisation in uncertain ways. In addition to providing safe and healthy food, European food systems also contribute to an increasing number of goals including environmental functions, landscape and society objectives. This Forward Look will focus on how the changes in Europe’s food systems drivers, in the context of balancing the varied goals, will affect these interactions.

More information: www.esf.org/food
Joint activity of LESC PESC

The aim of this Forward Look is to develop a vision on how computational sciences will evolve in the coming 10 to 20 years. Over the last ten years research codes have grown from individual solutions to versatile yet complex tools. They are instrumental in over 2000 publications per year in international journals but they increasingly require new development and maintenance schemes. Based on a scenario of how this field and the needs of the scientific community will evolve, a strategy will be presented to structure support and development at the European level.

This Forward Look is initiated by the atomic-scale materials simulation community, but the outcome will be of interest to other Computational Science communities as well. Implementation of the recommendations of this Forward Look should lead to an advanced cyber-infrastructure that allows Europe to maintain its leading position in this field.

More information: www.esf.org/lincei

Joint activity of SCH SCSS

Higher education institutions are being subjected to a variety of pressures that seek, primarily, to enhance higher education’s contribution to the successful creation of so-called ‘knowledge societies’, together with, and receiving only slightly less emphasis, the achievement of greater equity and social justice. This Forward Look will examine the relevant higher education research literature in terms of its underlying conceptual approaches and empirical findings across a number of selected subthemes in order to derive a future research agenda that will address scientific questions of long term strategic concern to the future of higher education.

More information: www.esf.org/helf
ESF Policy Briefings (SPB) originated as a means for the ESF to issue position statements on a variety of science policy issues, such as the ethical use of animals in research or an ESF policy on human stem cells. Since its launch in 1997 more than two dozen of policy briefings have been published which deal with various issues concerning the European Research Area. Today, ESF Policy Briefings emerge either from initiatives of one or more ESF Standing Committee and/or Expert Committee, or are proposed by Member Organisations. If the Policy Briefing results from an initiative of Member Organisations, a working group or task force is assembled to prepare the Briefing to ensure quality control. Forward Looks are required to publish an ESF Science Policy Briefing as quickly as possible after the final conference, followed by a more substantial monograph which can also include reports and papers developed in the course of the Forward Look. Policy Briefings are only published after proper external peer review.

The following pages highlight new Policy Briefings which got underway in 2006. For detailed information please visit the relevant noted location on the ESF Website.

For information on all other current policy activities, please visit www.esf.org/activities/science-policy

Rheumatic Diseases (SPB N°26, June 2006)

The task force, comprising Europe’s leading researchers and clinicians, along with observers from a patients’ representative group and the European Medicines Agency, EMEA, has looked across the field, considering all aspects of basic research and clinical practice, and distilled its findings into five key recommendations:

• To promote a pan-European research effort towards a better understanding of the molecular and cellular pathology of osteoarthritis and osteoporosis
• To set up a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for rheumatic diseases at the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) with members from academia (i.e. basic, translational, clinical and epidemiological research) and patient organisations

The aim is to provide coherent objectives for national and European funding bodies, and healthcare providers, and to ensure that rheumatic diseases are acknowledged as a major group of diseases within the European Commission Framework FP7.

More information: www.esf.org/rheumaticdiseases

Structural Medicine: The Importance of Glycomics for Health and Disease

(SP B N°27, July 2006)

This policy briefing is aimed to develop an area of research considered vital to European medicine; ‘glycomics’. The briefing says that a multidisciplinary approach, to relate the structure of intrinsic glycans and glycoconjugates to their biological function, could aid the rapid development of treatments and diagnostics for a number of life threatening diseases.

The recommendations include:

• A strong coordinated interdisciplinary European research effort to enhance our insights into the structure of glycans and glycoconjugates in health and disease
• The development of high throughput diagnostic tools for the rapid analysis of glycans and improved infrastructures to provide the research community with better access to information
• Investment into European interdisciplinary educational programmes aimed at training scientists in glycoscience

More information: www.esf.org/glycomics
The ESF continues the development of the ESF Research Conferences Scheme, principally through the establishment of long-term partnerships between the ESF and national and international organisations, including universities. Topics are at the frontiers of scientific research and interdisciplinary when appropriate. The scheme provides the opportunity for leading scientists and other participants, including young researchers, to meet for discussions on the most recent developments in their fields of research. It acts as a catalyst for creating new synergistic contacts throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

Conferences may be single events, or series, usually with a biennial meeting focusing on specific aspects of the same general topic. They generally last for four or five days and up to 150 participants and invited speakers may attend. Chairs select participants from applications received as a result of publicising the Conferences. The Scheme also provides co-sponsorship for a series of advanced scientific training Summer and Winter Schools in High Energy Physics & Astrophysics, Physics & Astronomy, and Theoretical Physics. The ESF Conferences Unit also organises ESF World Conferences.

In 2006, ESF has funded 17 conferences and two summer schools with various partners (below). For information on the planned 2007 conferences, please refer to the About ESF 2007 booklet or go to www.esf.org/activities/esf-conferences

The following list is categorised by various partnerships for the conferences/schools.

ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference Series for Young Researchers
With Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) www.jspss.go.jp

Functional Genomics: From the Bench to Bioinformatics – Follow-Up Workshop,
Chairs: G. Von Heijne (Stockholm) & S. Miyano (Tokyo)
Kanagawa, Japan , 6 - 11 March 2006
Climate Change,
Chairs: K. Noone (Stockholm) & S. Fukao (Kyoto) Nynäshamn, Sweden, 24 - 29 June 2006

ESF-EMBO Symposia
With European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) www.embo.org

B Cells cross the Divide: From In Silico to the Whole Person,
Chairs: T. Defrance (Lyon) & J. Gordon (Birmingham)
Sant Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain, 13 - 18 May 2006

Gene Transcription in Yeast,
Chairs: J. Mellor (Oxford) & M. Collart (Geneva)
Sant Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain, 24 - 29 June 2006

Bacterial Networks: Joining the Strengths of Structural- and Systems Biology to reach 'Synthetic' Biology,
Chair: K.J. Hellingwerf (Amsterdam)
Sant Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain, 14 - 19 October 2006

Stem Cells in Tissue Engineering: Isolation, Culture, Characterisation and Applications,
Chair: R.L. Reis (Braga)
Sant Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain, 28 October - 2 November 2006

EMBO Conference Series, with support from ESF and FEBS Travel Fellowships & Special Lectures
With European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) www.embo.org

Interface of Cell Biology and Cellular Microbiology: Macromolecular Complexes in Microbial Pathogenesis, Membrane Trafficking and Cell Signalling,
Chair: H. Stenmark (Oslo)
Sant Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain, 23 - 28 September 2006

ESF-FWF Conferences in Partnership with LFUI
With Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Österreich (FWF) www.fwf.ac.at
With Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck (LFUI) wwwuibk.ac.at/unis-index-en.html
Biomolecules: From Gas Phase Properties to Reactions relevant in Living Cells,
Chairs: N.J. Mason (Milton Keynes) & E. Illenberger (Berlin)
Obergurgl (Oetz Valley, near Innsbruck), Austria, 24 - 29 June 2006

Solid/Fluid Interfaces: Complex Fluid Interfaces and Nanofluidics,
Chairs: K. Mecke (Erlangen) & M. Dijkstra (Utrecht)
Obergurgl (Oetz Valley, near Innsbruck), Austria, 9 - 14 September 2006

Reduced Nitrogen in Ecology and the Environment,
Chair: J.W. Erisman (Petten)
Obergurgl (Oetz Valley, near Innsbruck), Austria, 13 - 18 October 2006

ESF-Wellcome Trust Conferences
With Wellcome Trust www.wellcome.ac.uk

Signalling to Chromatin: Epigenetics,
Chairs: M. Turner (Cambridge), P. Varga-Weisz (Cambridge), A. Rao (Boston) & N. Divecha (Amsterdam)
Hinxton (near Cambridge), U.K., 5 - 9 June 2006

Crop Genomics, Trait Analysis and Breeding,
Chair: M. Bevan (Norwich)
Hinxton (near Cambridge), U.K., 8 - 12 November 2006

ESF-COST High-Level Research Conferences
Inorganic Chemistry: Metal-Nucleic Acid Interactions,
Chair: J. Reedijk (Leiden)
Athens, Greece, 12 - 17 November 2006

ESF-LIU Conferences
With Linköping University (LIU) www.liu.se/en

Intersectionality, Identity and Power,
Chairs: N. Lykke (Leiden) & J. Hearn (Helsinki)
Vadstena, Sweden, 11 - 15 October 2006

Cities and Media: Cultural Perspectives on Urban Identities in a Mediatized World,
Chairs: J. Fornäs (Norkkoping) & N. Couldry (London)
Vadstena, Sweden, 25 - 29 October 2006

ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine
With University of Barcelona (UB) / www.ub.edu/en

Nanomedicine: A new Opportunity for improving Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment for Disease,
Chairs: R. Duncan (Cardiff), J. Deacon (Berks), A. Gabizon (Jerusalem), R. Gaspar (Lisbon), W. Kreyling (Neuherberg) & J. Samitier (Barcelona)
Sant Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain, 15 - 20 September 2006

ESF-IfW Conferences on the Global Health Economy
With Institut für Weltwirtschaft an der Universität Kiel (IfW) www.ifw-kiel.de
New Technology and Medical Decision Making: Normative Models and Empirical Practice,
Chair: U. Siebert (Innsbruck)
Salzau (near Kiel), Germany, 4 - 9 October 2006

Summer Schools

ESF-CERN Cargese Summer Schools in High Energy Physics & Astrophysics
With European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
public.web.cern.ch/Public/Welcome.html

Branes and Strings: The Present Paradigm for Particles and Cosmology,
Chairs: L. Baulieu (Paris) & E. Rabinovici (Jerusalem)
Cargese, France, 22 May - 3 June 2006

ESF-PPARC-EPSRC Summer School in Physics & Astronomy (SUSSP)
With Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) www.pparc.ac.uk
With Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) www.epsrc.ac.uk/default.htm

Neutrinos in Particle Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology,
Chairs: K. Peach (Oxford) & N. Glover (Durham)
St. Andrews, U.K., 8 - 23 August 2006
Research Networking Programmes

These long-term Research Networking Programmes (formerly known as Scientific Programmes) are the platform for nationally funded research groups to address major scientific and research infrastructure issues with the goal to advance the frontiers of science.

A successful programme proposal, selected following an open call for proposals and an international peer review process, must deal with high-quality science and demonstrate the added value of being carried out at the European level.

ESF Programmes are funded à la carte by ESF Member Organisations interested in funding such proposals recommended by ESF.

The following pages highlight new Research Networking Programmes which got underway in 2006. For detailed information please visit the relevant noted location on the ESF Website. For information on all current running programmes, please refer to the ABOUT ESF 2007 booklet or go to www.esf.org/programmes

**EMRC**
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ESF Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences

**SCSS**
ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences

### Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

**Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and Eastern Mediterranean (ARCANE) 2006-2010**

12 contributing organisations

Chronology underpins all archaeological and historical studies. To establish the proper sequence of events is a prerequisite for writing history. The synchronisation of chronologies, and therefore of the histories, of the various areas of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East is an essential task without which the development of civilisations, their reciprocal influences, their convergence and divergence, cannot be described and understood. The ultimate goal of the ARCANE Programme is to produce a reliable, relative and absolute chronology of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean, based on the synchronisation of regional chronologies for the third millennium BC.

More information: www.esf.org/arcane

### Standing Committee for the Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (LESC)

**Frontiers of Functional Genomics (FFG) 2006-2011**

Joint activity with EMRC

23 contributing organisations

Functional genomics, the exploration of gene function on a global scale, is currently at the leading edge of progress in the life sciences and medicine. The ESF Programme ‘Integrated Approaches to Functional Genomics’, which ended in October 2005, facilitated communication and interactions among European researchers and succeeded in engaging a wide audience, gaining considerable international recognition. This new Programme will connect the most promising developments in functional genomics technologies with the expanding concept of systems biology, focusing particularly on applications in biomedicine, as well as the environment and implications for society at large.

More information: www.esf.org/ffg

**Functional Dynamics in Complex Chemical and Biological Systems (FUNCDYN) 2006-2011**

Joint activity with PESC

16 contributing organisations

The aim of this Programme is to establish a competitive European research community in...
Research Networking Programmes

functional dynamics and to bring together researchers from the field of non-linear dynamics with researchers from biochemistry and biology. Living organisms are characterised by a plethora of chemical and structural details at numerous levels of complexity, making comprehensive understanding and modelling at every spatial and temporal scale an unattainable task. One aim of the FUNCDYN Programme is the development of systematic methods for reduction of model complexity by restricting the modelling to relevant temporal and spatial scales without losing the quantitative predictive ability. Another aim is the development of equipment and experimental protocols for the efficient collection of relevant dynamic data. The programme will also include studies of non-biological systems, which are dynamically similar to living cells such as interacting oscillators operating far from thermodynamic equilibrium. These types of studies are an inspiration for similar approaches for bio-systems and essential for testing the feasibility of new analytic and experimental ideas.

More information: www.esf.org/funcdyn

Mediterranean Climate Variability and Predictability (MedCLIVAR) 2006-2011

12 contributing organisations

MedCLIVAR aims to coordinate and promote research on the Mediterranean climate. The main goals include reconstruction of its past evolution, description of patterns and mechanisms characterising its space-time variability, and identification of the forcing parameters responsible for the observed changes. Emphasis will be put on the identification of trends present in observational records as well as on climate predictions under future emission scenarios. MedCLIVAR also covers the study of the occurrence of extreme events – closely related to climate variability and changes, and the impact of climate change.

More information: www.esf.org/medclivar


11 contributing organisations

Nitrogen is an important cross-cutting theme over most of the important environmental problems for Europe: climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem health, human health, ground water pollution, etc. The NinE Programme addresses interacting problems affected by excess nitrogen in the environment. Fixed nitrogen cascades through many different forms and environmental compartments, generating a highly interdependent network. Solutions to each problem therefore cannot be developed in isolation. The NinE Programme is building the European scientific network necessary to quantify these interactions and underpin the development of future solutions, focusing its efforts on delivering a fully integrated assessment of European nitrogen problems.

More information: www.esf.org/nine

Thermal Adaptation in Ectotherms: linking life history, physiology, behaviour and genetics (THERMADAPT) 2006-2011

13 contributing organisations

This Programme studies thermal adaptation of ectothermic (coldblooded) organisms. The thermal environment is a factor crucially affecting ectotherm life history. Metabolism, thermal tolerance and resistance, as well as lower and upper temperature boundaries all differ between species and populations. This indicates the presence of specific adaptations but also constraints, the physiological and genetic basis of which is generally not well understood. Ultimately, such adaptation at the physiological level affects the dispersal, migration, diapause and distribution of species. As a result, prominent within-species temperature-size effects (larger at cooler temperatures) and Bergmann clines (larger at higher latitudes) occur in all major animal taxa but remain largely unexplained. The Programme proposes to launch a cross-disciplinary, cross-taxonomic European effort to promote interactions between researchers working at different levels of biological organisation to integrate various approaches. The aim is to involve scientists working in molecular and cell biology to promote the use of new genetic and genomic techniques in this field in an attempt to link micro-evolutionary mechanisms to macro-evolutionary patterns. Broad use of these costly and know-how-intensive methods is best and most efficiently facilitated through a concerted effort at the European scale, involving training, exchange of specimens and sharing of facilities.

More information: www.esf.org/thermadapt
Workshops on Marine Research Drilling (Magellan Workshop Series) 2006-2011

12 contributing organisations

Over the last decennia European researchers played a leading role in the international marine research drilling community which has made major contributions to important discoveries and scientific advances such as: the operation of plate tectonics and the accretion of the oceanic lithosphere, the existence of microbial communities (deep biosphere) and the presence of frozen methane (gas hydrates) below the sea floor, past extreme and rapid climate variations, high resolution climate perturbations, new models for passive margin evolution, the mechanisms for biogeochemical cycles, and the discovery of large igneous provinces associated with continental break-up at volcanic margins. Societal relevance has moved several of those themes into the spotlight. One of those, rapid climate change, has an important impact on global environments (for example, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, biological changes). However, such processes are far away from reliable short- and long-term prediction.

The ESF Magellan Workshop Series Programme provides a mechanism to stimulate and nurture the process of developing new and innovative science proposals to support European leadership in the development and planning of marine drilling expeditions. It is an initiative by the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD), the European partner of the International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and as a European contribution to the IMAGES-related science.

More information: www.esf.org/magellan

Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences (PESC)

Computational Astrophysics and Cosmology (ASTROSIM) 2006-2011

13 contributing organisations

This Programme aims to bring together European computational astrophysicists working on a broad range of topics from the stability of the solar system to the formation of stars and galaxies. Understanding our origins and the formation of structure in the universe is a challenging multi-disciplinary research activity that brings together observational, experimental and theoretical researchers with a broad range of expertise. The systems that we attempt to model are complex and involve a range of physical processes operating over enormous lengths and timescales. Computational techniques developed by researchers in Europe since the 1960s have played a central role in advancing this subject, developing cosmological models and solving the complex non-linear problems inherent to gravitational and hydrodynamical astrophysical processes. Understanding the strong interplay between different scales is essential for a complete theory and true comprehension of structure formation. Our aims are to strengthen the existing European activities in computational astrophysics, avoiding fragmentation as this field grows in strength and to exchange expertise through an active program of conferences, workshops, training schools and exchange visits. Our scientific objectives are to refine our computational techniques and multi-scale modelling in order to develop and test theories of structure formation in readiness for the grand challenge European projects planned by ESO and ESA over the coming decades.

More information: www.esf.org/astrosim
Functional Dynamics in Complex Chemical and Biological Systems (FUNCDYN) 2006-2011
Joint activity with LESC

Molecular Simulations in Biosystems and Material Science (SimBioMa) 2006-2011
19 contributing organisations
The aim of the Programme is to initiate a concerted European effort to develop those computational tools that can be used to obtain a better molecular understanding of the emergence of mesoscopic structure and dynamics in biological systems (“molecular systems biology”) and in man-made nano-structured materials. In order to establish the link between molecular properties and mesoscopic materials properties, one must use an integrated approach that seamlessly integrates quantum calculations, molecular simulations and mesoscopic modelling techniques. More information: www.esf.org/simbioma

11 contributing organisations
Solar energy conversion based on organic materials is an emerging research field with substantial future prospects. A broad range of distinct device technologies are currently being developed, including dye-sensitized nanocrystalline solar cells, polymer/fullerene blends, small molecule thin films and hybrid polymer/nanocrystal devices. Several European groups have already established themselves as world leaders in this field with for example world record efficiencies for both dye-sensitised and polymer/fullerene devices currently being held by research groups in Lausanne and Linz respectively. Major nationally based research programmes are under way with extensive European industrial investment. More information: www.esf.org/organisolar

Quantum Geometry and Quantum Gravity (QG) 2006-2011
11 contributing organisations
The main objective of the Programme is to stimulate the exchange of ideas between researchers pursuing different approaches to quantum geometry and apply the results to the study of quantum gravity. The research programme will study several approaches to quantum gravity, namely loop quantum gravity, spin foam models, dynamical triangulations and matrix models. The common theme is the occurrence of quantum geometry in all these approaches. The research programme will study mathematical tools and techniques in non-commutative geometry and quantum groups and their applications to quantum gravity. The planned activities are workshops and conferences, schools and programmes of research visits. These are designed to increase the level of interaction between existing research groups and to give a broad education in all the approaches to a new generation of young researchers. More information: www.esf.org/qg

Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

Globalizing Europe Economic History Network (GLOBALEURONET) 2006-2010
14 contributing organisations
The main scientific objective of the Programme is to investigate, on a systematic, Europe-wide and integrated (i.e., both quantitative and qualitative) basis, the economic, institutional and social specificities of Europe’s participation in the globalisation waves that occurred during the last 150 years. Its strategic objective is to promote the convergence of quantitative research methods, the consolidation of existing and future research projects at national level into a European common research agenda, and the organisation of common education and training activities. The Programme will focus on the construction of an integrated, Europe-wide database for the period 1850-2000, based on a uniform, consistent methodology that will consolidate existing partial databases and enhance further collection of data, covering a wide range of quantitative indicators – both traditional and new – of market integration, social welfare, economic growth, as well as qualitative information on institutional development. More information: www.esf.org/globaleuronet
Public Goods, Public Projects, Externalities (PGPPE) 2006-2010

6 contributing organisations

The Programme concentrates on the economic rather than political challenges that will help realise the decades-old dream of a political Europe. The idea of this study is that this will be achieved through the definition of European policies in the provision and financing of public goods and services, and defence of the environment. Specific topics include pure public goods and public projects, impure public goods, public goods as production inputs, externalities and environment. The outcome of this Programme will be the creation and development of an effective research network mixing theorists, specialists of political economy and of history of economic analysis and practitioners of public economics.

More information: www.esf.org/pgppe

Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences in Europe (EUROQUAL) 2006-2010

14 contributing organisations

The proposal is for a research programme in qualitative methods, complementing the existing ESF programme in quantitative methods. It is based on the fact that while qualitative research is highly visible in many fields of social-science research, it exists within many sub-specialisms, and reflects national as well as disciplinary boundaries. There is a clear need for scholars throughout Europe to share, develop and promote high-level methodological expertise. There is an equally pressing need for capacity-building within the European social sciences. The Programme addresses these needs through two closely linked activities: expert interdisciplinary and cross-national workshops and associated training events.

More information: www.esf.org/euroqual

TransEurope Research Network (TRANSEUROPE) 2006-2011

7 contributing organisations

Though the phenomena of Europeanisation and globalisation are increasingly dominating the public and political discourse, there remains a lack of research on how these processes affect and change the family and employment lives of European citizens. So far, little empirical research connects these transnational changes to inequality at the individual level in Europe. Furthermore, it is not yet established whether individual life courses in European countries are experiencing more convergence or divergence.

The TransEurope Research Network brings together leading European experts in Political Science, Demography, Economics, and Sociology from 7 countries to compare the impact of transnational shifts on life course inequality across Europe.

More information: www.esf.org/transeurope
ESF Member Organisations in 2006 (as at 31 December 2006)

78 Member Organisations in 30 countries
For the latest information about ESF Member Organisations, please visit www.esf.org/members

Austria
Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Österreich (FWF)
Austrian Science Fund
Sensengasse 1 • 1090 Wien
www.fwf.ac.at

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW)
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Dr. Ignaz-Seipel Platz 2 • 1010 Wien
www.oeaw.ac.at

Belgium
Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)
National Fund for Scientific Research
5, rue d’Egmont • 1000 Bruxelles
www.fnrs.be

Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen (FWO)
Fund for Scientific Research - Flanders
5 Egmontstraat • 1000 Brussel
www.fwo.be

Bulgaria
Българска академия на науките (BAS)
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
1, 15 Noemvri Str • Sofia 1040
www.bas.bg

Начуи изследвания
National Science Fund of Bulgaria
2A Kniaz Dondukov Blvd. • Sofia 1000
www.nsfb.net

Cyprus
1 Δρυμα Προώθησης Έρευνας (RPF)
Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation
PO Box 23422 • 1683 Nicosia
www.research.org.cy

Czech Republic
Akademie věd České republiky (ASČR)
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Národní 3 • 117 20 Prague 1
www.cas.cz

Grantová agentura České republiky (GAČR)
Czech Science Foundation
Národní 3 • P.O. Box 1081 • 110 00 Prague 1
www.gacr.cz

Denmark
Danmarks Grundforskningsfonden (DG)
Danish National Research Foundation
Holbergs-gade 14, 1 • 1057 Copenhagen
www.dg.dk

Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab
Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 35
1553 Copenhagen V
www.royalacademy.dk

Forskningsrådet for Kultur og Kommunikation (FFK)
Humanities Research Council
Forskningsrådet for Sundheth og Sygdom (FSS)
Medical Science Research Council
Forskningsrådet for Natur og Univers (FNU)
Natural Science Research Council
Forskningsrådet for Samfund og Erhverv (FSE)
Social Science Research Council
Forskningsrådet for Teknik og Produktion (FTP)
Danish Research Council for Technology and Production

Croatia
Hrvatska akademija znanosti i Umjetnosti (HAZU)
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Zrinski Trg 11 • 10000 Zagreb
www.hazu.hr

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The secretarial functions for all five Danish research councils are assumed by:
Forsknings- og Innovationssstyrelsen (FIST)
Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation
Bredgade 4 • 1260 Copenhagen K
www.forsk.dk

Estonia
Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia
Estonian Academy of Sciences
Kohtu 6 • 10130 Tallinn
www.akadeemia.ee

Eesti Teadusfond (ETF)
Estonian Science Foundation
Endla 4 • 10130 Tallinn
www.etf.ee

Finland
Suomen Akatemia/Finlands Akademi
Academy of Finland
PO Box 99 • Vilhonvuorenkatu 6
00501 Helsinki
www.aka.fi

Suomen Tiedeakatemian
Valtuuskunta/Delegationen för
Vetenskapsakademierna i Finland
Delegation of the Finnish Academies
of Science and Letters
Mariankatu 5 • 00170 Helsinki
www.helsinki.fi/science/deleg

France
Centre national de la recherche
Scientifique (CNRS)
National Centre for Scientific Research
3 rue Michel-Ange • 75794 Paris cedex 16
www.cnrs.fr
ESF Member Organisations in 2006

Commissariat à l’Énergie Atomique/Direction des Sciences de la Matière (CEA/DSM)
Materials Sciences Division of the Atomic Energy Commission
31-33 rue de la Fédération
75752 Paris cedex 15
www.cea.fr

Institut français de recherche pour l’exploitation de la mer (IFREMER)
French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea
Technopolis 40
155 rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau
9213 8 Issy-les-Moulineaux cedex
www.ifremer.fr

Institut national de la recherche Agronomique (INRA)
National Institute for Agricultural Research
147 rue de l’Université • 75338 Paris cedex 07
www.inra.fr

Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM)
National Institute for Health and Medical Research
101 rue de Tolbiac • 75654 Paris cedex 13
www.inserm.fr

Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)
National Institute for Development
209-213 rue La Fayette
75480 Paris cedex 10
www.ird.fr

Germany
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
German Research Foundation
Kennedyallee 40 • 53175 Bonn
www.dfg.de

Hermann von Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft
Deutscher Forschungszentren (HGF)
Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres
Postfach 20 14 48 • Ahrstrasse 45
531 75 Bonn
www.helmholtz.de

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (MPG)
Max Planck Society
Postfach 10 10 62 • Hofgartenstrasse 8
80539 München
www.mpg.de

Union deutscher Akademien der Wissenschaften
Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities
Geschwister-Scholl-Strasse 2 • 55131 Mainz
www.akademieunion.de

Greece
EONIKO ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΠΕΥΝΩΝ (NHRF)
National Hellenic Research Foundation
48 Vassileos Constantinou Avenue
116 35 Athens
www.eie.gr

Ίδρυμα Τεχνολογίας και Έρευνας (FORTH)
Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas
Forth-IACM, Vassilika • PO Box 152 • 711 10 Heraklion
www.forth.gr

Hungary
Magyar Tudományos Akadémia (MTA)
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Roosevelt tér. 9 • 1051 Budapest
www.mta.hu

Országos Tudományos Kutatási Alapprogramok (OTKA)
Hungarian Scientific Research Fund
Könyves Kálmán Krt. 48-52 • 1087 Budapest
www.otka.hu

Iceland
RANNIS
Icelandic Centre for Research
Laugavegi 13 • 101 Reykjavik
www.rannis.is
Ireland
Am Chomhairle um Thaighde sna Dána agus sna hÉolaochtai Sóisialta (IRCHSS)
Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences
First Floor • Brooklawn House • Shelbourne Road • Ballsbridge • Dublin 4
www.irchss.ie

Enterprise Ireland
 Glasnevin • Dublin 9
www.enterprise-ireland.com

Health Research Board (HRB)
73 Lower Baggot Street • Dublin 2
www.hrb.ie

Irish Research Council for Sciences, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET)
Brooklawn House • Shelbourne Road
Dublin 4
www.ircset.ie

Royal Irish Academy
19 Dawson Street • Dublin 2
www.ria.ie

Italy
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
National Research Council
Piazzale Aldo Moro 7 • 00185 Roma
www.cnr.it

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN)
National Institute for Nuclear Physics
Piazza del Caprettari 70 • 00186 Roma
www.infn.it

Lithuania
Lietuvos Valstybinis Mokslo ir Studijų Fondas
Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation
Gostauto str. 12-407 • Vilnius 01108
www.vmsfondas.lt

Luxembourg
Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR)
National Research Fund
Building D1 • 3rd Floor of the Chamber of Commerce • 6 rue Antoine de Saint-Exupery • PO Box 1777 • 1017 Luxembourg-Kirchberg
www.fnr.lu

Netherlands
Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW)
Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
Het Trippenhuis • Kloveniersburgwal 27
Postbus 19121 • 1000 GC Amsterdam
www.knaw.nl

Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
Laan van Nieuw Oost Indië 300
Postbus 93138 • 2593 CE Den Haag
www.nwo.nl

Norway
Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi
Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters
Drammensveien 78 • 0271 Oslo
www.dnva.no

Norges Forskningsråd
Research Council of Norway
Stensberggata 26 • PO Box 2700
St Hanshaugen • 0131 Oslo
www.forskningsradet.no
ESF Member Organisations in 2006

Poland
Polska Akademia Nauk (PAN)
Polish Academy of Sciences
Palac Kultury i Nauki • 00-901 Warsaw
www.pan.pl

Portugal
Academia das Ciências de Lisboa
Lisbon Academy of Sciences
Rua da Academia das Ciências, 19
1249-122 Lisboa
www.acas-ciencias.pt

Spain
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
Council for Scientific Research
Calle Serrano 117 • 28006 Madrid
www.csic.es

Sweden
Forskningsrådet för arbetsliv och socialvetenskap (FAS)
Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research
Box 222 0 • Birger Jarls torg 5 •
Riddarholmen • 103 15 Stockholm
www.fas.forskning.se

Slovenia
Slovenska Akademija Znanosti in Umetnosti (SAZU)
Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Novi trg. 3 • p.p. 323 • 1000 Ljubljana
www.sazu.si

Slovak Republic
Slovenská Akadémia Vied (SAV)
Slovak Academy of Sciences
Štefánikova 49 • 814 38 Bratislava
www.sav.sk

Kungliga Vetenskapsakademien
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Box 50005 • Lilla Frescativägen 4a •
104 05 Stockholm
www.kva.se
Kungliga Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien
Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities
Box 5622 • Villagatan 3 • 114 86 Stockholm
www.vitterhetsakad.se

Vetenskapsrådet (VR)
Swedish Research Council
Regeringsgatan 56 • 103 78 Stockholm
www.vr.se

VINNOVA
Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems
Mäster Samuelsgatan 56
101 58 Stockholm
www.vinnova.se

Switzerland
Rat der schweizerischen wissenschaftlichen Akademien (CASS)
Council of the Swiss Scientific Academies
Hirschengraben 11 • Postfach 8160
3001 Bern
www.cass.ch

Schweizerischer Nationalfonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (SNF)
Swiss National Science Foundation
Wildhainweg 3 • Postfach 8232
3001 Bern
www.snf.ch

Turkey
Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırmalar Kurumu (TÜBİTAK)
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
Atatürk Bulvarı 221 • Kavaklıdere
06100 Ankara
www.tubitak.gov.tr

United Kingdom
Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Whitefriars o Lewins Mead • Bristol BS1 2AE
www.ahrb.ac.uk

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
Polaris House • North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UH
www.bbsrc.ac.uk

The British Academy
10 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AH
www.britac.ac.uk

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
Polaris House • North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1UJ
www.esrc.ac.uk

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
Polaris House • North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1ET
www.epsrc.ac.uk

Medical Research Council (MRC)
20 Park Crescent • London W1B 1AL
www.mrc.ac.uk

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Polaris House • North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1EU
www.nerc.ac.uk

Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC)
Polaris House • North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1SZ
www.pparc.ac.uk

The Royal Society
6 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG
www.roylsoc.ac.uk
ESF Governing Bodies and Committees Membership as at 31 December 2006

Executive Board

The President, the Vice-Presidents, up to five other members elected by the Assembly on the advice of the Governing Council, and the Chief Executive make up the ESF Executive Board. This body is responsible for implementing the strategy and policy set by the Governing Council and the development of the Foundation’s science policy activities.

Ian Halliday (President) United Kingdom
Richard Dyer (Vice-President) United Kingdom
Katherine Richardson Christensen (Vice-President) Denmark
Jean-Luc Clément France
Jane Grimson Ireland
Amélie Mummendey Germany
Mario Rinaldi Italy
Kai L Simons Germany
Josef Syka Czech Republic
Bertil Andersson (ESF Chief Executive)

Governing Council

Ian Halliday (President) United Kingdom
Richard Dyer (Vice-President) United Kingdom
Katherine Richardson Christensen (Vice-President) Denmark
Izo Abram France
Jüri Allik Estonia
Ligia Amâncio Portugal
Simeon Anguelov Bulgaria
Raymond Bausch Luxembourg
Fedor Ciampor Slovakia
Fiona Devine United Kingdom
Michel Dodet France
Ioan Dumitrache Romania
Herbert Gottweis Austria
Peter Gruss Germany
Arvid Hallén Norway
Daniel Höchli Switzerland
Boris Kamenar Croatia
Norbert Kroó Hungary
Dimitrios Kyriakidis Greece
Andrzej Legocki Poland
Martin Lyes Ireland
Elsebeth Lyngé Denmark
Carlos Martinez-A. Spain
Andreas Moleakis Cyprus
Jiri Niederle Czech Republic
Peter Nijkamp The Netherlands
Gudrún Nordal Iceland
Pär Omling Sweden
John O’Reilly United Kingdom
Roberto Petronzio Italy

Sigitas Rencys Lithuania
Alenka Ćelih Slovenia
Marie-José Simeon Belgium
Raimo Väyrynen Finland
Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker Germany
Nüket Yetis Turkey

Observers:
Jüri Engelbrecht All European Academies (ALLEA)
John Smith European University Association (EUA)
Robert-Jan Smits European Commission

Finance and Audit Committee

Richard Dyer (Chair) United Kingdom
Gheorghe Adamescu Romania
Anna d’Amato Italy
Raymond Bausch Luxembourg
Peter Fletcher United Kingdom
Venceslav Kaucič Slovenia
Robert Kuhn Germany
Knut Liestøl Norway
Yves Terrien France
Stavros Zenios Cyprus

Bertil Andersson ESF Chief Executive
David Weber ESF Director of Administration and Finance

Auditors

Public Audit Office:
Frank O’Neill Ireland

Statutory Auditors:
Emmanuelle Serrano KPMG
Jean-Pierre Poletti KPMG
ESF has five Scientific Standing Committees: European Medical Research Councils (EMRC); Humanities (SCH); Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (LESC); Physical and Engineering Sciences (PESC); and Social Sciences (SCSS).

Composed of leading scientists nominated by the ESF’s Member Organisations, the Scientific Standing Committees are responsible for identifying scientific priorities, formulating strategies and developing research agendas.

Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC)

Medical research is vital for improving human health as it brings about a better understanding of the cause and effect of complex diseases. Advancing knowledge in the field also generates enormous social benefits which in turn translate into economic growth.

European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) is the membership organisation for all the Medical Research Councils in Europe under the ESF. The mission of the EMRC is to promote innovative medical research and its clinical application towards improved human health. EMRC offers authoritative strategic advice for policy making, research management, ethics, and better health services. In its activities, EMRC serves as a voice of its member organisations and the European scientific community. EMRC disseminates knowledge and promotes the socio-economic value of medical research to the general public and the decision makers.

During 2006 EMRC managed, among others, the following activities:

• SPB N°26 Research on Rheumatic Diseases
  - The task force, comprising Europe’s leading researchers and clinicians, along with observers from a patients’ representative group and the European Medicines Agency, EMEA, has looked across the field, considering all aspects of basic research and clinical practice, and distilled its findings into five key recommendations:
  - To promote a pan-European research effort for a better understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of chronicity in rheumatic diseases for the development of curative and preventative strategies.
  - To promote coordinated European studies and trials in order to evaluate the incidence and outcome of rheumatic diseases and the development of prevention strategies.
  - To establish a pan-European network developing basic strategies for cell therapies of rheumatic diseases.
  - To promote a pan-European research effort towards a better understanding of the molecular and cellular pathology of osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.
  - To set up a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for rheumatic diseases at the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) with members from academia (i.e. basic, translational, clinical and epidemiological research) and patient organisations.
  - The aim is to provide coherent objectives for national and European funding bodies, healthcare providers, and ensure that rheumatic diseases are acknowledged as a major group of diseases within the European Commission Framework FP7.

• SPB N°27 Structural Medicine: Glycomics
  - A ESF/EMRC task force has produced a policy briefing to develop an area of research considered vital to European medicine; ‘glycomics’. The briefing says that a multidisciplinary approach, to relate the structure of intrinsic glycans and glycoconjugates to their biological function, could aid the rapid development of treatments and diagnostics for a number of life threatening diseases.
  - Recommendations include:
    A strong coordinated interdisciplinary European research effort to enhance our insights into the structure of glycans and glycoconjugates in health and disease.
    The development of high throughput diagnostic tools for the rapid analysis of glycans and improved infrastructures to provide the research community with better access to information.
    Investment into European interdisciplinary educational programmes aimed at training scientists in glycoscience.

• ESF-UB Conference Nanomedicine 2006
  The Nanomedicine conference was organised 15-20 September 2006 in Sant Feliu de Guixols (ES) to foster and establish interdisciplinary exchanges in this new field of research. First in a series of biennial in-depth meetings, it gathered 110 delegates from 25 countries and further
developed the recommendations of the Forward Look. The next conference will be held on 19-25 September 2008.

- **Pan-European Clinical Trials Course**
The course on “Pan European Clinical Trials under current EU regulations”, held in Oslo (NO) on 5-6 October 2006, was attended by 134 junior clinical investigators, study nurses and data managers from 11 European countries. This highly interactive course provided a unique opportunity for high level training in compliance with Good Clinical Practice, National legislation and European regulations.

- **Forum on Nanosciences**
This COST EC ESF Forum took place on 19-20 October 2006 in Brussels (BE) and gave the opportunity to experts in domains such as health, energy, information technology to deconstruct the myths, the challenges, and the future of the field with a European focus. The need for a coherent Pan-European approach was identified together with a dialogue with the general public.

- **Pan-European Sarcoma Trials conference**
The conference “Moving forward in a climate of increasing economic and regulatory pressure” held in Stuttgart from 30 November until 2 December 2006 gathered 200 experts from across the world to discuss quality of life and state-of-the-art in the treatment of sarcoma patients. The challenges for pan-European academic clinical trials under current regulations were also discussed.

More information: www.esf.org/emrc

Liselotte Højgaard (Chair) Denmark
Vladimir Bencko Czech Republic
Håkan Billig Sweden
Roger Bouillon Belgium
Christian Bréchot France
Arturo Brunetti Italy
Antonio de Bernad Miana Spain
Wolfgang Fleischhacker Austria
Jona Freysdottir Iceland
Albert Gjedde Denmark
Michel Goldman Belgium
Agnés Gruart Spain
Hans Lassmann Austria
Dermot Kelleher Ireland
Zita Ausrele Kucinskiene Lithuania
Andis Nicolaides Cyprus
Kresimir Pavelic Croatia
H M Pinedo Netherlands
Mark Palmer United Kingdom
Katarina Poláková Slovak Republic

Laurentiu M Popescu Romania
Charles Pull Luxembourg
Nadire Yesim Getinkaya Sardan Turkey
Martin Röllinghoff Germany
Daniel Scheidegger Switzerland
Janez Sketelj Slovenia
Miklós Tóth Hungary
Andrzej Trzebski Poland
Kalervo Väänänen Finland
Michel Van der Rest France
Eero Vasar Estonia
Chrysanthos Zamboulis Greece
Bulgaria
Norway
Portugal

Observers:
Julian Dow LESC representative
Alan Bernstein Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canada
Roger Glass Fogarty International Center, USA
Bruce A Scoggins Health Research Council of New Zealand
Arnon Nagler Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Israel
Octavi Quintana-Trias European Commission, DG Research
Edvard Peter Beem NWO, Netherlands

Head of Unit:
Carole Moquin-Pattee

Contact:
Julien Weber
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 21 75
E-mail: emrc@esf.org

More information: www.esf.org/emrc

**Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)**

Humanities explore the origins and products of the human capacity for creativity and communication. SCH encompass a broad spectrum of disciplines all pertaining to human consciousness, perception and interpretation of the world such as anthropology, archaeology, history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, musicology, religion and theology.

Besides utilising ESF’s instruments categorised under the ESF’s Strategic Plan to achieve its goals SCH also involves in the European Commission’s...
backed ERA-Net project “Humanities in the European Research Area” (HERA) (ERAC-CT-2005-016179). The SCH is responsible for Work Package 9, the development and launching of Joint Research Programmes.

In an effort to provide a tool for researchers and institutions alike to easily access and assess the scientific quality of Humanities research output, irrespective of disciplinary and linguistic boundaries, ESF and the ERA-Net’s HERA project, which is under the Work Package 7 - Research Infrastructures, have made the establishment of the European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH) possible. Humanities research in Europe is rich in lively national linguistic and intellectual traditions. They all find their expression in scholarly publications. More information: www.esf.org/erih.

During 2006 SCH managed, among others, in the following activities:

- The call for outline proposals for the EUROCORES programme Modelling intelligent interaction - Logic in the Humanities, Social and Computational sciences (LogICCC) was launched on 13 March 2007 with a deadline of 11 May 2007. This new programme, which resulted from the 2006 call for EUROCORES themes, constitutes the fifth EUROCORES programme in the Humanities, next to The Origins of Man, Language and Languages (OMLL), BOREAS, on circumpolar research, The Evolution of Cooperation and Trading (TECT) and Inventing Europe, on the history of technology.

- Humanities Foresight. A Humanities Foresight workshop was organised in December 2006. The workshop brought together foresight theoreticians and practitioners as well as representatives of a wide range of Humanities disciplines. As a result, the SCH has agreed on a series of principles for the development of guidelines for the invitation, selection and implementation of ESF Forward Look.

Gretty Mizrahi Mirdal (Chair) Denmark
Luis Adão da Fonseca Portugal
Ján Bakos Slovak Republic
Maurice Bric Ireland
Luca Codignola Italy
Péter Dávidházi Hungary
Leonidas Donskis Lithuania
Jacques Dubucs France
Peter Funke Germany
Gürol Irzik Turkey
Arne Jarrick Sweden
Ulrike Landfester Switzerland
Kostas Gouliamos Cyprus
Kirsten Drotner Denmark
Joze Krasovec Slovenia
Bohuslav Mánek Czech Republic
Marco Martinello Belgium
Kari Melby Norway
Arto Mustajoki Finland (to Nov 2006)
Gudrún Nordal Iceland (to Sep 2006)
Karl Pajusalu Estonia
Ilie Parvu Romania
Maria del Carmen Piccallo Soler Spain
Walter Pohl Austria
Claudine Moulin Luxembourg
Naomi Segal United Kingdom
Martin Stokhof The Netherlands
Przemyslaw Urbanczyk Poland
Mark Waelkens Belgium (to Oct 2006)
Milenia Zić-Fuchs Croatia
Louisa-Irene Loukopoulou Greece
nn Bulgaria

Subject Representative:
Gísli Palsson Anthropology University of Iceland

Observers:
Marc Caball COST Domain Committee on Individuals, Society, Culture and Health
Pascal Dissard European Commission Directorate General for Research, Unit L4 Scientific Culture and Gender Issues
Etan Kohlberg Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Israel
Bruce Cole National Endowment for the Humanities, USA
Janet E Halliwell Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Head of Unit:
Monique van Donzel

Research and Foresight:
Rüdiger Klein

Contact:
Irma Vogel
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 26
E-mail: humanities@esf.org

More information: www.esf.org/human
Standing Committee for the Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (LESC)

All the important issues relating to our surroundings are covered by the Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences. Biosciences will make a growing impact in the 21st century as it contributes greatly to the very much needed sustainable development of our world. In the meantime geosciences will continue to play a crucial role in the understanding of critical environmental issues that are facing mankind. There is a continuity of informational transfer from genome up through cell, community and environment and defining characteristics of life thus depends strongly on flux from the environment. The committee aims at a better understanding of biological, environmental and Earth systems across time and space. LESC covers activities from molecular and systems biology over regional ecosystems to global change of the environment. Besides utilising ESF’s instruments categorised under the ESF’s Strategic Plan to achieve its goals, LESC is also involved in the European Commission’s backed ERA-Net projects.

During 2006 LESC managed, among others, in the following activities:

- EuroBioFund (www.esf.org/eurobiofund), the three-year Specific Support Action (SSA), funded by the European Commission through the Sixth Framework Programme and supported by LESC and EMRC, is to help facilitate the development of new research programmes by bringing together life science researchers and funding organisations at an annual meeting, EuroBioForum. The first EuroBioForum was held on 14-15 December 2006 in Helsinki. Six Expressions of Interest selected by the Steering Committee were presented orally, and a further five were presented at the poster session.

- The contract for the FP6 proposal on Coordination Action for innovation in Life-Cycle Analysis for Sustainability (CALCAS) was finalised in Autumn 2006 and a kick-off meeting was held on 19-20 October 2006 in Bologna, Italy. CALCAS aims to advance development of Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA) approaches to increase the efficiency of sustainability decision making. LCA is the standardized method for compilation and evaluation of inputs, outputs and the potential environmental impact of a product system through its life cycle. The next CALCAS workshop will be held in Leiden, the Netherlands on 13-14 June 2007.

- Preparatory workshops for the EUROCORES Themes of relevance to LESC (TOPO-EUROPE & DYNAPLAN) were held in November 2006. TOPO-EUROPE (4-D Topography Evolution in Europe: Uplift, Subsidence and Sea Level Change) has since been launched

Alexandre Quintanilha (Chair) Portugal
Fatima Abrantes Portugal
Hans Brix Denmark
Stella Canna-Michaelidou Cyprus
Salvatore Canistraro Italy
Reinhart Ceulemans Belgium
Constantinos Doukas Greece
Julian Dow United Kingdom
Juan Pedro Garcia Ballesta Spain
Olivier Francis Luxembourg
Francoise Gaill France
Josef Gliöss Austria
Jean-Henri Hécq Belgium
Milena Horvat Slovenia
Philippe Jean-Baptiste France
Hefin Jones United Kingdom
Aslihan Kerc Turkey
Marek Konarzewski Poland
Željko Kucan Croatia
Juozas Kulyš Lithuania
Markku Läytönen Finland
John Ludden France (to Aug 2006)
Peadar McArdle Ireland
Stefan Mihina Slovak Republic
Volker Mosbrugger Germany
Jan Motlik Czech Republic
Tiina Nõges Estonia
Rudy Rabbinge Netherlands
Adam Schultz United Kingdom (to June 2006)
Hans Petter Sejrup Norway
Oleig Sigmansson France
Mark Stitt Germany
Andreas Strasser Switzerland
François Tardieu France
Anders Tunlid Sweden
Angheluta Vadineanu Romania
Zoltán Varga Hungary
nn Bulgaria
Standing Committees

Observers:
Luc Balant COST DC-BMBS
Elisabeth Guazzelli PESC representative
Gerhard Haerendel ESSC Chair
Lars Horn Marine Board – ESF Chair
Sylvain Joffre COST DC-ESSEM
Gérard Jugie EPB Chair (to March 2006)
Jan Mees Marine Board - ESF
Jean-François Minster Marine Board - ESF Chair (to May 2006)
Kalliopi Radoglou COST DC-FPS
Peter Raspor COST DC-FA
Carlo Alberto Ricci EPB Chair
Dieter Schinzer COST DC-CMST
Giora Simchen Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Israel

Head of Unit:
Arja Kallio

Contact:
Jane Swift
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 29
E-mail: lesc@esf.org

Standing Committee for the Physical and Engineering Sciences (PESC)

The ESF Standing Committee for Physical and Engineering Sciences (PESC) is a transformative pan-European platform for research and competitive new ideas. PESC addresses strategic issues in fundamental science in its remit, taking societal needs and values into due account. The Committee is a unique cross-disciplinary group, from a broad spectrum of fields ranging from mathematics, informatics and fundamental sciences to computer sciences, materials research, physics, chemistry, applied sciences, new technologies and engineering.

During 2006 PESC managed, among others, in the following activities:

- European Forum on Nanosciences: The aim of the Forum was to explore the wide range of new possibilities, underlining the international and interdisciplinary character of this field. The European Forum on Nanosciences was organised by COST with the support of the European Commission, the European Parliament / Scientific Technology Options Assessment, the ERA-NET Consortium on Nanoscience in the European Research Area and the ESF. Within the ESF, PESC is taking the lead on this Interdisciplinary New Initiatives Fund (INIF). ESF-INIF funding made possible reduced registration fees for young scientists and to cover online registration and registration fee handling as well as public relation activities. The Forum took place 19-20 October 2006 in Brussels.

- Emerging new science fields: the synergy of national lights sources in Europe, a proposal to provide a platform for the European academic user community of medium size national light sources and national research facilities, in general. A Workshop will take place in 2007.

- The Final Report of the ESF Forward Look on "NanoSciences and the long-term evolution Information Technology (NSIT)" was published in December 2006 and is available from the ESF website.

Michel Mareschal (Chair) Belgium
Carmen N Afonso Spain (to June 2006)
Andreas Alexandrou Cyprus
Jean-Marie André Belgium
Roberto Battiston Italy (to June 2006)
Polina Bayvel United Kingdom
Venko N Beschkov Bulgaria
Ian Butterworth United Kingdom (to March 2006)
Pavel Chráska Czech Republic
Gabriel Crean Ireland
Manuel de Léon Spain
Gerhard Erker Germany
Stavros C Farantos Greece
Walter Gear United Kingdom
Elisabeth Guazzelli France
Judith A K Howard United Kingdom (to April 2006)
Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

The social sciences are key to the understanding of many of Europe’s societal issues such as the balance between economic growth and impact on the environment. In other words, the social sciences examine what it means to be a social being, ranging from the minutiae of human behaviour and brain functions, to large-scale social movements, demographics, economics and politics.

SCSS aims to advance social sciences on a European level by supporting innovative research ideas and approaches coming from the scientific community. The committee encompasses a range of disciplines that examine and explain human functioning on a variety of interlocking levels, ranging from neural foundations to individual behaviour, group processes and the functioning of entire societies.

SCSS is in accord with the ESF objective to encourage cross-discipline actions. The committee is fully aware of the importance of insights gained through related disciplines such as the human, life and medical sciences, as these areas of convergence allow for a fuller understanding of the diverse facets of the social science enterprise, ranging from literary, philosophical and historical inputs, to biological and medical ones, including human biology.

More information: www.esf.org/research-areas/social-sciences/activities

During 2006 the SCSS managed, among others, in the following activities:

• A Member Organisation Forum on promoting internationalisation of the social sciences in Central and Eastern Europe (MOCEE) was launched - a series of Expert Meetings to study the research needs of CEE countries in the social sciences, to promote the dialogue between CEE and other European scientific communities, and to develop a “catching up” strategy.
  www.esf.org/research-areas/social-sciences/activities/MO-fora.html

• A second version of the report “Social Sciences in Europe” was published. It focuses on recent and current projects developed through the SCSS, and emphasises the importance of social sciences research, which addresses and
provides answers to critical questions raised by today’s society.

• A new Forward Look on Higher Education in Europe Beyond 2010 Resolving Conflicting Social and Economic Expectations (HELF: www.esf.org/helf) was launched in early 2006. The project aims to derive a future research agenda that will address scientific questions of long term strategic concern to the future of higher education. Theme workshops and an interim conference have been held and the project will culminate in a final conference in October 2007.

• Preparatory workshops for the EUROCORES Themes of relevance to the SCSS were held in November 2006; the two programmes Logical Modelling in Interaction, Communication, Cognition and Computation (LogiCCC: www.esf.org/logic) and Cross-National and Multi-level Analysis of Human Values, Institutions and Behaviour (HumVIB: www.esf.org/humvib) have since been launched, with calls for outline proposals.

• Along with LESC and two COST Domain Committees, the SCSS held a workshop Communicating Interests, Attitudes and Expectations at the Science / Policy Interface (CSPI): Setting Environmental Research Agendas to support Policy. A report will be published in 2007.

Gün R. Semin (Chair) Netherlands
Erik Albæk Denmark (to Sept 2006)
Ahmet Alkan Turkey (to Nov 2006)
John Coakley Ireland
Jakob De Haan Netherlands
Ian Diamond United Kingdom
Dalina Dumitrescu Romania
Patrice Fontaine France
Emmanuel Gerard Belgium
Galin Gornev Bulgaria
Herbert Gotheim Austria (to Nov 2006)
Peter Kurrild-Klitgaard Denmark
Dagmar Kutsar Estonia
Volkmar Lauber Austria

Bogdan Mach Poland
Inés Macho-Stadler Spain
Zdenka Mansfeldová Czech Republic
Silvia Miháliková Slovak Republic
Ilona Pálné Kovács Hungary
Vygandas Paulikas Lithuania
Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello Switzerland
Manfred Prenzel Germany
Raija-Leena Punamäki Finland
Hrafnhildur Ragnarsson Iceland
Asbjørn Rodseth Norway
Davorin Rudolf Croatia
Kerstin Sahlin-Andersson Sweden
Savvas Savvides Cyprus
Slavko Splichal Slovenia
Adelino A. Torres Portugal
Insan Tunali Turkey
Luc Wilkin Belgium
John Yfantopoulos Greece

Observers:
Martina Hartl COST Domain Committee on Individuals, Society, Culture and Health
Asher Koriat Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities
David Lightfoot National Science Foundation (NSF), United States
Pierre Perrolle National Science Foundation, United States (to March 2006)
Christian Sylvain Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada

Advisory Expert:
Bjørn Henriksen Norwegian Social Science Data Services

Associated Institute:
Ali Kazancigil International Social Science Council, France

Head of Unit:
Henk Stronkhorst

Contact:
Rhona Heywood
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 31
E-mail: scss@esf.org

More information: www.esf.org/social

Standing Committees
Expert Committees and Boards

Expert Committees provide advice and initiate strategic developments in the areas of marine-, polar-, and space sciences, nuclear physics and radio astronomy.

Marine Board – ESF (MB-ESF)

The seas and oceans cover over 70 percent of the Earth’s surface, and represent more than half of the European territory. This marine world is still relatively unexplored and its resource potential has yet to be realised.

In recognising that the oceans are of major strategic importance to the ecological, economic and social development of Europe, the Marine Board, which was established by its member organisations with the support of the European Commission in 1995, works to promote and coordinate scientific activities within the main marine research institutions in Europe. Regarded as a driving force for marine sciences in Europe, the Marine Board operates by creating a forum for its member organisations, identifying strategic scientific issues, providing a voice for European marine science and promoting synergy in the management of both national programmes and research infrastructure facilities and investments. One of the Marine Board’s assets is its capacity to be proactive in identifying research priorities through establishing and supporting Expert Working Groups (WGs). These WGs are composed of high-level European experts who elaborate on marine science and technology topics which need to be addressed. In principle, the expected output from a WG results in a position paper, subsequently used at national and European levels to catalyse research programme priorities.

2007 will see the relocation of the Marine Board Secretariat from Strasbourg, France to the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) in Ostend, Belgium, in association with the secretariats of EFARO (European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission’s Marine Data Management Training Programmes.

During 2006 the Marine Board managed, in the following activities among others:

• The Marine Board published Position Paper n°8 “Navigating the Future III” (November 2006). This document summarises thematic priorities for marine research, suitable for inclusion in the 7th Framework Programme and future national strategies, within the context of developments of the future European Maritime Policy. Navigating the Future III received an enthusiastic response from European Commission representatives during its official launch on 16 January 2007 in Brussels, at a seminar, entitled “Marine Science and Technology in the 7th Research Framework Programme” and has been quoted in several speeches by Commissioner Joe Borg and Commission officials.

• With regard to the development of the European Maritime Policy and the response process to the Commission’s Green Paper (published on 7 June 2006), the Marine Board submitted its response to the Maritime Policy Task Force of D.G. Fisheries and Maritime Affairs.

Executive Committee:

Up to May 2006
Jean-François Minster (Chair) France
Jan W. de Leeuw (Vice-Chair) Netherlands
Philip Newton (Vice-Chair) United Kingdom
Geoffrey O’Sullivan (Vice-Chair) Ireland
Mario Ruivo (Vice-Chair) Portugal

From June 2006
Lars Horn (Chair) Norway
Kaisa Kononen (Vice-Chair) Finland
Jan W. de Leeuw (Vice-Chair) Netherlands
Jan Mees (Vice-Chair) Belgium
Kostas Nittis (Vice-Chair) Greece

Member Organisations:

Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung Austria
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Austria
Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique Belgium
Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen Belgium
Statens Naturvidenskabelige Forskningsråd Denmark
Suomen Akatemia/Finlands Akademi Finland
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique France
Institut Français de Recherche pour l’Exploitation de la Mer France
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Germany
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft
Deutscher Forschungszentren Germany
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
Greece
Marine Institute Ireland
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Italy
Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale Italy
Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen Netherlands
Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Netherlands
Havforskningsinstituttet Norway
Norges Forskningsråd Norway
Polska Akademia Nauk Poland
Gabinete de Relações Internacionais da Ciência e do Ensino Superior Portugal
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas Spain
Instituto Español de Oceanografía Spain
Vetenskapsrådet Sweden
Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknik Araştırma Kurumu Turkey
Natural Environment Research Council United Kingdom

Head of Unit:
Niamh Connolly

Contact:
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 21 86
E-mail: marineboard@esf.org
More information: www.esf.org/marineboard

European Polar Board (EPB)

European Polar Board, the ESF’s expert committee on science policy in the Polar Regions, is acting as a voice and facilitator of cooperation between European national funding agencies, national polar institutes and research organisations and the European Commission.

EPB is taking a central role in the coordination at European level of the International Polar Year 2007-2008, a global event focusing on the importance of the Polar Regions for humankind. Major focus areas will be education, outreach and communication; enhancing political visibility. The European Polar Board has active liaison with the director of United States Polar Agency at the National Science Foundation and has been involved in discussions with other international agencies on international cooperation in the Polar Regions.

During 2006 EPB managed, among others, in the following activities:

• The EPB was preparing the ESF European launch event for the International Polar Year at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 26 February 2007. The event was attended by a special representative of President Putin, the Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Dr Artur Chilingarogov, plus 100 policy and science representatives. The event covered all areas of science and involved all of the Standing and Expert Boards and Committees of the European Science Foundation.

• A brochure on Europe’s role in the International Polar Year was produced by the European Polar Board, and a short film covering the ESF European launch event at the European Parliament. The EPB Head of Unit Dr. Paul Egerton recorded an audio podcast for the new website of ESF, on the subject of ESF and Europe’s contribution to the International Polar Year.

Executive Committee:
Gérard Jugie (Chair) France
(to April 2006)
Carlo Alberto Ricci (Chair) Italy
Anders Karlqvist (Vice-Chair) Sweden
Hanne K Petersen (Vice Chair) Denmark
Jan Stel (Vice-Chair) Netherlands

Member Organisations:
Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung Austria
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Austria
Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique Belgium
Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen Belgium
Bulgarian Antarctic Institute Bulgaria
Masarykova universita v Brne – Vyzkumne pracoviste polarni ekologie Czech Republic
Ceska Geograficka Spolecnost Czech Republic
Kommissionen for videnskabelige Undersøg-elder i Gronland Denmark
Estonian Academy of Sciences – Estonian Polar Committee Estonia
Suomen Akatemia/Finnlands Akademi Finland
European Space Sciences Committee (ESSC)

The European Space Sciences Committee, established in 1975, grew out of the need for a collaborative effort that would ensure European space scientists made their voices heard on the other side of the Atlantic, in an era when successive Apollo and space science missions had thrust the idea of space exploration into the collective conscious for the first time.

The ESSC remains just as relevant today as it acts as an interface with the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Commission, national space agencies, and ESF Member Organisations on space-related aspects. The mission of the ESSC is to provide an independent European voice on European space research and policy.

The ESSC is non-governmental and provides an independent forum for scientists to debate space sciences issues. The ESSC is represented ex officio in ESA's scientific advisory bodies, in ESA's Ministerial Councils, and in the EC's FP7 Space Advisory Group. At the international level, ESSC maintains strong relationships with the NRC's Space Studies Board in the U.S., and corresponding bodies in Japan and China.

In May 2007 the ESSC will have a new Chair, Prof. Jean-Pierre Swings, an astrophysicist from the University of Liège in Belgium. His main tasks over the next two years will be to materialise the Strategic Plan in a very concrete manner.

During 2006 ESSC managed, among others, in the following activities:

- ESSC was preparing the Strategic Plan 2007-2010, which was published in March 2007. The Charter under which the ESSC operated since 1999 had become inadapted to the new range of activities and to the role it now plays in Europe, as befits its numerous ex officio participations in ESA or EC high-level bodies. To make a difference in the future the Committee needs the resources to deliver, and the status to provide acceptable strategic views. This need for increased resources has been addressed at the annual meeting of ESSC funding institutions, and met with a positive reaction.
• At the request of ESA, ESSC has conducted in 2005 and early 2006 a strategic assessment of the science component of its Aurora programme. In 2007 the ESSC will complement this exercise by formulating a long-term science scenario for Aurora, also at ESA’s request. The objective of Aurora is to formulate and implement a European long-term plan for robotic and human exploration of solar system bodies holding promise for traces of life.

Willy Benz Switzerland
Bernard Billia France
Roger Bouillon Belgium
Roger M Bonnet ex officio COSPAR President
Bruno Carli Italy
Angioletta Coradini Italy
Karsten Danzmann Germany
Michel Deshayes France
Hans Jörg Fecht Germany
Monica Grady United Kingdom
Matt Griffin United Kingdom
Gerhard Haerendel (Chair) Germany
Anthony Hollingsworth Ireland + UK
Per Borth Lilje Norway
José Miguel Mas-Hesse Spain
Peter Norsk Denmark
Göran Scharmer Sweden
Sabine Schindler Austria
Christiane Schmullius Germany
Kai-Uwe Schrogli Germany
Catherine Turon France
Michel Vaucлин France
Manuel G. Velarde Spain
Karel Wakker Netherlands
Frances Westall France

Liaison:
François Olivier
LESC representative

Head of Unit:
Jean-Claude Worms

Contact:
Carole Mabrouk
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 69
E-mail: essc@esf.org
More information: www.esf.org/essc

Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies
(CRAF)

Established in 1988, CRAF represents all the major radio astronomical observatories in Europe. Its mission is to coordinate activities to keep the frequency bands used by radio astronomers in Europe free from interference. This task will remain indispensable for astronomical science in the foreseeable future. The committee’s pursuit of this task is becoming increasingly difficult, given the continued increase in global use of the electromagnetic spectrum for both terrestrial and space-borne communications.

At the European level, the committee plays a key role in defining, coordinating and representing the radio frequency needs of the radio astronomy community. At a worldwide level, CRAF is a Sector Member of the ITU (International Telecommunication Union).

During 2006 CRAF managed, among others, in the following activities:

• Preparation of an European position for the ITU-R World Radiocommunications Conference 2007, WRC-07
• Assessment of regulatory standards for compatibility with applications using the Ultra Wideband Transmission technology. This is a very threatening new system even for active services and could severely degrade radioastronomical observations in most of the frequency bands assigned to our service
• Preparation of a report on “a coordinated EU Spectrum approach for the scientific use of the radio spectrum”, and to the remarks following from the consultation process opened by the Radio Spectrum Policy Group of the European Commission
• Revision of the European Common Allocations tables of frequencies

Laurentiu Alexe (Frequency Manager)
Roberto Ambrosini (Chair) Italy
Rafael Bachiller Spain
Valery Bezrukov Latvia
Pietro Bolfi (Secretary)
Fredric Clette Belgium
R James Cohen United Kingdom
(deceased Nov 2006)
André Deschamps France
Luis Manuel dos Santos Rocha Cupido Portugal
This Expert Committee’s tasks are to strengthen European collaboration in nuclear physics and science; define a network of complementary facilities within Europe and encourage optimisation of their usage; provide a forum for the discussion of the provision of future facilities and instrumentation; and issue recommendations on the development, organisation, and support of European nuclear physics, and of particular projects. NuPECC regularly publishes reports on relevant scientific issues of importance to the European nuclear physics community and publishes a Long-Range Plan (Forward Look) every 6 years delineating the perspectives for the field and giving the recommendations and priorities for the advancement of nuclear science in Europe.

NuPECC continues to pursue its joint initiative with the European Physical Society, PANS (Public Awareness of Nuclear Science), and pamphlets, books and CDs have been produced. NuPECC also continues to work closely with nuclear physics research networks supported via the Framework Programmes of the European Commission. Through its quarterly magazine, Nuclear Physics News International, NuPECC provides an important forum for discussing nuclear science.

During 2006 NuPECC managed, among others, in the following activities:

• NuPECC established a Working Group in order to support preparations for FP7 within the community. The Working Group met with Coordinators of projects running in FP6 and representatives of the EU Commission in Brussels on 9 March 2006.

• International Collaboration: NuPECC prepared a new survey on resources in nuclear physics in Europe. A questionnaire was sent out to more than 180 nuclear physics institutes in the NuPECC member states. The evaluation is in progress. This survey represents the European part of an international initiative pursued by the Commission C12 (Nuclear Physics) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).

• In addition, NuPECC participates in the nuclear physics working group of the Global Science Forum of OECD. Professor B. Fulton presented the NuPECC Roadmap at the first meeting in Washington on 6-7 March 2006, as well as at the following meeting in Rome on 10-11 October 2006. The NuPECC Survey was also part of the agenda of that meeting.
Paul-Henri Heenen Belgium
Walter Henning Germany
Rauno Julin Finland
Attila Krasznahorkay Hungary
Thomas Peitzmann The Netherlands
Alfredo Poves Spain
Dieter Röhrich Norway
Günther Rosner United Kingdom
Hans Ströher Germany
Jan Styczen Poland
Jochen Wambach Germany
Eberhard Widmann Austria
Nicolae Victor Zamfir Romania

Observers:
Rezső Lovas/Matti Leino (alternate)
Nuclear Physics Board, European Physical Society (EPS)

Scientific Secretary:
Patrick Bressler

Contact:
Carole Mabrouk
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 69
E-mail: cmabrouk@esf.org

More information: www.esf.org/nupecc
The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), an intergovernmental initiative, exists to foster cooperation between nationally-funded research activities. The main objective of COST is to stimulate innovative and interdisciplinary scientific networks in Europe. COST addresses the growing demand for cooperation across national borders and across research disciplines. It complements the European Union’s Framework Programme. COST has one of the largest frameworks for research cooperation in Europe, supporting more than 30,000 scientists. Since 1971 COST has brought together research teams from different countries to work on specific topics. Although COST does not fund research projects themselves, it finances the networking of nationally funded activities in supporting meetings, conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and outreach activities.

COST, with 34 member states in Europe, has a membership which extends beyond the European Union, including Israel. On the basis of mutual benefit, COST also allows participation from institutions in non-COST Countries and from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). There are no geographical restrictions on ad-hoc participation in COST’s activities.

In 2006, COST has introduced a new process of presenting proposals for new Actions, making the process as transparent as possible. The purpose of if is to foster quality through competition and have greater visibility for the research. The underlying continuous “Open Call” is thematically open to any topics, maintaining the “bottom-up” principle.

In October 2006, COST designated the ESF as the legal entity to act as the implementing agent for COST during the seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013). The ESF will continue to provide the scientific, technical and administrative secretariat through the COST Office to COST Domain Committees and to COST Actions during this period. The budget allocated for this contract will be at least €210 M following the recommendations of the 2010 Mid-Term-Review.

COST has also been building links with the European Parliament by organizing exchanges along side an exhibition in the European Parliament from 18th to 21st April 2006 with the participation of the Commissioner for research and technological development, Dr Janez Potońik, of the Chair of the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Mr Giles Chichester, of Professor Jerzy Buzek, the Rapporteur to the European Parliament for FP7 and ESF’s CEO Prof. Bertil Andersson.

During 2006, COST:

- supported the networking of scientists by funding meetings with some 29,000 participating and reimbursed scientists from the 200 running COST Actions
- supported Short-Term Scientific Missions (exchange visits) allowing COST Action members, in particular young researchers, to gain experiences in other participating institutions
- enhanced its cooperation with institutions from non-COST countries with improved support schemes to foster new partnerships with scientific groups in the mutual interest from all over the world.
- the Open Call was launched in April 2006 in particular targeting new interdisciplinary ideas by early stage scientists
- continues to implement the new COST Grant System which will be finalised by 2008. It will provide the COST Actions with a comprehensive web-based project management tool to increase flexibility and to facilitate the reporting requirements.

For more information about COST, please visit www.cost.esf.org
In order to provide the latest available information on ESF Finances, the 2006 accounts are published in this annual report.

The accounts were presented to and discussed by the ESF Finance and Audit Committee at its March 2007 meeting. Any modification requested will be clearly identified in the 2007 report.

**Activities and Budget Structure**

ESF and its activities are mainly funded by contributions from ESF Member Organisations and grants from the European Commission.

The General Budget is used to finance the running of the office and general infrastructure (employment and running expenses), and core scientific activities that are essential for the proper implementation of the ESF mission (meetings of the Standing committees, Forward Looks, Exploratory Workshops, support to Conferences, scientific networks, science policy and strategic activities, quality control, communication and governance).

All ESF Member Organisations contribute to the General Budget according to a scale of contributions set out according to the Statute and outlined in **Table 7**.

Other activities are funded à la carte, only by those Member Organisations interested in participating. These activities are the ESF Research Networking Programmes and the ESF Expert Committees and Boards. The ESF also runs special budgets involving partnerships such as the ESF Research Conferences. A break down of the ESF budget structure is provided in **Table 1**.

In addition, the European Commission provides funding to ESF for the management of COST activities, which accounts for around 43 percent of the total expenditure in 2006, for the support of EUROCORES, the coordination of EURYI scheme and the participation in several other EC programmes.

**Overall comments on 2006 Income and Expenditure**

2005 was a transition year during which ESF consolidated its positions after the growth achieved in previous years, and managed around €41 million. In 2006, a further increase of 8.5 percent was achieved, to reach an overall level of funding of €44.6 million at the end of the year, as shown in the Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement (**Table 2 and Chart 1**).

Adjusted with the necessary provisions for contingencies and anticipated overhead, ESF globally ends the year with a consolidated result amounting to -€36k in the management accounts.

The statutory accounts, detailed in **Tables 4 & 5**, show a consolidated excess of income of €1 083k at year end, which is reconciled to the -€36k result in **Table 6**.

The development of income mainly relates to activities within the General budget, the ESF Research Networking programmes through an increased number of active programmes, the EUROCORES support contract and the continued participation in several ERA-Nets contracts. The main decrease in income relates to the ESF Research Conferences, due to a new partner-based model for which 2006 was the first year of implementation.

The evolution in expenditure is in line with the objectives defined in the strategy and with the necessary means to continue managing the responsibilities attached to the EC Contracts.

General budget expenditure in science activities includes developments in foresight activities (Forward Looks and Exploratory Workshops) and quality assurance (evaluation of instruments and activities).

At the same time, employment costs and running expenses of the General Budget were maintained at their expected level.

The evolution of expenditure in other budget components is coherent with the further developments in the coordination of EUROCORES and other ERA-Nets.

**Overall comments on the 2006 Balance Sheet**

The ESF Consolidated Balance Sheet (**Table 3**) gives an instant picture of the patrimonial situation of the organisation at the end of the year.

The positive cash situation, reflecting a proactive management of available cash, and the increase in funds received in advance, are both mainly linked to the management of funds related to EC contracts.
As a matter of caution, liabilities include provisions for contingencies built in the management accounts to face possible risks attached to the running of external contracts.

The following tables provide a consolidated overview of all funds managed by ESF in 2006:

**Budget Structure**
Table 1: Detailed structure

**Key Figures**
Chart 1: Consolidated Expenditure and detail of Science Activities Funded by the General Budget

**Management Accounts**
Table 2: Income and Expenditure Statement
Table 3: Balance Sheet

**Statutory Accounts**
Table 4: Income and Expenditure Statement
Table 5: Balance Sheet

**Table 1: Budget Structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget component</th>
<th>Related activities</th>
<th>Sources of funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Budget</td>
<td>• Basic activities that are essential for the proper implementation of the ESF mission</td>
<td>• Contributions from MOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Quality control</td>
<td>• Other internal income (Financial earnings...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Running of the Office and general infrastructure</td>
<td>• Overheads from external contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>À la carte</td>
<td>• Specific activities such as Programmes and Expert Boards</td>
<td>• Contributions from MOs on an à la carte basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>• Partnership activities such as Conferences</td>
<td>• Partners’ contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Contribution from General Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts with external parties</td>
<td>• Support for the coordination of programmes such as EUROCORES, EURYI, EuroBioFund and ERA Nets</td>
<td>• Grants from the European Commission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Reconciliation of the balance of the year between Management and Statutory Accounts. This table explains differences between the Management Accounts (which take into account some business situations not necessarily reflected in statutory terms) and the Statutory Accounts, which follow International Accounting Standards.

**Other**
Table 7: Scale of contributions
### Table 2: Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement (in k€)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2006 Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Budget</strong></td>
<td>11 607</td>
<td>12 489</td>
<td>-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>9 025</td>
<td>10 514</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Science, Science Policy and Strategy</td>
<td>3 319</td>
<td>4 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Employment Costs</td>
<td>4 647</td>
<td>5 292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Running Expenses, Equipment &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>1 059</td>
<td>1 122</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESF Management Provisions</strong></td>
<td>1 821</td>
<td>1 095</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residual costs from EC contracts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Account for Closed Programmes</strong></td>
<td>1 073</td>
<td>1 381</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Expenditure</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>410</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Allocation to dedicated funds</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESF Research Networking Programmes</strong></td>
<td>3 986</td>
<td>4 938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expenditure</td>
<td>3 986</td>
<td>4 938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A La Carte Expert Committees</strong></td>
<td>782</td>
<td>754</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expenditure</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>754</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESF Research Conferences</strong></td>
<td>1 491</td>
<td>1 292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expenditure</td>
<td>1 491</td>
<td>1 292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST Contract</strong></td>
<td>18 733</td>
<td>19 577</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct incurred expenditure</td>
<td>16 606</td>
<td>17 544</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Depreciation of fixed assets</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>93</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Accrued expenses</td>
<td>2 040</td>
<td>1 940</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EUROCORES Support Contract</strong></td>
<td>2 130</td>
<td>2 957</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct Expenditure</td>
<td>2 130</td>
<td>2 957</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EURYI Support Contract</strong></td>
<td>479</td>
<td>463</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct Expenditure</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>463</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other EC Contracts</strong></td>
<td>487</td>
<td>702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct Expenditure</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>40 768</td>
<td>44 553</td>
<td>-36</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Income</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Budget</strong></td>
<td>11 613</td>
<td>12 449</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal Income</strong></td>
<td>7 072</td>
<td>7 809</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Contributions from Member Organisations</td>
<td>6 335</td>
<td>6 652</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Additional Contributions</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ESF Administrative Overhead</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>545</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Financial earnings of the year</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>235</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use of Provisions and dedicated funds</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>375</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>External Funding</strong></td>
<td>4 541</td>
<td>4 640</td>
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<td><strong>Account for Closed Programmes</strong></td>
<td>1 078</td>
<td>1 385</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Expenditure</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>170</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other Income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reversal of dedicated funds</td>
<td>838</td>
<td>990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESF Research Networking Programmes</strong></td>
<td>3 986</td>
<td>4 938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contributions to ESF Research Networking Programmes</td>
<td>3 986</td>
<td>4 938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A La Carte Expert Committees</strong></td>
<td>782</td>
<td>754</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contributions to A La Carte Expert Committees</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>754</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESF Research Conferences</strong></td>
<td>1 491</td>
<td>1 292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conference Fees</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>349</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• European Union Grants</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sponsoring and Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>423</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Contributions from General Budget</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>520</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST Contract</strong></td>
<td>18 733</td>
<td>19 577</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EC Contribution</td>
<td>22 821</td>
<td>23 252</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bank interest</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>196</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overhead on Direct expenditure</td>
<td>-4 170</td>
<td>-3 870</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EUROCORES Support Contract</strong></td>
<td>2 130</td>
<td>2 957</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EC Contribution</td>
<td>4 466</td>
<td>3 376</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bank interest</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overhead on Direct expenditure</td>
<td>-367</td>
<td>-496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EURYI Support Contract</strong></td>
<td>479</td>
<td>463</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EC Contribution</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>566</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bank interest</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overhead on Direct expenditure</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other EC Contracts</strong></td>
<td>487</td>
<td>702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EC Contribution</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>863</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bank interest</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overhead on Direct expenditure</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-170</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Income</strong></td>
<td>40 779</td>
<td>44 517</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Table 3: Consolidated Balance Sheet (in k€)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>1 650</td>
<td>1 672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>2 412</td>
<td>3 680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Positions</td>
<td>18 142</td>
<td>24 229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>17 121</td>
<td>23 895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at banks</td>
<td>1 021</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>22 204</td>
<td>29 581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working Capital</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve on Account for Closed Prog.</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants received for building works</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated Funds</td>
<td>1 275</td>
<td>1 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>3 540</td>
<td>4 725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>6 509</td>
<td>7 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received in advance and committed</td>
<td>8 700</td>
<td>14 345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Balance</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>22 204</td>
<td>29 581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4: Statutory Income and Expenditure Statement (in €)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>38 262 943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USE OF PROVISIONS</td>
<td>67 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>38 330 171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PURCHASES</td>
<td>385 342</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXTERNAL CHARGES</td>
<td>26 905 596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAXES</td>
<td>637 435</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMPLOYMENT COSTS</td>
<td>5 993 224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>2 531 114</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEPRECIATION OF FIXED ASSETS</td>
<td>198 635</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROVISIONS</td>
<td>67 751</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER CHARGES</td>
<td>139 646</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>36 858 743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATING EARNINGS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>316 602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>1 995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION</strong></td>
<td>314 607</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>EXCEPTIONAL INCOME</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>-5 217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION</strong></td>
<td>-5 217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE BALANCE</strong></td>
<td>1 780 817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| REVERSAL OF DEDICATED FUNDS | 1 129 894 | 1 275 283 |
| ALLOCATION TO DEDICATED FUNDS | 1 275 283 | 1 159 724 |
| **EXCESS OF INFLOW** | 1 635 429 | 1 082 777 |
## Table 5: Statutory Balance Sheet (in €)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NET</td>
<td>GROSS</td>
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<td>INTANGIBLE ASSETS</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Softwares</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>16 933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANGIBLE ASSETS</td>
<td>1 641 806</td>
<td>2 613 755</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL ASSETS</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guarantee deposits</td>
<td>7 330</td>
<td>8 755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL I</strong></td>
<td>1 649 737</td>
<td>2 639 442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVANCE PAYMENTS</td>
<td>60 696</td>
<td>510 521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECEIVABLES</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customers and related accounts</td>
<td>982 740</td>
<td>1 710 376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>340 297</td>
<td>840 146</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECURITIES</td>
<td>17 120 558</td>
<td>23 894 892</td>
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<tr>
<td>CASH AT BANK</td>
<td>1 021 581</td>
<td>333 958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREPAYMENTS</td>
<td>1 028 345</td>
<td>921 981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL II</strong></td>
<td>20 554 217</td>
<td>28 175 874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL TOTAL (I + II)</strong></td>
<td>22 203 954</td>
<td>30 815 316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WORKING CAPITAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPITAL ENDOWMENT</td>
<td>223 910</td>
<td>223 910</td>
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<tr>
<td>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</td>
<td>553 214</td>
<td>4 394 176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT YEAR EXCESS OF INFLOW OVER USE</td>
<td>1 635 429</td>
<td>1 082 777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUMULATED EXCESS OF USE OVER INFLOW</td>
<td>2 222 057</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>RESERVE ON ACCOUNT</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOR CLOSED PROGRAMMES</td>
<td>601 486</td>
<td>618 009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES</td>
<td>850 100</td>
<td>807 595</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL I</strong></td>
<td>6 086 195</td>
<td>7 126 467</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROVISIONS FOR CONTINGENCIES AND CHARGES</td>
<td>368 900</td>
<td>459 481</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEDICATED FUNDS</td>
<td>1 275 283</td>
<td>1 159 724</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL II</strong></td>
<td>1 644 183</td>
<td>1 619 205</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUPPLIERS AND RELATED ACCOUNTS</td>
<td>1 559 191</td>
<td>2 074 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL AND TAX LIABILITIES</td>
<td>1 728 765</td>
<td>1 845 064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER PAYABLES</td>
<td>3 221 289</td>
<td>3 390 832</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECEIVED IN ADVANCE AND COMMITTED</td>
<td>7 964 331</td>
<td>13 585 067</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL III</strong></td>
<td>14 473 576</td>
<td>20 835 065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL TOTAL (I + II + III)</strong></td>
<td>22 203 954</td>
<td>29 580 737</td>
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</table>
Table 6: Reconciliation Statutory and Management Accounts (in k€)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Result in Management IES (1)</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for Contingencies built in Management Accounts</td>
<td>1 095</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variation of anticipated overheads accounted for in Statutory Accounts</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus in Statutory IES</td>
<td>1 083</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) IES : Income and Expenditure Statement

Table 7: Scale of Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>14.40</td>
<td>14.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>19.71</td>
<td>19.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>11.62</td>
<td>11.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>6.81</td>
<td>7.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>2.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>15.19</td>
<td>15.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Human Resources

Over the past four years, the staff size of the ESF has more than doubled. Starting as a small organisation with a strong family culture, the ESF has undergone a considerable transformation and witnessed a rapid growth in its activities.

To accommodate the increase in activities the Assembly approved the ESF’s new Strategic Plan 2006-2010 in November 2005. This ambitious plan has understandably brought on a lot of new and challenging objectives for the ESF staff. These challenges require changes which allow the ESF to demonstrate continuous improvement in professionalism, high-quality science and streamlined administrative processes.

In an effort to help the organisation and its staff to meet these objectives the Human Resources unit initiated a series of management and staff training sessions in 2006. During these training sessions ESF employees were participating in in-depth training course designed to improve quality, effectiveness and accountability.

ESF is an avid believer that staff development is an investment which translates into excellence. Or in other words, human capital is an essential component for the delivery of ESF’s Mission and Strategy.

In 2006, a series of measures in the management of Human Resources have been initiated and implemented following the priorities defined in the Human Resources Plan published beginning of 2006.

These include
- the definition of an adapted job structure enabling career development;
- the development of standardised job profiles defining the responsibilities of each position and focusing on the specific and technical competences needed to be successful for an efficient implementation of the ESF Strategic Plan;
- the progressive implementation of an improved recruitment strategy and the development of an attractive “Jobs” web page by the Communications Unit;
- the strengthening of the performance-based management process ensuring the cascading down of ESF yearly priorities at the level of each staff member in the organisation as well as the identification of the development and training needs to achieve the identified objectives. This process will continue to be developed in 2007.

The table, below, shows the overall evolution of staff in Full-Time Equivalents. ESF staff has more than doubled since 2003, with the increase being mainly supported by external funding such as the COST and EUROCORES contracts. In line with the Strategic Plan, the strong focus has been on science and science support staff. The limited evolution in General Administration staff supported by the General Budget has enabled the strengthening of professional competences within Human Resources and Finance. A reduction in General Administration staff funded from other sources was achieved as a result of further important improvements in automation and electronic processing of operations, in particular between the Strasbourg and Brussels offices.
Evolution of Staff par Category and per Source of Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2005 FTE Actual</th>
<th>2006 FTE Actual</th>
<th>FTE Evolution 2006-2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; science management</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative support for Science</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ESF Staff (full time equivalents)</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>126.4</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ESF disseminates information about its activities through a variety of channels, including a wide range of publications. Listed here is a selection of publications resulting from ESF activity in 2006.

Up-to-date information on the Foundation’s publications is also available at its web site: www.esf.org either to download or to order.

Corporate publications

- **ESF Calls for Proposals 2006**: Opportunities for Europe-Wide Collaborations 6 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, June 2006
- **Setting Science Agendas for Europe**: 20 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, July 2006
- **ESF Policy Briefing N° 26**: Rheumatic Diseases – a Major Challenge for European Research and Health Care 4 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, June 2006
- **ESF Policy Briefing N° 27**: Structural Medicine: The Importance of Glycomics for Health and Disease 6 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, July 2006
Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC)

ESF Policy Briefing No 26: Rheumatic Diseases – a Major Challenge for European Research and Health Care
4 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, June 2006

ESF Policy Briefing No 27: Structural Medicine: The Importance of Glycomics for Health and Disease
6 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, July 2006
Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean (ARCANE)
An ESF Research Networking Programme
8 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, March 2006

Representations of the Past: The Writing of National Histories in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Europe (NHIST)
History of Historiography
International review. 2006, 50

Consciousness in a Natural and Cultural Context (CNCC)
An ESF EUROCORES Programme
6 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, November 2006

Philosophical and Foundational Problems of Modern Physics (PMP)
Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics
Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part B
Special Issue – The Arrows of Time, 2006
Volume 37, Number 3, September 2006
395-576 pp. ISSN 1355-2198, 2006

From Natural Philosophy to Science 1200-1700 (NPHS)
Transmitting Knowledge – Words, Images and Instruments in Early Modern Europe
Edited by S Kusukawa and I Maclean
274 pp. ISBN 0-19-928578-X. Published by Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2006
This Forward Look, which is supported by both ESF and COST, will focus on how the changes in Europe’s food systems are changing, driven by complex technological and policy factors including CAP reform.

Given the many uncertainties setting the best policy with respect to the future of European food systems is difficult.

The principal objective of the food system, and the tradeoffs between this and other societal interests.

As part of the food system concept provides an explicit analytical lens for understanding food security, the outcomes include some which are associated with outcomes. Food security is diminished when food systems are disrupted or stressed. Food systems are a set of dynamic interactions between activities and outcomes (figure 1).

Food systems are often only thought of in terms of the production, processing, packaging and distributing food; and retailing and consuming food. Outcomes include a number of activities which lead to a number of associated outcomes.

Recent decades have seen large changes in the food systems which underpin European food security. This has been due to major changes in technological factors, e.g. productivity rise per hectare and per man-hour, increased wealth and cultural mixing; and by changes e.g. productivity rise per hectare and per man-hour, increased wealth and cultural mixing; and changes in climate and other environmental factors.
Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

Globalizing Europe
Economic History Network (GLOBALEURONET)
An ESF Research Networking Programme
8 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, August 2006

Family Support for Older People:
Determinants and Consequences (FAMSUP)
Family care for older people in the thirteen European countries
An ESF Scientific Network report
16 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, November 2006

Social Sciences in Europe
An ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS) report 2006-2007
ESF, Strasbourg, France, October 2006

Higher Education in Europe beyond 2010: Resolving Conflicting Social and Economic Expectations
An ESF Forward Look
Flyer, 2 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, November 2006
Joint activity between SCH and SCSS

TransEurope
Research Network:
Transnationalisation and Changing Life Course Inequality in Europe (TransEurope)
An ESF Research Networking Programme
12 pp. ESF, Strasbourg, France, November 2006

Social Variations in Health Expectancy in Europe
Social Inequalities in Health
Edited by J Siegrist and M Marmot
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- Page 26 (Magellan): Drilling barge GLAD 800. Courtesy of IODP
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