

The European Science Foundation (ESF), with offices in Strasbourg and Brussels, is the European association of 78 major national research funding and performing organisations and academies in 30 countries devoted to excellence in scientific research. The ESF covers all research domains: physical and engineering sciences; life, earth and environmental sciences; medical sciences; humanities; and social sciences.

The mission of the ESF is to provide a common European platform for its Member Organisations (MOs) in order to advance research and explore its new directions at the European level.

This mission will be achieved via three approaches:

Science Strategy: providing high level and high quality foresight and advice on science, research infrastructure and science policy issues of European significance. The ESF achieves this among others with Forward Looks, a major contribution towards common MO strategies for European research, and ESF Exploratory Workshops.

Science Synergy: stimulating cooperation between researchers and Member Organisations, in order to explore new directions in research throughout Europe. This is achieved through ESF Research Networking Programmes; ESF EUROCORES Programmes and ESF Research Conferences.

Science Management: illustrating the organisational role that ESF can play in implementing activities in a European setting, for example the EURYI (European Young Investigator Award); providing the scientific, technical and administrative support for COST (European CO-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research) and EuroBioFund.

During 2007 the ESF will be announcing a series of calls for proposals which will give researchers the opportunity to propose and launch research projects and collaborative activities with a European dimension.



COST Open Call for Proposals to support Scientific and Technical Collaborations in Europe

The main objective of European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) is to stimulate innovative and interdisciplinary scientific networks in Europe. COST's activities – known as Actions – are carried out by multinational research teams to strengthen the scientific foundations in Europe.

In an effort to attract the best proposals for the new COST Actions, an Open Call was launched in 2006. The call is open for any topics that contribute to the scientific, economic, cultural or societal development of Europe.

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. Currently there are more than 200 Actions being supported, and every year about 50 new Actions are being approved. On average these actions could expect the financial support of some € 90,000 per year for a 4-year period.

The submission dates for preliminary proposals for the new COST Actions normally take place at the end of March and at the end of September. Proposals that play a precursor role for other European programmes involving young-aged groups are especially encouraged.

Proposals will be assessed in a two-stage process. Preliminary proposals should provide a brief overview. They will be ranked and the top 75 from each collection date will be invited for the submission of a full proposal. The full proposal will be peer-reviewed. The top 25 of them will be proposed for approval as new Actions by the COST governance. Normally the time between collection date and approval is no longer than 7 months. The next collection date for Preliminary Proposals is 30 March 2007.

For further information: www.cost.esf.org



Calls for Proposals 2007 Opportunities for Europe-Wide Collaborations



Proposals for ESF 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 research fields with potential impact on new developments in science.

Proposals should demonstrate the potential for initiating follow-up research activities and/or developing future collaborative actions. Interdisciplinary topics are greatly encouraged.

These workshops have a wide participation from across Europe and should involve young, independent researchers and scholars with leadership potential.

Proposals are assessed through international peer review. On the basis of written assessments by external referees, ESF Standing Committees select proposals to be recommended for funding. The final funding decision will be made by the ESF Chief Executive together with the Standing Committee Chairs.

Awards will be to a maximum value of **€15,000**
Submission of proposals: **1st March 2007**
Deadline for submitting proposals: **27 April 2007**
Workshops must take place during **2008**
For further information: www.esf.org/workshops

Proposals for ESF Research Networking Programmes

These long-term research networking 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 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.

All proposals are assessed through international peer review. On the basis of written assessments by external referees the ESF Standing Committees select proposals to be recommended for funding. The final decision on proposals to be presented to the ESF Member Organisations for funding will be made by the ESF Chief Executive together with the Standing Committee Chairs.

Awards will be to a maximum value of **€120,000** annually, for a four or five-year period
Submission of proposals: **2nd July 2007**
Deadline for submitting proposals: **30th October 2007**
New programmes start from **1st January 2009**
For further information: www.esf.org/programmes

Proposals for ESF EUROCORES (European Collaborative Research)

The EUROCORES Scheme offers 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 US.

EUROCORES allows national research funding organisations 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.

Proposals for themes: Following the EUROCORES theme call around five new themes for collaborative research in and across all scientific fields will be selected through international peer review.

Submission of proposals: **March 2007**
Deadline for submitting proposals: **1st June 2007**

Proposals for projects: Selected EUROCORES themes are developed into EUROCORES Programmes. If there are enough interests from national funding organisations, the EUROCORES Programme would publish a call for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs).

CRP proposals are assessed through a common international peer review managed by the ESF, in conjunction with national funding bodies participating in the Programme. ESF provides the scientific networking and management.

Publication for the Calls for the approved EUROCORES Programme: **March 2007**
Start of the research projects: **May 2008**
For further information: www.esf.org/eurocores

Proposals for ESF Research Conferences 2009

The ESF Research Conferences Scheme is a high-level conference programme in partnership with national and international organisations, including universities. The Scheme provides the opportunity for leading scientists and young researchers to meet in an informal setting for discussions at the highest level on the most recent developments in their fields of research. It also acts as a catalyst for creating new synergistic contacts throughout Europe and with the rest of the world.

Conferences are interdisciplinary when appropriate and last between four and five days. Up to 150 invited speakers and participants may attend.

The Call for 2009 Research Conferences is addressed to leading European scientists for events to take place in the following scientific disciplines: Biology + (Biology at the Interface with Other Science Disciplines), Environmental Sciences, Physics/Biophysics, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Submission of proposals: **open from Spring 2007**
Closing date: **1st October 2007**
For further information: www.esf.org/conferences or
address your queries to conferences-proposals@esf.org