



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 networks - known as Actions - are networks centred around nationally funded research projects in fields that are of interest to at least five COST countries. COST Actions cover basic and pre-competitive research for peaceful purposes as well as activities of public utility, as part of the Lisbon objectives.

Open Call

A continuous COST Open Call to attract the best proposals for new COST Actions is used. The continuous call is thematically open and proposals playing a precursor role for other European programmes and/or initiated by early-stage researchers are particularly welcome.

Proposers are invited to locate their topic within one COST Domain. However, interdisciplinary proposals not fitting readily into a single Domain are also welcome.

Proposals are assessed in two stages. Preliminary Proposals, consisting of a brief overview and an impact description, are checked for eligibility first and, when eligible, assessed by the relevant Domain Committee against the published criteria. The top ranked Preliminary Proposals are then invited to submit a Full Proposal which is peer reviewed according to the published assessment criteria. The time between the collection date and the proposal for approval of the best Full Proposals by the COST CSO is approximately 6 months.

Actions

Every COST Action has an objective, defined goals and clear deliverables. They achieve results through network building activities. COST funding covers the coordination costs associated with organising and attending meetings, workshops and conferences; short-term scientific missions as well as publications and other dissemination activities. The research activities themselves (staff, infrastructure etc.) are supported through national funds and are not supported by COST. The financial support averages € 90 000 per year for a four-year period.

Currently there are more than 200 running Actions and every year about 50 new Actions are approved. Collection dates for Preliminary Proposals are announced on the COST Website.

Continuous Open Call
Next collection date: **28th March 2008**
For further information: www.cost.esf.org

During 2008 the European Science Foundation (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.

The European Science Foundation (ESF), with offices in Strasbourg, Brussels and Ostend, is the European association of 77 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.

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 ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context. It carries out an array of activities, ranging from organising exploratory scientific workshops to providing science policy advice.

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 benefit 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.

In addition to the opportunities that are opened to researchers, the ESF is also actively engaged in science policy activities that assist its Member Organisations in shaping and defining the European research agenda and coordinating their policies using the following means:

Forward Looks

ESF Forward Looks is a foresight-type activity 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 for improved science policies at national and European levels.

Current Forward Looks Themes

- Investigator Driven Clinical Trials (2007-2008)
- RNA World: a new frontier in biomedical research (2007-2008)
- Security - Advancing a Framework for Inquiry (SAFE) (2007-2008)
- Religion and Belief Systems (2008-2009)
- Ageing, Health and Pensions (2008-2009).

For further information: www.esf.org/flooks

Member Organisation Fora

Member Organisation Fora is an ESF activity which has been developed in response to a clear demand from the ESF Member Organisations. A Member Organisation Forum is an output-oriented, issue-related venue for the Member Organisations, involving other organisations as appropriate, to exchange information and experiences and develop joint actions in science policy.

Current MO Fora topics

- Peer Review
- Research Careers
- Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes

For further information: www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora



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Calls for Proposals 2008 Opportunities for Europe-Wide Collaborations



Latitude: / Print run: 20.000 - February 2008

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, which involve young independent researchers and scholars with leadership potential, have a wide participation from across Europe and sometimes, the rest of the world.

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**

Call opens: **1st March 2008**

Deadline for submitting proposals: **29th April 2008**

Workshops must take place during **2009**

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 supporting proposals recommended by ESF.

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. **New Programmes will be launched only if sufficient funding from Member Organisations is obtained for recommended proposals.**

Awards will typically be to a maximum value of **€120,000** annually, for a four or five-year period

Call opens: **1st July 2008**

Deadline for submitting proposals: **23rd October 2008**

New Programmes start from **1st January 2010**

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, include colleagues from outside Europe.

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 about five new themes for collaborative research in and across all scientific fields will be selected through international peer review.

Call opens: **March 2008**

Deadline for submitting proposals: **2nd June 2008**

Proposals for Projects: Selected EUROCORES Themes are developed into EUROCORES Programmes. If there is sufficient support from national funding organisations, the EUROCORES Programme will publish a call for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs).

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

Publication of the Calls for the approved EUROCORES Programmes: **March 2008**

Start of the research projects: **May 2009**

For further information: **www.esf.org/eurocores**

Proposals for **ESF Research Conferences**

The ESF Research Conferences Scheme is developed in partnership with national and international organisations, including universities. The Conferences provide the opportunity for leading scientists and young researchers for discussions on the most recent developments in their fields of research. They also act 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.

This Call for Research Conferences is addressed to leading European scientists for events to take place in 2010 in the following scientific disciplines: Biology + (Biology at the Interface with Other Science Disciplines), Environmental Sciences, Physics/Biophysics, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Call opens: **January 2008**

Deadline for submitting proposals: **15th September 2008**

Conferences must take place during **2010**

For further information: **www.esf.org/conferences**

or address your queries to **conferences-proposals@esf.org**