During 2010 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, with offices in Strasbourg, Brussels and Oostend, is the European association of 79 major national research funding and performing organisations and academics in 30 countries devoted to excellence in scientific research. The ESF covers the following scientific domains: humanities; life, earth and environmental sciences; medical sciences; physical and engineering sciences; social sciences; marine sciences; materials science; nuclear physics; polar sciences; radio astronomy; space sciences.

To find out more about ESF activities visit our website at www.esf.org
Proposals for 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 mature scientists as well as young, independent researchers and scholars with leadership potential, have a wide participation from across Europe and 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: 8 March 2010 Deadline for submitting proposals: 29 April 2010 Workshops must take place during 2011 For further information: www.esf.org/workshops

Proposals for 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. The budget of an ESF Programme usually averages €100,000 - 130,000 annually, for a four or five-year period. Call opens: 1 July 2010 Deadline for submitting proposals: 14 October 2010 New Programmes start from 1 January 2012 For further information: www.esf.org/programmes

Proposals for EUROCORES European Collaborative Research
The EUROCORES Scheme offers a flexible framework for researchers from Europe to tackle questions which are best addressed in medium- to large-scale collaborative research programmes. It allows excellent researchers from different European countries and, when appropriate, from outside of Europe to work “at the bench” on collaborative research projects. 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 the creation of new EUROCORES Programmes in and across all scientific fields: Following the annual call for EUROCORES Themes, about five new ideas for the creation of investigator-driven collaborative research programmes dealing with broad and complex topics are selected through international peer review. Call opens: 1 March 2010 Deadline for submitting proposals: 21 May 2010

Proposals for Projects: Selected EUROCORES Themes are developed into EUROCORES Programmes if there is sufficient support from the participating national funding organisations. The viable EUROCORES Programmes will then publish their call for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs). CRP proposals are assessed through a joint international peer review managed by the ESF. National funding organisations fund the research directly and support ESF’s management of the scheme. The final funding decisions rest with the national funding organisations, following the recommendations of the ECRP Review Panel. National funding organisations fund the research directly and support ESF’s management of the scheme. Start of the successful Collaborative Research Projects: March 2011 For further information: www.esf.org/ecrp

Proposals for ECRP in the Social Sciences European Collaborative Research Projects in the Social Sciences
ECRP is a non-thematic, responsive-mode scheme supporting excellent investigator-driven multinational research projects within and across all fields of the social sciences. The scheme offers opportunities to explore novel ideas, test innovative approaches and pool social science research resources and expertise in Europe and beyond. Projects must demonstrate a framework for multinational cooperation but need not be exclusively European in their subject focus. Call for research proposals: 12 January 2010 Deadline for submitting proposals: 10 March 2010 Results: December 2010 Project selection: Collaborative Research Proposals are assessed through an international peer review process coordinated by the ESF. The final funding decisions rest with the national funding organisations, following the recommendations of the ECRP Review Panel. National funding organisations fund the research directly and support ESF’s management of the scheme. Start of the successful Collaborative Research Projects: March 2011 For further information: www.esf.org/ecrp

Publication of the Calls for the EUROCORES Programmes resulting from the 2009 call for Themes: January 2010 Start of the Research Projects: March 2011
Publication of the Calls for the EUROCORES Programmes resulting from the 2010 Call for Themes: December 2010 Start of the research projects: March 2012
For further information: www.esf.org/eurocores