

ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

Fostering collaboration
across disciplines and generations



www.esf.org/conferences



The Scheme

ESF Research Conferences bring together leading scientists and young researchers for informal and open discussions on the most recent developments in their fields of research. The conferences cover a wide range of scientific disciplines and facilitate new synergistic contacts throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

Originally proposed by ESF's German Member Organisations in the late 1980s, since 2005 the scheme develops through the establishment of long-term partnerships between ESF and national and international organisations, including universities. Each partnership funds a series of conferences which focus on the same topical area and take place at a recurring venue.

Individual conference topics are either strategically selected by ESF and its partners or open to a call for proposals announced at the beginning of each year.

→ More information:
www.esf.org/conferences



Current conference series cover:

- “biology+”: molecular biology at the interface with other science disciplines
- biomedicine
- interdisciplinary natural and social sciences
- global change
- mathematics
- chemistry
- physics, biophysics and environmental sciences
- social sciences and humanities

Interdisciplinary conference topics are selected when appropriate.

Conference format

ESF Research Conferences are open to scientists world-wide, whether from academia or industry.

The conferences usually last **4-5 days** and take place at **selected venues across Europe**. Attendance is limited to a **maximum of 150 participants** (including the invited speakers) in order to enable an active exchange of ideas and networking between all attendees.

The core activities of the conferences are **lectures** by invited scientists, followed by **extensive discussion periods**. There are no parallel sessions to ensure that everyone takes part in all discussions. Lecture sessions are limited to 5-6 hours a day, to give sufficient time for informal interaction between participants. In addition, there are poster sessions, short talks, round-table discussions and discussion groups organised. Either one afternoon or extended lunch periods are usually kept free of lectures to allow for **leisure time activities**.

To encourage speakers to present their latest results and ideas, which may not yet be fully explored and ripe for publication, no written papers are requested. The publication, as proceedings, of selected papers prepared after the conference may be approved by the chair, subject to the agreement of the speakers concerned.

Young and early stage researchers are encouraged to attend and to present a short talk or a poster. A number of **grants** are available to support their attendance and travel.



How to participate...

As a conference participant

To participate in a conference, scientists have to submit an **online application form** 3-4 months prior to the event. **Selection** is made by the conference chair, assisted by an organising committee, on the basis of academic merit, whilst also aiming for a balanced age, gender and geographic distribution of attendees.

When they have received an invitation to participate, successful applicants have to complete an **online registration form** and pay a **conference fee** in order to confirm their participation.

As a conference chair

Leading scientists are invited to submit proposals to the **ESF open call for research conference topics** in a range of, and across, disciplines. Proposals selected for funding become part of the ESF Research Conferences scheme. Successful proponents become the conference chairs and are responsible for both the scientific programme and quality of the conferences. Full administrative and logistical support is provided by the ESF Conferences unit.

The call for proposals opens at the beginning of each year and closes on 15 September.

Assessment criteria:

- Scientific scope and interdisciplinarity of the proposal
- Scientific relevance in terms of novelty, originality and timeliness
- European dimension and added value
- Scientific quality of the draft programme

Conferences must comply with the profile of the ESF Research Conferences.

Proposals are evaluated through a process of **international peer review** by referees nominated by the ESF scientific committees. The **final assessment and selection** of topics is made by review panels composed of members of the ESF scientific committees and scientists nominated by the partner organisations.

The next call for proposals to open in 2009 is for ESF Research Conferences to take place in 2011.

→ More information:
www.esf.org/conferences/call

As a partner in the scheme

ESF welcomes expressions of interest from **academic institutions** that would be willing to co-sponsor, on an **equal-share** basis, a number of conferences per year over a **long-term** duration, for example 5 conferences per year for 5 years. ESF and a partner (which may be one or more entities) would share 50% of the total conference budget equally. The other 50% would be financed through variable sources such as support from national or regional authorities, co-sponsorship secured by conference chairs and participation fees. Partnership contributions are currently fixed at 20k€ per conference, per partner, based upon an estimated total conference budget of 80k€. The conferences take place in an appropriate venue in the partner organisation's country.

→ For more information, please contact
Ms. Caroline Hirst, Head of ESF
Conferences (chirst@esf.org)





Contact

ESF Conferences Unit

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The **European Science Foundation (ESF)** is an independent, non-governmental organisation of national research organisations. Our strength lies in the membership and in our ability to bring together the different domains of European science in order to meet the scientific challenges of the future. ESF's membership currently includes 80 influential national funding agencies, research-performing agencies and academies from 30 nations as its contributing members.

Since its establishment in 1974, ESF, which has its headquarters in Strasbourg with offices in Brussels and Ostend, has assembled a host of research organisations that span all disciplines of science in Europe, to create a common platform for cross-border cooperation. We are dedicated to supporting our members in promoting science, scientific research and science policy across Europe. Through its activities and instruments ESF has made major contributions to science in a global context. The ESF covers the following scientific domains:

- Humanities
- Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Medical Sciences
- Physical and Engineering Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Marine Sciences
- Nuclear Physics
- Polar Sciences
- Radio Astronomy Frequencies
- Space Sciences

**EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
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SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

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www.esf.org

2009 ESF Research Conferences

Latest information: www.esf.org/conferences/2009

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

- **Graphene Week 2009**
ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference
2-7 March, Obergurgl, Austria
Chair: Vladimir Falko, *Lancaster Univ., UK*
- **European Conference on Synthetic Biology (ECSB) II**
ESF-UB Conference
29 March-3 April, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: David Gilbert, *Brunel Univ., UK*
- **Spatio-Temporal Radiation Biology: Transdisciplinary Advances for Biomedical Applications**
ESF-EMBO Symposium
16-21 May, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Yann A. Gauduel, *Inserm, Palaiseau, FR*
- **Cell Polarity and Membrane Traffic**
ESF-EMBO Symposium
23-28 May, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Anne Spang, *Biozentrum, Univ. of Basel, CH*
- **Mechanisms of Quaternary Climate Change: Stability of Warm Phases in the Past and in the Future**
ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference
6-11 June, Obergurgl, Austria
Chair: Carlo Barbante, *Univ. of Venice, IT*
- **Nanomedicine II**
ESF-UB Summer School
14-19 June, Lisbon, Portugal
- **Harmonic Analysis, Geometric Measure Theory and Quasiconformal Mappings**
ESF-EMS-ERCOM Conference
15-19 June, Bellaterra, Spain
Chair: Pertti Mattila, *Univ. of Helsinki, FI*

- **Self-Assembly of Guanosine Derivatives: from Biological Systems to Nanotechnological Applications**
ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference
20-25 June, Obergurgl, Austria
Chair: Gian Piero Spada, *Univ. di Bologna, IT*
- **Biological Surfaces and Interfaces**
ESF-EMBO Symposium
27 June-2 July, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Julie Gold, *Chalmers Univ. of Technology, SE*
- **Second European Set Theory Meeting: in Honour of Ronald Jensen**
ESF-EMS-ERCOM Conference
5-10 July, Bedlewo, Poland
Chair: Jouko Väänänen, *Univ. of Helsinki, FI/Univ. of Amsterdam, NL*
- **Banach Algebras and Related Topics**
ESF-EMS-ERCOM Conference
14-19 July, Bedlewo, Poland
Chair: Harold Dales, *Univ. of Leeds, UK*
- **Model Theory**
ESF-EMS-ERCOM Conference
9-14 August, Bedlewo, Poland
Chair: Ludomir Newelski, *Univ. of Wrocław, PL*
- **Nanocarbons: from Physicochemical and Biological Properties to Biomedical and Environmental Effects**
ESF Research Conference
8-13 September, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Sophie Lanone, *Inserm, Paris, FR*
- **CO2 Geological Storage: Latest Progress**
ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference
22-27 November, Obergurgl, Austria
Chair: Isabelle Czernichowski-Lauriol, *BRGM, FR*

- **The Origin of Galaxies: Lessons from the Distant Universe**
ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference
12-17 December, Obergurgl, Austria
Chair: Eelco van Kampen, *Univ. of Innsbruck (LFUI), AT*
- **Natural Products Chemistry, Biology and Medicine II**
ESF-COST Conference
Autumn 2009, Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy
Chair to be announced

LIFE, EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

- **European Conference on Synthetic Biology (ECSB) II**
ESF-UB Conference
29 March-3 April, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: David Gilbert, *Brunel Univ., UK*
- **The Impact of the Environment on Innate Immunity: the Threat of Diseases**
ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference
4-9 May, Obergurgl, Austria
Chair: Joachim Kurtz, *Univ. of Münster, DE*
- **Spatio-Temporal Radiation Biology: Transdisciplinary Advances for Biomedical Applications**
ESF-EMBO Symposium
16-21 May, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Yann A. Gauduel, *Inserm, Palaiseau, FR*
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ESF Research Conference
8-13 September, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Sophie Lanone, *Inserm, Paris, FR*
- **Complex Systems and Changes: Darwin and Evolution – the Past, the Present and the Future**
ESF-COST Conference
15-20 September, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Roland Pochet, *Univ. Libre de Bruxelles, BE*
- **Gene Expression to Neurobiology and Behaviour: Human Brain Development and Developmental Disorders**
ESF Research Conference
20-25 September, Sant Feliu, Spain
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2009 ESF Research Conferences

Latest information: www.esf.org/conferences/2009

- **Global Changes and Health**

ESF-UB Conference
Autumn 2009, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair to be announced

- **Natural Products Chemistry, Biology and Medicine II**

ESF-COST Conference
Autumn 2009, Acquafrredda di Maratea, Italy
Chair to be announced

MEDICAL SCIENCES

- **European Conference on Synthetic Biology (ECSB) II**

ESF-UB Conference
29 March-3 April, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: David Gilbert, Brunel Univ., UK

- **Infectious Diseases: from Basic to Translational Research**

Europe-Africa Frontier Research Conference
4-9 April, Cape Town, South Africa
Chairs: Monique Capron, *Institut Pasteur de Lille, FR* — M. Iqbal Parker, *ICGEB, ZA*

- **The Impact of the Environment on Innate Immunity: the Threat of Diseases**

ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference
4-9 May, Obergurgl, Austria
Chair: Joachim Kurtz, Univ. of Münster, DE

- **Spatio-Temporal Radiation Biology: Transdisciplinary Advances for Biomedical Applications**

ESF-EMBO Symposium
16-21 May, Sant Feliu, Spain
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- **Nanomedicine II**

ESF-UB Summer School
14-19 June, Lisbon, Portugal

- **Gene Expression to Neurobiology and Behaviour: Human Brain Development and Developmental Disorders**

ESF Research Conference
20-25 September, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair: Janette Atkinson, Univ. College London, UK

- **Rare Diseases II: Hearing and Sight Loss**

ESF-UB Conference
25-30 October, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chairs: Christine Petit, *Institut Pasteur, Paris, FR* — José-Alain Sahel, *Inserm-UPMC 968, Paris, FR*

- **Biobanks II**

ESF-UB Conference
7-12 November, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair to be announced

- **Global Changes and Health**

ESF-UB Conference
Autumn 2009, Sant Feliu, Spain
Chair to be announced

- **Natural Products Chemistry, Biology and Medicine II**

ESF-COST Conference
Autumn 2009, Acquafrredda di Maratea, Italy
Chair to be announced

HUMANITIES

- **Social Cognitive Neuroscience**

ESF-JSPS Conference for Young Researchers
27 February-4 March, Acquafrredda di Maratea, Italy
Chairs: Gün R. Semin, *Utrecht Univ., NL* — Shun-ichi Amari, *RIKEN Brain Science Institute, JP*

- **Science And Values: the Politicisation of Science**

ESF-ZIF-Bielefeld Conference
25-30 May, Bielefeld, Germany
Chairs: Martin Carrier, *Univ. of Bielefeld, DE* — Peter Weingart, *Univ. of Bielefeld, DE*

- **Philosophy for Science in Use**

ESF-LIU Conference
28 September-2 October, Linköping, Sweden
Chair: Matthias Kaiser, *Natl. Cmte for Research Ethics in Science and Technology, NO*

- **The Changing Use and Misuse of Catha Edulis (Khat) in a Changing World: Tradition, Trade and Tragedy**

ESF-LIU Conference
5-9 October, Linköping, Sweden
Chair: Michael Odenwald, *Univ. of Konstanz, DE*

- **The Perfect Body: Between Normativity and Consumerism**

ESF-LIU Conference
9-13 October, Linköping, Sweden
Chair: Katrin Grüber, *IMEW, DE*

- **Law and Cognition: Our Growing Understanding of the Human Brain and its Impact on Our Legal System**

ESF-COST Conference
26-31 October, Acquafrredda di Maratea, Italy
Chair: Nikolas Rose, *London School of Economics and Political Science, UK*

SOCIAL SCIENCES

- **Social Cognitive Neuroscience**

ESF-JSPS Conference for Young Researchers
27 February-4 March, Acquafrredda di Maratea, Italy
Chairs: Gün R. Semin, *Utrecht Univ., NL* — Shun-ichi Amari, *RIKEN Brain Science Institute, JP*

- **Post-Crisis States Transformation: Rethinking the Foundations of the State**

ESF-LIU Conference
1-5 May, Linköping, Sweden
Chair: Ivan Samson, *Univ. Pierre Mendès, FR*

- **Science and Values: the Politicisation of Science**

ESF-ZIF-Bielefeld Conference
25-30 May, Bielefeld, Germany
Chairs: Martin Carrier, *Univ. of Bielefeld, DE* — Peter Weingart, *Univ. of Bielefeld, DE*

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Partners in the ESF Research Conferences Scheme

ESF-FWF Conferences in Partnership with LFUI



Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

www.fwf.ac.at



www.uibk.ac.at

ESF-EMBO Symposia

with support from Generalitat de Catalunya



www.embo.org



www.gencat.net/diue

ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference Series for Young Researchers



JSPS

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

www.jsps.go.jp

ESF-LiU Conferences in the Humanities and Social Sciences
with support from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and Vetenskapsrådet



www.liu.se



www.rj.se



www.vr.se

ESF-UB Conferences in Biomedicine
with support from Generalitat de Catalunya



www.ub.edu



www.gencat.net/diue

ESF-VR-FORMAS Conferences on Global Change Research



Vetenskapsrådet

www.vr.se



The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning

www.formas.se

Europe-Africa Frontier Research Conference Series



www.icsu.org

Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)

www.interacademies.net



www.knaw.nl



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www.britac.ac.uk



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Académie des sciences

www.academie-sciences.fr



Partners in the ESF Research Conferences Scheme

ESF-FMSH-Entre-Sciences Conferences



www.msh-paris.fr



www.entre-sciences.msh-paris.fr

ESF-ZiF-Bielefeld Conferences



www.uni-bielefeld.de



ESF-EMS-ERCOM Mathematics Conferences



European
Mathematical
Society

ERCOM

www.euro-math-soc.eu

www.cwi.nl/ERCOM

ESF-COST High-Level Conferences



www.cost.esf.org

**partners are listed chronologically, according to the date they signed an agreement to co-sponsor a series of ESF Research Conferences*

How to join the Scheme:

ESF welcomes **expressions of interest** from its **own Member Organisations** and from national and international **academic institutions** that would be willing to co-sponsor, on an **equal-share** basis, a number of conferences each year over a **longer-term** duration, for example 5 conferences a year for 5 years.

ESF and a partner (which may be one or more entities) would share 50% of the total conference budget equally. The other 50% would be financed through variable sources such as support from national or regional authorities, co-sponsorship secured by conference chairs and through participation fees. Partnership contributions are currently fixed at 20k€ per conference, per partner, based upon an estimated total conference budget of 80k€.

The conferences take place in an appropriate venue in the partner organisation's country.

→ For more information about becoming a partner, please contact **Ms. Caroline Hirst**, Head of ESF Conferences (chirst@esf.org)

→ For more information about ESF's conference partners, visit www.esf.org/conferences/partnerships

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