

Meeting world-wide...



www.esf.org/conferences

ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

The ESF Research Conferences Scheme has a long and honourable history and fills a particular niche in the European Research Area.

Originally proposed by our German Member Organisations in the late 1980s, the Scheme brings together senior researchers with their more junior colleagues to debate and exchange views and ideas on forefront research topics in a free and informal atmosphere. There are no printed outcomes and freedom of expression is uninhibited. These are unique events in Europe and ESF has always ensured that the Conference Scheme is open to all areas of research from the humanities to nuclear physics and all other subjects in between.

Having started from within its own resources and that of its Member Organisations, the Scheme became a key element in successive Framework Programmes until this instrument ceased to receive support from that source. This change provided a challenge to ESF but the solution has immeasurably strengthened the Scheme. We have now established a partnership with many organisations throughout Europe and beyond and this partnership has provided a new vitality as well as providing a network of arrangements that can also lead to other joint activities. The vitality of the Scheme can be seen by the wide and very interesting programme and the list of our partners is impressive. Beyond Europe, we have established a joint agreement with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and we will continue to look for other inter-continental partnerships to add variety to the Conferences and promote research networking on an even wider scale.

I have no doubt that the ESF Research Conferences Scheme will continue to provide high points in the European research calendar and I can only encourage its growth and extension as a major contribution by ESF to the ERA.

John Marks

Chief Executive – European Science Foundation

Meeting world-wide...

The **ESF Research Conferences Scheme** provides the opportunity for leading scientists and younger researchers to meet for discussions on the most recent developments in their fields of research. It acts as a catalyst for creating new contacts throughout Europe and the rest of the world. It develops principally through the establishment of long-term partnerships between the ESF and national and international organisations, including universities.

ESF's ambition is to create a clear '**brand name**' for the conferences and a predictable relation for the scientific community, by linking each venue to a certain disciplinary area.

ESF Research Conferences are open to scientists world-wide, whether from academia or industry. Conferences may be single events, or series, usually with a biennial meeting focusing on specific aspects of the same general topic. Topics are at the forefront of scientific research and interdisciplinary when appropriate.

Profile

Conferences 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. A conference fee is charged to participants.

A certain number of grants – to cover the conference fee and possibly part of the travel expenses – are available for each event. Application forms are to be submitted via the ESF Research Conferences website, www.esf.org/conferences. Closing date for applications: 3-4 months prior to the Conference.

The core activities of the Conferences are based on lectures by invited scientists, who are leaders in their respective fields, followed by extensive discussion periods. An informal exchange of ideas, both inside and outside the lecture room is encouraged, and the number of sessions in the daily timetable is limited in order to allow sufficient time for interaction between the participants. In addition to the 5-6 hours per day of lecture room activities, poster sessions, round-table discussions

or discussion groups are organised. Either one afternoon or extended lunch periods are usually kept free of lectures in order to allow time for free time activities.

In order 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 Conferences may be approved by the Chair, subject to the agreement of the speakers concerned.

Research Areas

ESF Conferences cover the following **fields**:

- Physics, Biophysics and Environmental Sciences;
- Biology+: Biology at the Interface with Other Science Disciplines (Chemistry, Physics, Computing Science, Mathematics and Modelling, Space Science, Clinical Medicine, Engineering, Environmental Science, Humanities and Social Sciences);
- Animal and Human Sciences;
- Social Sciences and Humanities;
- Biomedicine;
- Global Health Economy;
- Global Environmental Change;
- Chemistry;
- Mathematics

Several other initiatives are under discussion.

Partnerships

ESF Research Conferences are sponsored through partnerships established between ESF and other organisations:

- **European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)** → ESF-EMBO Symposia (interdisciplinary with focus on Biology)
- **Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Österreich (FWF) & Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck (LFUI)** → ESF-FWF Conferences in Partnership with LFUI (Physics, Biophysics & Environmental Sciences)
- **Wellcome Trust** → ESF-Wellcome Trust Conferences (Animal and Human Sciences)
- **Linköping University (LiU)** → ESF-LiU Conferences (Social Sciences and Humanities)

- **University of Barcelona (UB)** → ESF-UB Conferences (Biomedicine)
- **Institut für Weltwirtschaft (IfW) an der Universität Kiel** → ESF-IfW Conferences (Global Health Economy)
- **Vetenskapsrådet (VR) & Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)** → ESF-VR-FORMAS Conferences (Global Environmental Change)
- **European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST)** → ESF-COST High-Level Research Conferences (Chemistry)
- **Ministry of Science and Higher Education Poland (MSHE) & Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN)** → ESF Mathematics Conferences in Poland in partnership with MSHE and The Institute of Mathematics (PAN) (Mathematics)

The Scheme has recently been extended to include **World Conferences** under its umbrella (eg ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conferences for Young Researchers and Follow-up Workshops, ESF-ORI World Conference on Research Integrity) as well as a series of advanced scientific training **Summer and Winter Schools** in High Energy Physics & Astrophysics, Physics & Astronomy, and Theoretical Physics.

The ESF Conferences Unit, located in Brussels, also acts as service provider for conferences arising from other ESF instruments.

Calls for Proposals

The 2008 ESF Research Conferences Call for Proposals – for conferences to take place in **2010** – will be open from **January 2008 onwards**, with a deadline on **15 September 2008**. The Call is addressed to leading European scientists for conferences to take place in Europe.

The following partnerships are covered:

- ESF-EMBO Symposia (Biology+: Biology at the Interface of Other Science Disciplines)
- ESF-FWF Conferences in Partnership with LFUI (Physics/Biophysics and Environmental Sciences)
- ESF-LiU Conferences (Social Sciences and Humanities)

Proposals are called for on the ESF Research Conferences website and should be submitted to ESF by the deadline stated in the Call. The Proposals are evaluated through international Peer Review for which Referees will be nominated by the appropriate ESF Scientific Committees. The final assessment and selection of topics, on the basis of three written reviews, will be made jointly by the Partner Organisations through a Review Panel composed of members of the ESF Scientific Committees and scientists nominated by the Partner Organisations.

Assessment Criteria will be • Scientific scope of the proposal • Scientific relevance in terms of novelty, originality and timeliness • European dimension and added value • Draft programme: scientific standing of the proposer and quality of the proposed scientific programme.

For all information about Calls for Proposals, please visit www.esf.org/conferences or send an email to conferences-proposals@esf.org.



www.cost.esf.org



Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

www.fwf.ac.at



www.uibk.ac.at



www.embo.org



www.wellcome.ac.uk



www.ifw-kiel.de



www.jsps.go.jp



www.ub.edu



Generalitat de Catalunya
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www.gencat.net



Linköping University

www.liu.se



Riksbankens
Jubileumsfond

www.rj.se



Vetenskapsrådet

www.vr.se



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

www.formas.se

Minister of Science
and Higher Education
(MSHE)
Republic of Poland

www.eng.nauka.gov.pl/



www.pan.pl/



www.impan.gov.pl/



CONTACT

The ESF Conferences Unit moved to **Brussels** in October 2006 (the ESF main headquarters remain located in Strasbourg).

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The European Science Foundation (ESF) was established in 1974 to create a common European platform for cross-border cooperation in all aspects of scientific research.

With its emphasis on a multidisciplinary and pan-European approach, the Foundation provides the leadership necessary to open new frontiers in European science.

Its activities include providing science policy advice (Science Strategy); stimulating co-operation between researchers and organisations to explore new directions (Science Synergy); and the administration of externally funded programmes (Science Management). These take place in the following areas:

Physical and engineering sciences; Medical sciences; Life, earth and environmental sciences; Humanities; Social sciences; Polar; Marine; Space; Radio astronomy frequencies; Nuclear physics.

Headquartered in Strasbourg with offices in Brussels, the ESF's membership comprises 75 national funding agencies, research performing agencies and academies from 30 European nations. The Foundation's independence allows the ESF to objectively represent the priorities of all these members.