

**E**UROPEAN  
**S**CIENCE  
**F**OUNDATION

SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

**INITIATIVE:  
A FORWARD LOOK ON SCIENCE IN  
SOCIETY**

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# Sources of a mandate for a Forward Look

- CNRS initiative of late 2007
- EUROHORCs – ESF Road Map on a Globally Competitive ERA
- ESF Road Map on Science in Society
- Member Organisations Forum „Science in Society“

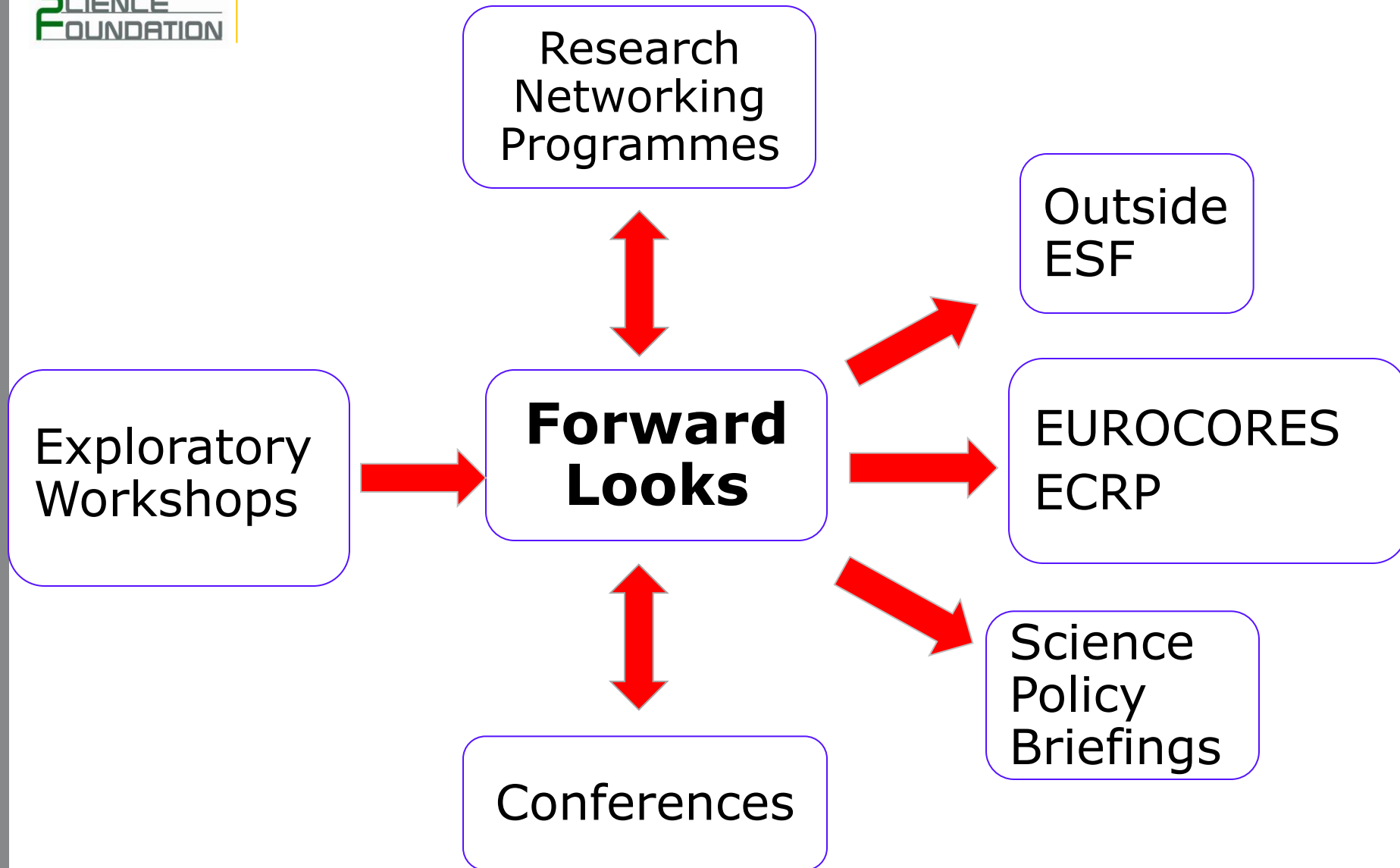
# Forward Looks



- Medium to long-term scientific perspectives
- Multidisciplinary topics viewed at a European level
- Bring together scientists with policy makers
- Wide consultation
- Result in major reports and action plans



[www.esf.org/flooks](http://www.esf.org/flooks)



# Requirements

- Do foresight! – several methods to choose from
- Map the state of art
- Recruit the best scientists
- Cover all the main schools
- Involve decision makers to ensure future impact
- Direct recommendations to the right actors; avoid 'someone should do something'
- Make promotion and publicity after the reports to ensure impact on science policy decision

# Forward Looks

- Duration: 12 to 18 months
- Management Committee, Scientific Committee and Project Team
- Commissioned overview survey
- Foresight consultation
- 3-4 workshops + one large conference + *Final Report* and *Science Policy Briefing*
- Budget: 160k EUR

# Member Organisations Forum and Forward Look

- Different time horizons
  - MOF: focus on the present
  - FL: focus on the future
- Different proportions of policy and science
  - MOF: policy focus
  - FL: policy foresight with scientific grounding



# Options for a Forward Look on Science in Society

- **Research agenda Forward Look:** 'Grounding the Management of Science-Society Relationship'
- **Science policy Forward Look:** 'Managing Science-Society Relationship'
- **Research and policy Forward Look:** 'The Future Management of Science-Society Relationship'

# Research agenda Forward Look

- **Objective:** define the research questions for the scientific grounding of the improvement of the science-society relationship management
- Possible **areas** as defined by the Road Map:
  - History of the SiS relationship
  - Confidence in science
  - How to measure the impact on society
  - Publics of science
  - Autonomy of science versus public engagement

# Research agenda Forward Look

- Results of the project
  - **Final Report** on the scientific questions to be answered by scientists in the future
  - **Science Policy Briefing** with recommendations who should do what in order to have answers to the research questions

# Science policy Forward Look

- A possible **objective**: the definition of the future science-society relationship and the policy steps to get there

# Science policy Forward Look

- The possible **steps of foresight**:
  - The definition of the drivers that will probably determine the science-society relationship: social, technological, economic, environmental, political and value change drivers (STEEPV).
  - Scenario-building : good, bad, very probable, improbable etc.
  - How to promote the good and avoid the bad scenarios?

# Science policy Forward Look

- The key areas for action:
  - Capacity building
  - Infrastructure needs
  - Definition of the actors
  - Definition of the sources of funding

# Research and policy Forward Look

- **Objective:** define research questions for the continuous and long term improvement of science-society relationship and recommend policy measures for the shorter run.

# Research and policy Forward Look

- **Working groups:**
  - WG 1: definition of the research questions
  - WG 2: indicator development to measure the quality of science-society relationship
  - WG 3: capacity building
  - WG 4: infrastructure needs



# Timeline

- April 2010: mandate to ESF/SCSS
- October 2010: Scoping workshop
- November 2010: discussion of and support to the FL proposal at the Genua Workshop
- January/February 2011: approvals by ESF Standing Committees
- February 2011: Submission to ESF Science Advisory Board

# Timeline

- April 2011: Approval by ESF Governing Council
- September 2011: Management Committee meeting and kick-off
- September/October 2011: Scientific Committee meeting
- Spring 2012: thematic workshops
- Late 2012: final conference

# What to do now?

- Take a decision on the mandate
- If positive, define the main objectives and the timeline of the Forward Look proposal
- Define the MO Forum liaison persons to the work on the Forward Look proposal
- Recommend authors for the proposal

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