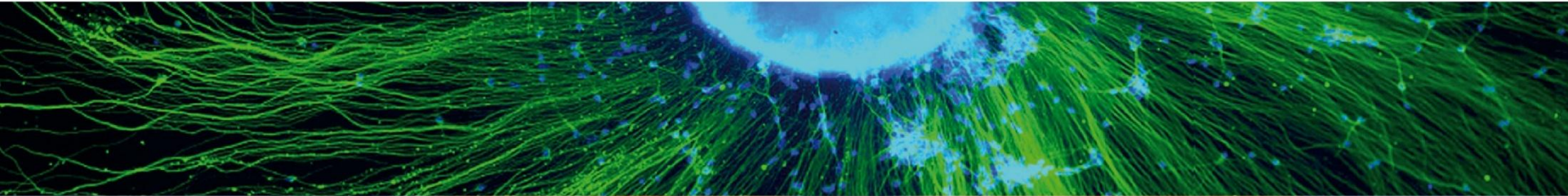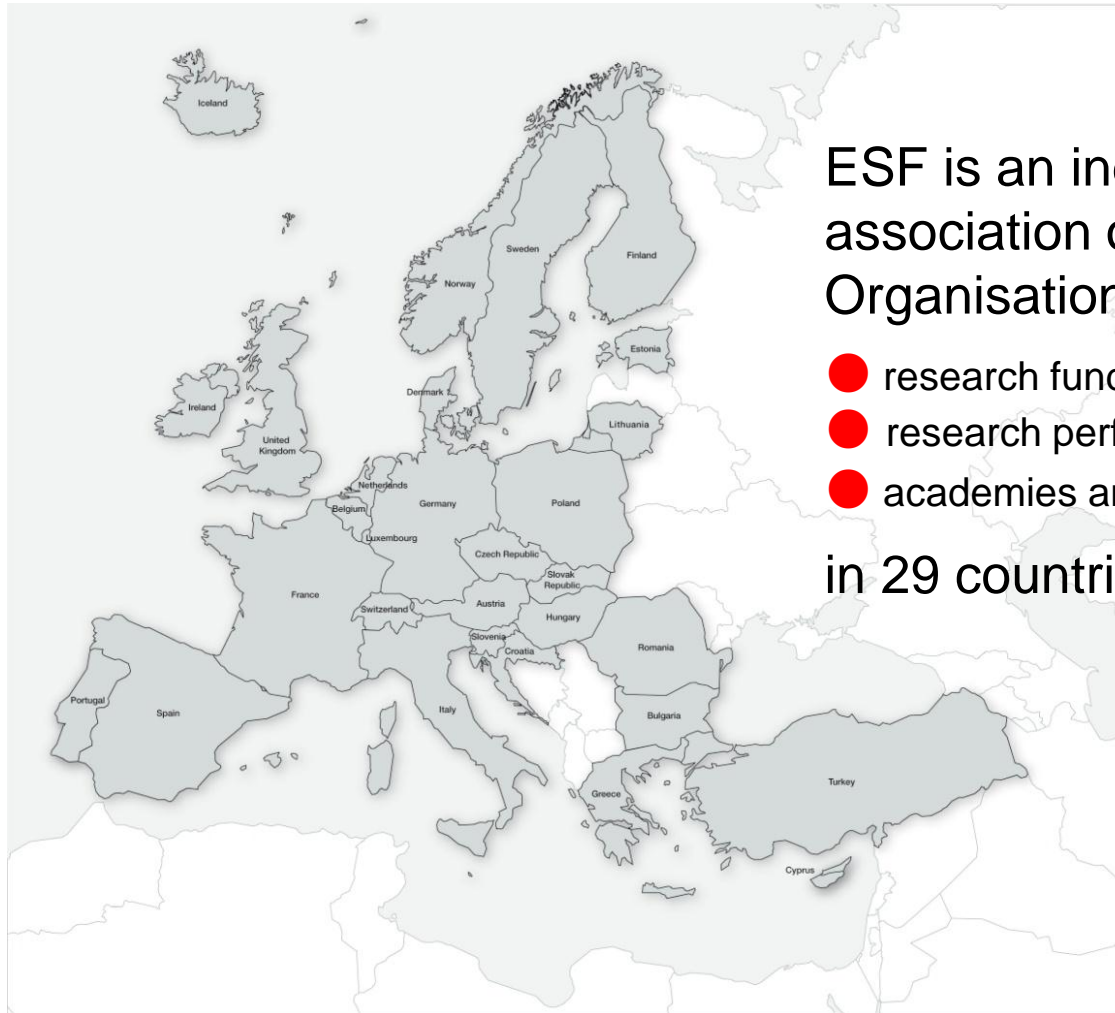CTMP Workshop
London, March 2013

ESF Member Organisations

ESF is an independent association of 67 Member Organisations

● research funding organisations
● research performing organisations
● academies and learned societies

in 29 countries

A time of change

In parallel with the development of Science Europe – the Brussels-based policy organisation launched early 2012 - ESF has commenced the winding-down of a number of its activities in accordance with the Multi-annual Plan 2013-2015.

The Multi-annual Plan takes into consideration the commitments that ESF has made until the end of 2015 with the aim of ensuring that they are honoured and executed with the level of quality that ESF has always delivered.

Expert Boards and Committees

Currently hosted at ESF; models for sustainability are being explored:

- Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee
- European Space Sciences Committee
- Marine Board
- European Polar Board
- Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies
- Materials Science and Engineering Expert Committee

Budget in 2013
Total budget managed by ESF: 52 M€

- Allows for the transition of strategic activities to Science Europe, such as Forward Looks and MO Fora, as well as the completion of on-going commitments until end of 2015
- **4 M€** for core scientific activities
- **48 M€** for the following other activities:
  - *'à la carte'* activities (e.g. RNPs, EUROCORES) funded by Member Organisations on a voluntary basis
  - Institutional partnerships (conferences)
  - External contracts, mainly with the European Commission (including COST)

Activities

Ongoing Commitments

- Research Networking Programmes
- EUROCORES Research Programmes
- Research Conferences
- Science Policy Briefings
- Finalising EURYI awards

SERVICES

Science Management

ESF serves the academic community by creating synergies between funding agencies and by assisting cross-border cooperation:

- Peer Review support for funding organisations
- Coordination of ERA-NETs and other EC projects (e.g. MERIL)
- Implementing agent for COST through a European Commission grant agreement

ESF is eager to serve the needs of the European research community and is currently exploring opportunities where it can offer valued services to science and research in Europe through, for example:

● **Peer review services**

● **Evaluation services** for Research Organisations

● **Mapping Research Infrastructures** of European interest – MERIL

● Developing more effective means for **Career tracking and measurement**.

Mapping the European Research Infrastructure Landscape (MERIL)

- A continuously updated inventory of the most excellent research infrastructures (RIs) in Europe of more-than-national relevance, covering all scientific domains.

- A valuable source of publicly available information for policy-makers and scientists.

- Initial development of the database and portal supported by the European Commission (2010-2012) – further development and exploitation in 2013 supported by ESF member organisations.

Why ESF?

- Recommendations on requirements and standards for research infrastructures from MO Forum.

- Able to mobilise and support pan-European, multi-stakeholder effort.
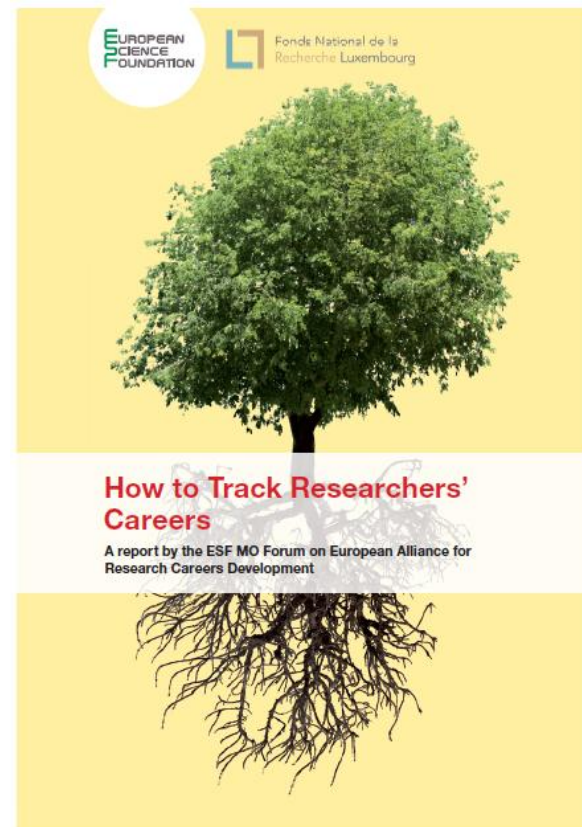
Report main conclusions and recommendations:
Rationale of Research Career Tracking

Why, for Whom and How is a specific Career Tracking Study set up?

Workshop Report: How to Track Researchers' Careers

www.esf.org/EARCD

WG3 "Mobility" report to be published.

Why and For Whom? Stakeholders benefits
Research funders / policymakers:
- Impact: What is the true value of a PhD? (compared e.g. to a masters)
- Accountability
  - Inform about policy and practice
  - Inform about outcome of career funding schemes and impact of doctoral programmes in view of their mission and objectives
  - Identify the effect of (non) funding
  - Justify public investment in doctoral training
  - Awareness raising/communication about benefits of research careers
- Enhance effectiveness and efficiency
- Structural approach to research careers and the labour market for researchers: capacity building according to supply/demand
- Understand and enable different forms of mobility
- Policy planning

Report main conclusions and recommendations:
Rationale of Research Career Tracking (2)

Why and For Whom? Stakeholders benefits

Research performing organisations / universities:

- Creating transparency and know-how about institutional workforce, jobs and career paths
- Career development
- Institutional competitiveness/profiling the institution
- Inter-institutional/inter-sector collaborations and networks

Individual researchers

- Provide career orientation and information on career destinations, programmes etc.
- Job satisfaction
- Demonstrate attractiveness of research career/perception of quality of career
- Understand the motivation to engage in doctoral training
- Realising the broad variety of successful careers – not just in academia.