



ESF Peer Review Support

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ESF Peer Review Support

AIMS OF REQUESTS:

- Internationalisation of selection criteria and expert base
- Enlarging expert base
- Bench-marking national schemes
- Ensuring objectivity and fairness when several national organisations involved
- Outsourcing Peer Review

ESF Peer Review Support

TYPES OF SUPPORT REQUESTED:

- Provision of data: information on experts
- Extended support agreements for end-to-end process: call management, Peer Review, outcome (ranking lists, recommendations)

REQUESTS FROM:

- National funding organisations
- International funding organisations

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH TOOL KIT

- End-to-end peer review process
- Additional support:
 - at the call and selection stage: common pot agreements, support in financial negotiations, policy considerations (e.g. national priorities)
 - at implementation stage: networking and coordination of funded projects

REQUESTS FROM:

- European programmes involving several national funders ('common pot')

ESF Peer Review Support Provision of data - Examples

- Helmholtz Gemeinschaft: candidates for chairs and members of 5 review panels for *Strategic Evaluation of the Helmholtz-Research Field "Earth and Environment"*
- KNAW: reviewers for Academy professorship candidatures; different research fields
- Agencia Nacional de Evaluación y Prospectiva (ANEP), agency of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Research: experts for benchmarking (self-evaluation) of ANEP peer review process (parallel evaluation of proposals); all research fields

ESF Peer Review Support Full cycle - Examples

- European Young Investigator Award (EURYI)
- ESA ELIPS (European Life and Physical Sciences in Space) Programme: ESF will conduct end-to-end review process over several years; different research fields using space as research environment
- ERA-Net EUROPOLAR Consortium: pilot application of the ESF Tool Kit for the PolarCLIMATE Programme; ESF will develop the Call, procedures and guidelines for 2-stage project selection including Peer Review

ESF Peer Review Support

WHY ESF?

ESF Peer Review characterised by:

- Supra-national and interdisciplinary character of peer review
- Standards must meet MO expectations (divers national and disciplinary cultures)
- Criteria and procedures must be clear and transparent for applicants from divers national and disciplinary cultures

ESF Peer Review Support

WHY ESF?

- Quality controlled and standardized Peer Review process
- Quality controlled database of international referees (including the ESF Pool of Reviewers)
- Experienced Science Officers

ESF Review process standards

include:

- Consistent rules and procedures across instruments and disciplines
- Special arrangements for treatment of trans-committee (multidisciplinary) proposals:
 - ✓ coordinated collaboration of disciplinary units;
 - ✓ target number of reviews per proposal reached across the board including trans-committee proposals

ESF Peer Review Support

CONDITIONS

- Support for evaluation exercises with significant impact on development of European research
- Provision of data free of charge but an exchange expected
- Extended support contracts based on cost recovery mechanism
- Guidelines for minimum lead time for a request based on number of referees requested per Scientific Unit

ESF Pool of Reviewers 2007

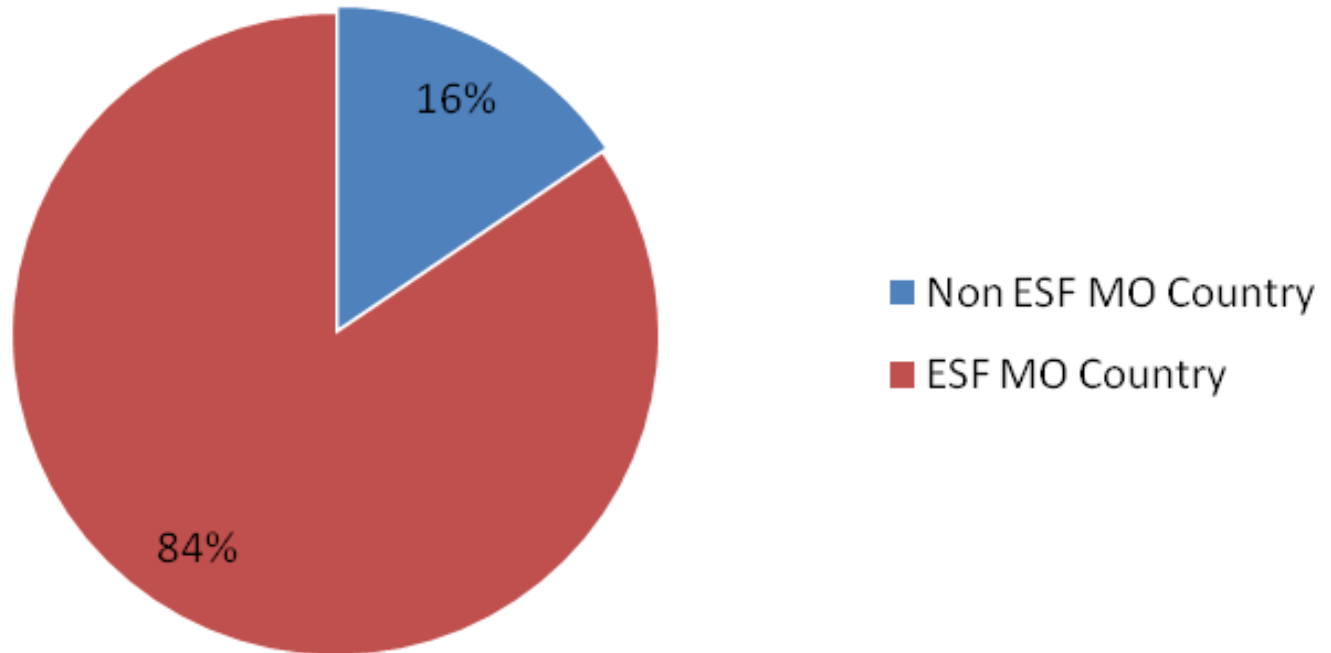
- 1916 researchers covering all fields of research registered (2320 in 2006)
 - ✓ Former reviewers (nominations from ESF MOs, selection by ESF scientific staff)
 - ✓ ESF awardees in a wide sense
 - ✓ Ex-committee members
- Volunteers for reviewing up to 5 proposals over a 1 year period
- Consent to be recommended to other organisations

Impact

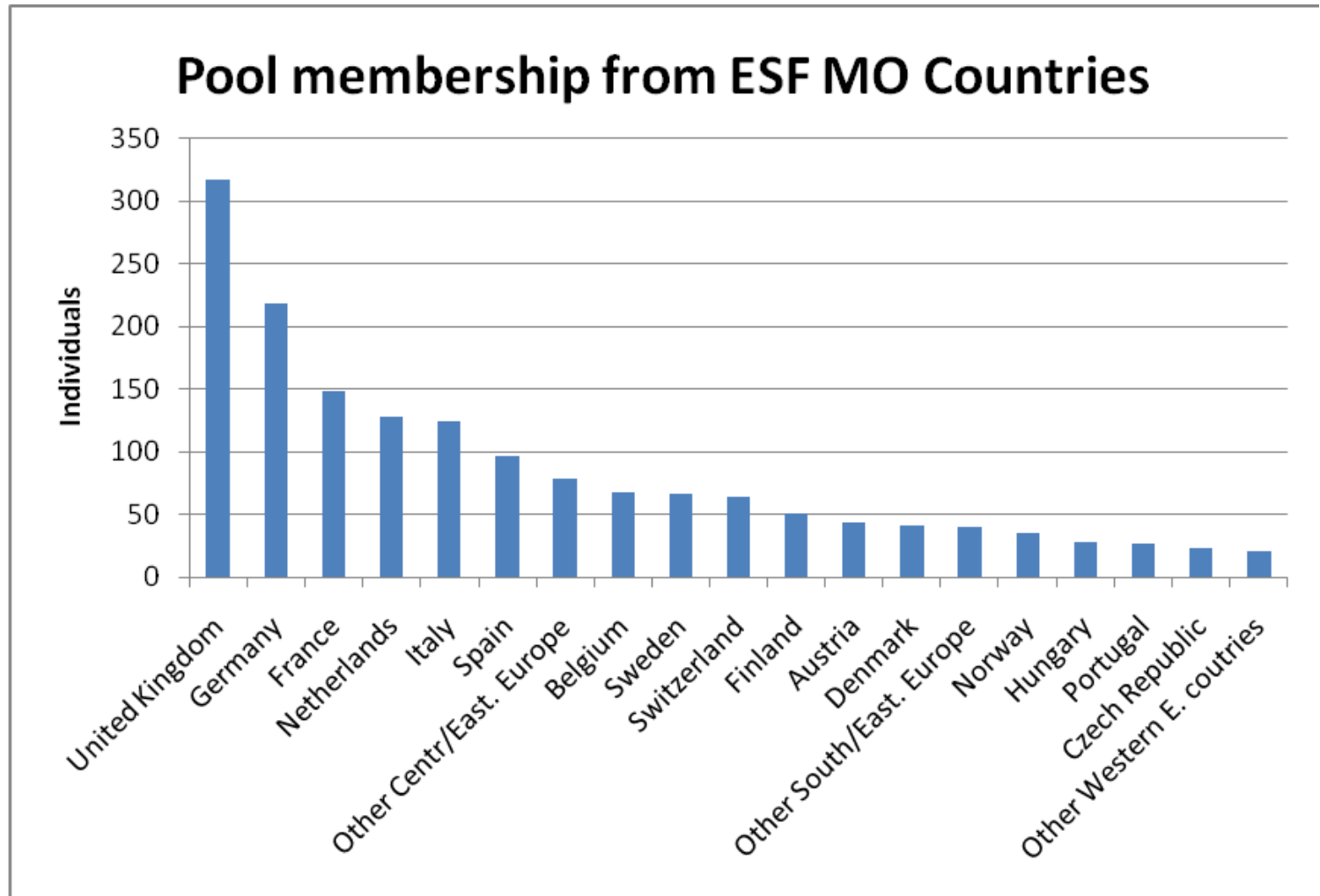
- Greater accuracy of scientific expertise profiles: significantly fewer refusals related to inaccurate expertise
- Increased effective availability of reviewers: 'no reply rate' decreased from 35% to 13%
- Increase in the response rate: from 43% to 64%
- Significant decrease in the office time spent on the review process

ESF Pool of Reviewers 2007

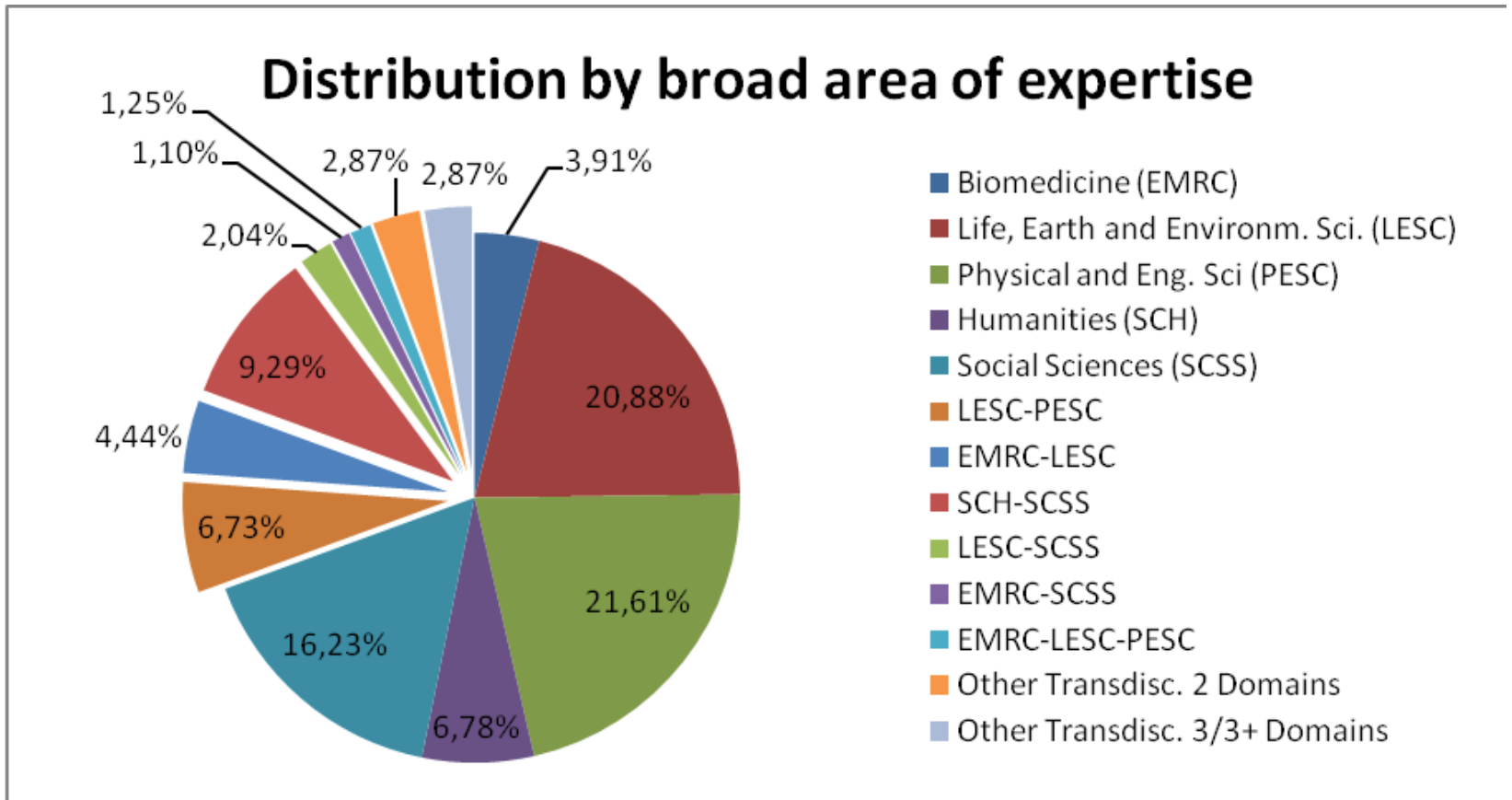
Geographical Distribution



ESF Pool of Reviewers 2007



ESF Pool of Reviewers 2007



Monitoring the quality of reviews

1. Timely: Was the review sent in time?
2. Respectful: Is the review, including the language used, respectful of proposers?
3. Adequate: Is the review adequate to be used in the review process?
4. Substantiated: Are scores (grades) sufficiently substantiated?
5. Useful for panels: Did the rapporteur and/or CG/SC/RP find the assessment useful

ESF Pool of Reviewers

Issues for collaboration:

- Expanding the Pool – exchange of referees
- Improving participation of ‘new countries’ (starting with social sciences; MO secondment to be announced)
- Referee area of expertise classification (classification of research disciplines)
- Monitoring the quality of reviews and referees