

EUROCORES Scheme

EUROpean Science Foundation COllaborative
RESearch Scheme



Main Features of the EUROCORES Scheme:

- Investigator driven, all areas of science
- Creates critical mass for research excellence in a specific topic in Europe
- Provides flexible framework for collaboration of national basic research funding agencies
- Involves typically 9-23 participating countries
- Open and transparent process
- European competition with international Peer Review
- Funding remains national but is “networked” by ESF
- Networking and scientific management funded from 20 M€ EC contract

Current EUROCORES Programmes

(Call for proposals published)



EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

- Origin of Man, Language and Languages (OMLL)
- EUROMARGINS
- Self Organised Nanostructures (SONS)
- European Clinical Trials (ECT)
- Dynamic Nuclear Architecture and Chromatin Function (EuroDYNA)
- EuroCLIMATE
- Science of Protein Production (EuorSCOPE)
- EuroSTELLS (Stem Cells)
- European Mineral Sciences Initiative
- EuroDIVERSITY
- Smart Structural Systems Technologies

Current EUROCORES Suggestions

(In negotiations with Funding Agencies)



In development

- European Collaborative Research Projects in the Social Sciences (ECRP)
- Epidemiology Arteriosclerosis (EuroGEAR)
- Fundamentals of Nano Electronics (FoNE)
- European Solar Terrestrial and Atmospheric Research (E-STAR)
- Biodiversity and Ecology of the Dee-Sea Ecosystem (EuroDEEP)
- European Collaboration for Ocean Drilling Enabling (EuroCODE)
- Histories from the North: Environments, movements, narratives (BOREAS)
- Consciousness in a Natural and Cultural Context (CNCC)

EUROCORES Scheme:

Key Information on running EUROCORES Programmes



- **Participating EFA's** 9-30
- **Size (research funding)** 5-12 M€
- **Projects (Outline) submitted** 50-300
- **Projects funded** 14-21
- **From idea to call** 15-20 months
- **Opening of Call (Outline)** 3 months
- **Review and ranking** 9-12 months
- **Commitments by EFAs** 5+ months
- **Start projects** 1-25 months

Developing EUROCORES: a more systematic approach



- **EUROCORES Committee under the EB for the quality control**
- **Once a year competition for EUROCORES ideas**
- **Agreed process for arriving at financial commitments**
- **High standard peer review with independent top level panels**
- **Strong science management of the EUROCORES, once running**

EUROCORES Scheme:

Further developments



A EUROCORES workshop on 3rd November 2004 in Amsterdam.

The following points will be discussed:

- **Increased competition for the different EUROCORES suggestions (new ideas)**
- **Minimum criteria for EUROCORES Programmes**
- **Improved Information flow and timing of decisions with EFAs**
- **Procedure to arrive at financial commitment from EFAs**

Phases in EUROCORES



- **EUROCORES Suggestion Invitation Phase**
- **Programme and Call Specification Phase**
- **Project Selection Phase**
- **Implementation and Coordination Phase**

FP 7 and ESF: ERA-Net Plus



- Prior commitment of funds to specified themes
- Themes proposed by EUROHORCS and ESF building on inputs from the scientific community
- ESF as handling agent for Calls, single peer review and management
- Funding of best proposals without *juste retour*
- EC tops up with 20-30% research money plus coordination and networking
- Involvement of scientists from non participating countries

Outcomes



Ideally

- Agreed process for all phases of an improved EUROCORES scheme

Minimum

- Building blocks for such a process
- Agreement on issues to be resolved

Follow up



- **Small working group to assist ESF in drafting a proposal for an improved EUROCORES Scheme and in developing proposals for resolving outstanding issues**
- **Draft proposal circulated to participants and MO's in January**
- **Second (open?) workshop in February?**
- **Procedure ready by 1st April**
- **Governing Council April 2005**