

EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION

SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

The ESF and EuroHESC

EuroHESC launch conference

Brussels, 27-28 October 2009

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Setting Science Agendas for Europe



The European Science Foundation provides a common platform for its Member Organisations in order to:

- **advance European research**
- **explore new directions for research at the European level**

Through its activities, the ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context.

ESF Member Organisations



ESF is an independent association of 80 Member Organisations

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

in 30 countries

About ESF

- Established in 1974
- Offices in Strasbourg, Brussels, Ostend
- ESF budget: 53M€ in 2008 including COST 30M€
- Staff: 152 in 2008 including COST Office staff



ESF covers all scientific domains

Standing Committee domains

- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Life, Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Medical Sciences
- Physical and Engineering Sciences



Expert Board/Committee domains

- Marine Sciences
- Polar Sciences
- Space Sciences
- Radio Astronomy
- Nuclear Physics
- Material Science

ESF activities

Strategic Plan 2006-2010

SCIENCE STRATEGY

Forward Looks

Science Policy Briefings

Exploratory Workshops

SCIENCE SYNERGY

EUROCORES Research Programmes

ECRP in Social Sciences

Research Networking Programmes

Research Conferences

SCIENCE MANAGEMENT

Peer Review support

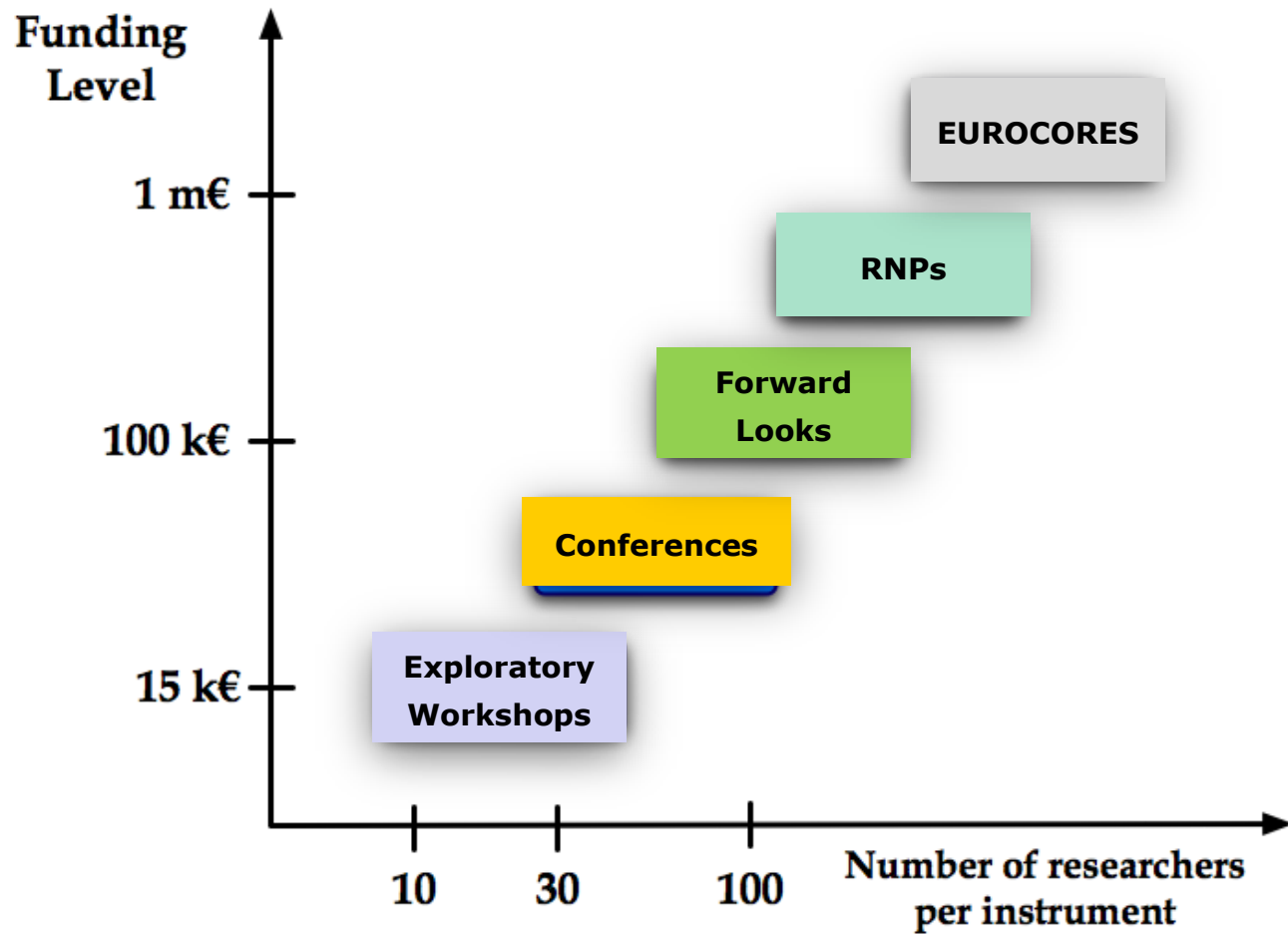
Coordination of EUROHORCs projects

Coordination of ERA projects

Implementing agent for the COST office through EC contract

Member Organisation Fora

A Chain of Instruments



Forward Looks



- Medium – 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

Exploratory Workshops



- Once-off specialist meetings
- Spearheading topics
- 'Bottom-up' topics based on open calls
- Should catalyse significant and strategic activities
- 25-30 scientists involved
- ESF grant per event 14k€

www.esf.org/workshops

ESF Member Organisation Fora



- Output-oriented discussion platforms for Member Organisations (MO) to develop joint actions on specific issues, involving others as appropriate
- Actions: to benefit MO strategy development and/or lead to the development of
 - Best practice e.g. peer review
 - Common procedures
 - Cooperative activities
- Time-limited activities (two years)

www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora

Research Networking Programmes



- Networking to enable major scientific endeavours over a four or five-year period
- Supported by ESF MOs through additional *à la carte* funding
- Typically include workshops, conferences, inter-laboratory exchanges, fellowship programmes, summer schools and dissemination
- Can link to other initiatives, including the EC Framework Programme
- Financing in the range of 100k€ - 130k€ per annum

www.esf.org/programmes

Research Conferences



- Interdisciplinary scheme for Europe implemented in collaboration with high-profile partners
- Stimulate dialogue between early-stage researchers and scientific leaders worldwide
- Cover the latest topics, proposed by and for the scientific community
- Full organisational support by ESF conference organisers
- Grants of 20-60k€ per conference, including support earmarked for early-stage researchers

www.esf.org/conferences

EUROCORES

(European Collaborative Research Programmes)



- Investigator-driven collaborative research scheme in Europe covering all scientific disciplines
- Opportunities for scientific community and ESF MOs to submit ideas for large-scale collaborative research programmes
- International central peer review
- Research funding remains national
- Networking funded by participating MOs through ESF

www.esf.org/eurocores

ECRP

(European Collaborative Research Projects in the Social Sciences)



- Responsive-mode, investigator-driven multilateral collaborative research scheme in the social sciences
- Opportunities for social science research communities to test innovative ideas, pool expertise and strengthen research capacity in Europe
- Smaller in scale – no networking needed
- International and joint peer review
- Research funding remains national
- Annual call for proposals

Open Calls for Proposals

ESF issues annual open calls for proposals for:

- EUROCORES themes and projects
- ECRP in the social sciences
- Research Networking Programmes
- Exploratory Workshops
- Research Conferences

www.esf.org/calls



Science Management

ESF serves the academic community in promoting cutting-edge science in Europe by creating synergies between funding agencies and by assisting cross-border cooperation.

- Peer Review support
- Coordination of EUROHORCs projects (e.g. EURYI)
- Coordination of ERA projects
- Implementing agent for the COST office through EC contract

European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Intergovernmental Framework, governed by its Member States

- **Origin:**
 - Started 1971: Ministerial Conference,
 - 19 Member States
- **Current Participation:**
 - 2009: 35 COST Member States + 1 cooperating state (Israel)
- **COST Actions:**
 - Concerted Actions of nationally funded R&D projects
 - Open networks on a global scale

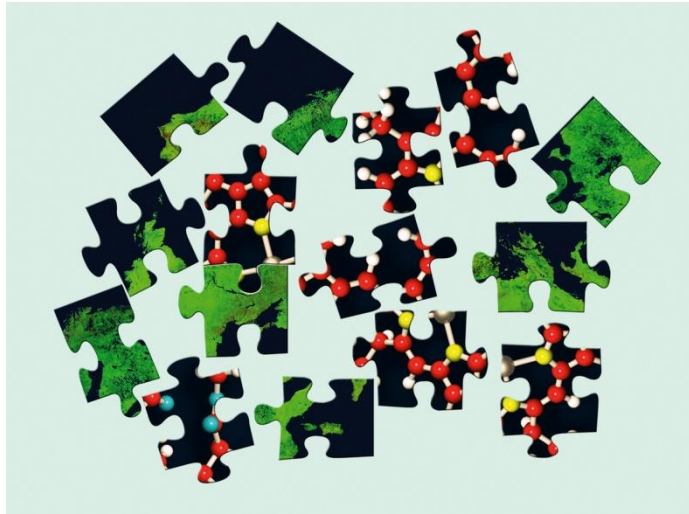
European Cooperation in Science and Technology

- The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) is the main decision-making body responsible for the strategic development of COST
- ~250 Actions current
- Between 65 and 300k€ pa over 4 years
- Meetings, workshops, conferences, short term scientific visits, training schools.
- Open call with collection dates of 27 March and 25 September 2009
- ~ 9 month decision path

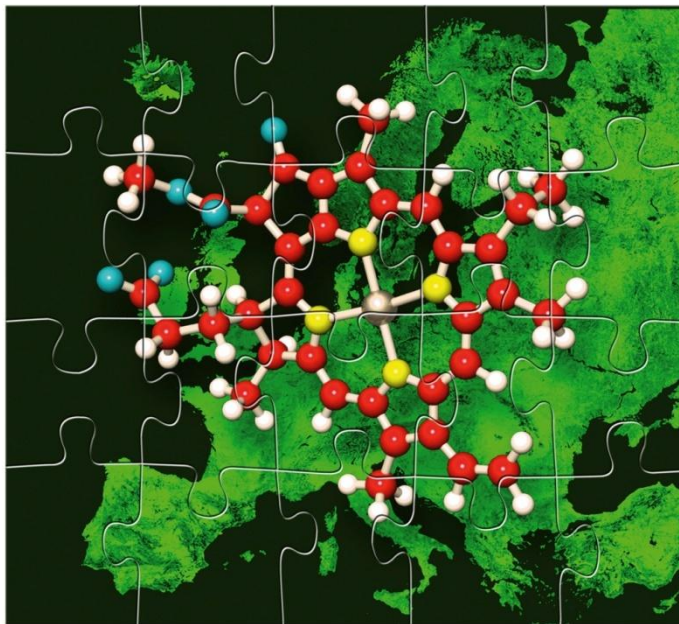
www.cost.esf.org

EUROCORES concept

Fragmented
research
landscape



New, integrated
knowledge



Funding agencies join forces to support cutting edge research on complex, large-scale, trans-disciplinary issues

Creating European critical mass in scale & scope and in a global context

Bottom-up and researcher-led, in consultation with MOs, to create new approaches, knowledge and synergy

Complements EC FP and national programmes

Strives for highest scientific quality and optimal European value

EUROCORES vital statistics



A EUROCORES programme *typically* runs for 3-4 years and involves:

- 8-20 participating countries **(13)**
- research budget of 5-10 M€ **(>5 M€)**
- 5-10 Collaborative Research Projects **(4)**
- 30-50 Individual Research Projects **(21)**

EUROCORES Scheme



- More than 160 Mio Euros of funding in the first 30 Programmes
- More than 6600 scientists involved (submitted proposals)
- More than 70 National funding organisations involved, not only ESF-MOs but also Ministries, Organisations from Israel, Canada and the US (NSF)

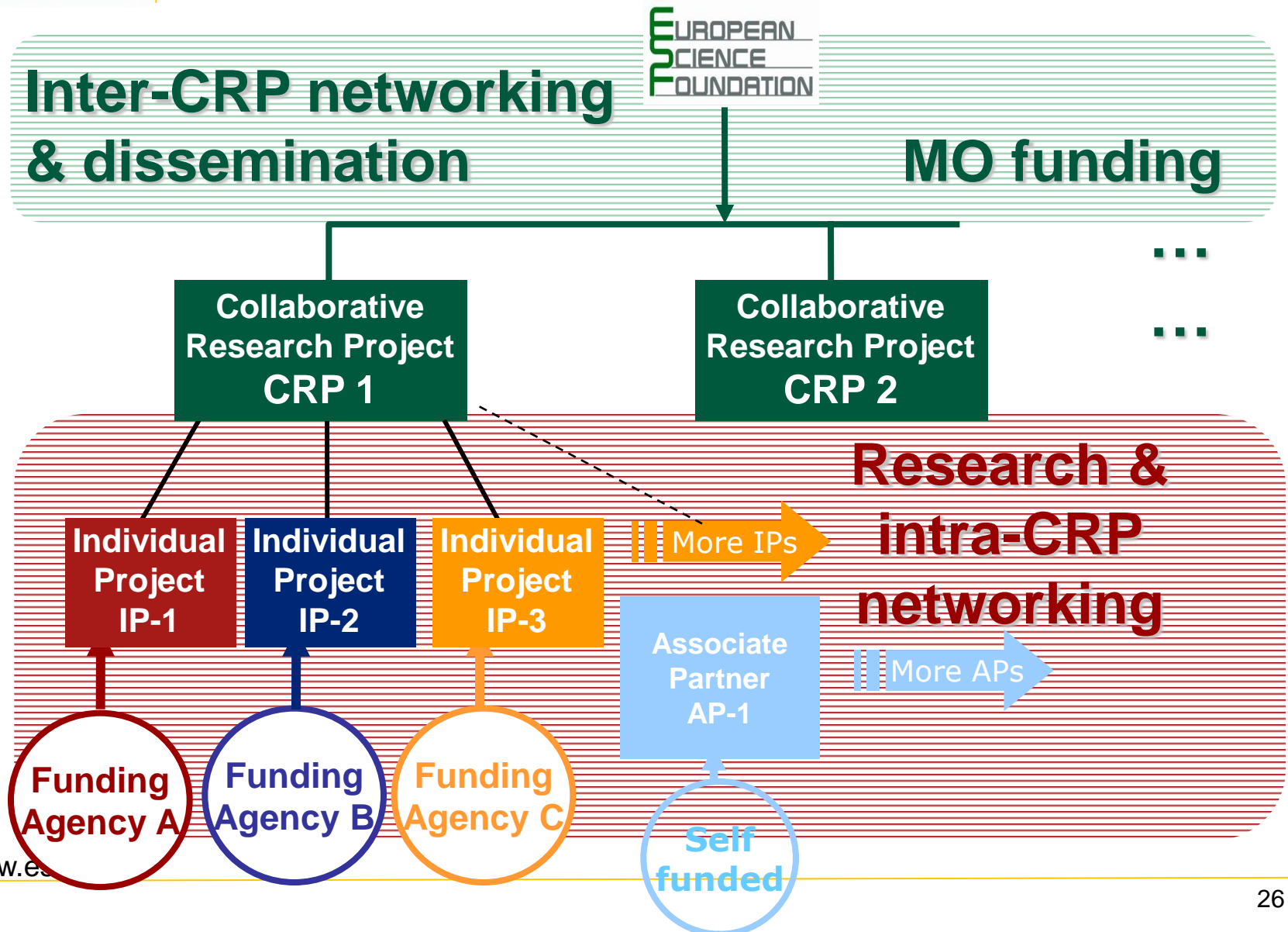
EUROCORES programmes coordinated by Social Sciences

- 2008: Higher Education and Social Change (EuroHESC)
- 2007: Cross-national and Multi-level Analysis of Human Values, Institutions and Behaviour (HumVIB)

European Collaborative Research Projects in the Social Sciences

- From ECRP I (2005): Fabricating Quality in Education (Jenny Ozga)
- From ECRP IV (2008): Establishing a knowledge-base for quality in education (Bert Creemers)

EUROCORES structure



EUROCORES networking and dissemination - why?

Networking activities allow CRPs to create synergy and added value

- Programme coherence
- Programme visibility

Long-term objectives:

- To strengthen the field (capacity-building)
- To open up new science horizons (creating perspectives)
- Filling gaps



EUROCORES management

- **Review Panel**
 - Independent, scientific experts
 - Key role in the review and monitoring processes
- **Scientific Committee**
 - Project Leaders of the funded CRPs
 - Chair nominated by ESF from membership
 - Steering of networking within the programme
- **Management Committee**
 - One representative from each participating Member Organisation plus ESF Programme Coordinator
 - Overall governance of the EUROCORES programme
 - May attend networking and SC meetings

EuroHESC launch conference

- **Today**
 - Presentation of Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs)
 - Presentations and talks from representatives of related projects and perspectives on higher education
- **Tomorrow**
 - Brainstorming– needs and potential for collaboration in EuroHESC and beyond
 - How to make a networking application
 - Scientific Committee meeting – planning of networking and dissemination programme for 2009

To bear in mind throughout...

- Potential for synergy and collaboration
 - Within EuroHESC
 - Beyond EuroHESC
- Gaps in the programme
- Potential to enrich programme with other perspectives
- Potential to strengthen the research field

SCSS

Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

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The logo for the European Science Foundation features the words 'EUROPEAN', 'SCIENCE', and 'FOUNDATION' stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font. The first letter of each word is a large, green, stylized character that overlaps the word below it. Below the main text is the tagline 'SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE' in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
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Excellence Openness
Responsiveness Pan-European
Ethical Awareness and Human Values