Inventing Europe: Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 to the Present
Call for Outline Proposals

Funding initiative for multi-disciplinary research: Inventing Europe – Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 to the Present

Following agreement with funding bodies in Austria, Belgium (FNRS), Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom (for special conditions applying to UK applicants for ESRC funds see below[2]), the European Science Foundation is launching a first Call for Outline Proposals for collaborative research projects (CRPs) to be undertaken within the EUROCORES programme "Inventing Europe". The Programme will run for three to four years (2007-2010/11), depending on regulations of the participating funding bodies. It includes national research funding, as well as support for networking and dissemination activities currently provided by the ESF. The Programme aims to support high quality multidisciplinary research.

> ### What is EUROCORES?
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> The EUROCORES (European Collaborative Research) Scheme provides a framework for national research funding organisations (research councils, academies, ministries and other funding organisations) to fund multinational and multidisciplinary European collaborative research projects in and across all scientific areas. Participating funding agencies publish a joint Call for Proposals for a specific research programme, define the type of proposals to be submitted and agree on the common peer review procedure to be carried out by ESF. While funding of the research (and travel) in the projects remains with the national research funding organisations, ESF currently provides support for the programme networking of funded scientists and dissemination activities[1]. Further information on the EUROCORES Scheme can be found at: *http://www.esf.org/eurocores*
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> [1] This is currently supported through a contract with the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme (EC Contract no. ERAS-CT-2003-980409). Should this support be discontinued under the Seventh Framework Programme, the ESF will request the participating Funding Agencies to provide support for management and networking costs.

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[2] UK researchers eligible for funding from ESRC, which is participating in "Inventing Europe" with associate status, and which offers funding for applications associated with the Call, can apply as "Associate Partners" if they bring added value to a CRP. They should visit the ESRC website for details, and the "Inventing Europe" site *http://www.esf.org/inventingeurope* for updates

Outline Proposals are to be submitted by 31 May 2006. Full Proposals will be invited by 1 July 2006, with a deadline of 13 September.

For an overview over procedures and the documentation required and national contact points, see below and, in greater detail, *http://www.esf.org/inventingeurope*

"*InventingEurope*" aims at establishing robust transnational research teams that develop novel perspectives on the mutual shaping of transnational technology developments and the process of European integration. *InventingEurope* thus looks at **the processes and perceptions of technological change as an important arena for constructing Europe on the material, institutional, and discursive levels.** *InventingEurope* places the history of European integration within a broader transnational history of Europe, and seeks to transcend the range of national histories of Europe. From this perspective, European integration began in the latter part of the 19th century and unfolded unevenly across the 20th century through a range of multilayered and contested transnational processes in which technology was deeply implicated, alongside as much as within the political arena.

Background and Objectives

InventingEurope supports multidisciplinary research into developing novel perspectives on the making of Europe. In order to do so, it asks specific questions on how the development and use of a range of technologies have provided sites for articulating European integration. Objects of study can include transnational networks in communication, information, transport, and energy; large-scale military and civilian technology projects and knowledge networks; and consumer products sold and used in more than one European country.

The role of technology is thus explored as a crucial agent of change, without positing a simplistic technological determinist account as if technology rolls in from the outside and has one-way impacts on society. On the contrary the focus is on a range of social, political, economic and cultural practices in which technologies and European integration mutually shape each other.

InventingEurope goes beyond established research into the formal and directed process of integration as represented by institution building and policy coordination among nation-states in Europe. Instead, *InventingEurope* focuses on how a wide range of actors have projected, performed, and reproduced 'Europe' through the design, manufacture, marketing, diffusion, appropriation, and daily use of technology.

Europe is not defined in an essentialist or merely geographical way. Instead the focus is on Europe as an actor category and an emerging structure and reality. *InventingEurope* also asks why certain projections and practices have been more widely accepted than others. European integration is thus understood not only as an overt and formal development, but also as a bottom-up and informal process, and by implication as the interaction between the formal and the informal.

Europe's integration, as defined in this research programme, explicitly predates the formal political processes of European integration launched in the 1950s. Accordingly, integration needs to be studied in a long-term historical perspective, often going back to the middle of the 19th century when a host of new technologies led to political, cultural, and economic transactions, cultural innovations, and border crossings. Alongside the process of integration, it is equally important to understand the currents of technology's role in fragmenting and segmenting Europe, for instance, during periods of nationalism, the rise of facism and nazism, economic crises, world war, and the Cold War.

In exploring technological change*, InventingEurope* focuses on competing visions and practices that gave rise to tensions *in* Europe and tensions *of* Europe.

Questions to be addressed are: how did

[a] nation states and international actors,
[b] a host of social actors defined by region, class, gender, and ethnicity, and
[c] a variety of sectors in society including industry, NGOs, and universities, in various ways propose, experience, appropriate, and/or subvert specific visions and practices in Europe through their technological choices and practices? How can such constitutive choices be traced through the design, manufacture, marketing, and use of technology?

InventingEurope seeks to include historical visions and experiences from a range of actors and a range of places. In fact, Europe's identity and material practices were shaped outside its strict geographical borders. Significantly, 'Europe' has often been mobilized as an intellectual construct in comparison to and competition with others, for example European colonies, ex-colonies, the Ottoman Empire, Asia, the US, and the Soviet Union (and Russia). Including externally generated visions and practices will connect this research to larger historical processes such as colonisation, de-colonisation, two world wars, the Cold War and its aftermath, and globalisation.

InventingEurope takes technological change as a point of entry for research into the contested processes of European integration. Technology comprises machines, products, systems, and infrastructures as well as the skills, knowledge, and cultural scripts that make them work. Hence, technological change is understood as a process deeply embedded in political, social, and cultural developments and choices by people and institutions alike.

Rather than focusing on the performance related aspects of technology (at the heart of economic inquiries) I*nventingEurope* offers a framework for researchers from a range of relevant disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, who adopt a historical and contextual approach of technology. Scientific fields expected to make valuable contributions include but are not limited to the following: agricultural studies, anthropology, business history, cultural studies, economic and social history, gender studies, globalisation studies, historical sociology, history of science and history of technology, international relations, labour history, migration and tourism studies, media and communication studies, political science, political history, and science and technology studies.

Scientific Goals

InventingEurope is problem-driven rather than discipline-driven, or devoted to specific sectors of technology. It concentrates on clusters of questions and topics which concern the role of technology in the making of Europe. It has identified four general arenas or practices: infrastructures, knowledge networks and projects, consumer and user practices, and interactions between Europe and other parts of the world. By building transnational research teams, new insights and historiographical advances can be expected; these will become visible through the programme's strong emphasis on synthesis (see below).

The first research area examines how Europe was shaped by transnational infrastructures–the material links between nation states, empires, and regions such as railroads, highways, energy, media, communication, and information networks. The second research area examines ways in which Europe became standardised through circulation of informal and formal knowledge in large-scale European projects and international networks. The third explores the emergence of distinctively European consumer products and user practices. The fourth explores the making of Europe through a range of colonial, Trans-Atlantic, and other exchanges.

Teams of scholars are invited to submit Outline Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) that address the overall research framework, focusing on one of the four research areas (and related set of questions identified below). Proposals might cover more than one area, but should identify a centre of gravity in one research area. Outline Proposals should explain clearly how the proposed research will contribute to a transnational understanding of technology's role in European integration and fragmentation. This might be done by including historiographic

and conceptual explorations of other views on European integration, fragmentation, or crucial episodes in European history. Overarching questions to be addressed include (but need not be limited to) the following: What kind of history of European integration, and what view of Europe, is generated by the research proposal? How does the consideration of technology add to, modify, or alter prevailing conceptions of European history? How have technical innovations, as well as the circulation of technical artefacts, people, and user practices, generated emergent European structures or informal European geometries? How have these evolving geometries and structures shaped the internal dynamics and external boundaries of Europe? How can one assess the relationships between the formal process of European integration launched after the Second World War and the informal processes of European integration central in this EUROCORES Programme?

Research Topics

1. Building Europe through Infrastructures

This topic examines how Europe was shaped by transnational infrastructures – the material links within and between nation-states (and regions) including canals, rivers, railroads, highways, energy, media, communication, and information networks.

Research questions include (but are not limited to) the following:

What specific European ideas and identities have been embedded, implicitly or explicitly, in the construction of transnational infrastructures that span political borders and connect nation states and empires? How have the tensions generated by these material efforts to 'wire' Europe together shaped Europe's diverse processes of networking, identity formation, and trading? How have nation states, empires, and other international actors sought to promote, invest in, regulate, and standardise these transnational connections and the tensions arising from them? How did a range of users shape, signify, communicate, use, and even sometimes resist these transnational infrastructures in their daily routines? How did they create communities of trading and travelling while building new identities, experiences, and relationships across Europe?

2. Constructing European Ways of Knowing

This topic examines the ways in which Europe became articulated through efforts at bringing knowledge and practices together on a European scale. These efforts range from informal networks to formal large-scale European projects. Examples of the networks to be studied are international congresses and professional associations of European agricultural scientists, civil engineers, computer professionals, traffic engineers, women scientists, architects and urban planners, and other disciplines. Relevant institutions to be researched in this context also include universities, technical museums, patent offices, and standard-setting bodies. Examples of formal European projects include EURATOM, the European airplane Airbus, and the European

space efforts. Successful as well as unsuccessful networks and projects should be studied. Research questions include (but are not limited to) the following:

What did it mean to collaborate on a European scale? How were European perspectives negotiated against rival national, imperial, regional, and international perspectives? Did conditions of European collaboration lead to distinctive European innovations? What did it mean to produce European standards, projects, and ways of thinking? How were they incorporated into national and international frames? How did some networks and projects become symbols of European power? How did these projects and networks shape existing knowledge-producing institutions? And how did they create new institutions especially at the pan-European and international levels?

3. Consuming Europe

The third topic explores how a range of social actors—including businesspeople, the state, professionals, consumer groups and consumers—proposed, developed, and reworked material artefacts for specific local, regional, and national contexts. At times these efforts defied and at other times reinforced prevailing trends toward European markets, statist arrangements, use patterns, and identities.

Research questions include (but are not limited to) the following: How have firms, which typically had a vested interest in a common European market, tried to build into their products national as well as European experiences? How have they helped create 'authentic' national identities and distinct European responses? How have they defined and built Europe-wide networks and markets? And how did nation states interact with them? How have users and their organisations, often aligned to the state, signified, appropriated, redesigned and used a range of consumer products and user practices? How have they built different consumption models, such as individual and collective ones, and how have these consumer models shaped technological developments? What kind of narratives about Europe, European identities, and European practices did users of consumer products and their organisations develop? How did these narratives also negotiate or counter local, regional, national and global practices?

4. Europe in the Global World

A fourth topic explores the making of Europe through colonial, ex-colonial, trans-Atlantic, and other global exchanges. By "provincialising" Europe, the non-teleological nature of the processes studied will become clearer. Research questions include (but are not limited to) the following: How were technology developments in Europe, and even the definitions of European technology, shaped by experimentation and development in the colonies and former colonies? Were their important continuities across and/or disjunctions between technological trials in Europe and those in the colonies (and ex-colonies)? To what extent did decolonisation change European models and conceptions of technology? How were European technology developments shaped by scientific and technical comparisons and competition

between European nations, various empires (such and the Ottoman, Austrian-Hungarian, and the Russian), and the two superpowers (US and SU) from 1850s until the present? How did international experts, agencies, and programs of the International Labour Union, the League of Nations and various other international conferences and institutions such as the World Bank, Fulbright fellowships, and the Marshall Plan serve as sites for negotiating identities of 'Europe' and relationships between Europe and other regions in the world?

Building Coherence through Networking

To build coherence within the research community, *InventingEurope* will adopt an intensive networking strategy. Annual project-wide conferences will help to organize integrative "horizontal" activities between the collaborative research projects and will provide a meeting place for all researchers involved. Such venues will also be open to invited scholars not directly involved in this EUROCORES Programme. In addition, synthesis activities will be promoted with targeted workshops involving project leaders and researchers from funded collaborative research projects combined with outside experts, and summer schools. Such activities will be coordinated by a Programme Coordinator appointed by ESF and advised by the *Scientific Committee* (formed of CRP representatives) and the Review Panel (RP).

InventingEurope aims at publishing a book series comprising edited volumes with collaboratively written publications. Individual projects are requested to contribute chapters to the edited volumes. A process of intensive interaction at the level of Project Leaders and Scientific Committee will ensure coherence between and within the volumes. The themes, scope, and aims of the book series will be discussed by the Project Leaders of funded projects early in the programme. The book series may involve editors other than the Project Leaders, e.g. from the group of proposors of *InventingEurope*. The book series will not replace traditional publication efforts of individual researchers, who are expected to publish their results in standard monographs and journal articles. Project Leaders will explore how to present research results in a virtual web-based exhibition for a general audience. This website will also provide a portal to museums and other heritage organisations across Europe, giving *InventingEurope* a strong "public science" component.

Programme Structure and Management

Programme Structure

The research funding period under the EUROCORES Programme "Inventing Europe" is expected to start in 2007 and will run for three to four years, depending on the funding rules and regulations of participating funding agencies**.** The overall responsibility for the governance of the programme lies with a *Management Committee*, whose membership is formed by one representative from each participating funding agency (usually a senior science manager) together with an ESF representative (usually the EUROCORES Programme Coordinator). Proposal assessment and selection are the responsibility of an international, independent *Review Panel*. The members of this panel are leading scientists, appointed by ESF following suggestions from participating funding agencies. The Review Panel is also expected to monitor the overall scientific progress of the programme.

Two stage selection procedure

The selection of proposals follows a rigorous two-stage assessment procedure, namely an *Outline Proposal* stage followed by a *Full Proposal* stage. All proposals are assessed according to a set of criteria concerning the *overall scientific quality* and relevance of the proposals to the call. It is compulsory to submit an Outline-Proposal in order to participate in the Full-Proposal stage.

At the outline stage, the Review Panel will select *Outline Proposals* with potential for scientific excellence, by applying the criteria mentioned below. Successful applicants will then be invited to submit *Full Proposals* which will go through an international peer review and a Review Panel meeting. International referees are selected by the ESF, principally using a pool of scientists suggested by the participating funding agencies and the Review Panel. A list of all the names of referees used for the international peer review will be published once the selection process is complete.

The Review Panel will create a ranked list consisting of the best Full Proposals and will subsequently make recommendations to the Management Committee for the funding of these proposals. The actual granting of the funds to the projects on the ranked list will depend on the total amount of funds available in each country by the participating Funding Agencies. The use of funds in a project will be subject to the rules and regulations of each participating Funding Agency as well as to the national laws of those countries.

Programme management & networking

While funding of the research, incl. travel, within in the projects remains with the national research funding organisations, ESF currently provides support for the programme networking of funded scientists across projects and dissemination activities (EC Contract no. ERAS-CT-2003-980409 under FP 6). Networking

among the funded Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) is an essential and highly valued element of the EUROCORES Programmes. To this end, scientific workshops, summer schools, conference panels and conferences, web facilities, publications and other similar activities will be organised. Such activities will be coordinated by a Programme Coordinator, appointed by ESF, and advised by the Project Leaders of the CRPs, who together form the *Scientific Committee*.

An Interim Evaluation, conducted by the Review Panel, will assess the overall progress of the Programme, based on the progress of the funded CRPs. Here, the Review Panel has a steering function and can comment on the CRPs' work plan in relation to the objectives of the overall Programme. A final evaluation will assess the achievements of the Programme.

Guidelines for applications
(Outline and Full Proposals)

Proposals from individual scientists or research groups eligible for funding by the agencies participating in the programme will be accepted for consideration in the EUROCORES Programme "Inventing Europe". Proposals must, as a minimum, involve 3 eligible Principle Investigators (PIs) from **3 different countries.** Scientists or groups not applying for or not eligible to apply for funding from these agencies (including applicants from industry), can be associated with a proposal where their added scientific value can be demonstrated. Their participation as Associate Partners in a project must be fully self-supporting and will not be financially supported by the participating funding agencies, although they may be eligible for supported participation in cross-programme networking activities. Applications should normally be for three years although applications for shorter or longer time periods may be considered depending on the particular rules of the participating funding agencies. Taking into account the international selection and approval processes, requested project start dates should not be before **1 June 2007**.

Online submission of applications

Outline and Full proposals will be submitted online. Applicants should follow the proposal structure as indicated in the Outline Proposal Application Guidelines which can be found on the Programme website *(http://www.esf.org/inventingeurope)*. On this Programme website, more detailed information about eligibility for funding as well as some of the regulations and restrictions of the participating funding agencies can be found.

Applicants must contact their national funding agencies in order to verify eligibility and ensure compliance with the relevant agencies' granting rules and regulations.

Outline Proposals

Outline Proposals will be examined by the participating funding agencies for formal eligibility according to their applicable national requirements. This is why all applicants are requested to contact their national points of contact for the Programme. In compliance with the rules and regulations of the participating national funding agencies, the requested funds under EUROCORES Programme "Inventing Europe" can include salaries for scientific and technical staff, equipment as well as travel costs and consumables within the project, specifying the amount requested from each Funding Agency. National policies may also require the proposal to contain additional specific information (for special conditions applying to UK applicants for ESRC funds see below). Applicants should be aware that the participating funding agencies can make significant adjustments

to the requested funds in order to bring these in line with their rules and regulations.

Applications will be assessed according to a set of criteria in a two-stage procedure, as to ensure a thorough selection of scientifically excellent proposals. At the outline stage, the Review Panel will select proposals with potential for scientific excellence, by applying the following criteria:

- Relevance to the Call for Proposals
- Novelty and originality
- European added value (scientific)
- Qualification of the applicants

An Outline Proposal submitted must comprise:

- A short description of the CRP (max. 1200 words, incl. objectives, milestones, methodologies (e.g.: experiments, fieldwork etc);
- Short description of how (and why) the partners contributing to the CRP will work together;
- Short CVs of Project Leader (PL), all PIs and Associate Partners (max. 1 page each, incl. 5 most relevant publications);
- Estimated budget (consistent with the rules of relevant national funding agency) tabulated according to a provided template.

Associated Partners (APs) are also considered part of a CRP and will be assessed as such at both the Outline and Full Proposal stage.

It will be assumed that arrangements for the handling of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) will be in place within projects, following the applicable national legislation and national funding agency rules. Applicants are strongly urged to have such arrangements in place, covering all research groups (including any associated groups) before the start of the projects. It is expected that the results obtained by the projects supported under this EUROCORES programme will be placed in the public domain.

It is also expected that all relevant clearance of other national or international committees (e.g.: ethics) has been obtained before funding is granted. It is the responsibility of applicants to clarify any such matters (if applicable) with their national contact points.

Full Proposals

Following the recommendations of the Review Panel, Full Proposals will be invited. The deadline for full proposals is expected to be **13 September 2006**. For the Full Proposals, the most important selection criterion is "Scientific quality". Other criteria include interdisciplinarity (according to the scope of the call), qualification of applicants, level of integration and collaboration, feasibility, European added value and relation to other projects (risk of double-funding and track record for collaboration).

The Full Proposals will be assessed by at least three independent external experts. After receiving all referee reports, they will be made anonymous and then sent to the applicants for their information and to give them an opportunity to comment on the referee report by means of a response letter. The Review Panel will rank all the Full Proposals based on the evaluation of the Full Proposal, the anonymous referee reports and the applicant's responses to these.

Full proposals must include a well-argued scientific case (both for the collaboration envisaged and for the individual contributions), a list of participants, a detailed tabulated budget and other supporting information. Aiming for scientific synergy and to integrate multinational expertise, a single, common scientific case must be made throughout the proposal; however, the amount requested from each national funding agency has to be clearly and separately specified. **Detailed instructions on requirements and how to complete the application forms will be made available once Full Proposals are being invited.**

The Project Leader will act as ESF's principal contact for the proposal, and for the duration of any subsequent project. He/she will be responsible for representing the project, for its participation in programme activities, and for any reporting requirements placed on the project as a whole as part of the programme. All Principal Investigators will be responsible for dealing with the requirements attached to the contributions of their own funding agencies.

Principal Investigators from countries where research staff costs and major equipment are normally provided by means other than research grants / contracts should clarify their eligible costs under the EUROCORES Programme Inventing Europe with their agency before submission. The relationship with existing national or international research financial support should be clearly explained. Major items of expenditure will require justification in the proposal. Full instructions and application forms will be available on the Programme website.

Programme Terminology

Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) are the international research activities that make up a EUROCORES programme. A CRP consists of a number of **Individual Projects (IPs)**, each led by a **Principal Investigator (PI).** Each CRP is represented by a Principal Investigator who is designated **Project Leader (PL)**.

Associated Partners (APs) are Principal Investigators of research teams participating in a CRP but not supported by a Participating EUROCORES Funding Agency (EFA). The APs will be members of a CRP and will be assessed as such, but cannot be Project Leaders.

List of contact persons at participating organisations

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CNRS proposers should liaise with the CNRS contact person for application procedures at least 3 weeks before the submission of the CRP proposal

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Associate status:

UK researchers eligible for funding from ESRC, which is
participating in "Inventing Europe" with associate status,
and which offers funding for applications associated with
the Call, can apply as «Associate Partners» if they bring
added value to a CRP. They should visit the ESRC website
for details, and the "Inventing Europe" site
http://www.esf.org/inventingeurope for updates.

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Associate status also applies to researchers funded through other funding
agencies, offering funding under schemes other than this Call for projects
associated to the CRPs.

European Science Foundation

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5 April 2006