EUROCORES workshop III
with Research Performing Organisations

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Brussels, COST office

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What is EUROCORES?

• _European Collaborative Research_ Programmes, addressing scale and scope in researcher-led science;
• Testing ground for the possibilities of joining national funding mechanisms at the European level;
• Response to urgent need for harmonised and robust instruments and procedures for the coordination of joint activities of national research organisations in Europe.
**Main objectives of the improvements:**
- **Shorten** time frame from idea to Call to funding, and:
- **Reliable** commitment from funding agencies
  ⇒ Agreed “letter of commitment” to new EUROCORES Scheme

**Theme Selection**
- High level independent EUROCORES Committee of renowned scientists, under the ESF Executive Board;
- Annual Call for EUROCORES theme proposals;

**Programme development (Call)**
- Multi-logue between scientific communities and funding agencies, managed by ESF
- Balance between frontier research and strategic choices

**Project selection**
- High quality scientific assessment of proposals
**Improved Scheme**

**Letter of Commitment to new EUROCORES Procedures:**
- Approved by ESF Governing Council in April 2005;
- Returned to the ESF by **31 December 2005**

**Theme Selection Phase:**
- 28 February 2006: Informing ESF on participation in a specific Programme with an indication of volume of funding;
- Giving an indication of volume of funding (maximum amount of Euros/ number of Individual Projects).

**Project Selection Phase:**
- Beginning September 2006: Checking eligibility of applicants on the basis of full proposals;
- 31 March 2007: Formal funding decision on IPs, accepting ESF International peer review and ranking
EUROCORES New Timeline

Themes

- Call for EUROCORES themes
- Selection by EUROCORES Committee
- Commitments from MOs

Programmes

- Outline proposals Call
- Outline proposal selection
- Full proposal preparation
- Full proposal selection
- Funding decisions by MOs

Months

0
3.5
8.5

Themes

- Call for EUROCORES themes
- Selection by EUROCORES Committee
- Commitments from MOs

Programmes

- Outline proposals Call
- Outline proposal selection
- Full proposal preparation
- Full proposal selection
- Funding decisions by MOs

Months

0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
EUROCORES Procedures

**Phase 1 - Theme Selection**

Open Call for Themes for EUROCORES Programmes (deadline: June)

- **Selection of Theme Proposals**
- **Programme Call Preparation**
  - Preparatory WS (Nov. – Dec.)
- **Funding Agencies Involvement**
- **Viability Check**
- **Recommendations**

Scientific assessments by the ESF SCs

- Ownership meeting
- Standing Committee assessment

EUROCORES Committee + ESF Executive Board

Strategic decision by EUROCORES Committee and ESF Executive Board (September)

ESF + National Funding Agencies

Decision for Programme

Call for Collaborative Research Projects
  - (Launch: March)
EUROCORES Procedures

Phase 1 - Criteria for Theme selection

✓ Scientific quality, novelty and feasibility
✓ Requirement of European cooperation and critical mass
✓ Relation to ongoing or planned research initiatives in same or related field
✓ Qualification of the applicants
✓ Funding requirements
✓ Ethical and legal issues
EUROCORES Procedures

Phase 2 - Project Selection

Open Call for Outline Proposals (deadline: May)

Stage 1

Outline Proposals

Eligibility check

Stage 2

Full Proposals

Invitation

International Peer Review (assessments) +
Comments by Applicants +
Ranking meeting

(Sepetember)

Recommendation and prioritisation
(December)

Ranked List

Further negotiation if partial funding
(through financial multilogue)

Funded CRPs

(Start of Funding: April-May)

Financial decisions

National Funding Agencies

Review Panel

Sifting meeting (June)
EUROCORES Procedures
Phase 2 - Stage 1 - Sifting criteria

✓ Eligibility?
✓ Relevance to the Call
✓ Novelty & Originality (including Scientific Quality)
✓ Level of international and multidisciplinary integration (European scientific added value)
✓ Qualification of the applicants in the field (suitability for the CRP; international standing)
EUROCORES Procedures
Phase 2 - Stage 2 - Ranking criteria

- Scientific quality of the CRP and IPs
- Originality / Novelty
- Feasibility (incl. suitability of methodology)
- Level of trans-national collaboration between IPs
  \((\text{European scientific added-value})\)
- Level of multi-disciplinarity (integration within CRP)
- Qualification of the applicants in the field
- Overlap with existing (or applied for) projects
- Suitability of budget items (value for money)
EUROCORES quality assurance

- EUROCORES Committee (=> future ESF Science Advisory Board)
  - Ensure overall quality
  - Ensure transparent high quality peer review
  - Advice on theme selection
  - Advice on viability
  - Appoint independent review panel

- High quality independent review panels

- Clear conflict of interest rules

- Strong science management through ESF based EUROCORES Programme Coordinators
  - programme and project selection;
  - scientific networking;
  - building of synergies with related national and international programmes and initiatives;
  - programme management
More information:

www.esf.org/eurocores