The new EUROCORES Scheme

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EUROCORES Scheme Analysis
Success stories

- 12 Programmes are fully running (Call for proposals published)
- 8 Programmes have finished the Review process
  ⇒ 4 fully operational
  ⇒ 4 awaiting funding decisions
- 6-7 Programmes will publish their Call for proposals this year
Involvement of funding organisations

- 54 different funding organisations from 27 different European countries are involved in the 12 EUROCORES programmes

Response from the Science community

- More than 1000 outline proposals were received in response to 12 Calls for proposals published
EUROCORES Scheme Analysis

Success stories

Review process:

- More than 1000 referees have been involved in the EUROCORES Review processes so far
- Response rate of referees
  - 36.5 – 58.1%
  - Average ~46.6 %
- Referees from outside Europe
  - 14 – 44 % (ECT exception)
  - Their response rate: 24.4 – 50.6 %
Networking

- more than 20 networking activities have been funded in the last 18 months
  - 4 conferences
  - 9 workshops
- 4 scientific meetings co-sponsored with other organisations
  - National funding organisations (CNR, CNRS)
  - International organisations and US-American organisation (NSF, InterMARGINS)
- 8 Scientific Committee meetings
EUROCORES Scheme Analysis
Lessons Learned

Timing of EUROCORES Programmes

- Time from the idea of a EUROCORES programme to the funding of projects should not be much longer than 24 months
  - With new EUROCORES procedures this should be achievable
  - ~two years is also needed to alert the scientific community

- Funding decisions should be made within 3-4 months after ranking of proposals
Calls for proposals

- Define scope of Calls for proposals
  ⇒ To attract 80 – 120 outline proposals

- Keep a success rate at outline stage of 20 - 30 %

- Keep a success rate at full proposal stage of more than 30%
Review process

• For a high quality review process it is essential to have at least 3 external referee per CRP proposal (at full proposal stage)

• Keep referee response rate at 40 – 50 %
  ⇒ Improve ESF-Referee interactions
  ⇒ Increase attractiveness to referee a EUROCORES programme

• Keep 30 – 35 % of referees from outside Europe
Funding

- Secure reliable funding commitment
  - Target should be 10 Mio Euros per EUROCORES programme
- Fund between 10 – 15 CRPs, involving 50 - 70 IPs
- Keep funding at a level so that not organisation has to fund more than 30% of a EUROCORES programme
- Introduce minimum level of funding to participate in a EUROCORES programme
New EUROCORES procedures

Phase 1 – Theme selection Phase

• Invitation of ideas for new EUROCORES themes (EUROCORES suggestions)
  ⇒ Call with deadline once a year (deadline 15th June)
  ⇒ Detailed guidelines

• Scientific assessment
  ⇒ Through ESF Standing Committee members

• Strategic decision
  ⇒ EUROCORES Committee + ESF Executive Board (September 2005)

• If both positive
  ⇒ Preliminary workshop
New EUROCORES procedures

Phase 1 – Theme selection Phase

- Preliminary workshop
  - Between 4\textsuperscript{th} – 16\textsuperscript{th} December in Brussels
  - Potentially interested MO’s and other funding agencies (MO-Plus)
  - Target: Draft Call for proposals and Define Programme

- ESF CEO seeks formal Commitment
  - Formal and financial reliable commitment of the interested funding Agencies
New EUROCORES Procedures
Suggestions for improvements

- More emphasis on the opening of the Call for suggestions
  - 6 weeks might be too short to initiate proper European collaboration
  - Good EUROCORES suggestions are important

- Shorten negotiation phase
  - Are the workshops necessary?
  - Decisions of funding agencies by 28th February?
New EUROCORES Procedures

Remaining problems

- Not all funding organisations seem to be able to make a decision within the given timeframe

⇒ E.g. Swedish Research Council, CNR Italy
New EUROCORES Procedures
Phase 2 - Project Selection Phase

- Deadline for Outline proposals
  ⇒ End April
- EFAs checking Outline proposals
  ⇒ May
- Meeting to sift Outline proposals
  ⇒ By end May
- Invitation of Full proposals
  ⇒ Beginning June
- Deadline for Full proposals
  ⇒ Beginning September
- Review Panel meeting to prioritise proposals after completion of International Peer Review
  ⇒ By Mid December
- Start of Funding
  ⇒ April/May
New EUROCORES procedures

Phase 2 - Project Selection Phase

• Outline proposals sifting
  ⇒ Criteria: Eligibility, Relevance to Call, European added value, Novelty, Feasibility etc., NOT: Scientific quality

• International Peer Review for Full proposals
  ⇒ Criteria: Scientific Quality
  ⇒ Replies of applicant to referee assessments
EUROCORES Scheme
Principles of financial commitment

Need of reliable financial commitment is essential

- To assure scientific community that it is worth submitting a proposal
- To contribute in a meaningful way to a European Programme
- Potentially secure funding from the European Commission under Framework 7, ERA-Net PLUS
EUROCORES Scheme
Principles of financial commitment

Normal level of funding for a EUROCORES Programme

- At least 10 Mio Euros over 3 – 4 years

Minimum Commitment

- Equivalent of the funding for one Post-doc position for 3-4 years plus travel funds
- Will vary considerably in the different countries
- E.g. Table with minimum commitments for each country
Normal level of commitment

Depending on:

- Number of “teams” in the country
- Normal success rate of similar national programmes in the country
- Funding level of similar national programme

Condition

- Funding will always depend on the existence of sufficient quality
- Funding should be “new” money not a re-labelling of already existing funds