

# ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

## Rapporteur Report

Partnership:	Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and the Université Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III (UPCAM)
Conference Title:	Global Change Research II: Environmental Crisis, Energy Issues and Global Regulation Policies
Dates:	11-16 June 2010
Chair:	- Patrick Le Queré - <a href="#">CNRS Interdisciplinary Energy Programme</a> , FR - Jean-Bernard Saulnier - LET/ENSMA, FR - Laurence Boisson de Chazournes - <a href="#">University of Geneva</a> , CH - Karl-Friedrich Ziegler - <a href="#">Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe</a> , DE
Rapporteur:	Paola Campus, European Science Foundation

### General Comments

In continuity with the 2008 conference "[Global Change Research I](#)", focused on climate modeling and risks/impacts estimation, "[Global Change Research II](#)" examined the deep interaction between the environmental crisis (climate change, urbanization/land use, exhaustion of resources, degradation of ecosystems) the production of energy, its conversion and use and the global regulation policies. Thanks to a very efficient dissemination process, coordinated between the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the French CNRS Energy Research program, the conference hosted about 50 participants coming from more than 30 Countries and specialized in very different research fields. This generated a series of very stimulating discussions which underlined the need for a comprehensive approach, including scientific, social and legal aspects, when facing the challenge of a changing world oriented towards the use of new sources of energy.

### Quality of Scientific Programme, Presentations and Discussion

The scope of the scientific programme was to bring together experts of different research fields who would generate, through discussions, a holistic approach to the problem of a changing world facing an environmental crisis and the need for a systematic use of alternative energy. The discussions addressed the current challenge of emissions' reduction by 2020 (first stage) and 2050 (second stage).

The scientific programme was organized in 7 sessions:

1. **Climate Change: Perception, Impacts and Adaptation**
2. **Energy & Human Needs versus Energy & Environment**

3. **Basic Science & the Development of Sustainable Energy Technology (part1)**
4. **Basic Science & the Development of Sustainable Energy Technology (part2)**
5. **Local & Global Environmental Policies: the Interface between Technologies, Science & Society (part1)**
6. **Local & Global Environmental Policies: the Interface between Technologies, Science & Society (part2)**
7. **Local & Global Environmental Policies: the Interface between Technologies, Science & Society (part3)**

The scientific quality of the presentations was high and a good balance between experts of the various research fields and young researchers lead to a valuable interaction and exchange of ideas.

The challenge of integrating in an appropriate way the scientific, social and legal aspects when addressing the issue of the development of new forms of energy and the management of waste is one of the highlights of this Conference.

In summary, the quality of the scientific programme, presentations and discussions was high and set the basis for further developments of scientific networks aiming to address in more detail the problems discussed at the Conference. The ESF has offered the scientists to explore together future possibilities of networking, using one of the available Science Strategy instruments.

### **Informal Networking and Exchange; Atmosphere**

The schedule and the atmosphere of the Conference were ideal to develop an easy exchange of information. Time and space for informal discussions were allocated both during the conference and in the course of the dinners and breakfasts organized in a common area. The young researchers demonstrated to be fully integrated in the discussions.

### **Balance of Participants**

The Conference gathered an appropriate number of young researchers and experts. The balance of national groups was, in general, reasonable, although a higher number of some nationalities (French, Brazilian and Russian) was observed.

### **Outlook and Future Developments**

The stimulating discussions developed in the course of the whole Conference set the basis for further interactions among the scientific groups which gathered at Porquerolles. The third part of this cycle of ESF Conferences was already planned and interest for potential future collaborations was expressed.

ESF planned to explore together with the senior scientists who attended the Conference possible ways to utilize the outcomes of the conference and to further develop scientific collaborations. Currently, ESF is focussing on the use of strategic instruments to promote such collaborations.

## **Follow-up**

The problem of a changing world facing an environmental crisis and the need for a systematic use of alternative energy is very actual: the Conference opened the floor to develop discussions on the current status-of-the-art in scientific research, focussing also on social and legal aspects. The potential for an immediate and long term follow-up is very high and every action should be contemplated to facilitate additional interactions among experts.

## **Organisation and Infrastructure**

Venue, catering and accommodation were appropriate for the Conference. Participants were satisfied with the on-site administration and support.

## **Summary & Overall Assessment**

The Conference "[Global Change Research II](#)" achieved all its aims, generating a series of very stimulating discussions which underlined the need for a comprehensive approach, including scientific, social and legal aspects, when facing the challenge of a changing world oriented towards the use of new sources of energy. The quality of the scientific programme, presentations and discussions was high and set the basis for further developments of scientific networks aiming to address in more detail the problems discussed at the Conference.

The interaction among young and senior researchers has been very good.

ESF has been actively involved in initiating the exploration, together with the experts of the various research groups, of immediate and long term follow-ups.

In summary, the Conference was a success and every action should be contemplated to facilitate additional interactions among the experts who gathered in Porquerolles.

## About ESF Research Conferences

### **The Scheme**

This conference is part of the European Science Foundation's (ESF) Research Conferences Scheme. The Scheme aims to promote scientific excellence and frontier level research throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Conferences aim to provide leading scientists and other participants, including young researchers, with a platform to present their work, to discuss the most recent developments in their fields of research and to network.

### **Conference Format**

The core activities should be based on lectures by invited speakers, who are leaders in their respective fields, followed by extensive discussion periods. An informal exchange of ideas, both inside and outside the lecture room, should be encouraged, and the number of sessions in the daily timetable should be limited in order to allow sufficient time for interaction between the participants. Time should be reserved for a 'Forward Look Plenary Discussion' about future developments in the field.

Participants can take all their meals together to encourage further contact and networking, which can be particularly beneficial to younger researchers who may be less outspoken in the formal lecture room setting. In order to gain optimum benefit from the conference, both the speakers and the participants are asked to stay for the whole duration.

### **Division of Tasks**

The Conference Chair is responsible for ensuring the quality of the scientific programme through the selection and invitation of speakers, and through the selection of participants.

The ESF Conferences Unit is responsible for managing all the logistical aspects of the conference organisation, including the provision of an on-site secretariat.

Further information: [www.esf.org/conferences](http://www.esf.org/conferences)