

ROADMAPPING SCIENCE IN SOCIETY

Impact, Evaluation and Accountability

30 June – 1 July 2009, Paris, France

Workshop Chair: Jean-Pierre Alix



www.esf.org/roadmapping-science-in-society

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PROGRAMME

DAY 1 TUESDAY 30 JUNE

Room Frédéric Joliot (building H)

13.30 *Registration*

14.30 **Session 1: Welcome Address**

by **Arnold Migus** (Director General, National Centre for Scientific Research - CNRS) and **Marja Makarow** (Chief Executive, European Science Foundation - ESF)

Main objectives and expectations of the seminar

15.00 **Session 2: Rationale from the point of view of dialogue**

General introduction by **Jean-Pierre Alix**: objectives and need of dialogues, and how to build them

15.30 *Coffee break*

16.00 **Session 3: Roundtable of different viewpoints by stakeholders**

Session Chair: **Jean-Pierre Alix**

Philippe Galiay

European Commission, Governance and Ethics Unit

Frédéric Sgard

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Lawrence Busch

Michigan State University, USA and Lancaster University, UK

Helen Wallace

GeneWatch UK

Hanns-J. Neubert

European Union of Science Journalists' Associations (EUSJA)

Camilla Modéer

Public and Science - Vetenskap och Allmänhet (VA)

General discussion (all questions)

Presentation to structure the second day

Working Groups, objectives, fields and designation of rapporteurs

c. 18.00 End of day 1

19.30 *Dinner (at NOVOTEL Tour Eiffel)*

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 1 JULY

08.00 *Coffee and croissants available before start of meeting*

08.45 **Session 4: Analysis and debate by thematic field**

Participants will split into **Working Groups**. A presentation on the ESF instruments of Member Organisation Fora and Forward Looks will be made to each group.

WG1: Medical and Life Sciences

Room K024 (building K)

Chair: Günter Stock

Participants: Paul Beckers, Anne Cambon-Thomsen, Valeria Csépe, Maria Teresa Díez Iturrioz, Dominique Donnet-Kamel, Stefan Hadjitodorov, Anne Jouvenceau, Lionel Larqué, Laura Marin, Volker Mosbrugger, Jaime Perez del Val, Frédéric Sgard, Thomas Sinkjaer, Helen Wallace

WG2: Physical and Engineering Sciences

Room Jean Perrin (building H)

Chair: Philippe Galiay

Participants: Manuela Arata, Dorothée Benoit Browaeys, Anne-Marie Bruyas, Lawrence Busch, Pascal Chossat, Thibaut Lery, Anne Lieutaud, Stefan Luby, Toomas Meresso, Matteo Merzagora, Camilla Modeer, Andrea Vacchi, Nicholas Wright

WG3: Social Sciences and Humanities

Room Frédéric Joliot (building H)

Chair: Andrea Cerroni

Participants: Rosa Capeáns Garrido, Martine Carisey, Laura Ferrando, Ulf Fredriksson, Galin Gornev, Heinz Gutscher, Achim Haag, Søren Harnow Klausen, Pirjo Hiidenmaa, Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman, Balázs Kiss, Grete M. Kladakis, Rüdiger Klein, Marek Kucia, Trygve A. Lande, Penka Lazarova, Pascal Perrin, Klára Plecítá, Franjo Sanjek, Peter van den Besselaar, Galina Varlamova, Hans Willems, Rüdiger Wolfrum

10.30 *Coffee break*

11.00 **Session 4 (continued): Follow-on and Conclusions**

- Identification of conclusions
- Linkage to a Member Organisation Forum
- Linkage to a Forward Look proposal
- Outline of report to the ESF Governing Council
- Possible next steps: e.g. timeline of the preparation of MO Forum and Forward Look proposals

12.30 *Lunch*

Working Group Rapporteurs' meeting (12.30-13.00)

Room KS1 (building K)

14.00 **Session 5: Plenary discussion on Working Group Reports**

Session Chair: **Jean-Pierre Alix**

Assembling conclusions, Report to ESF Governing Council, Forward Look proposal, Member Organisation Forum proposal, including timelines

15.30 **Session 6: Concluding Debate and Next Steps**

Session Chair: **Jean-Pierre Alix**

16.00 End of day 2

WORKSHOP RATIONALE AND AIMS

As exposed in the conceptual background document, the starting point of this roadmapping event is that scientific institutions need to develop a new approach to their relationship with society, considering recent tendencies like the broadening of scientific activities and their changing impact on society. Science should prepare roadmaps for new and improved relationship with their environment and build a real two-way communication so that it can regain trust citizens and other publics seem to have been losing.

The discussions of the workshop will be the basis for the drafting of a policy-level report to the Governing Council of the European Science Foundation (ESF). The report, which will take the form of a roadmap, is expected to define projects that ESF could launch. A Member Organisation Forum project and a Forward Look will possibly be proposed at the end of the meeting.

Workshop aims

The main aim of the Roadmapping event is to define tasks for ESF. We are expecting one to three documents as results.

1. The minimum is a **Report for the Governing Council** of ESF about the steps to make; this would be the **Roadmap**.
2. It would be favourable to have a further document or its outlines and the list of participants in its preparation. We think that a **Member Organisation Forum project** would be an ideal activity because this type of project is for the Member Organisations to discuss common issues, best practices, experiences etc.
3. It would be a great achievement to have some outlines, and, again, a list of potential authors of a **Forward Look proposal**. A Forward Look is about the future research questions, science policy priorities, knowledge gaps, capacity needs etc.

All the documents - whether one, two or three - are to be prepared by the meeting as a whole.

At the workshop

The Round Table session is expected to give the first impetus to the discussions and to the activity of the Working Groups afterwards by outlining the main points how the different publics (policy-making, industry, media, NGOs etc.) see the situation of the Science-Society Dialogue, its future and the possible ways to improve it.

We established three **Working Groups** (medical & life sciences, physical & engineering sciences and social sciences & humanities) in order to offer the participants opportunities for more intensive work. Participants have been allocated to groups according to their professional backgrounds presuming that people from similar disciplinary areas will better understand one another and could work together in a more efficient way.

Practically speaking, the schedule of the work is the following:

1. The plenary sessions on the first day are to outline the problem, to show the opinion of the different stakeholders/publics (science, policy-making, media, industry, NGOs etc.) on the issue.
2. On the second day, the Working Groups will start with the Chairs defining the tasks for the Groups.
3. In each WG, an ESF Science Officer will present the main features of the two project types: Member Organisation Fora and Forward Looks.
4. Then the Working Groups do the work as they wish. They may want to use the discussion questions below, which Jean-Pierre Alix will also present at the end of the plenary session.
5. After the Working Group sessions, that is, around lunch time, the WG Rapporteurs are meeting to prepare the documents: the Roadmap Report, the outline of an MO Forum proposal and, possibly, the outline of a Forward Look proposal.
6. After lunch, the final sessions are to present and discuss the drafts and defining the further steps.

Participants

Over 50 participants have confirmed attendance at this meeting; including representatives from ESF Member Organisations (MOs) responsible for organising dialogues with society, and stakeholders from the areas of media, representatives of NGOs, science education, policy making and industry. A full list of participants is provided at the end of this document.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

General discussion of the goals of the seminar; questions for discussion

- Does the term “Dialogue” properly characterise a new position of science in society? Is it a pertinent concept? Is the concept of Dialogue broad enough to cover relations of research activity to its partners?
- What are the potential benefits and weaknesses of a Dialogue approach compared with other approaches such as communication, dissemination, diffusion or expertise?
- How is Science-Society Dialogue practiced today?
- **Impact:** What is the public? Or should we rather define publics for the Dialogue? What is the impact on the public? What is the impact a public has on science?
- **Evaluation:** What criteria should be used in the evaluation of research in its many facets? Especially concerning reciprocal relations with partners? How to make them pertinent, also in the long term?
- **Accountability:** What information does research need, and what do the co-actors of research in society need for a better understanding? What are the underpinning values? Are they different from one actor to another?

Questions for the Working Group sessions

Same questions plus:

- On what kind of systems and values are current exchanges between science and society based in your field? How could you describe the main practices in this exchange system? Who are the actors? What makes coalitions work? Or fail? Are coalitions sustainable, and under what conditions? Is it possible to describe and classify actions in a relevant way to science policy considerations?
- What proposition or conclusion is relevant for a Member Organisation Forum project (MOF)? What kind of issues, practices and experiences should the ESF Member Organisations discuss in the framework of an MOF?
- Which proposition or conclusion is relevant for a Forward Look project (FL)? In which disciplinary areas should new research questions be defined for the improvement of Science-Society Dialogue? What kind of practices and experiences need foresight? Who would be the target of a Forward Look project and of its recommendations: scientists? Member Organisations? Science policy makers?
- Could any other relevant action be started by ESF?

The working groups are expected to wrap up discussions with

- Identification of conclusions
- Linkage to a Member Organisation Forum
- Linkage to a Forward Look proposal
- Outline of report to the ESF Governing Council
- Possible next steps: e.g. timeline of the preparation of Member Organisation Forum and Forward Look proposals

Subsequently, the working group chairs and rapporteurs will meet to prepare the reporting back to the full meeting.

Questions for the final General Session

- What are the similar and opposite conclusions of the Working Groups?
- What are the most relevant results of the Working Groups and the conference to be reported on? Do they concern knowledge about exchange situations between science and society? Practices? Definition of publics of science? Etc. What are the relevant concepts for the future?
- What are the conclusions that would lead to support for a Member Organisation Forum and/or a Forward Look? Is there any further action to be taken by ESF?
- What are the next steps?

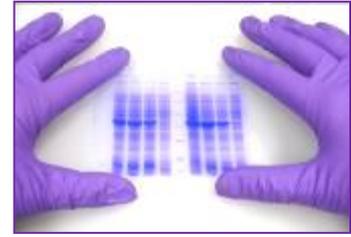
CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

The relationship between science and society should be thought over in a systematic way because more and more worrying signs show that the key societal publics have been losing interest in science and, in turn, science does not get enough inspiration from society. In order to have a greater prestige, which would, e.g., attract more talented young people, in order to draw more public and private sources into research funding, in order to convince the different publics and stakeholders about relevance of science, the scientific community should renew its relationship with society.

Science should communicate with all the actual and potential users of research results in order to translate scientific knowledge into innovations and public knowledge, but also in order to map their present and future needs that science is to satisfy. Sciences should clarify what to communicate with whom and how to integrate the needs of the partners otherwise mistrust, indifference and negligence, as well as the preference to pseudo science will increase and threaten the position and perspectives of sciences. Science cannot and should not expect that only science education and the media will bridge the gap between science and society; sometimes the former is too slow and the latter have priorities often opposite to those of science. Although there a number of different forms of the dialogue ("nights of scientists", cafés scientifiques etc.) the scientific community and the European scientific organisations should work on further methods, forums and management tools in order to improve and further democratise the communication with the societal partners.



The Member Organisations of the European Science Foundation (ESF) fund and do the overwhelming part of research in Europe; they obviously have interest in clarifying the situation of the relationship between science and society as well as in exchanging experiences and ideas about what to do in order to improve it. A broad meeting would be a suitable occasion to start this clarification by preparing a Roadmap, which ESF would invite stakeholders to follow in the future.



Scientific case for the project

Scientific background and rationale

The relationship between science and society has become a political issue recently.

Policy makers ask questions about the relevance of science for society in general and for policy making in particular.

More and more analyses suggest that **citizens** in Europe and in the developed world have been losing trust in science as a source and factor in the solution to their problems and, in turn, asking for opportunity to express their views about scientific efforts and achievements.

Seeing the aversion of the customers towards certain products (e.g., GMOs) and technologies, **industry** has also started to raise questions about the assumption that a properly funded research will inevitably lead to products that will be accepted by the market.

Media, which used to be and partly still are a good partner in publicizing scientific achievements in the public sphere, have recently started to prefer 'monster stories' to objective communication about science.

Finally, **science education**, although important channel for passing new knowledge to the new generations, is too slow and too much limited to the youth to help science have influence on the general atmosphere of society.

Such tendencies make it necessary to put the relationship between science and society on new basis, to establish new and better forms of that relationship, that is, to approach the whole issue from a new angle.

The approach should step further than the so called **deficit model**, which links citizens' mistrust in science to their inefficient knowledge of science and their allegedly low level of general scientific culture, whereas, according to the analyses, the level of trust is lower among people with higher scientific knowledge.

Science should also give up the traditional approach, based on the deficit model, which focused only on the improvement of the **one-way information flow** from science towards the rest of society.

The communication between science and society should leap beyond the **bilateral channels** and should rather use **multilateral forums and systems**. Forums and channels for communication between the different publics of the science-society interface (NGOs, education, journalism, science policy, science funding, research etc.) should be established and developed.

These tasks need longer and broader projects within and outside the framework of ESF.

Strategic value for science in Europe

The relationship between science and society is definitely of strategic value and particularly important for Europe.

In Europe, the funding of research is mainly based on public financial sources. It is not irrelevant, therefore, what **political decision makers** think about the relevance of science and what kind of information on science they get from what sources, where they can express their appreciation or criticism, where they can communicate their preferences and priorities.

The attitude of the **citizens** towards science, that is, the trust and appreciation, or their lack, will have an influence on the general atmosphere in which politicians and other stakeholders make decisions on funding and other issues concerning science.

In the long run, Europe should also do something about attracting more private funding in science. The attitude of industry and other **private users** of scientific results is obviously a key factor in that process.

Beside the national arenas, science-society dialogue surely has a **transnational, a European aspect**. International organisations, ESF included, could and should help the dialogue unfold and find its proper status.

Impact, evaluation and accountability are the three focal concepts that have to move from classical definition to an up to date one considering science as a system to produce knowledge, but an embedded system in a society.

It is obvious that, if the communication between science and society is multilateral, not only science has an **impact** on society but vice versa. Since society is not homogeneous in the relationship with science, the impact of science will inevitably be different on the various publics (citizens, politics, industry, media etc.) it has to deal with, and the opposite direction will also be heterogeneous.

The **evaluation** of scientific efforts and achievements should also change because e.g., scientists will surely be supposed to devote time and energy in the communication with different social partners and to take their preferences into account when preparing research projects and communicating the results.

The **accountability** of researchers, research teams, but also of research funding agencies, learned societies and academies will also be approached in ways different from the present ones. For example, the scientific actors should prepare indicators of accountability that can cover the specificities of the new relationship between science and society.

Follow up activities and initiatives foreseen

The meeting will put forward a Roadmap that will define the follow up activities. At least two projects can be launched on the issue:

- **Member Organisations Forum:** "From Criticism to Trust in Science". The project would give the MOs a series of forums to discuss the experience and best practice of science-society relationship.
- **Forward Look:** "Exploring Trust in Science". The project would define the research questions and research agenda regarding the social, psychological, cultural, educational, media and political factors behind the science-society relationship as well as behind the relationship management opportunities.

It is obvious that the two projects would meet at several points.

Description of activities and their schedule

A meeting may be organized around the issues of impact, evaluation and accountability.

The probable topics of the meeting:

- The necessity of a new approach to the science-society relationship based on the issues of impact, evaluation and accountability.
- Different approaches to the issues
- The establishment of multilateral communications systems – a **SWOT** analysis
 - **Strengths:** e.g., what would be the advantages of such multilateral systems?
 - **Weaknesses:** e.g., the question of representation at such forums would be rather difficult to answer.
 - **Opportunities:** what kind of opportunities the participants see regarding the establishment of such communications systems?
 - **Threats:** what are the obstacles: e.g., new tasks for the scientist though frequently not appreciated yet.
- The preparation of a Roadmap on creating such communications systems and associated new tools
- The next steps: e.g., preparation of MO Fora/Forward Look proposals.



Provisional list of Participants to invite

The invitees would come from the main publics of stakeholders:

- ESF Member Organisations: research funding agencies as well as academies
- Scientists making research on the science-society relationship
- Policy makers
- NGOs/civil society representatives
- Industry/Medicine
- Science journalists



INFORMATION ON ESF INSTRUMENTS

FORWARD LOOKS



The flagship activity of ESF's strategic arm, Forward Looks enable Europe's scientific community, in interaction with policy makers, to develop medium to long-term views and analyses of future research developments with the aim of defining research agendas at national and European level. Forward Looks are driven by ESF's Member Organisations and, by extension, the European research community. Quality assurance mechanisms, based on peer review where appropriate, are applied at every stage of the development and delivery of a Forward Look to ensure its quality and impact.

Homepage: <http://www.esf.org/activities/forward-looks>

DURATION AND BUDGET

- Budget of k€ 160 funded from the ESF General Budget
- Forward Looks should last 12-18 months
- ESF provides a Forward Look Coordinator

HOW TO CREATE A FORWARD LOOK

Full details can be found via the "Invitation for Topics" and "Design and Implementation Guidelines" on the web.

The Process

The ESF has issued an open invitation via ESF Member Organisations, with the following possibilities:

- Member Organisations may submit fully developed proposals.
- Member Organisations may choose to present partly developed proposals for topics for consideration and further development by the Standing Committee(s).
- The scientific community (individual researchers, groups of scientists, scientific societies, etc.) could approach either Standing Committees or Member Organisations to initiate a proposal for a topic.
- ESF Standing and Expert Committees may initiate proposals stimulated by their own activities; they might solicit ideas from Member Organisations, approach scientific societies or expert groups or develop proposals with other external partners.

Next Deadline

Ongoing open invitation via ESF Member Organisations – to be approved at the ESF Governing Council's April and September meetings.

Criteria

At the heart of a Forward Look topic proposal there are five *design questions*:

1. What are the characteristics and dynamics of the field that is foresighted?
2. What is the main question or problem that makes foresight needed or appropriate?
3. Can any sort of implementation of the results be expected and, if so, who should take care of implementation?
4. What expertise is needed to discuss the developments in the field and to what extent are external perspectives needed?
5. What kind of specific interests or obstacles may be expected in the conduct of the foresight or in implementing the results?

A Forward Look is essentially a systematic and high level priority setting exercise. Although research is unpredictable, a cautiously balanced assessment of state-of-the-art with looking ahead, typically over a period of 5-10 years, may provide a guide and reference for all concerned in setting new directions and priorities for European science in the global context. ESF Forward Looks are essentially science driven, but include, as appropriate, the societal dimension as an essential element of context.

It is becoming increasingly important that the science community and funding agencies at both national and European levels are aware of the potential directions research might take in the future, especially as traditional disciplines combine to produce new and exciting multidisciplinary areas of study. Using the outputs of a Forward Look, agencies will be better able to plan their resources to meet possible future demand, including the development of new facilities and infrastructure which may take a considerable lead time before becoming operational. Foresight exercises also help the development of pan-European approaches by Member Organisations and other national agencies as well as informing European institutions such as the European Commission and ESF itself.

Proposal

A proposal, written in English, is required to include the following information:

- Name of Member Organisation
- Name and contact details of contact person in Member Organisation
- Name and contact details of researcher(s) involved in the preparation of the proposal
- Forward Look topic
- Summary of intended Forward Look (max. 100 words)
- Keywords related to the topic of the proposal (up to 5; one "keyword" can be a string of not more than 3 words)
- The volume of a full proposal should not exceed 10 pages. Proposals should be submitted to the CEO in Word or pdf format, using exclusively the email box forward-looks@esf.org.

MEMBER ORGANISATION FORA

APPROACH

ESF Member Organisation Fora is an ESF activity that has been developed in response to a clear demand from Member Organisations. An ESF Member Organisation Forum is an output-oriented, issue-related venue for Member Organisations (MOs), involving other organisations as appropriate, to exchange information and experiences and develop joint actions in science policy.

Homepage: <http://www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora>



BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

In response to the feedback received from MOs during the consultations in preparation of the ESF Strategic Plan, ESF has created a new à la carte instrument: Member Organisation Fora.

DURATION AND BUDGET

- Average duration is two years
- MOs generally cover the costs of their representatives to one main meeting (Forum) and to any Steering or Working group meetings (travel costs) as well as allocate dedicated time from their staff to develop the Fora Action Plan
- ESF covers other costs related to invited speakers and occasional consultancy support (from 5.000 to 15.000 euro) and provides a Fora Coordinator

HOW TO CREATE A NEW FORUM

The process

A Forum can be initiated through two possibilities:

- MOs can indicate their interest through an official letter and proposal
- The ESF Chief Executive can send an invitation to Member Organisations proposing suggestions for MO Fora topics

Next Deadline

Ongoing open invitation via ESF Member Organisations – to be approved at the ESF Governing Council April and September meetings.

Criteria

- Proposal should be presented by a minimum of six MOs
- The selected topic should be of general interest among MOs
- The objective of the proposal should lead to improving a practice or to decrease fragmentation

Proposal

Proposals should include the following information:

- Title and outline description of the topic
- Proposing organisation(s)
- Indication of other interested MOs and stakeholders
- Rationale for proposing the topic as an MO Forum, including general timelines
- Outline of the envisaged aims, objectives and outputs of the Forum
- Outline of the budget envisaged (costs and staff time)
- Proposals should be submitted in Word or pdf format to mo-fora@esf.org

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