

European Science Foundation: 30 years experience in trans- national collaboration

Eva Hoogland
Eurocores Coordinator for the Cognitive Sciences

Complexity-NET Workshop "The European Complexity Landscape", Budapest, 1st and
2nd November 2007

About ESF



78 Member
Organisations in 30
countries, beyond the
European Union.

- o Research funding organisations
- o Research performing organisations
- o Academies

Partnerships with non-
European agencies

About ESF

- Established 1974
- Independent, non-governmental
- Offices in Strasbourg and Brussels
- Budget: 45M€
- Networking Budget: 1-3B€
- Covering all science domains



Mission

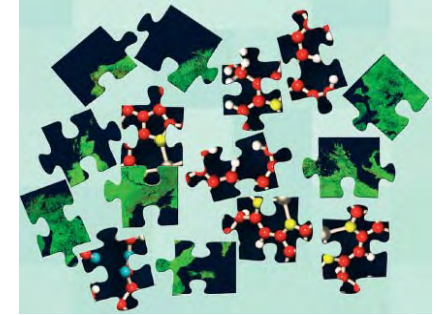
To provide a common platform for our Member Organisations in order to:

- » Advance European research
- » Explore new directions for research at the European level



ESF will play a complementary role to the European Research Council (ERC) by focusing on MO coordination

Implementation



Management of external programmes: ESF is open to accept the management of third-party programmes if they strengthen her mission, fit the expertise of ESF and are fully funded.

Coordination: of pan-European science programmes

Collaboration: Joining national funding mechanisms at the European level

Management of 3rd party programmes

Examples:

- European Young Investigator Awards (EURYI)
- European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical research (COST)



European Young Investigator Awards (EURYI)

- EUROHORCs and ESF initiative
- Budget: 100 M€
- Aim: To attract young, outstanding researchers to Europe – “brain gain”
- 18 participating countries
- *Common pot* funding mechanism
- Awards 2004-2007
- A total of 100 awards
- Awards up to 1,25 M€

Forerunner for ERC starting grants

COST

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical research

- Start: 1971
- Budget 2007-2012: 210-280 M€
- Current Participation: 35 European countries
- Currently, 200 Actions (Networks) of nationally funded R&D projects
- Supporting more than 30,000 scientists

COST is an intergovernmental organization



Coordination

Coordination of pan-European science programmes

Examples:

- ERANET programmes
- Expert Committees



ERANET

ESF has different work-packages in various ERA-NET programmes:

- BiodivERsA
- EUROPOLAR (Coordinator)
- HERA (Coordinator for the joint research programmes)
- AMPERA
- MarinERA (Coordinator)

Expert Committees

Aim: to provide advice and initiate strategic developments in the relevant scientific area

- Space Sciences Committee (est. 1975)
- Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies (est. 1988)
- Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee (est. 1988)
- European Polar Board (est. 1995)
- Marine Board (est. 1995)

Collaboration

Joining national funding mechanisms at the European level

Example:

- EUROCORES (**E**uropean **C**ollaborative **R**esearch Programmes)



EUROCORES

- Aim: to build responsive mode, interdisciplinary, transnational **research** programmes.
- Currently: ca. 40 programmes
- Funding ca. 1200 research projects
- *Juste retour* funding mechanism
- Common peer review
- New research funds: ca. 200M€
- More than 50 participating organizations – also beyond Europe (e.g., NSF)

Conclusion

The ESF



- has extensive experience in trans-national collaborative research programmes of various kinds and magnitude
- has successfully implemented both *juste retour* and *common pot* funding mechanisms



EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION
SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

Excellence Openness
Responsiveness Pan-European
Ethical awareness and human values

ehoogland@esf.org