

Call for ESF Research Conference Partnerships

Background

The ESF Research Conferences Scheme brings together researchers and researchers from different nationalities, backgrounds and disciplines, and at different career stages to jointly discuss the latest developments in new and emerging fields of research.

ESF Research Conferences promote free discussion and exchange of information, and aim to create long-term networks between participants. Participation is open to researchers from academia, industry, society and politics worldwide.

Research Conferences are grouped in series of 2-5 annual conferences, with each series focussing on a specific scientific area. ESF Research Conferences Series are conceived, branded and financed in partnership with high-level European research organisations and universities. The scientific area and location of each series is suggested by the partner, aiming to showcase their excellence in their particular field of expertise.

This call invites research performing or research funding organisations, academies and learned societies as well as research-related associations, publishing houses, labs and think tanks to partner with the European Science Foundation in the creation of new ESF Research Conference Series.

Strategic Alignment

ESF Conferences aim to contribute to the strengthening of a globally competitive European Research Area as laid-out in the ESF-EUROHORCS Science Policy Briefing 'EUROHORCS and ESF Vision on a Globally Competitive ERA and their Road Map for Actions' (see <http://www.esf.org/publications.html>).

Aims

1. Identifying emerging and strategically important topics by addressing questions raised by the scientific community
2. Strengthen the link between science and society; foster exchanges with politics and the private sector
3. To develop the research careers of Young and Early Stage Researchers
4. Showcase regional excellence of European research, research performing organisations and universities through funding partnerships
5. Connecting European research to the world

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be research performing or research funding organisations, academies or learned societies, as research-related associations, publishing houses, labs or think tanks (either privately or publicly funded) with legal status, situated in or collaborating with ESF Member Organisation countries (see <http://www.esf.org/about-us/79-member-organisations.html>). Both individual organisations and consortia of collaborating organisations can apply.
- Applicants must have proven expertise and excellence in the scientific field suggested for the conference series
- The suggested scientific focus must address gaps in the range of topics covered by existing ESF Research Conference Series.

Funding Available

- Up to 920.000 EUR is available for the period 2012-2017 to fund new ESF Research Conference Series
- Up to 4 new series of 2-5 annual conferences, funded for an initial period of 2 years, to be extended by a max. of 4 additional years, pending a successful review
- The maximum ESF contribution is 40% of the total budget and EUR 20.000 per conference per year.

Further information can be found in the [programme guide](#)

How to Apply

The call is organised in two stages. Firstly, we invite interested organisations to submit a detailed letter of intent (LOI). Secondly, selected organisations will be asked to develop the LOI into a full proposal.

Letter of Intent

The objective of the Letter of Intent is to provide a detailed description of the proposed research conference series and the participating organisations. While funding contributions have to be described, no formal commitment has to be included at this point. All LOIs have to be submitted electronically by the application deadline to blipps@esf.org, using the Partnership LOI template and the accompanying `

LOI Structure

1. Part A: Organisation(s)
2. Part B: Aims and Objectives of the Conference Series
3. Part C: Implementation and Operations
4. Part D: Funding and Support
5. (Annex 1: Venue RFP)

Full Partnership Proposal

If your organisation is invited to submit a Full Partnership Proposal, you will receive a detailed feedback report from the first evaluation round. You will be asked to integrate this feedback into the proposal text and elaborate on points highlighted in the feedback. In addition, documentation concerning the legal status, financial capacity and formal commitment of your organisation has to be included. Partnership proposals are to be submitted by the deadline to blipps@esf.org, containing the following documents:

1. Updated Letter of Intent, taking into consideration the feedback received from ESF
2. Legal Entity Form(s)
3. Formal Funding and Support Commitment(s)

Templates will be provided with the invitation to submit a full proposal.

Key Dates

Summer 2010	Eligible organisations are invited to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), using the <u>LOI template</u>
19 Sept. 2010	Submission Deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI)
24 Sept. 2010	Complete LOIs will be reviewed on eligibility and suitability by the ESF Conferences Unit. A suitability report will be issued for all eligible LOI. Full criteria and weighting see programme guide.
27 Sept. 2010	LOIs and suitability reports are transferred to scientific experts, appointed by the ESF Standing Committees (SC) for scientific evaluation. The experts will draft a funding recommendation to be endorsed by the SC.
15 Nov. 2010	On the basis of the suitability report and the funding recommendation, the ESF Chief Executive will invite selected proposers to submit a full proposal.
01 Dec. 2010	Deadline for the submission of full partnership proposals
Dec – Jan 2011	Review of full proposals, site inspections
February 2011	Selected proposers will be invited to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with ESF for conference series starting in 2012 and 2013.

Further Information

- **Programme Guide**
- **LOI template**
- **General Information about the ESF Research Conferences**
- **Existing Research Conference Partnerships**

Contact

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