



EUROCORES SCHEME

EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Call for EUROCORES themes

The European Science Foundation (ESF) wishes to contribute to the European Research Area via its EUROCORES Scheme. ESF is inviting well developed proposals for new EUROCORES Programmes (EUROCORES themes). It is envisaged that ESF will select about 5 EUROCORES theme proposals from this Call for further development.

The EUROCORES Scheme

The aim of the ESF European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) Scheme is to enable researchers in different European countries to develop collaboration and scientific synergy in areas where European scale and scope are required for leading-edge science in a global context and in this way create the critical mass necessary for scientific excellence. The scheme provides a flexible framework which allows national basic research funding organisations to join forces to support top class European research in and across all scientific areas.

The European Science Foundation currently provides programme coordination and support for the networking of funded scientists through the European Commission Contract no. ERAS-CT-2003-980409. Research funding is provided by participating national organisations.

How to submit a EUROCORES theme proposal

EUROCORES theme proposals must be received by **1 June 2006 (midnight)** by e-mail in one single pdf attachment. The title of the EUROCORES theme should appear in the subject line.

Email: eurocores@esf.org

National funding organisations do not require a copy.

➔ **Please also consult the EUROCORES Glossary and FAQ on EUROCORES themes for further information at www.esf.org/eurocores**

Eligibility criteria

Proposing groups can include scientists from at least 4 different countries within ESF membership and/or representatives from national funding organisations.

Criteria for the selection of EUROCORES themes

- 1. Scientific quality, novelty and feasibility of the EUROCORES theme proposal, including:**
 - a. A convincing scientific case
 - b. Potential for cutting-edge research
 - c. Original, novel and innovative approach
 - d. Integration of Programme elements
 - e. Potential for inter- and multidisciplinary approach
 - f. Maturity of the research field
 - g. Realistic objectives
 - h. Achievable and meaningful milestones
- 2. Requirement for European collaboration, including:**
 - a. Necessity to conduct the programme at a European level
 - b. Critical mass (adequate scientific base) of excellent researchers in Europe
 - c. Strengthening and advancing of Europe's scientific profile or position in the world
 - d. Potential involvement of non-Europeans
- 3. Relationship to other ongoing/planned research initiatives in the field (national, European, international), including:**
 - a. Relation to ongoing/planned initiatives, especially to EC funded/planned programmes
 - b. Potential duplication of funding

4. Qualification of the proposers, including:

- a. Proposers' position in their scientific field
- b. International excellence of the proposers' track record
- c. Appropriateness of the identified target group/
Omission of any important group

5. Funding requirement of the proposed programme, including:

- a. Potential impact in the scientific field with envisaged funding (10M€ over 3-4 years)

6. Ethical and legal issues, including:

- a. Ethical and legal issues which require further attention
- b. Potential obstacles to programme development or implementation

A EUROCORES programme should be able to attract:

- a community of about 70 – 200 interested scientists,
- a total research funding of at least 10M€ over 3-4 years of funding.

EUROCORES Programmes currently:

- are in the fields of Humanities, Materials, Medical, Bio-, Geo- and Environmental Sciences
- involve 9-23 funding organisations
- usually fund 10-20 Collaborative Research Projects consisting of 40-80 Individual Projects
 - which are selected via an outline stage (50 – 150 outline proposals) and a full proposals stage (7 – 57 proposals)
- bring together a total Programme budget of 5-12M€.

A EUROCORES theme proposal, if selected, will be then developed into an open Call for research proposals.**Please see the EUROCORES theme proposal guidelines below****The proposal should be 20 pages maximum (including Appendices)****1. Title of the EUROCORES theme proposal** (with acronym)**2. List of proposers** (at least 4 from different countries with ESF membership)

- Name, First name, Title, Affiliation (complete address, phone & fax numbers, e-mail address)

3. Abstract (300 words max.)**4. Key words** (max. 8, separated by ;)**5. Details of your scientific programme**

- Give clear scientific objectives (short and long term)
- Define milestones to be reached in the Programme
- Demonstrate synergy among Programme elements

6. Requirement for an activity on the European level, including statements on:

- Why is a programme on the European level necessary now?
- What is the expected added value?
- Why is the EUROCORES Programme the appropriate instrument?

7. Relationship to ongoing/planned initiatives

- Is this topic already covered by other ongoing/potential national, European or international funding initiatives?
- Which are these related funding initiatives? (give an overview)
- How does the present proposal relate to, differ from or complement these initiatives?

8. Level of funding required

- Is the envisaged funding of 10M€ over 3-4 years sufficient to make the proposed programme possible and to have an impact in the scientific field?
- Explain also why you need any particular kind of funding (e.g. Infrastructure access)

9. Ethical and legal issues

- Are there any ethical or legal issues (especially at the European level) which need to be considered for your EUROCORES theme proposal?
- If so, please explain how you are going to deal with them.

Appendices (to be included in the 20 pages):

- i. CVs and publication list of proposers (10 most relevant publications)
- ii. List of potentially interested scientists and institutes
- iii. List of the 15 most important scientists and institutes in the field

The procedure:

By 1 June 2006:

- Deadline for submission of EUROCORES theme proposals

By the End of September 2006:

- The EUROCORES Committee will decide which themes will be further developed (about 5 themes are expected to go forward)
- The ESF informs proposers and national funding agencies

November 2006:

- **Proposers of selected themes will be asked to participate in the Programme preparatory workshop taking place from 20–30 November 2006 in Brussels.**
- Participants in the EUROCORES Programme preparatory workshop will be:
 - representatives from the scientific community behind the proposals
 - scientific and administrative representatives from “interested” national funding organisations
 - **Task: discuss and agree on a final draft for the Call for proposals**

Selected proposers must be prepared to accept that their original theme proposal might be modified by the ESF in consultation with national funding organisations.

December 2006 – February 2007:

- ESF will seek formal commitment from interested national funding organisations for each selected EUROCORES Programme

March 2007:

- Assuming adequate national funding commitment, publication of an open “Call for outline proposals” for the selected EUROCORES programmes

Once the open Call for outline proposals has been published:

- ESF establishes an independent international Review Panel for each EUROCORES Programme appointed by the EUROCORES Committee
- The Review Panel selects the outline proposals considering the following criteria:
 - Relevance to the Call
 - Novelty, originality (including scientific quality)
 - European added value
 - Qualification of the applicants

- ESF invites full proposal of selected outline proposals
- ESF conducts an International Peer Review on full proposals to select top ranked project proposals to be recommended for funding to the national research funding organisations

Once project proposals are funded:

- ESF establishes the organisation of the EUROCORES Programme, which includes:
 - A **Scientific Committee** which
 - Consists of representatives from all funded Collaborative Research Projects
 - Is responsible for the scientific guidance and coordination of the EUROCORES Programme
 - Is responsible for proposing and agreeing on networking policy between all funded projects
 - Reports to the Management Committee
 - A **Management Committee** which
 - Consists of representatives from the funding organisations participating in a EUROCORES Programme
 - Is responsible for the overall Programme within the guidelines of the EUROCORES Scheme
 - A **EUROCORES Programme Coordinator** responsible for the
 - Networking between all funded projects in order to deliver the integrated scientific goals of the EUROCORES programme
 - Information flow between the Scientific Committee and Management Committee

Proposers of a EUROCORES theme proposal

- are allowed to submit outline proposals
- if they do not submit any project proposal they may be asked
 - to serve on the Review Panel



EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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For more information on the EUROCORES Scheme and on already existing EUROCORES Programmes please consult the ESF website at:
www.esf.org/eurocores

➔ Please also consult the **EUROCORES Glossary and FAQ on EUROCORES themes for further information at www.esf.org/eurocores**

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