

## **Terms of Participation in EUROCORES Programmes**

### **1. Introduction**

The EUROCORES Scheme aims to promote and stimulate European collaborative research which is of the highest quality, innovative, investigator driven, in and across all scientific areas and in a global context.

EUROCORES enables researchers to work in joint research projects with colleagues in other European countries and beyond, whilst the research funding remains national. The EUROCORES Programmes within the Scheme address research questions which require cooperation crossing national borders and disciplinary boundaries.

For national research funding or performing organisations, the attraction of the EUROCORES Scheme is the possibility to support trans-national research projects involving several partners through agreed procedures. High quality international peer review operated by the ESF forms the basis for the national funding decisions.

This document defines the basic conditions for participation in EUROCORES Programmes to which participating National Funding Organisations agree to adhere.

### **2. Participation of National Funding Organisations in the EUROCORES Scheme**

The ESF operates the EUROCORES Scheme on behalf of the ESF Member Organisations (MOs) and other National Funding Organisations agreeing to the conditions specified in these Terms of Participation.

An organisation wishing to participate in a EUROCORES Programme must accept the conditions specified in these Terms of Participation.

### 3. Rights and obligations of National Funding Organisations participating in a EUROCORES Programme

The principle rights and obligations of Funding Organisations participating in a EUROCORES Programme are listed below. They are further detailed in operational documents which will be approved by the Governing Council following the recommendations of:

- The annual meeting of the EUROCORES Scheme Management Committee (ES-MC) with mandated representatives from Funding Organisations participating in the Scheme as far as the operations affecting National Funding Organisations are concerned.
- The ESF Science Advisory Board, as far as the quality assurance is concerned.

#### a. Obligations

Funding Organisations wishing to participate in a EUROCORES Programme selected by the September/October Governing Council on the advice of the Science Advisory Board will:

- Indicate before 10 December the maximum number of Research grants or Individual Projects (IPs)<sup>1</sup> and/or amount of research funding they are prepared to fund as part of Collaborative Research Projects;
- Take funding decisions on selected IPs within 12 weeks after receiving the request from ESF
- Accept the ESF organised international Peer Review as the basis for such decisions and in particular accept the ranked ordered list of proposals as drawn up by the International Review Panel and the re-assessment of proposals as appropriate.
- Commit to work actively and solution oriented towards solutions for funding gaps in the top ranked proposals on case-by-case basis;
- Contribute to the scientific networking and coordination costs of the Programme:
  - This contribution is proportional to the number of research grants funded by the National Funding Organisation.
  - The contribution level per IP is set in advance for the duration of the Programme concerned by the Governing Council on the advice of the EUROCORES Scheme Management Committee.
  - At least 50% of the contribution will be spent on scientific networking activities for programmes composed of a minimum of 30 funded-IPs. The remaining funds are for the scientific coordination by ESF, the review panel meetings, the outreach and the evaluation and administration of the Programme. For programmes composed of less

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<sup>1</sup> An **Individual Project** (IP) is a research project or activity within a Collaborative Research Project (CRP) which is normally led by one Principal Investigator (PI) funded by a National Funding Organisation. Funding of the research grant is according to the rules of the National Funding Organisation. It typically includes funding for 2-4 year PhD and/or PostDoc positions, consumables, possibly funds for equipment and travel funds to attend conferences and networking activities within the CRP. For Research Performing Organisations the definition of an IP may be different.

than 30-funded IPs, the level of the scientific networking budget will be adapted accordingly, after deduction of the necessary fixed scientific coordination costs.

- The contribution is invoiced in three annual instalments, with the first invoice being issued 3 months after the national funding decisions in a EUROCORES Programme (normally 15 months after the closing of the Call for Proposals) and the subsequent two at the beginning of the following two years.

#### **b. Rights**

All Funding Organisations participating in a EUROCORES Programme (Member Organisation of ESF or other National Funding Organisation) have the right to:

- Apply for membership in the EUROCORES Scheme Management Committee (ES-MC) which meets annually to advise the Governing Council on the evolution of the Scheme;
- Appoint a representative in the Management Committee (MC) of the specific Programme;
  - This MC has the overall responsibility for the EUROCORES Programme
  - This MC approves the Work Plan and related budget framework for the networking and dissemination activities.
    - This Work Plan is drafted by the ESF Coordinator together with the Scientific Committee of the Programme, composed of the Project Leaders of the Collaborative Research Projects and the ESF Coordinator.
  - This MC shall meet (physically or via teleconference) at least 4 times during the running time of the Programme:
    - Following the ranking by the Review Panel to decide on any problems related to the funding of IPs;
    - During the ‘kick-off meeting’ of the Programme to decide on the Work Plan;
    - After a “light” midterm review of the added value of the networking in order to decide on adjustments;
    - At the end of the Programme to review the impact and added value of the Programme and to approve a report on the expenditure.
- Nominate members of the Review Panel which is responsible for the International Peer Review and ranking of the proposals in the Programme. ESF decides on the final composition of the Review Panels.

#### **4. ESF commitments**

ESF commits as part of its management of the EUROCORES Scheme and the EUROCORES Programmes to:

- Send National Funding Organisations by 15 October of each year the texts of the Calls for Proposals for the EUROCORES Programmes selected by the Governing Council;
- Ensure efficient and high quality peer review, science management and administration of the Scheme and Programmes, according to documented high quality procedures approved by the ESF Science Advisory Board;

- Report annually to the ESF Governing Council and National Funding Organisations participating in Programmes on the status of the EUROCORES Programmes and the evolution of the Scheme;
- Prepare a review of the EUROCORES Scheme after 4 years.