



EUROCORES workshop III with Research Performing Organisations

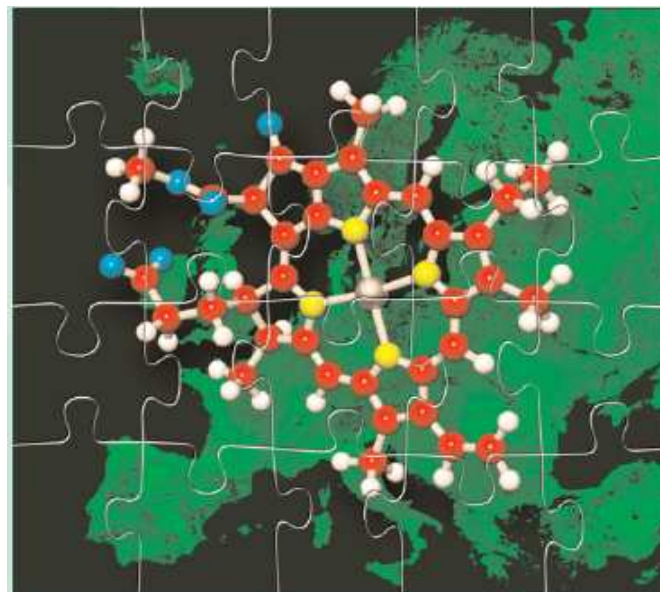
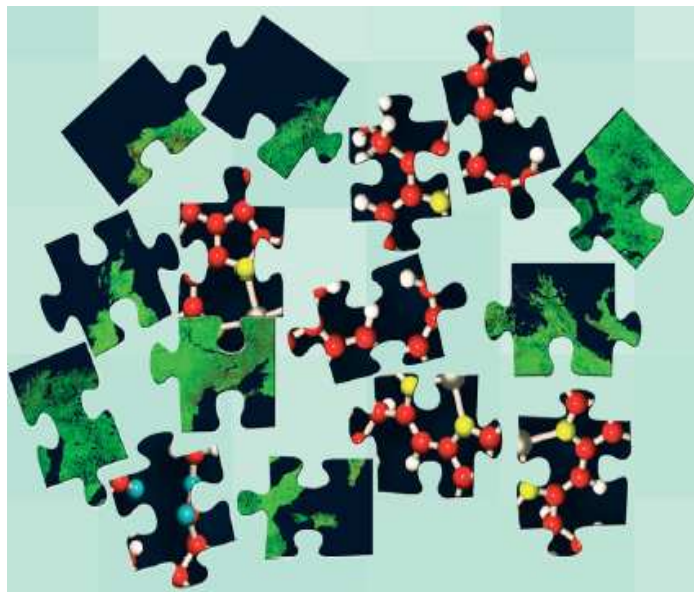
27 June 2006

Brussels, COST office

Svenje Mehlert

EUROCORES Scheme Coordinator

What is EUROCORES?



- European Collaborative Research Programmes, addressing scale and scope in researcher-led science;
- Testing ground for the possibilities of joining national funding mechanisms at the European level;
- Response to urgent need for harmonised and robust instruments and procedures for the coordination of joint activities of national research organisations in Europe.

Improved Scheme



Main objectives of the improvements:

- Shorten time frame from idea to Call to funding, and:
- Reliable commitment from funding agencies
 - ⇒ Agreed “letter of commitment” to new EUROCORES Scheme

Theme Selection

- High level independent EUROCORES Committee of renowned scientists, under the ESF Executive Board;
- Annual Call for EUROCORES theme proposals;

Programme development (Call)

- Multi-logue between scientific communities and funding agencies, managed by ESF
- Balance between frontier research and strategic choices

Project selection

- High quality scientific assessment of proposals

Improved Scheme



Letter of Commitment to new EUROCORES Procedures:

- Approved by ESF Governing Council in April 2005;
- Returned to the ESF by 31 December 2005

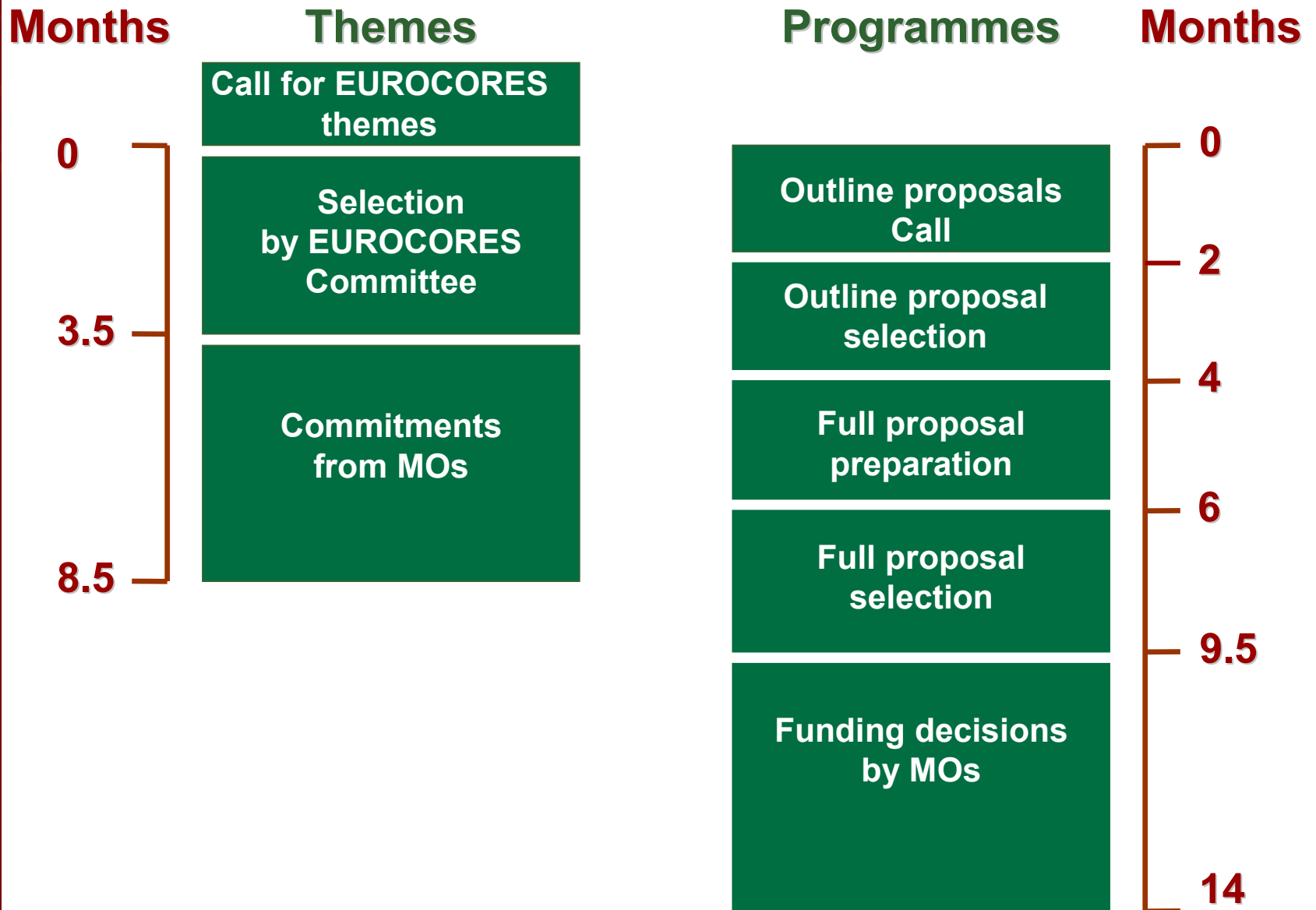
Theme Selection Phase:

- 28 February 2006: Informing ESF on participation in a specific Programme with an indication of volume of funding;
- Giving an indication of volume of funding (maximum amount of Euros/ number of Individual Projects).

Project Selection Phase:

- Beginning September 2006: Checking eligibility of applicants on the basis of full proposals;
- 31 March 2007: Formal funding decision on IPs, accepting ESF International peer review and ranking

EUROCORES New Timeline



EUROCORES Procedures



Phase 1 - Theme Selection

Open Call for Themes for EUROCORES Programmes (deadline: June)

Scientific assessments by the ESF SCs



EUROCORES Procedures

Phase 1 - Criteria for Theme selection



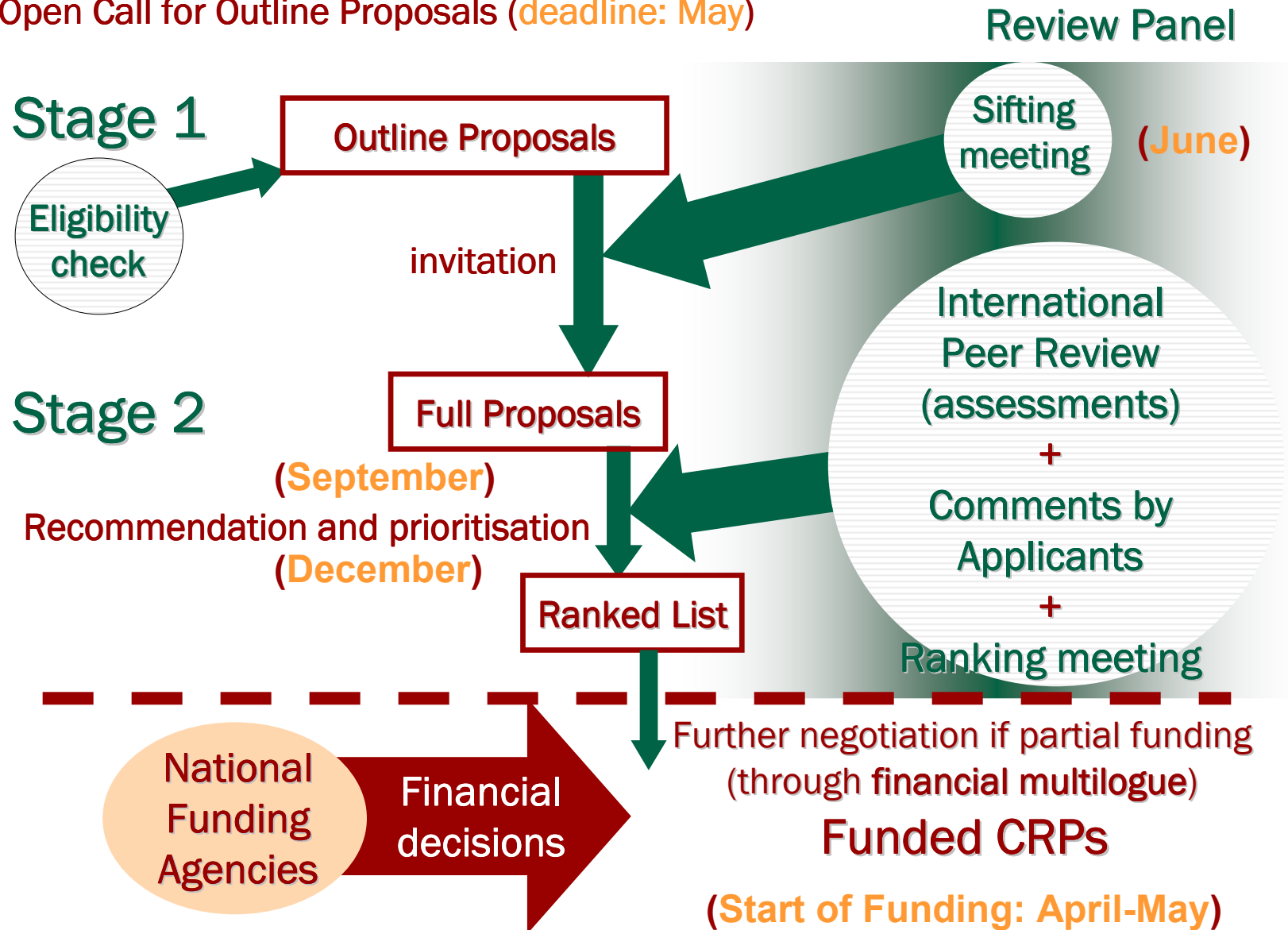
- ✓ Scientific quality, novelty and feasibility
- ✓ Requirement of European cooperation and critical mass
- ✓ Relation to ongoing or planned research initiatives in same or related field
- ✓ Qualification of the applicants
- ✓ Funding requirements
- ✓ Ethical and legal issues

EUROCORES Procedures



Phase 2 - Project Selection

Open Call for Outline Proposals (deadline: May)



EUROCORES Procedures

Phase 2 - Stage 1 - Sifting criteria



- ✓ Eligibility?
- ✓ Relevance to the Call
- ✓ Novelty & Originality (including Scientific Quality)
- ✓ Level of international and multidisciplinary integration (*European scientific added value*)
- ✓ Qualification of the applicants in the field (suitability for the CRP; international standing)

EUROCORES Procedures

Phase 2 - Stage 2 - Ranking criteria



- ✓ Scientific quality of the CRP and IPs
- ✓ Originality / Novelty
- ✓ Feasibility (incl. suitability of methodology)
- ✓ Level of trans-national collaboration between IPs
(*European scientific added-value*)
- ✓ Level of multi-disciplinarity (integration within CRP)
- ✓ Qualification of the applicants in the field
- ✓ *Overlap with existing (or applied for) projects*
- ✓ *Suitability of budget items (value for money)*

EUROCORES quality assurance



- **EUROCORES Committee (=> future ESF Science Advisory Board)**
 - ⇒ Ensure overall quality
 - ⇒ Ensure transparent high quality peer review
 - ⇒ Advice on theme selection
 - ⇒ Advice on viability
 - ⇒ Appoint independent review panel
- **High quality independent review panels**
- **Clear conflict of interest rules**
- **Strong science management through ESF based EUROCORES Programme Coordinators**
 - ⇒ programme and project selection;
 - ⇒ scientific networking;
 - ⇒ building of synergies with related national and international programmes and initiatives;
 - ⇒ programme management



More information:

www.esf.org/eurocores

EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION