

EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION
SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

Who am I ?

- I am NOT employed by ESF !
- I am an academic from Cardiff University, Wales, UK
- My major research interest at present is focused on CMB polarization
- Co-PI on QuaD and PI of the Clover projects
- I am here as UK member of the ESF Physical Sciences and Engineering Standing Committee which is part-funding this workshop, to say a few words about ESF
- (ESF words) (WKG words)....

Europe Needs Science

ESF provides a common platform for Member Organisations (MOs) in order to:

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

ESF aims to serve the needs of the European research community in a global context.

ESF is an independent organisation

Science Needs Europe



- 77 Member Organisations in 30 countries, beyond the European Union
- Research funding organisations
- Research performing organisations
- Academies

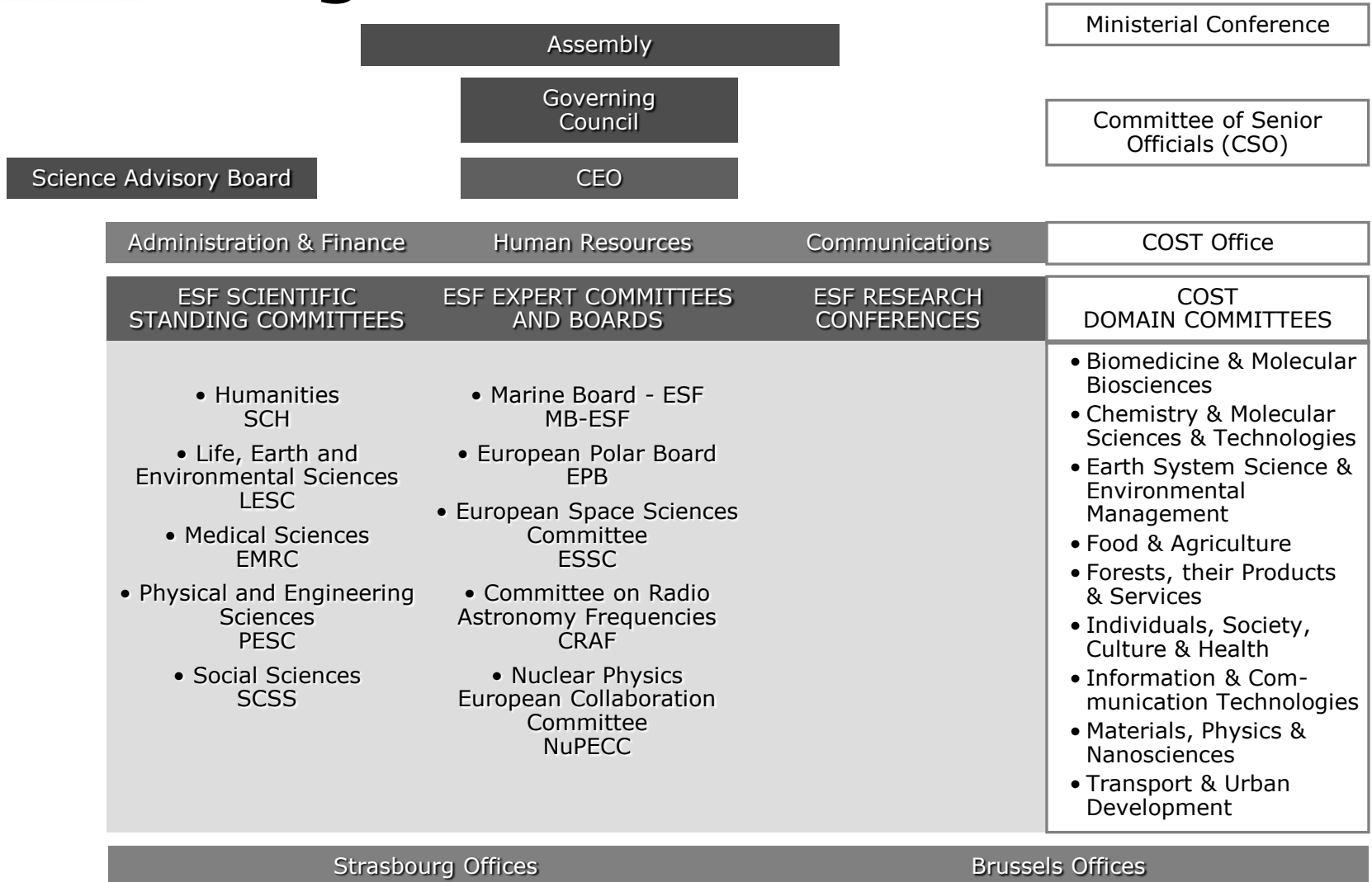
ESF in ERA

- Securing a place in an ERA (European Research Area) that is changing and evolving rapidly is a key challenge
- ESF will play a complementary role to the European Research Council (ERC) by focusing on MO co-ordination
- A strengthened focus on researcher-led science will further enhance ESF's place in the ERA
- To do this ESF needs the continued commitment and support of researchers in its referee pool and committees in order to ensure funding from MOs
- This is particularly so as it seems the Commission is raising the profile and budget of 'COST' (see later) which is more focused on technology than pure science

Three decades of ESF science

- Established 1974
- Independent, non-governmental
- Offices in Strasbourg and Brussels
- Budget: 45M€
- (leveraged) Networking Budget: 1.3B€

Organisation



Scientific Domains

- Physical and Engineering Sciences
- Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Medical Sciences
- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Space Sciences
- Marine Science
- Polar Science

New Strategic Plan



Our pillars

- Science Strategy
- Science Synergy
- Science Management

Science Strategy

Foresight and Advice

- Forward Looks
- Member Organisations Fora
- Exploratory Workshops
- Policy Briefings

Forward Looks

- Medium - long term scientific perspectives
- Multidisciplinary topics viewed from a European level
- Brings together scientists and policy makers from ESF Member Organisations
- Wide consultation
- Major reports and action plans should result

MO Fora

- Output oriented, issue related venues of MOs, involving others as appropriate to develop joint actions
- Actions: to benefit MOs strategy development and/or lead to the development of
 - Best practices
 - Common procedures
 - Cooperative activities
- Time limited activities (one year)
- A good example of ESF using its wide pool of potential experts to provide specialised advice as requested by individual organisations

Exploratory Workshops

- Normally one-off specialist meetings
- 'Spearheading' topics
- 'Bottom-up' through Open Call
- Occasionally 'top-down' on key topics
- May lead to ESF or other *à la carte* programmes; FP proposals; position statements
- 25-30 scientists involved
- Awards: max 15000 €/meeting but usually leverage significantly more from other sources due to prestige of ESF approval
- In my view the best and most productive thing that ESF supports !

Policy briefings

- Address selected science policy issues of key concern to the Foundation's Member Organisations and the wider scientific community
- By drawing on the advice and expertise of the ESF's membership, the briefings aim both to provide information and to promote discussion

Science Synergy

Cooperation with MOs

- ESF Research Networking Programmes
- ESF Research Conferences
- EUROCORES – European Collaborative Research

Research Networking Programmes

- Coordination of major scientific endeavours over a five-year period
- Supported by ESF Member Organisations through additional *à la carte* funding
- Typically include workshops, inter-laboratory exchanges, fellowship programmes and dissemination
- 'Core' Steering Group of 8-12 scientists
- May link to other initiatives, including the Framework Programme
- Financing in the range of €90k - €250k per annum (again leveraged by ESF prestige)
- A recent example was 'Cosmology in the Laboratory' which I have just read the final report on and seems to have been extremely successful. Coordinated by Prof Tom Kibble at Imperial College, London

EUROCORES

(European Collaborative Research)

- To provide European critical mass in specific topics
- To develop multilateral funding collaboration
- Open and transparent variable geometry
- International peer review essential
- Funding remains national but 'networked' via ESF

Research Conferences

- High profile framework for scientific discussion on frontline topics
- Bring together younger and established leaders
- Partnerships with others in Europe
- ESF World Conferences: Japan, US, China, International Partners
- 100-200 participants
- Limited number of attractive venues

Science Management

Implementation of Activities

- European CO-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST)
- EuroBioFund

COST

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical research

- Origin:
 - Started 1971: Ministerial Conference,
 - 19 Member States
- Current Participation:
 - 2006: 34 COST Member States + 1 cooperating state (Israel)
- COST Actions:
 - Concerted Actions (Networks) of nationally funded R&D projects

ESF + COST leading to a One-Stop Shop for research networking

EuroBioFund

New strategic initiative to enable greater Interaction among European life sciences Funders and researchers. Objectives:

- Provide a platform for funding organisations and life science researchers to foster joint research initiatives through networking and brokerage: **EuroBioForum**
- Help organise research communities and facilitate bottom-up generation of research programmes of European scale and scope: **EuroBioGenerator**
- Shape a new funding way in Europe by helping to develop joint investments and funding of life sciences research: **EuroBioAccess**

PESC

- **Forward Looks:**
currently 1
- **Exploratory workshops:**
annual ESF Call in March covering all scientific areas - 12 workshops being funded by PESC in 2008
- **Research Networking programmes:**
currently 30
- **EUROCORES:**
currently 6 running

www.esf.org/pesc

PESC

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