

Gender and Sexual Diversity in its Social, Cultural and Political Context (EuroLGBT)

DRAFT Call for Outline Proposals

What is EUROCORES?

The ESF European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) Programmes offer a flexible framework for researchers in Europe to work on questions which are best addressed in large-scale collaborative research programmes.

The EUROCORES Programmes allow excellent researchers in the various participating countries to collaborate in research projects 'at the bench'. They also allow, when appropriate, colleagues in non-European countries, for example the US, to participate. The Programmes encourage and anticipate networking and collaboration between researchers in order to achieve synthesis of scientific results across the programme, to connect with related programmes, and to disseminate findings.

The EUROCORES Programmes allow national research funding organisations in Europe and beyond to support top-class research in and across all scientific areas, by matching their strategic priorities with the needs articulated by the scientific community.

Final funding decisions on the projects and the research funding remain with the national funding organisations, based on a single international peer review process operated by ESF. Financed by the participating national Funding Organisations, ESF also provides support for networking between the researchers and for the scientific synthesis of research results and their dissemination. In this way, the EUROCORES Scheme complements the EC Framework Programme and other collaborative funding schemes at European level.

For further information see:
<http://www.esf.org/eurocores>

Gender and Sexual Diversity in its Social, Cultural and Political Context (EuroLGBT)

Following agreement with XX funding organisations in *Country A, Country B, Country C, Country D, Country E, Country F, Country G, Country H, Country I, Country J, Country K, Country L, Country M, Country N, Country O and Country P* the European Science Foundation is launching a Call for Outline Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) to be undertaken within the EUROCORES Programme EuroLGBT. The Programme aims to support high quality multidisciplinary collaborative research in Europe, with involvement of leading scientists from outside Europe, when appropriate.

The research phase of EuroLGBT will run for three years⁽¹⁾ and involves national research funding as well as support for networking and dissemination activities. The research grants will be provided directly to the eligible and successful Principal Investigators by their respective national funding organisations. The networking and dissemination support, also financed by the national organisations, is centrally managed by the ESF.

Outline Proposals are to be submitted by *xth February 2011*. It is expected that Full Proposals will be invited by *xth March 2011* with *xx May 2011* as expected deadline for submission.

A programme-specific website can be consulted for the latest updates at <http://www.esf.org/eurolgbt>.

Background and objectives

The EUROCORES programme on "Gender and Sexual Diversity in its Social, Cultural and Political Context" will explore how a better understanding of non-mainstream sexual and gendered identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex identities, can provide important insights into a wide variety of issues fundamental to the understanding of society and culture: the relationship of the individual to society; the meaning of modernity; the nature of social and cultural change; the interaction between local, national, transnational and global socio-cultural configurations; divergences and convergences among moral, ethical, religious, and political ideologies; and the relationships between different segments of contemporary societies (social classes, ethnic groups, faith groups, etc.).

¹ The formal duration of EUROCORES programmes is three years; however, individual researchers will apply to the national or other funding organisations under their respective rules, which may allow for more than three years' funding. No networking and coordination support will be available outside the formal duration of the programme.

Gender and sexual minorities are at the fulcrum of sometimes acrimonious political and philosophical debates, as nation-states and societies differ widely in legal arrangements, social dynamics of "acceptability", and state-based remedial or punitive measures. Long reduced to the exceptional status of pathological and marginal subjects, the categories of people in question are now viewed as pivotal to an understanding of the workings of gender and sex and of processes of change in society, culture, politics and science. While they differ in their constitution, visibility, politics and relationship to institutions such as medicine, the law, and the state, they also exhibit compelling similarities, which is apparent in the use of the acronym "LGBT" to refer to them collectively. All call into question the unproblematised conflation of gender identity, the biology of sex, and heterosexual desire. All have experienced comparable historical trajectories, from classification as medical aberrations and criminal types to normalised categories (or at least categories in search of normalisation), though indeed some forces seek to recriminalize and re-medicalize them. Care for transgender and intersex people has been the catalyst for radical transformations in biomedicine, which have provoked a rethinking of body technologies. Transgender categories have also been the focus of controversies in the "psy" disciplines (psychology, psychiatry, psychotherapy) and international debates concerning treatments, thus contributing to a rethinking of the constitution of scientific knowledge and the power relations that underlie it.

Research on LGBT dynamics and experiences has generated to date a very robust corpus of work, but this research is overwhelmingly based in and focused on North American contexts. By contrast, research on gender and sexuality in Europe has encountered difficulties in achieving scientific and institutional legitimacy, which has made it all the more difficult for researchers to mobilize. This EUROCORES programme aims to provide synergistic impetus to this research, bringing scholars together and encouraging the development of a specifically European approach to issues that have hitherto been thought of as "belonging" elsewhere.

Scientific goals

The EuroLGBT programme particularly encourages comparative research that explores differences, similarities and generalisations across social groups, societies and nation-states. Because LGBT identities are catalysing social, cultural and political change in many societies of the world and a re-thinking of the core institutions of society, the research that the programme seeks to promote will be attentive to dynamics of historical and contemporary transformations.

Proposals answering to this call will be firmly grounded in social theory and theories of culture, and will be designed to contribute new insights to theory beyond the confines of gender and sexuality. The programme seeks to demonstrate how a focus on non-normative gender and sexual identities and practices can shed light on a wide range of concerns beyond gender and sexuality studies. The research will be attentive to biological issues, although it will also recognize that the complexities of the boundary between biology and society renders futile any attempt to identify it with any precision. Every aspect of human activity, ultimately, is enabled by the very complex interaction of the biological and the social. Researchers will recognize that biological research on sexuality and gender (such as underlies the hypotheses commonly proposed in the evolutionary psychology paradigm) is itself embedded in a social, political and historical context, and that social and biological scientists have a great deal to learn from the exploration of this embedding.

Research topics

The programme invites collaborative projects that focus on one or more of the following broadly defined thematic foci:

- (a) Transformations in kinship, reproduction, alliance, and other significant social relations
- (b) The interface of global and local forces in the formation of identities
- (c) The body, technology, and medicine
- (d) Human rights and their relationship to changing political and legal conditions

The collaborative projects may be grounded in a broad spectrum of disciplinary traditions across the social sciences and humanities, including anthropology, sociology, history, education, geography, cultural studies, political science, social psychology and legal studies, as well as interdisciplinary endeavours such as gender and sexuality studies, LGBT studies, masculinity studies, science and technology studies, media studies, developmental studies, and disability studies. Researchers may fruitfully seek inspiration from critical theory focussed on the interpretation of literary and other textual sources. Projects may also bring together scholars from various intellectual backgrounds with the explicit purpose of generating added value from interdisciplinarity.

The gathering and theoretically informed analysis of empirical data will constitute an important part of the research activities, and researchers' commitment to this approach will help define a distinctly European approach to LGBT research. Data collection can take place through fieldwork,

the analysis of documentary and textual sources, or elicitation through interviews, questionnaires, surveys, oral histories, virtual data collection and other qualitative methods. Data may be qualitative, quantitative or both, and researchers will be attentive to the advantages and limitations of the methods employed. Comparison will figure prominently in all projects (across nations, social groups, cultural contexts, temporal contexts, etc.), which may focus on Europe or elsewhere.

(a) Transformations in kinship, reproduction, alliance, and other significant social relations

Since the last decades of the twentieth century, kinship and marriage have undergone profound transformations in Europe and beyond. These transformations have opened up new forms of kinship, partnership and parenthood to LGBT persons and revolutionized the life courses of many. It is also in part as a result of LGBT political activism that these transformations have taken place.

These dynamics and their consequences have been the focus of some research. However, the position of LGBT people, legal regimes and changes in forms of kinship and alliance vary widely between countries. Projects may address how LGBT people transform friendships into fictive but significant kinship ties ("families they choose"), particularly when faced with hostility in their biological families, and how the resulting arrangements articulate with biological families. LGBT political activism has given rise to the institutional recognition of novel family forms (e.g. same-sex marriage, intentional one-person family structures), which have in turn posed fundamental questions about the place of gender and sexuality in kinship and marriage. Projects may focus comparatively on LGBT people's avenues and access to parenthood (e.g. traditional procreation, reproduction through assisted reproductive technologies, surrogate motherhood, legal or de facto adoption) and on the way in which they articulate their identity as parents. LGBT families, institutionalized or not, and experimental forms of multiple parenting redefine traditional roles and statuses and shed light on the structural transformations of institutions. Transgender families, which have only now become the object of study, compel us to ask particularly intriguing questions. In (post-)industrial societies, where transgender identity generally involves a gender transition in adulthood, the transitioning of one family member requires fundamental transformations in their relationships with spouses, children, parents, and siblings. They raise uncomfortable but deeply significant questions, such as how one can be at once father and woman, or mother and man, and how new reproductive technologies (e.g., the preservation of gametes prior to sex reassignment surgery) are transforming society.

(b) The interface of global and local forces in the formation of identities

A comparative approach seeks to understand various socio-cultural forms of identity in contrast with one another, while also being attentive to the fact that these modes always affect one another, particularly in the context of the global circulation of people, information, technology, political action, legal concepts, and moral regimes. LGBT people define themselves in both local and non-local terms. For example, transgender Westerners often seek inspiration from "traditional" transgender categories, through which they develop a critique of what they see as the restrictive sexual binary of Western modernity. In turn, non-Western transgender people are increasingly tapping into medical technology developed in the course of the twentieth century (e.g. sex-reassignment surgery or hormone therapy), or alternatively redefining themselves as gay or lesbian. Global flows may also give rise to new structural constraints. The vilification of homosexuality in some parts of Africa has authorized repressive regimes that were formerly absent and provoked a fundamental re-thinking of morality, colonialism, and modernity. The AIDS crisis has moved issues that were hitherto smothered in silence to the foreground of public discourse, in ways that have engendered conflict in many places. Medical and public health authorities have struggled to develop tools to engage with different identities, behaviours and structures, by developing, for example, the problematic label "men who have sex with men" to characterize categories that defy Western understandings of how desire, behaviour and identity should converge. Attention to these dynamics can offer a unique window into the convergence of local and global dynamics in the workings of identity formation, social relations and change.

(c) The body, technology, and medicine

In the last two centuries, minority sexualities and identities have undergone complex processes of pathologisation and depathologisation. The medicalisation of transsexualism and later "Gender Identity Dysphoria" (GID) has stimulated the development of surgical technologies, which has led to both the normalisation and the marginalisation of transgender people: a GID diagnosis provides access to medical care and often authorizes changes in legal status, but it also confines the transgender person to a stigmatised space. For transgender people, medicine represents at once an extraordinary opportunity to live better through the technological fashioning of bodies and a formidable structure of regulation and gatekeeping, through stringent psychiatric assessments or prohibitive medical costs, for instance. For many intersex people, by contrast,

the extensive surgical intervention to which they are often subjected in infancy to make them conform to a particular idea of sexual normality (often despite the absence of health-threatening conditions) can generate deep-seated trauma. Medicine offers new possibilities and constraints to other LGBT groups, such as assisted reproduction. Differences in legal and other regulations have given rise to "medical tourism" and to the active circulation of information through the Internet. The emergence of Thailand as a world centre of expertise in sex-reassignment surgery has shattered assumptions about the international distribution of medical competence.

The diversity of opportunities and access has given rise to different kinds of physical bodies. All body forms, from the hyper-feminine curves of some transgender celebrities to the subversive hybridity of others, can be the objects of differing evaluations, from aberrant to normalised to celebrated. Similar re-evaluations of norms of femininity and masculinity extend to non-medical forms of body modification (e.g., bodybuilding) and their display (e.g., in beauty pageants and bodybuilding competitions), and demand close comparative analysis of their implications for gender and identity in late modernity.

In the daily lives of the persons concerned (for both LGBT people and medical professionals), what ultimately matters is not psychiatric taxonomy but the possibilities open to them, and thus an empirical approach is particularly relevant to an exploration of the issues. There is an urgent need for comparative research, since medical practices take on very different configurations across countries, and are grounded in a country-specific legal framework, within a global context. The new patterns in the transnational circulation of people, information and medical expertise demonstrate that medicine is not a monolithic and universal entity, but a deeply diverse one, embedded in local political, legal, economic, cultural and moral contexts.

(d) Human rights and their relationship to changing political and legal conditions

LGBT identities raise complex questions about discourses and practices of human rights, recognition and citizenship. In the European context, the 2000 Treaty of Amsterdam includes sexuality (but not transgender identity) among the categories against which EU law forbids discrimination, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a Resolution on Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity on 29 April 2010. A language of "rights" and "recognition" is increasingly employed by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) to extend matters pertaining to social justice beyond the traditionally recognized categories (e.g., gender, nationality, ethnicity).

However, these developments have given rise, in newer EU countries as well as beyond, to divisive debates about citizenship and belonging, as well as about political relationships between core and periphery, debates that have not been subject to systematic comparative analysis to date.

Employing human rights arguments for the protection of gender and sexual minorities is fraught with complexity. First, the universality of human rights has been subjected to conceptual appraisal, while at the same time LGBT activists have critiqued the equality-based agenda assumed by human rights discourse, arguing instead for the recognition of difference. Such challenges to the human rights approach resonate with the much broader social and political critiques that see global human rights as yet another instance of Western hegemony. Second, a fundamental ambiguity persists in the very premise of human rights, in that "protection" for gender and sexual minorities goes hand-in-hand with increased state intervention in intimate citizenship. Third, problems arise when human rights for gender and sexual minorities are based on the presumed "innateness" of identity: if LGBT identity is biologically given, it resides outside of the will and thus must be legally protected, but if it is not a biological fact, it is assumed to be a matter of individual will and thus does not deserve protection. The multiple cultural assumptions underlying such arguments have extensive implications, and yet they are rarely subject to scrutiny.

This Call for Proposals encourages critical and empirical investigations into how human rights operate in specific social and national contexts, and potentially rub up against and are negotiated alongside, religious ideologies and local moral climates and regimes. Projects will analyse the complexities of human rights legislation at the national and super-national levels, while investigating the potential to develop a politics of human rights that avoids conceptual and substantive pitfalls. Projects will facilitate a highly topical reflection on the broader relationship between human rights and law, policy, social, cultural and political debate, and social movement organisation around gender and sexuality. Together, these areas of address represent pioneering research that will have significant impacts on both scholarship and policy at a European and international level.

(e) Convergence between themes

The four thematic foci are interconnected. For example, the emergence of "medical tourism" and its growing importance for transgender persons seeking affordable and expert surgical care are relevant not only to the investigation of the body and medical technology, but also to the investigation of the global circulation of scientific knowledge. A research project focusing on these

issues may also find it fruitful to compare transgender medical tourism with other kinds of medical tourism, associated with cosmetic surgery for example. Researchers are encouraged to explore both these interconnections and the relationship of the above foci to other themes that do not implicate sexuality or gender directly. As third-wave feminist scholarship has insisted since the 1980s, gender and sexual identities are always informed by other parameters of social difference (e.g. race, ethnicity, age, religion, citizenship, etc.) and structural dynamics (e.g., colonialism, state formation, globalization). The goal of this programme is to explore the resulting complexities and intersections, and not to isolate research on particular forms of identification.

research results will not further contribute to adverse conditions, and will be encouraged to orient the research to efforts to reduce these dynamics. EuroLGBT project proposals should be specific about how they intend to deal with these issues.

The Scientific Committee of the EuroLGBT programme will take an active interest in the ethical compliance of the funded projects and is expected to discuss this issue on a regular basis during the course of the programme.

Project structure

The topics of this call for proposals entail more than a superficial acquaintance with the people on whom the research focuses. Researchers who take part in specific project groups are therefore encouraged to focus on particular cases over an appreciable period of time (e.g. one year), rather than to focus on many different cases over short periods of time.

Infrastructure requirements

This call for proposals is interdisciplinary and emphasises comparative, empirical research, since the topics have been subjected to little on-the-ground investigation. Participating funding organisations should be prepared to fund ethnographic and other kinds of fieldwork-based research, which will entail release time from teaching for the researchers. In addition, the need to encourage a younger generation of scientists requires support for PhD students.

Ethics

Researchers will be attentive to ethical and legal requirements applicable to their respective disciplines, relating to matters such as the protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects, the use of consent documents, and the storage of research data. They will abide by legal requirements regarding research permits from local and national authorities, but they will also be sensitive to the possibility that the topic of their research may present problems in fulfilling such legal requirements. Scholars will be expected to exercise heightened sensitivity when their research focuses on people whose identity and actions render them vulnerable to stigmatization, marginalization or violence. They will be expected to ensure that the form and content of their

Guidelines for applications

(Outline and Full Proposals)

This Call for Proposals is for Outline Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects (CRP). Proposers should be individual scientists (or research groups represented by individual scientists) who are eligible for funding from a national funding organisation participating in the EUROCORES Programme EuroLGBT.

Scientists or groups not applying for or not eligible to apply for funding from such an organisation can be associated to a proposal when their scientific added value can be demonstrated. Participation of Associate Partners in a project must be fully self-supporting and will not be financially sponsored by the participating funding organisations.

Proposals are only eligible if they fulfil all of the following **criteria**:

- Proposals must involve, as a minimum, three eligible Principle Investigators (PIs) from **three different countries**.
- A maximum of 50% of the total number of Individual Projects (IPs) in a Collaborative Research Project (CRP) can come from one country.
- Proposals must involve more PIs than Associated Partners (APs).

Applications should envisage three years of research. Taking into account the two-stage proposal selection and approval process (described below), the successful projects are expected to begin their research phase activities during **March - June 2012**.

Online submission of applications

Outline and Full Proposals will be submitted online. Applicants should follow the proposal structure as indicated in the application template for Outline Proposals available on the Programme website at:
<http://www.esf.org/eurolgbt>.

Links to information on national funding eligibility and requirements as well as to a EUROCORES Glossary and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available on the Programme website.

Prior to submitting Outline Proposals, all applicants must contact their national funding organisations in order to verify eligibility and

to ensure compliance with their national grant requirements and regulations. The list of participating organisations and their nominated contact persons is included on the last page of this document.

At the time of the online submission of the Outline Proposal, the Project Leader will be asked to confirm on behalf of the consortium that all the Principal Investigators in the CRP have consulted their national funding organisations and are eligible for funding from these organisations.

Outline Proposals

Outline Proposals are invited by **xth February 2011.**

Outline Proposals will be examined by the participating funding organisations for formal eligibility. Therefore, it is crucial that all applicants requesting funding contact their national funding organisation prior to submitting their proposals. In compliance with the rules and regulations of the participating national funding organisations, the requested funds under the EUROCORES Programme EuroLGBT may include salaries for scientific and technical staff, equipment, travel costs and consumables within the project. The amounts requested from each funding organisation participating in the call must be clearly specified. National policies may also require the proposal to contain specific additional information. Applicants should be aware that the participating funding organisations can make adjustments to the requested funds in order to bring these in line with their normal grant regulations and standards.

As described below, applications will be reviewed according to specific assessment criteria in a two-stage procedure. The goal is to select scientifically excellent proposals which fit well within the scope of the programme and have significant potential to add value to its achievements.

At the outline stage, the Review Panel will select proposals based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the Call for Proposals
- Novelty and originality
- European added value (scientific)
- Qualifications of the applicants

An Outline Proposal must comprise:

- A short description of the CRP (max. 1200 words, including objectives, milestones, methodologies (e.g. experiments and fieldwork);
 - Short description of how (and why) the partners contributing to the CRP will work together and how their contributions will be integrated;
- Short CVs of Project Leader (PL), all PIs and Associate Partners, including five most relevant publications (max. one page each);
- Estimated budget (consistent with the rules of relevant national funding organisation), tabulated according to a provided template.

Associated Partners (APs) are also considered part of a CRP and will be assessed as such at both the Outline and Full Proposal stage.

It will be assumed that arrangements for the handling of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) will be in place within projects, following the applicable national legislation and national funding organisation's regulations. Applicants are strongly urged to have such arrangements in place, covering all research groups (including any associated groups) before the start of the projects. It is expected that the results obtained by the projects supported under this EUROCORES Programme will be placed in the public domain, through standard scientific dissemination activities.

It is also expected that compliance with all other relevant national or international regulations on research (for example ethics) will have been affirmed before funding is granted. It is the responsibility of applicants to clarify any such matters (if applicable) with their national contact points.

Full Proposals

Full Proposals will be invited following the recommendations of the Review Panel. The deadline for Full Proposals will be announced later, but is expected to be around **xxth May, 2011**.

Please note that only applicants who have submitted an Outline Proposal can submit a Full Proposal.

For the Full Collaborative Research Project (CRP) Proposals, the most important selection criterion is "scientific quality". Other criteria include interdisciplinarity (according to the scope of the call), qualifications of the applicants, level of integration and collaboration, feasibility and appropriateness of methodologies, European added value, relation to other projects (complementarities versus risk of overlaps and double-funding) and suitability of the requested budget.

The Full Proposals will be assessed by at least three independent external expert referees selected by the ESF. The expert referees are selected from a pool of scientists suggested by the participating funding organisations, the Review Panel and the ESF office. The names of all referees used in the international peer review of EUROCORES programmes, together with the names of those who have contributed to the peer review process in other ESF instruments, will be published on the ESF website once in a given year.

The referee reports will be made available (anonymously) to the applicants for their information and if necessary for their comments and clarifications. The Review Panel will rank all Full Proposals based on the assessment of the Full Proposal, the anonymous referee reports and the applicant's responses to these.

The Review Panel will create a rank-ordered list of the strongest Full Proposals and will subsequently make recommendations to the Management Committee for the funding of these proposals. The Management Committee assigned to each programme comprises representatives of all the participating funding organisations.

The actual granting of the funds to the Individual Projects will be based on the Review Panel's ranked list. The funding cut-off will be determined based on the total amount of funds available in each participating Funding Organisation and how the Individual Projects figure on the list. The use of funds in a project will be subject to the national requirements and regulations of each participating Funding Organisation.

Full proposals must include sound and well-argued scientific cases both at the level of the consortium's collective objectives and in terms of the expected contributions of each of the Individual Projects in the consortium. Full Proposals must also include a list of all participants and their contact information and short CVs, detailed tabulated budgets for the

whole CRP and for each project within it. Full Proposals could include other necessary supporting information. A coherent and common scientific case must be made throughout the proposal to demonstrate a collective and collaborative aim and for scientific synergy and integration of multinational expertise. In addition, the amount requested from each national funding organisation has to be clearly and separately specified. Detailed instructions on requirements and how to complete the application forms will be made available when inviting Full Proposals.

The **Project Leader** (PL) will be the main point of contact between the ESF and the CRP for the whole duration of the project. He/she will be responsible for the flow of information and communication between the ESF and all the participants in the CRP. The PL will represent the Collaborative Research Project in relation to its participation in programme activities and for the fulfilment of reporting requirements for the CRP as a whole and for the contributions of the individual Principal Investigators in the CRP.

In addition to their normal scientific and collaborative activities within the CRP, all **Principal Investigators** will be responsible for dealing with the requirements concerning the contributions of their national funding organisation, and for supporting the Project Leader in the overall progress of the CRP, including organising and participating in networking activities and in the fulfilment of reporting requirements.

Programme Structure and Management

Programme Structure

The overall responsibility for the governance of each individual EUROCORES programme lies with a *Management Committee*, whose members include one representative from each participating funding organisation in the programme (usually a senior science manager), together with an ESF representative.

Proposal assessment and selection are the responsibility of an international, independent *Review Panel*. The members of this panel are leading scientists, appointed by the ESF following suggestions from participating Funding Organisations. The membership of the Review

Panel will be available on the Programme website for information. The Review Panel is also expected to monitor the overall scientific progress of the programme.

The Scientific Committee is formed by the Project Leaders of all funded CRPs and will be responsible for the overall scientific progress of the programme, including for the preparation of a work plan for the overall programme activities, including networking and dissemination. The Scientific Committee will also advise and support the EUROCORES Programme Coordinator in the coordination of the programme.

Programme Networking

Networking activities are designed to strengthen the scientific objectives of the EUROCORES Programme by promoting coherence and synergy in the activities of the scientific community involved. This will help to produce the European added value which is a main objective of all EUROCORES Programmes.

Networking and collaboration within EUROCORES Programmes take place at two levels:

1. Between the various Individual Projects within each Collaborative Research Project (CRP) (intra-CRP activities), and;
2. Between the funded CRPs in the programme (cross-CRP activities).

The intra-CRP activities must be supported through the individual research grants the participants receive from the national funding organisations in the given CRP.

The cross-CRP activities are centrally funded by the ESF through contributions from the participating organisations to the EUROCORES Programme.

The intra-CRP collaboration is motivated by the nature of the CRP's research objectives, i.e. by the scope and the complexity of the questions it deals with. In a CRP, the participating groups have the opportunity to gather the required critical mass to successfully address the objectives and challenges of their project.

The cross-CRP networking and collaboration is inspired by the aims and the nature of the EUROCORES Programme as a whole. The themes of EUROCORES Programmes are selected because they demonstrate a clear need for collaboration in the proposed field. The funded

CRPs will collectively establish and streamline this new collaboration. To this end, the CRPs will engage the programme participants and, when of clear benefit, colleagues from outside the programme in joint activities such as:

- Programme-wide meetings or conferences;
- Working group meetings for the exchange of information and results across the CRPs;
- Joint scientific meetings or summer schools;
- Short term visits;
- Development and delivery of joint training programmes;
- Seminars, workshops, symposia, invited sessions either stand-alone or as part of other larger events;
- Common web-facilities and publications.

Through active participation of scientists in the above mentioned activities, not only can existing collaborations be enhanced, but new and strategic partnership opportunities may also be identified.

Furthermore, these activities may provide opportunities to explore aspects of the programme which are not covered by the funded research projects.

The integrating activities between the CRPs should help to strengthen the field by building coherence within the existing and emerging research communities and will serve as platforms for the dissemination and outreach of the research conducted in the programme.

Project members are expected to participate annually in at least one cross-CRP activity.

When submitting your proposal, please note that the costs for networking within your CRP should be included in your proposal as part of the costs of meetings, travel and subsistence. Funds for networking between the CRPs will be centrally managed by the ESF through contributions from the participating funding organisations.

Programme evaluation

A mid-term evaluation involving the Review Panel will assess the overall progress of the Programme. The Review Panel may also comment on the CRPs' work plan in relation to the objectives of the overall Programme. A final evaluation at the end of the Programme will assess the overall achievements of the whole EUROCORES Programme.

Contacts in the participating organisations

As it is currently not known which Funding Organisations will support this programme, please contact your National Funding Organisation or Research Council to inquire about this programme.

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¹ The European Science Foundation (ESF) provides a platform for its Member Organisations to advance European research and explore new directions for research at the European level. Established in 1974 as an independent non-governmental organisation, the ESF currently serves 79 Member Organisations across 30 countries.