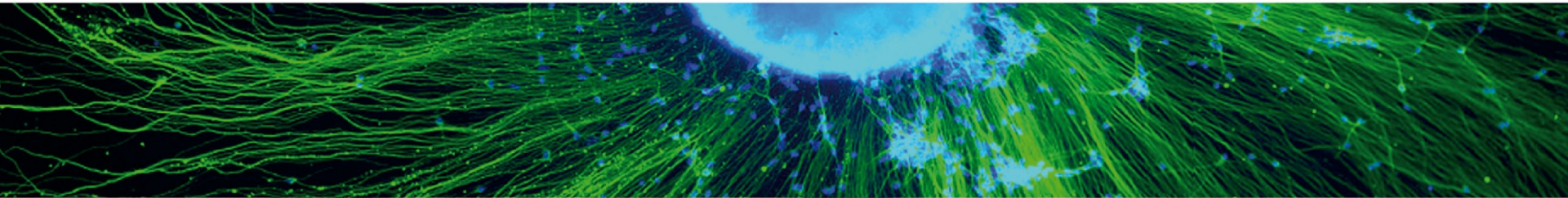




# European Science Foundation





# European Science Foundation (ESF)



ESF is an association of  
67 Member Organisations

- research funding organisations
- research performing organisations
- academies and learned societies

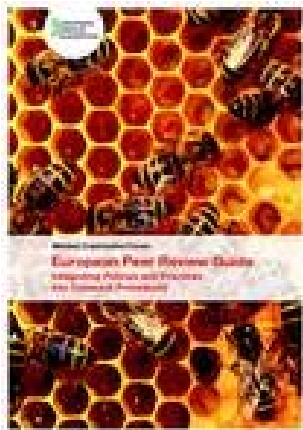
in 29 countries



# Peer Review at ESF

- European Peer Review Guide  
Endorsed by Members and very widely recognised as authoritative source
- ESF Peer Review Services
- ESF and gender
- The future

# European Peer Review Guide



- Derived from **strategic action** in EUROHORCs-ESF Road Map.
- Identifies **5 pillars** for supporting and sharing good practices of peer review:
  - core principles,
  - quality assurance,
  - process integrity,
  - governance structure
  - methodology.

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# European Peer Review Guide



- Core principles;
  - Excellence
  - Impartiality
  - Transparency
  - Appropriateness for purpose
  - Efficiency and speed
  - Confidentiality
  - Ethical and integrity considerations

# European Peer Review Guide



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# European Peer Review Guide



- **Endorsed** by
  - more than 30 national funding and performing organisations from 23 countries
  - the European Commission including,
    - the European Research Council (ERC)
    - the Research Executive Agency (REA).

<http://www.esf.org/publications/corporate-publications.html>





# Peer Review services for third parties

- Professional services to support competitive calls for proposals
- Modular approach:
  - *External expert evaluation of proposals*
  - *End-to-end management of competitive calls*
  - *Approach tailored to the size and scope of the projects to be supported*

## Why ESF?

- Integrity and independence
- Tremendous network of independent, highly-skilled reviewers
- Strong experience and know-how
- Quality controlled and optimised process and infrastructure
- Experienced scientific staff and efficient management of workflow processes



# Examples of ESF peer review

## Evaluation of Proposals

- **ESF programmes and activities**
- **External evaluations**
  - **European Space Agency**  
*ELIPS Programme – 2009*
  - **Europolar Consortium**  
*EUROclimate Programme - 2009*
  - **HERA – Humanities ERANet**  
*2005-2012*
  - **University of Bologna**  
*PRIN-FIRB preselection 2012*
  - **Universities of Torino and Piemonte Orientale**  
*CSP Call 2012*
  - **University of Naples**  
*CSP Call 2013*
  - **AXA Research Fund**  
*PostDoc fellowships scheme 2013-2014*
  - **GRAPHENE Flagship**  
*Call for consortium Extension*



# ESF and gender in science

- ESF promotes gender equality
  - in-house (staff and outside scientific experts recruited to our various panels)
  - externally (contributing to different strategic actions)
- The European Gender Summit (with Portia Ltd and the GenSET project)
  - high impact
  - attracting researchers and policy makers
  - the Gender Manifesto

<http://www.esf.org/serving-science/conferences/european-gender-summit-2012.html>



# Gender aspect of ESF Peer Review

- ESF strives to achieve gender balance in expert panels that review proposals.
- However, uneven results across disciplines (consistent with what happens in other organisations worldwide)
  - **Domains** The highest female participation is observed in Social Sciences committees (43%) and the lowest in Physical and Engineering Sciences (17%)
  - **Geography** ESF Exploratory Workshops: women's participation ranges from a 58,6% in Slovakia to a 6,7% in Japan

# ESF and gender

- COST action on gender
  - genderSTE – a targeted network of policy-makers and experts on gender, science and technology.
    - Objectives are to better integrate gender
      - Women's careers in science and technology through structural change of institutions
      - Disseminating existing research on the topic
      - Identifying gender dimensions relevant to environment-related Horizon2020 “Grand Challenges” and to the “Urban Europe” (JPI programme)

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a framework supporting cooperation among scientists and researchers in Europe

# FUTURE OUTLOOK

- ESF supports the Gender Summit, and continue to foster the gender dimension of research
- ESF participates in the gender conference organised in Lithuania (November 2013), “Structural change promoting gender equality in research organisations”.
- ESF (and former EUROHORCs) is transformed into [Science Europe](#)
- “Gender and Other Diversity Issues” is one out of nine Strategic Actions in Science Europe’s new [Roadmap](#)



Thank you for your attention

[www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)