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.
European Peer Review Guide

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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).

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

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