ESOF2012 Careers Programme
Call for Proposals

In 2012, Dublin will host the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF2012), Europe's largest multi-disciplinary scientific conference, from 11-15 July. See www.ESOF2012.org for further details. The Careers Programme will be a major aspect of ESOF2012 and will showcase the spectrum of career opportunities available for researchers at all stages of their career.

The ESOF2012 Careers Programme will address some of the major issues for researchers in Europe and proposals are invited under the three broad thematic areas listed below.

The call for proposals for programme sessions is open to individuals and organisations. We would welcome proposals targeting researchers with backgrounds in all fields of research, including the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as the Physical and Natural Sciences, Medicine and Technology.

1.   The 21st Century Researcher
Researchers face many challenges with increased demands on their time to be innovators, mentors and entrepreneurs in an ever-shrinking funding environment. Do funding agencies and universities adequately prioritise career development for researchers? Is the PhD still fit for purpose? Will the increased number of researchers demanded through national and EU policy lead to a dilution of quality?

Examples of topics include (but are not restricted to):
- Developing the next generation through novel PhD structures and researcher development programmes.
- The 21st century researcher's toolkit: mentoring and supervision; research integrity and ethics; publishing; peer review and open access; funding.
- Fellowships as a stepping-stone to Research Leadership.
- The "Social" Scientist: blogging, new publication and collaboration paradigms.
- Diversity and Equality in recruitment and teams.
- Delight and Distress of interdisciplinary research.
- Outreach to society: public, politicians and the media.
- Researchers and the EU's *Innovation Union 2020* initiative.

2.   The Diversity of Careers for Researchers

Are academic careers only for a minority of PhD graduates? Researchers may become entrepreneurs, business leaders, politicians, journalists and policy makers. What is the range of careers available to young researchers? How do we make these career paths more accessible? How do we make researchers more employable outside academia? Can we create new career choices for researchers?

Examples of topics include (but are <u>not</u> restricted to):
- Are there too many researchers with unrealistic expectations of an academic career?
- Beyond academia; careers for researchers in the private and public sector.
- Demand-side stimulus; how do we increase employers' appreciation of the added value of a PhD?
- Dual career couples; reconciling work and family.
- Will the Innovation Union policies increase the absorption of researchers into the economy?

3.   The Global Researcher

International mobility is an integral part of the process of research and of career development of the researcher. How do we ensure increased mobility doesn't cause a 'brain drain'? How do we stay connected with our research diaspora?

Examples of topics include (but are <u>not</u> restricted to):
- Experiences of global collaborations and distributed teams.
- How open are Europe's borders?
- Can open and transparent recruitment ever be a reality in Europe?
- Can social media be a new tool for countries to effectively reach out to their research diaspora?
- What are the challenges facing researchers in Eastern Europe?
- Equal access to infrastructures in Europe.
- "Brain drain" or "brain circulation"? Sharing knowledge with the developing world through collaboration and volunteering.
- Perspectives from internationally mobile researchers

Guidelines for Submissions

- The closing date for submissions is **Thursday, 15th September 2011** at 12h00 GMT.
- All submitted proposals will be evaluated by the ESOF 2012 Careers Programme Working Group. The Working Group may ask you to modify your proposal before selecting it for the programme.
- The following criteria will be used to evaluate session proposals:
  - Relevance;
  - Originality;
  - Quality;
  - Topicality;
  - Multi-national perspectives on panels of speakers;
  - Gender balance on panels of speakers;
  - Potential to generate media interest.
- Interactivity in sessions is highly desirable e.g. audience participation, real-time voting or questioning using social media etc.
- Proposals that encompass researchers with backgrounds in the **Humanities, Social Sciences, Medicine** and **Technology** as well as the **Physical** and **Natural Sciences** are particularly welcome.
- Participants are responsible for the organisation of their sessions and speakers. The usual set of conference facilities will be available. Proposed sessions must be entirely <u>self-financing</u>: this includes contributors' travel, accommodation and any organisational expenses. Neither Euroscience nor Dublin City of Science ESOF 2012 can provide financial support towards the cost of organising sessions. However, no registration fee will be charged to the selected participants.

Submission Procedure

To submit a proposal go to the ESOF database at <u>www.esof.eu/hub</u>. Create your free user account by registering with the database. Once you have completed your registration, log on to the system using your username and password. On your profile page, click on "**add a proposal**".

1. Title of Proposed Session
Please limit the length of title of the proposal to 150 characters. Bear in mind that it is important to attract an audience, so the title should be descriptive, interesting and/or provocative.

2. Choose an ESOF
Please select "ESOF 2012" from the drop down menu.

3. Choose Programme Stream

Please select "Careers Programme" from the drop down menu.

4. Choose a Theme

Please choose the most relevant theme under which to submit your proposal.

5. Choose a Session Format

Please choose a format for your session. Listed below are a number of suggested session formats but you are encouraged to choose innovative and creative formats for your proposal.

- Interactive round table(s): a flexible format with brief presentation and space for questions, answers and reactions.
- Pro and con debate on a controversial topic.
- Interview: proposers will provide an experienced interviewer and interviewee(s).
- Workshop: a flexible format, led by a speaker experienced in stimulating exchanges of views and using practical exercises.
- Traditional panel discussion: maximum 3-4 speakers (maximum 15 minutes each) followed by extended discussion with audience.
- Other: it is also possible to propose another format that suits your proposal, such as: Pecha Kucha (20 slides, 20 seconds per slide, followed by discussion), fishbowl session, lab sessions (computer based workshops), "unconference" sessions (facilitated, participant driven event with an informal approach), 'silent disco' format. Please explain why you have chosen your format and why it is preferable to those listed above.

Ensure that your proposal leaves sufficient time for questions and debate. *The session should be chaired by an experienced moderator nominated by you.*

6. Abstract

Provide a clear, succinct abstract detailing the proposed activity (maximum 1,500 characters). Highlight the relevance of the proposed subject and the objectives. Please do <u>not</u> list the speakers or summarise their presentations here.

7. Scheduling

Sessions will last for 90 minutes. The final 30 minutes should be reserved for questions and discussion.

8. Special Needs and Remarks

Please specify if you have any non standard technical needs, or if you need a special room configuration (e.g. multiple round tables, theatre style setting etc.), or make any other comment about your proposal.

9. Session Organiser

Please provide details of the session organiser who will be responsible for all organisational matters relating to the proposal. The Session Organiser must be present in Dublin. Please fill in all of the following fields:

- o First name
- o Surname
- o Institution/organisation
- o Address
- o Telephone number
- o Email

10. Speakers

Please provide a list of <u>confirmed</u> speakers. Please note that the Working Group Committee reserves the right to re-assess proposals if the final list of contributors differs substantially from the initial proposal. Please fill in all of the following fields for each speaker:

- o First name
- o Surname
- o Gender
- o Age Group
- o Discipline / field of expertise
- o Institution/organisation
- o Country
- o Contact details (address, telephone number, email)
- o Brief CV explaining why he/she has been chosen (maximum 1,000 characters)

Upon completion of the evaluation process, you will be contacted by the project team. Proposals may be rejected, accepted or conditionally accepted, subject to alterations suggested by the Working Group. For successful proposals the Working Group reserves the right to make editorial changes in the title and/or abstract, or to modify the allotted time. If you have any questions or comments relating to the programme contact the project team at info@esof2012.org.