CALL FOR CAREERS PROGRAMME SESSIONS

EuroScience Open Forum 2018

Toulouse (France), 9 – 14 July 2018

– SHARING SCIENCE: TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS –

Opportunities and challenges for early career researchers and innovators

What is ESOF?

The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) is the largest interdisciplinary meeting on science, innovation and their relation to society in Europe. This biennial event, created in 2004 by EuroScience, offers a unique framework for interaction and debate among scientists, industry, politicians, and society. Its purpose is to:

- Showcase the latest advances in science.
- Promote dialogue on the role of science and technology in society and public policy.
- Stimulate public interest, engagement, excitement, and debate about science and technology.
- Engage the European science community with global partners and perspectives.

ESOF includes *all disciplines* and the word "science" is meant to encompass the arts, social sciences, and humanities as well as physical and natural sciences, engineering and medicine.

ESOF 2018 is built around the motto "Sharing science: towards new horizons". In difficult periods, sharing is what allows a new take off.

ESOF in figures

4 000 + researchers, educators, business actors and policy makers

80 + countries

150 + conferences, workshops, scientific sessions

400 + journalists and science communicators

200 + events for the general public

35 000 + participants

Context of ESOF 2018

ESOF 2018 (9 – 14 July) will take place in Toulouse, a genuine city of science and innovation, in 2018, a year also designated as the European Year of Cultural Heritage. Toulouse has ancient roots, not only as a historical Roman city but also as a pioneer in academic tradition and innovative practices. Examples include the "Académie des Jeux floraux" which was the first academy in Europe, and many remarkable scientific figures, such as the mathematician Pierre de Fermat and renowned Nobel award winners in chemistry, physiology, medicine and economy, born or established in Toulouse. The Occitanie Region, whose capital is Toulouse, is ranked first in France for the ratio of R&D per capita. Toulouse and its region have a leading position in aeronautics, space industry, biotechnology, health and cancer research, agro-industry, among other domains.

ESOF 2018 will comprise a number of different programme tracks:

- a **Science** programme of seminars, workshops and debates of various formats on the latest research and related policy issues, structured around a programme of keynote speakers and the latest scientific issues.
- a **Science-to-Business** programme to explore the major issues for research within business and industry and the role of universities for business as well as public-private partnership endeavours.
- a **Careers** programme showcasing career opportunities across Europe and beyond for researchers at all stages of their careers.
- an **Exhibition** to showcase the best of academic, public and private research and innovative approaches in Europe and beyond.
- a **Public engagement** programme, Science in the City.
- a **Forum** to host other meetings, satellite events and networking opportunities (e.g. science policy advisers, young researchers' associations, student parliament and science media).

This call seeks session proposals for the Careers programme. We encourage proposals from all actors taking part in shaping careers based on or related to science, within the academic sector and outside: corporate R&D, science media and communication, and also various social actors whose voice must be heard within the debate on science and related career development.

The Careers programme is an integral component of ESOF 2018 and will provide opportunities for researchers, academia and industry representatives, training and educational institutes, science journalists and policy makers to engage with each other to reflect and develop ideas relating to the issues affecting early careers researchers, industrial researchers and researchers in all stages or transitions in their careers.

In the light of the European Commission's European Research Area (ERA) goal of an open labour market for researchers, which includes facilitating mobility, supporting training and ensuring attractive careers and initiatives, and the Human Resource Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R), the programme will provide the means for discussing and discovering career opportunities; career types and structures; current challenges and obstacles, and strategies and actions for furthering career development.

To achieve this, the ESOF 2018 dedicated Programme Committee is launching a call for session proposals, that will include a number of distinct components addressing the need to create attractive and sustainable career conditions for European researchers and innovators, to shape the international dimension of science based careers, and develop the potential of researchers to achieve impact and to drive change, with the general focus on "Sharing science: towards new horizons". We are looking for engaging and innovative proposals that contribute to one of the following themes described and developed below:

1. Successful career for European researchers in the global context

2. Social utility of researchers in Europe and beyond

3. European and global scientific community

4. Added value and characteristics of evolving research-based careers

1. Successful career for European researchers in the global context

This theme targets researchers and more generally actors in science based professions at all stages of their careers, from young early-career researchers to researchers who succeeded or who are considering a professional transition. We invite proposals for sessions that discuss both the opportunities and obstacles appearing over the course of European researchers' careers taking into account the international dimension of science. To achieve this, we encourage people who had a successful scientific or industrial career to testify, with a view to sharing their personal experience and possibly inspiring other researchers, including the youngest ones. Sessions could address topics such as geographical mobility for researchers in Europe and beyond; fluidity between research in the public sector and research in the private sector; business creation, entrepreneurship and management; transition and back and forth paths between academic and industrial careers and towards other opportunities; adaptation to emerging and future jobs in research and in other professional fields, impact of technological advances on the future of careers in research, role of funding schemes on career developments etc.

Some of the questions which could be addressed in this theme:
- How do human resource departments consider the PhD? What are the recruitment procedures, the general assessment, all over the continent and how do they compare with other areas? Are they equal? How is the quality level of a PhD degree estimated? How to define excellence and talent? What input has had the European human resources strategy for research (HRS4R)?
- What is the importance of international mobility of researchers? What are the strategies to build a career? How to seek the opportunities all over Europe and the world?
-How do evaluation systems and use of various metrics and indicators impact career development and career tracks?
-What are the bases of the differences between academic and commercial research? Are these differences a perception or a reality? Are there bridges between these two worlds? Are they efficient? What are the measures to facilitate the fluidity between public and private research?
- What can a science education and career provide for business creation? How to foster entrepreneurship? What are the European incentives?
- How to make a happy career change? What are the possibilities for a transition towards other opportunities for researchers? Can a PhD holder become a manager?

2. Social utility of researchers in Europe and beyond

This theme aims at reflecting, not only philosophically but also from a very practical perspective, on the position of researchers and innovators in society as well as on the importance of their role and contribution to social, political, economic and cultural life. ESOF 2018 is keen for researchers, innovators and other science based professionals to demonstrate that they are part of society and how they intend to show and increase their impact on everyone's everyday life. Therefore, we expect proposals for sessions covering topics such as innovative means of knowledge dissemination, information to citizens and valorisation of research with different audiences; possibilities and incentives for innovative collaboration and participation of civil society in research; position of researchers and innovators in the value chain; influence of scientists and researchers in both private and public sectors on the ethics debate, as well as on progress and human development, etc.

Some of the questions which could be addressed in this theme:

- What is the place of researchers or other science based professionals in civil society?
- Can scientific integrity be used as a measurement standard of progress and human development? Does the researcher have to be a scholar and a wise model? As knowledge producers, should researchers be a shield against obscurantisms? What is the place of researcher in the process of knowledge dissemination, within education partners and science mediators, science journalists? What is the place of art in relation to research? How to highlight research as a public good?
- What are the ethics debates within the research community? Is there a gap between academic and industry research ethics? What is the researcher's role in the ethics public debate?
- Researchers *de facto* trigger innovation, but what is their place in innovation processes, from the concept to the achievement? What are the means and other players to facilitate innovation?
- How do transformations of research practices (open access data, participative research, etc.) impact civil society and career development? What is the place of civil society in the research process?
- What is the role of the researcher in public policy? How do researchers spread science and communicate knowledge to policymakers? How to include such activities in career development? What is the place of researchers regarding societal challenges such as gender equality, etc.?

3. European and global scientific community

This theme addresses various issues and challenges relating to or stemming from the constitution of a European scientific community. ESOF 2018 seeks to explore what brings together scientific communities in Europe across national and disciplinary boundaries, and also what separates them. How do they develop the relation between such a community and other international science based communities? We seek session proposals from individuals, groups of researchers and organisations that have a particular interest in Europe, especially in European research and human resources policies and in transnational and cross-disciplinary scientific cooperation in Europe and between Europe and the rest of the world. Sessions included in this theme could focus more specifically on human resources strategy for researchers (HRS4R); on the difference of status between researchers living and working in Europe and outside Europe; on the access to European project funding and how to inform and facilitate such access to research funding; on ways to build and expand professional scientific networks beyond borders; on the link between scientists and policymakers, etc.

Some of the questions which could be addressed in this theme:
-Today's world is highly and permanently connected, and researchers are part of the global scientific community. How to spread science in this extremely diversified ecosystem with multiple entry points? For what purpose? How can researchers adapt their work in order to be open data producers? And to be open data users?
- How can an individual researcher stay efficiently connected to the scientific community? What are the tools researchers can use for networking? How to improve researcher networking output? How to use networking to improve a career plan?
- How is the European scientific community linked to European policymakers? What are the tools to facilitate European project funding?
- What does the HRS4R change for the researchers' status? What is the difference of status between researchers all over Europe and/or between disciplines?

4. Added-value and characteristics of evolving research-based careers

This theme is aiming to expose the multiple benefits of pursuing a scientific or research-based career, not only to scientists themselves, including PhD applicants and students, but also recruiters. The objective of the sessions included in this theme should be to underline what makes PhD degrees and research-based careers attractive, what are the possible advantages and obstacles to such careers, or to suggest ideas and solutions likely to enhance this attractiveness. Data or debates about the relevance of present education to research and science based careers and evolving needs of career development in academy and industry are welcome. Indeed, ESOF 2018 seeks to assess the added-value brought by research training and activities, which takes the form of very unique and valuable skills. As a consequence, we encourage session proposals dealing with topics such as the combination of both cutting-edge and cross-cutting competencies in the professional profiles of PhD holders and researchers in general; the adaptability of researchers to different fields of work and expertise; career guidance for PhD students and applicants with Master's or Bachelor's Degrees, etc.

Some of the questions which could be addressed in this theme:
- What is the attractiveness or the drawbacks of a PhD degree for applicants? For recruiters? What are the unique skills that a research based training can bring to individuals? How does that translate into advantages for enterprises recruiting PhD holders? How to highlight both cutting-edge and cross-cutting competencies brought by a PhD degree?
- What are the institutional measurement tools for this issue?
- In terms of careers, how is a PhD degree opening different perspectives than Master Degree?
- What are the tools to keep the connection between PhD students and the civil society?
- How can the researcher‘s knowledge, know-how and interpersonal skills stimulate their adaptability? How to use it for emerging career opportunities?

SELECTION AND SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

Submission process

The submission process is managed via ESCMP, accessed through the ESOF website. Instructions for submitting your proposal can be found through website www.esof.eu. The website also contains information about the other programme tracks.

Guidelines

Please read the following information carefully. The ESOF 2018 Career Programme Committee will take the following criteria into account when assessing proposals:

1. Duration

- Each session will last for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Proposed sessions are expected to balance the number of speakers per session and the time available for discussion.
- Be prepared to be flexible and patient, and be sure to leave sufficient time for wide ranging questions and debate.

2. Content

- Relevance to Careers Programme Call.*
- Quality, originality and topicality in order to attract delegates and ensure they benefit from new insights and discussion.*

3. Participants

- International perspective (the proposed speakers/participants within sessions should come from multiple countries and overall geographical balance will be sought).*
- Diversity (panels will be expected to maximize inclusivity and aim for an appropriate balance of gender and intergenerational balance).

4. Format

- Interactive sessions are required that maximize opportunities for discussion and dialogue. You are encouraged to make your session(s) as interactive as possible.
- Different formats are possible. Proposals for innovative and creative formats will be particularly welcomed (traditional panel discussions, interactive round tables, workshops, pro and con debates, hackathons, Ted-type talks, “My Thesis in 180 seconds” etc.).

** Essential criteria: Proposals must meet these criteria to proceed to evaluation but where possible proposers must address all of the criteria listed. At its discretion, the Careers Programme Committee may accept sessions which vary from the criteria if there is a strong rationale.*

Participants are responsible for the organisation of their sessions and speakers. **Neither EuroScience nor ESOF 2018 have supporting funds available to facilitate conference attendance.** Participants’ involvement in the event must be completely self-financed: this includes contributors’ travel, accommodation and any organisational expenses. However, no registration fee will be charged to the session organizer. The full range of conference facilities will be available.

Selection process

- The call is launched from 28 July 2017. **Submission are invited from 5 September 2017 and the deadline for session proposals is 31 October 2017 at 17:00 CET**. The submission process will be accessed through the ESOF website.

- All proposals will be reviewed and assessed by the Careers Programme Committee right after the closing of the call.

- The Careers Programme Committee may request revisions to proposals prior to acceptance. In this case, proponents will be advised during November 2017 and revised proposals should be resubmitted within two weeks for a second stage of assessment.

- Proponents whose proposals have been accepted or rejected during the first round of assessments will be informed by December 2017, and proponents of revised proposals will be informed of the outcome of the second stage of assessment by the end of December 2017.

- Please note that the Careers Programme Committee reserves the right to make minor modifications to titles and abstracts when compiling the programme.

Thank you for submitting a proposal to ESOF 2018 Careers Programme.