
Science Policy News

European Science Foundation: Report on the Scientific Networks 1985–1990

[Excerpts from the ESF Communications]

The ESF Network scheme. The ESF Networks aim to establish scientific communities in a wide variety of fields throughout Europe, which could serve as a basis for further cross-national cooperation, and to which qualified groups or individuals from less advanced countries could have access. The initiative for these Networks should come from the interested scientists, but the ESF will help with organization and finance. All over Europe there are scientists active in similar fields of research and addressing the same scientific questions. The Networks aim to bring them together by offering a platform where they can discuss their activities and develop plans for future collaboration.

Submission of proposals. Researchers may submit Network proposals directly to the ESF (European Science Foundation, 1 quai Lezay-Marnésia, F-67000 Strasbourg, France). They are not obliged to first consult Member Organizations or Standing Committees to obtain their support or approval. Both bodies should, however, be informed about new Network proposals in their field of interest at an early stage.

Selection. The primary criterion in approving new Networks is high scientific quality and the importance of the topic proposed. Further criteria are: the timeliness of the proposed activity, the geographical representation of the various countries of Europe, undue duplication of other projects of the ESF, consistency with the aims and objectives of the Foundation. Not all Network proposals are submitted in a form on which a positive decision can be made. If such a proposal has real promise, the Network Committee may suggest organizing an Exploratory Workshop to discuss and refine the proposal.

Networks launched in the biological and biomedical sciences:

No. 1 Longitudinal Studies on Individual Development (Prof. D. Magnusson, University of Stock-

holm). Approved July 1985, Phase 2 January 1988.

No. 6 Crystallography of Biological Macromolecules (Prof. J. Drenth, Chem Laboratoria der Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands). Approved March 1987, Phase 2 July 1990.

No. 7 Molecular Neurobiology of Mental Illness (Dr J. Mallet, Laboratoire de Neurobiologie Cellulaire et Moléculaire du CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette, France). Approved March 1987, no Phase 2. A proposal for a Scientific Program has been approved.

No. 10 Neural Mechanisms of Learning and Memory (Prof. S. Rose, Open University, United Kingdom). Approved March 1988, extended for one year in September 1990.

No. 15 Developmental Biology (Dr A. McLaren, MRC Mammalian Development Unit, London, United Kingdom). Approved March 1989 for Phase 1.

No. 16 Neuroimmunomodulation (Dr R. Dantzer, INRA-INSERM, Bordeaux, France). Approved September 1989 for Phase 1.

No. 18 Insect-Plant Interactions (Prof. L. M. Schoonhoven, Agricultural University, Wageningen, The Netherlands). Approved March 1990 for Phase 1.

No. 21 Population Ecology and Genetics (Dr P. Jacquard, CNRS Centre Louis Emberger, Montpellier, France). Approved September 1990.

No. 22 Quaternary Mammalian Faunas (Prof. W. von Koenigswald, Universität Bonn, Germany). Approved September 1990, with effect from 1991 and subject to the continuation by the ESF Assembly of the Network Scheme 1991–1995.