

EUROHORCs and ESF Vision on a Globally Competitive ERA and their Road Map for Actions

Giuseppe Roffi

CNR - EU Liaison Office - Bruxelles

Clora, 23 September 2009



From a joint document EUROHORCs /ESF

EUROHORCHs and ESF Vision on a Globally Competitive ERA and their Road Map for Actions

The Heads of European Research Councils (EUROHORCs) and the European Science Foundation (ESF) wish to play an active role in shaping a European Research Area of Excellence (ERA).

They therefore elaborated:

- a **Vision Statement** on the goals to be reached in the next five to ten years to build a globally competitive ERA
- a complementary outline for a **Road Map** for the actions which could be taken by EUROHORCs and ESF Member Organisations, as well as partners, to help build such an ERA ideal.



EUROHORCS/ESF Vision Statement

A globally competitive ERA of excellence, to facilitate the advancement of science and help create a knowledge based society in Europe, requires:

1. An effective European research policy, capitalising on diversity;
2. A stimulating education system;
3. A single European market for researchers;
4. Adequate funding for top quality curiosity driven research;
5. Transnational funding, benchmarking of quality and shared scientific priorities for strategic research and bottom up researcher-driven programmes;
6. Excellent research institutions;
7. World-class research infrastructures;
8. Open access to the output of publicly funded research and research data;
9. Effective and trusted bridges between science, society and the private sector;
10. Openness to the world.



EUROHORCs/ESF Road Map

EUROHORCs, ESF and their Member Organisations will initiate concrete actions in **10 domains** to help constructing the ERA.

These domains will be listed here with an indication of the actions required and the actors involved.

Organizations in the EUROHORCs and ESF membership will take lead responsibility for the implementation of these actions, involving other organisations as appropriate.



1

Strengthen the relations between science, society and the private sector and intensify the dialogue between research organisations and political actors at the European level

Actions:

- Intensify interactions between science and society at the institutional level
- Developing participatory communication

Actors:

- Scientists
- Research institutions
- Professional communication experts
- Heads of organisations and their senior staff (involved at the institutional level)

Addresses Vision points:

- 1) An effective European research policy, capitalising on diversity;
- 9) Effective and trusted bridges between science, society and the private sector;



2

Promote European research careers

Actions:

- Research career structure and development
- Gender and diversity issues
- Transferable skills

Actors:

- The European Commission and universities in Europe
- ESF and EUROHORCs Member Organisations
- The European Research Council
- An interface with individual stakeholder groups

Addresses Vision points:

- 2) A stimulating education system
- 3) Effective and trusted bridges between science, society and the private sector;



3

Develop scientific foresight and use its results as a basis for joint strategy development

Actions:

Continuation and further development of ESF Forward Looks

Actors:

- ESF and EUROHORCs Member Organisations (including Academies)
- The large pan-European stakeholders (such as the European Commission and the EIRMA)

Addresses Vision points:

- 1) An effective European research policy, capitalising on diversity;
- 5) Transnational funding, benchmarking of quality and shared scientific priorities for strategic research and bottom up researcher-driven programmes;



4

Create a European Grant Union

EUROHORCs organisations will initiate actions to simplify transnational collaboration under the current national funding schemes:

The Money follows research scheme will be signed and implemented by all those EUROHORCs members that have not yet done so.

A regular monitoring of all cross border transfers of grants within this scheme will be established.

Actions:

- The Money follows Cooperation Line scheme
- The EUROHORCs members will sign a Letter of Intent on the Lead Agency procedure
- The ESF European Collaborative Research (EUROCORDES) scheme

Actors:

- ESF and EUROHORCHs Member Organisations

Addresses Vision points:

- 3) A single European market for researchers;
- 4) Adequate funding for top quality curiosity driven research;
- 5) Transnational funding, benchmarking of quality and shared scientific priorities for strategic research and bottom up researcher-driven programmes;



5

Address peer review of proposals at the European level

Actions:

- Develop a Peer Review Guide
- Referee databases: quality of contents and interfaces
- Incentives for peer reviewers

Actors:

- ESF Member Organisations and other stakeholders, including the EC, who have already been involved in the Member Organisation forum on Peer Review.
- ESF Member Organisations and EUROHORCs members who have not yet participated in the Forum will be encouraged to join these actions
- Universities, research performing organisations, academies and ministries, engaged in the long term in a new dialogue about their own roles

Addresses Vision point:
5) Transnational funding,
benchmarking of quality and shared
scientific priorities for strategic
research and bottom up researcher-
driven programmes;



6

Develop common approaches to ex-post evaluation of funding schemes and research programmes

Actions:

- Exchange knowledge and share experiences
- Improve evaluation studies
- Internationalisation
- Observe the effects

Actors:

- Funding organisations and research performing organisations
- The ESF (coordination of activities and supporting dissemination of information)

Addresses Vision point:

5) Transnational funding, benchmarking of quality and shared scientific priorities for strategic research and bottom up researcher-driven programmes;



Create ERA Connect (ERAC) and Regional Clusters of Excellence

Actions:

- Create ERA Connect (ERAC)
- Regional clusters of excellence

Actors:

- ESF and EUROHORCs Research performing Member Organisations
- Scientists

(which have to define and approve the above actions before they are implemented)

Addresses Vision points:

- 5) Transnational funding, benchmarking of quality and shared scientific priorities for strategic research and bottom up researcher-driven programmes;
- 6) Excellent research institutions;



8

Develop shared funding and exploitation of medium sized research infrastructure

Addresses Vision point:

7) World-class research infrastructures;

Actions:

- Maintain the inventory of national research infrastructures with European significance
- The ERA instruments (could be a pilot project)

Actors:

- ESF and EUROHORCs Member Organisations (typically research performing and research funding organisations)
- The European Commission



Implement a common policy on Open Access to research results and Permanent Access to research data

Addresses Vision point 8

Actions:

- ESF and EUROHORCs will develop a joint policy and statement on Open Access and put it into action
- ESF and EUROHORCs will support the necessary infrastructure for Open Access
- ESF and EUROHORCs Member Organisations will promote the awareness of the importance of Open Access amongst researchers and administrators
- ESF and EUROHORCs Member Organisations, together with other national European associations and possibly with other non-EU research funding organisations, will work with publishers to redefine the responsibility and cost contribution of the publishing system

Actors:

- All actors in the scientific endeavour
- Publishers



Addresses Vision point:

8) Open access to the output of publicly funded research and research data;

10

Connect European research to the world

Addresses Vision points 10

Actions:

- Achieve international standards for data assembling and sharing
- Streamline collaboration
- Simplify contacts between research organisations in Europe and those outside Europe
- Joint meetings with heads of non-European research organisations
- Contribution to building a Global Research Area (GLOREA)

Actors:

- ESF and EUROHORCs members
- The European Commission
- Research organisations outside Europe



Addresses Vision point:
10) Openness to the world.

EUROHORCs and ESF Vision on a Globally Competitive ERA and their Road Map for Actions

Contents

1 • Foreword
3 • The EUROHORCs
and ESF Vision

5 • The Road Map
for Actions to Help
Construct the ERA

25 • Annex 1
EUROHORCs-ESF
Task Force Members

Foreword

The Heads of European Research Councils (EUROHORCs) and the European Science Foundation (ESF) wish to play an active and concrete role in shaping a European Research Area of Excellence. Following the publication of the *EUROHORCs and ESF's comments on the European Commission's Green Paper 'The European Research Area: New Perspectives'*, they therefore decided to produce a Road Map to excellence in science in Europe.

The EUROHORCs Assembly and ESF Governing Council, in their April 2008 meetings, approved a Vision Statement on the goals to be reached in the next five to ten years to build a globally competitive European Research Area (ERA). This Vision Statement was complemented by an outline for a Road Map for the actions which could be taken by EUROHORCs and ESF Member Organisations, as well as partners, to help build such an ERA ideal.

These outline actions have now been further elaborated, identifying the main goals and their timelines. Some actions are already quite concrete and committing, others require more preparation and study. This reflects that this is a document describing a process, rather than a final statement.

It is important to stress that the Road Map is an action plan where EUROHORCs and ESF Member Organisations have a primary role. It does not intend to give a full policy agenda for all actors in the ERA.

It is a pleasure to recommend the Vision Statement and the Road Map for your consideration and support for our joint efforts. Member Organisations of EUROHORCs and ESF will take the lead in the implementation of action lines of the Road Map.

This project benefited from the continuous support from – among many others – Professor Matthias Kleiner, President of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and Chair of the EUROHORCs-ESF Task Force, Professor Pär Omling, Director General of the Vetenskapsrådet and former President of EUROHORCs, and Dr. John Marks, former ESF Director of Science and Strategy and Deputy Chief Executive, who skilfully edited the final version of this document.

Professor Ian Halliday
President of ESF

Professor Dieter Imboden
President of EUROHORCs

For further
specifications...

www.eurohorcs.org

www.esf.org

www.eurohorcs.org

www.esf.org