

EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM (Barcelona, 18-22 July 2008)

Introduction

The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) provides the European and the international science communities with an open platform for the debate and communication of science and technology and the main objective of strengthening the links between Science and Society.

ESOF presents and profiles Europe's leading research trends in the sciences, humanities and social sciences as well as their applications.

ESOF places equal emphasis on the transfer of scientific discoveries into usable and applicable technologies.

ESOF aims to stimulate the growth of Europe's knowledge-based economy by providing business, researchers and policy makers with a place to meet and discuss their interests.

ESOF also fosters and promotes science communication.

ESOF represents an opportunity to:

- Discover new trends and directions in research, business, science policy and funding
- Network with leaders of the international science community
- Communicate your research and ideas to an international audience
- Participate in the debate, discussion and excitement of European science and technology
- Meet and talk to scientific journalists from Europe and around the world
- Develop your career, your future projects and your contacts

Sessions and activities programmed at ESOF are addressed to a wide audience:

- Scientists and researchers
- Young researchers and graduate students
- Policy makers and public and science managers
- Politicians at all levels of government
- Business people, entrepreneurs and innovators
- Non-profit-organisation managers, social entrepreneurs and innovators
- Science communicators, press officers and journalists
- Science and humanities educators, students and the general public

Previous editions

ESOF2004 (Stockholm, 25-28 August 2004)

The first edition gathered 1.800 participants, including 350 journalists, from more than 60 countries.

ESOF2006 (Munich, 15-19 July 2006)

Second edition, with 2.200 participants, including 500 journalists, from 60 countries.

ESOF2008 (Barcelona, 18-22 July 2008)

Programme

The main elements are the scientific programme, the career programme, the exhibition programme, the outreach activities and the business programme (more detailed information on the different programmes is provided in the annexed documents). It also includes an attractive cultural and social programme and a set of satellite events. A presentation with a general overview of ESOF2008 is provided as Annex 1.

Scientific programme

It consists of more than 80 scientific sessions, taking the format of presentations and debates, with 400 expert panellists, including Nobel Prize winners and trend-setting innovators (Annex 2). The scientific themes, running in parallel, are:

- The human mind and behaviour
- The very big and the very small
- Open society, open science
- Engineering the body
- What should we eat and how should we look?
- Enhancing energy security, fighting global warming
- Science and innovation policy
- Science and art
- Screening: burdens and benefits
- Communicating Science

Career programme

More than 10 practical sessions, including panel discussions and presentations regarding the opportunities open to young and mid-career researchers in Europe and around the world (Annex 3).

In addition, "Tapas with the Prof" is a networking event offering a limited number of young researchers a unique opportunity to benefit from the experience and inspiration of Europe's leading researchers in a casual atmosphere. During a typical Spanish lunch at the modern art CaixaForum museum, small groups of young scientists will be able to directly interact with a selected group of Nobel Laureates, key politicians and decisions makers participating in ESOF 2008.

Exhibition

With more than 1.000 sqm available, the Research and Innovation Exhibition offers institutions, associations, businesses and foundations a privileged opportunity to be recognized as a science and technology leader, to connect with Europe's science community and to recruit leading researchers across disciplines and across Europe. Exhibitors also have the possibility to organize presentations and debates in the rooms located in the Exhibition space. Around 60 international exhibitors are expected.

Outreach Activities

More than 70 dynamic presentations and activities aimed at engaging citizens in science and technology issues (Annex 4). Creative projects, through interactive activities, have been designed by leading researchers to make complex scientific concepts clear and understandable to the general public and demonstrate the many ways in which science enriches our daily lives. The outreach themes are:

- Human mind
- Human body
- Planet Earth
- Matter and Universe

- Discovering Science

Business programme

With the title “Business@ESOF: From Lab to Market”, four sessions have been developed on the different issues regarding new ways to bridge the gap existing between industry and academia. In addition, the Science|Business Awards for academic entrepreneurship will be presented.

Cultural and Social Programme

A number of festive events tied to ESOF2008 are scheduled in various locations around Barcelona. Activities include films projections, theatre performances, poetry lectures, visits to museums, official receptions and parties.

Satellite events

Three events will be organized within the framework of (prior to and after) ESOF2008:

- “Free Knowledge, Free Technology” (Barcelona, 15-17 July 2008)
Organised by the Open University of Catalonia and the SELF Consortium, FKFT is the first international conference focused on the production and sharing of free educational and lifelong learning materials on Free Software and Open Standards.
- “Policy and Technology for E-Science” (Barcelona, 16-17 July 2008)
Workshop looking at commons efforts in Europe and the infrastructure needed to do meaningful e-science, making access to scientific knowledge more widely available and more transparent. It is sponsored by Science Commons -a project of Creative Commons and SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition of the Association of Research Libraries).
- “Marie Curie Conference” (Barcelona, 17-18 July 2008)
The Conference offers Marie Curie Fellows special opportunities to broaden their career perspectives and further exploit their potential. It includes training sessions and workshops. All participants will be automatically registered to the ESOF conference.

Special sessions

ESOF2008 Opening Ceremony is scheduled on Friday, 18 July around 18h30 and will include a keynote lecture by Professor Pedro Alonso, Director of the Barcelona Centre for International Health Research (CRESIB).

Particular attention must also be given to the four plenary sessions in the programme:

- “Why our proteins have to die so we shall live”
by Prof. Aaron Ciechanover (2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry)
- “Mathematics: Creative Art or Useful Science?”
by Prof. Marcus du Sautoy (2001 Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society)
- “A rebel with a cause”
by Prof. Richard J. Roberts (1993 Nobel Prize in Medicine)
- “The science of communication - number theory and coding”
by Prof. Eva Bayer-Fluckiger (2001 Maria Sibylla Merian Prize)

Annex 5 provides the highlights of the scientific programme.

Venue

ESOF2008 will take place in Montjuïc, the historic and modernized venue of Fira de Barcelona, a flexible complex that combines the elegance of halls built at the start of the 20th century with a modern infrastructure. The ESOF2008 pavilions offer a wide range of spaces adaptable to all of the programme elements, from a large auditorium to VIP reception areas and smaller session rooms.

More than 3.000 participants are expected to attend the sessions programmed at ESOF2008.

Organisation

ESOF2008 is organised by:

- EuroScience
- Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació

The institutional partners of ESOF2008 are:

- Generalitat de Catalunya
- Ajuntament de Barcelona
- European Commission
- Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia
- Ministerio de Industria, Turismo y Comercio
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
- Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT)

ESOF2008 is also supported by:

- Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Compagnia di San Paolo
- Johnson & Johnson
- La Caixa
- Caixa Catalunya
- Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian
- Telefonica (to be confirmed)

Finally, ESOF2008 benefits from the collaboration of:

- Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FECYT)
- Centro para el desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (CDTI)
- European Science Foundation
- European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST)
- TVM|Capital
- Confederación de Sociedades Científicas de España (COSCE)
- Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC)
- Cambra de Comerç de Barcelona
- Real Academia de Artes y Ciencias de Barcelona
- Nature
- AlphaGalileo
- Televisió de Catalunya (TV3)
- Consell Català de la Comunicació Científica (C4)
- Associació Català de Comunicació Científica (ACCC)

Barcelona, 28 March 2008