ESF key characteristics

- **Pan-European** – 76 national research organisations from 29 countries
- **Multidisciplinary** – all disciplines covered:
  - Physical and engineering sciences
  - Life and environmental sciences
  - Medical sciences
  - Humanities
  - Social sciences
- **Main aim:** The ESF acts as a catalyst for the development of science by bringing together leading scientists and funding agencies to debate, plan and implement pan-European scientific and science policy initiatives.
ESF structure

Assembly

Governing Council

Executive Board

Scientific Standing Committees

- Expert Committees & Boards (EMB, EPB, Craf, ESSC, NuPECC)
- Medical Sciences (EMRC)
- Life & Environmental Sciences (LESC)
- Physical Sciences (PESC)
- Humanities (SCH)
- Social Sciences (SCSS)
- EURESCO Committee

2002

General budget: 6.6 M€

Including Specific funding: 17 M€ (Euresco, programmes)
Scientific Chair Michel Mareschal
Secretary Neil Williams assisted by Marie Gruber
Committee: 41 scientists - CORE Group: 7 to 8 people

Full committee meetings: 2 meetings/year (April and October)
- Scientific policy issues – relation with other bodies - ERC
- Various ESF actions (launching of Eurocores, forwardlooks..)
- Evaluation procedure (selection/evaluation)

Core: 4 meetings/year (January, June + before full PESC meetings)
- Prepare decisions for PESC
- Meets members organisation representatives to discuss actions
ESF instruments and PESC

• Conferences
  – Exploratory Workshops: 14 in 2003 (for PESC)
  – EURESCO (EC funding till 2003): 30/year

• Scientific activities
  – Networks: 7 in 2003
  – Scientific Programmes: 22 in 2003 (for PESC)
  – EUROCORES: 1 in 2003 for PESC (new scheme)

• Scientific policy
  – Forward Looks
  – Research Infrastructure Activities
  – Science Policy Studies
Programmes

In the PESC remit 22 in 2003

• Main features
  – 5 years, typically 100 people/10 countries
  – Workshops, conferences, fellowships, schools,
  – 90 - 250 k€/year (Funded directly by ESF Member Orga., (“à la carte”) )

• Evaluation
  – Criteria
    – High scientific quality “Non-linear” value added through European cooperation
    – Balance of scientific fields in total set Beneficial for a wide range of European countries
    – Satisfactory managerial and financial resources available

  – Open call: Evaluation by referees (success rate: 10-15%)
  – Mid term and final review sent to member organisations
EUROCORES

In the PESC remit 1 in 2003 (3 others in discussion)

- **Main features**
  - Build on existing structures and maximise their value through collaboration while leaving funding ‘ownership’ with the national agencies.
  - Operate through a common call for proposals and a single peer review system. (SC + referees)
  - Money for fellowships, but also research
  - **One in 2003: Self Organized Nanostructures**
    - 23 agencies from 20 countries
    - 57 proposals (about 15 funded for 3 years)
    - About 15 M€ payed by member states/organisations
  - **Partial funding by EC (20 M€ for 2003-2006)**
Exploratory Workshops

14 PESC workshops funded in 2003

• Normally one-off specialist meetings
• ‘Spearheading’ topics
• ‘Bottom-up’ through Open Call
• Occasionally ‘top-down’ on key topics
• May lead to ESF or other networks; à la carte programmes; FP proposals; position statements
• 25-30 scientists involved
Scientific Forward Looks

• Medium - long term scientific perspectives
• Multidisciplinary topics viewed from a European level
• Bring together scientists and policy makers from ESF Member Organisations
• Wide consultation
• Major reports and action plans should result

→ **NSIT** (Nanosciences and long term evolution of information technology)
→ Urban Science