Enric Banda

TODAY, it is clear that EUROSCIENCE (ES) has already accomplished much since its inception in the late nineties and occupies an important niche in the European Research Area (ERA). The accompanying article by the outgoing President Jean-Patrick Connerade provides an extensive list of achievements. Naturally, I am honoured to have been elected for the next term as President of ES and this has excited my imagination as to what the main objectives we should pursue in the near future to contribute to our mission. However, whatever I say will, of course, have to go through the ES Governing Board in a necessary exercise of rethinking and designing ES strategy. In a bulleted and certainly non-exhaustive manner here come some of my initial thoughts.

- ES has to become a “glue-element” in the European science and technology system that will contribute to the construction of Europe. Science is, de facto, our only common language and has to be treated in the same way as the single market and the euro projects in the creation of “Europe”.

- Europe still has a long way to go in terms of fully incorporating talent from women. ES can, and should be, adamannt to help in using our potential to the full.

- The EUROSCIENCE Open Forum (ESOF) is both an ES initiative and invention and is an excellent platform for ES. I feel particularly committed since the next ESOF, after the success of Stockholm (2004) and Munich (2006), will be held in the city where I live, Barcelona, in 2008. Our aim must be that each successive ESOF should be bigger and better than its predecessor, at least for the next 10 years or so.

- The European system of science and technology is today certainly dominated by the interest of EU Member States. We need to combine and balance such interest with the European one for the benefit of the continent as a whole. A more dynamic system can be reached with a better balance among its actors.

- An active and well lubricated grass-roots organisation such as ES is needed to achieve the European Research Area. I truly and honestly believe that the European Commission, as the Continued on back cover

Jean-Patrick Connerade

WHEN I HAD THE HONOUR of being elected to the Presidency of EUROSCIENCE, I was aware of many challenges ahead of me but unsure how able we would be to meet them. Looking back, I am amazed at what we have actually accomplished in so short a time, and this gives me great optimism for the future of EUROSCIENCE. Let me draw up a brief list:

- EUROSCIENCE is now considered, not as a group of amateurs, but as a serious partner in important debates about the governance of science in the European Commission. We have fielded invited speakers in all the recent Presidency conferences and I have served on External Advisory Groups set up by the Commissioner.

- We have created new and active Regional Sections not just in one part, but in many parts of geographical Europe, thus broadening the dialogue about science policy to the true dimension of our continent.

- We have participated in the elaboration of the Charter for European Researchers, which has been adopted at the highest political level by the Commission, and we are now actively engaged in its promotion.

- EUROSCIENCE called for the establishment of a European Research Council, issuing statements at the ERC conferences in Venice, Copenhagen, Dublin and Paris. We were co-organisers of the Dublin meeting and co-founders of the Initiative for Science in Europe, and we continue to monitor progress with the ERC on behalf of future users.

- EUROSCIENCE conceived, established and promoted the biennial Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) which has attracted many participants to its first two meetings – ESOF2004 in Stockholm and ESOF2006 in Munich.

- We have organised or co-organised many conferences of smaller scale (in Bischenberg, in Bucharest, in Budapest, in St. Petersburg) on subjects important to the future of European Research.

- Last, but definitely not least, we have raised the active membership of EUROSCIENCE considerably and attracted new Corporate Members. The Constitution of Continued on back cover
Euroscience Governing Board
Thank you to those who leave, welcome to the new...

ON 17 JULY 2006 the Euroscience General Assembly approved the results of the Governing Board election which had taken place prior to the meeting by electronic mail.

The following members of the 2004 Governing Board stepped down for personal reasons or having completed three mandates, as laid down in the Statute. These members are Jean-Patrick Connerade, President from 2000–2006, Frédéric Sgard, Vice-President from 2002–2006, Simeon Anguelov, Janos Boros, John Lagnado, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Radu Mirceu Damian, Jan Dusza, Karin Schenck-Gustafsson, and Ekkehard Winter. Raymond Seltz, our Secretary General has also completed three mandates but remains as a Board member in an ex-officio capacity under the new Euroscience Statute, also approved at the General Assembly.

We would like to thank these members for their major contributions to Euroscience.

Get to know the 2006 Governing Board!
**Françoise Praderie receives Prize of the La Ferthé Foundation**

**FRANÇOISE PRADERIE**, Founder Member and former Secretary General (1997–2000) of EUROSCIENCE, received the Prize of the La Ferthé Foundation. The prize was exceptionally awarded on the occasion of the 10th birthday of the La Ferthé Foundation and honours women for their achievements in establishing associations. Françoise Praderie is one of three laureates, together with Houda Ayoub and Dorothée Benoit Browaeys. The ceremony took place on 28 September 2006 in the premises of the Fédération Internationale des Droits de l’Homme (FIDH) in Paris.

The La Ferthé Foundation was created in 1996 and acts in the cultural, scientific, economic and social domain. It is under the aegis of the Fondation de France. Among other activities, it contributes to the Rammal Medal which has been awarded by EUROSCIENCE since 1999.

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**Obituary**

**GUY OURISSON (1926 – 2006)**

Guy Ourisson was a Founding member of EUROSCIENCE and a strong supporter of our association.

He was member of the Académie des Sciences. Université Louis Pasteur at Strasbourg and French chemistry have lost a fine scholar. We express our sympathy to his family.
MUNICH’S FAME is that of a “city with charm”, so expectations towards the ESOF2006 Bavarian host were naturally high. Generally, many international visitors come to Munich to enjoy the city with its reputation for beer and men in Lederhosen. We don’t know if some of ESOF2006’s participants and speakers from far-flung places were secretly looking forward to a rather folksy scientific gathering. We do know that ESOF2006’s message was “New Research. New Technology. New Thinking.” and not “Laptop meets Lederhosen.”

However, can one benefit from a city’s charm while ignoring its traditions and history? Of course not, at least not in Munich, in the ESOF2006 location: The Museumsinsel, surrounded by the river Isar and with, at its centre, the prestigious Deutsches Museum and the attached Forum am Deutschen Museum. It was a typical “white-blue” sky during the summer days of July 15–19, with turquoise-blue ESOF2006 banners reflecting on the water, and students (science students?) bathing in the river only a few steps away.

The Deutsches Museum was the special element of ESOF2006’s uniqueness: not only its exhibition halls providing an impressive setting for plenary lectures and receptions, the positive side-effect was free entrance in its famous collections, not to speak of having reserved its entire guest house for ESOF2006 grant holders – and we know that this possibility to stroll around made ESOF2006 participants immediately feel at home on the picturesque conference site.

The Flugwerft Schleissheim, part of Deutsches Museum and one of the first airports established at the beginning of the 20th century, provided an unforgettable background for the evening reception. The vast hall full of historical planes was open to the manoeuvring area, which provided a nice evening breeze to all those enjoying the food, the drinks and the conversation, not to mention music.

Having a conference in Munich which claims to be not only a scientific meeting place for all disciplines but also a place to link science and arts, would be impossible without reference to the very science-friendly Bavarian King and poet, Ludwig II. As a highlight of the Evening Reception at Flugwerft Schleissheim some arias of the Ludwig musical were presented. The scientific achievements and dreams of the King were also the topic of the session “Ludwig II, the Visionary King of Bavaria”, organised by the two Chairmen of ESOF2006, Jean-Patrick Connerade and Wolfgang M. Heckl, Director of the Deutsches Museum.

ESOF2006 participants, enjoying the international and interdisciplinary atmosphere of the conference, embedded in a location with regional charm, must have been very pleased to find in Chairman Professor Heckl a man who personified the synthesis of the two. As a Bavarian native and internationally acknowledged scientist, Wolfgang Heckl eradicated real hospitality and his enthusiasm for ESOF2006 was contagious.

One popular Bavarian tradition which had gently intruded the conference was the biergarten tradition – with a “Science Biergarten” at the very centre of ESOF2006. This was the place to come down to earth again after intellectually demanding scientific lectures – or should we rather say, having a beer under the shadowy trees was heaven? One could also say that, against the background of beer barrels, the Science Biergarten served as a think tank of ESOF2006 participants – it was the place to talk about themes of the lectures and sessions, in events such as Pretzel with the Prof and the BA X-change.

In a way, the tranquil scenery of the Museum island was misleading: behind the scenes, the building was humming like a beehive, and the many busy hands of the staff of the Deutsches Museum under the lead of Ulrich Kernbarch, the staff of the Forum am Deutschen Museum and of the ESOF2006 project team helped to run the conference smoothly.

In conclusion, we can say that it was possible to find a subtle balance between presenting exciting cutting-edge research and a picturesque, peaceful conference setting. ESOF2006 managed to find a very enjoyable solution to this, thanks to all the organisers on site.

Julia & the Euroscience Office
ESOF2006 welcomed an important number of young grant holders from a variety of countries, sponsored by different institutions. The Euroscience office was in charge of the group from Central and Eastern Europe, which received grants from the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft. We chose this feedback report for publication out of the 36 reports we received, to give you an impression of the experience of a young social scientist from Poland at ESOF2006.

Feedback report from ESOF2006

Euroscience/ESOF2006 exhibition stand with travel grant holders

I AM PROUD to have been an ESOF2006 grant awardee. I am a social scientist working in the area of educational, higher education and science policy. Sessions at ESOF2006 provided a meta-level analysis at the very core of my academic interest, such as peer review, migration, women in academia... I very much valued the practical, but from-inside-academia (or inside science & research) insight that the panelists had. It gave me a very useful context to my every day research and analytical work: international, multicultural and first-hand from top European scholars.

I took part in most of the sessions linked directly to social sciences and humanities. I think there is still a need for ESOF to find the satisfying format of introducing non-science disciplines (in the Anglo-Saxon meaning of the word) to the programme, although I appreciated very much that those disciplines had already found their place there. I was very content with the session "Towards big social science: a transatlantic perspective" and I highly valued the fact that it was not only a European but a transatlantic view. I think it is essential in the social sciences. The lecture and "Pretzel with the Prof" session on terrorism could be an interesting starting point and direction that could be expanded in the future (ethics, demands, hopes and dangers of modernity?), but we need more, for the mutual benefit of "hard" and "soft" sciences.

The Career Programme was really good: “Job interview workshop” was the best ever I have taken part in, designed for both academic and job transition needs and wonderfully conducted. "Pretzel with the Prof" is a great idea, but it should be carefully restricted in the number of persons participating and time available (that didn’t happen to the one that I took part in – too many people, delayed and shortened afterwards). I would very much welcome the workshops in writing and teaching (or just speaking) of science; I was inspired by one of the speakers of “Setting the university free!” saying about research: “If you cannot explain to your grandmother in a few sentences what you are doing, then what you are doing is wrong!!”.

I took part in most social events, apart from the “Flugwerk Schleißheim” reception (I was not able to afford it), I enjoyed them very much as a chance to meet “grown-up” scientists and journalists (we, young scientists, had also extra-curricular chances to socialize). It would be even better when facilitated by more Pretzel-style meetings, as well as with journalists.

The best part of ESOF2006 for me was the meeting with other grant awardees, the bright, talented and promising young scholars from all over Europe. I was very happy with the common accommodation, it gave us a natural chance to form a group that happened quickly and easily. It was a pity that all the grantees weren’t lodged in one place as we could have benefited even more.

That is basically what I took home from ESOF2006: a great experience of being part of the community and the support network, both in merit and organizational terms. I hope our meeting will have some follow-ups, there are already some plans (training, working groups, website) and we hope EUROSCIENCE can be the framework of doing it. We created a discussion group to stay in touch and I already got a few interesting hints about conferences in my field from other people.

I also have to mention the wonderful ESOF2006 and EUROSCIENCE staff. Through all the grant application process and then during ESOF2006 they were always helpful, friendly and very professional. The huge logistics of lodging, feeding and educating grant awardees was perfectly organized and staff members were always there for us when we needed them. Helping them on EUROSCIENCE stand, I felt so welcome and had such a great time that I would like to become the part of EUROSCIENCE myself.

I would love to take part in the next ESOF and I would love to have the chance to contribute.

Magdalena Krawczyk
Institute for Social Studies, Warsaw, Poland
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Lively debate at the Euroscience Day at ESOF2006

MUNICH WAS THE VENUE for the first EUROSCIENCE Day within the overall ESOF event and it turned out to be a great success. The all day meeting of talks and discussions was followed by the well attended Biannual EUROSCIENCE Assembly.

“The Euroscience Day was one of the most enriching events for me as secretary of the Bulgarian section. It allowed me to meet people from other regional sections – to share their problems and to assist to the presentation of their advancement. This exchange gave us some ideas for further projects and possible collaborations.”

Roumiana Konstantinova

There was no overall theme other than the topics were all “hot” and important issues for the development of science in Europe.

We started by looking at our future – in other words, how do we motivate young people to be interested in science and so follow research as a career. Frédéric Sgard, the outgoing EUROSCIENCE Vice-President presented the outcome of a recent study undertaken by the OECD Global Science Forum. Staying with this theme of French schools programme “La main a la pâte”, Going up in age, we continued with a series of presentations on developments within European universities and the way in which the Bologna Process has started to have an impact on the teaching within Europe’s universities. Vsevolod Borissov demonstrated this impact, with special reference to Russia and he was then followed by Irina Eliseeva who presented a study on European benchmarking research in Russia.

The meeting then moved on to issues at a general European level, commencing with Alex Quintanilha telling us about his experience of the Marie Curie scheme within the Framework Programme and the role of this very successful Commission initiative within the Lisbon – Barcelonan policy. Eric Banda, our President-elect, then followed with a talk about the development of the European Research Area and possible role of Euroscience in its development. He set out to provoke and this stimulated a very lively debate. The level of debate continued when Peter Tindemans presented the draft position of EUROSCIENCE on the thorny topic of the prosed European institute of Technology (EIT), a proposal from the President of the European commission, that has attracted much debate, often of an emotional character. The discussion at the EUROSCIENCE Day was important for us in formulating our response to the Commission’s EIT proposals – a viewpoint which has attracted a lot of interest.

Altogether, the EUROSCIENCE Day was an excellent idea and will be continued into future ESOF meetings as a lead into our General Assembly and providing a forum for lively discussion between all those participating. EUROSCIENCE members and non-members, who, hopefully, will now want to join us as a result of this experience.

Tony Mayer
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NEWS FROM ESOF2008

PLANNING preparations are underway to present Europe’s top science at the Euroscience Open Forum of 2008 which will take place in Barcelona July 18-22, 2008. Innovative and creative energies are being channelled to ensure full participation in ESOF2008 from Europe’s researchers, policymakers, business people, individuals and institutions.

ESOF2008’s provisional Steering Committee gathered in Barcelona on October 27–28, 2006. Co-Chairs Ingrid Wünning and Enric Banda lead discussion on the objectives and targets for ESOF2008 and decision-making on key issues such as committee membership. This was the second meeting following a small “core group” discussion during ESOF2006 in Munich.

The ESOF2008 Project Team has been established and is working full steam ahead in their offices located in the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI) in Barcelona. The current members are (in alphabetical order): David Castillo, a telecommunications engineer and MBA from Barcelona; Roberta Cross, an evaluator in the European Commission; Jordi Mas, a biologist specialized in in vitro fertilization with extensive experience as an external expert evaluator in the European Commission; Tiziana della Ragione, an Italian diplomat with specialization in international science collaboration; Tiziana della Ragione, an Italian diplomat with specialization in international science collaboration; Tiziana della Ragione, an Italian diplomat with specialization in international science collaboration; Tiziana della Ragione, an Italian diplomat with specialization in international science collaboration; Tiziana della Ragione, an Italian diplomat with specialization in international science collaboration; and Enric Banda lead discussion on the objectives and targets for ESOF2008 and decision-making on key issues such as committee membership. This was the second meeting following a small “core group” discussion during ESOF2006 in Munich.

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Euroscience Russian Section

THE EUROSCIENCE LOCAL

Section in Russia was established in 2003 to facilitate the process of integration of Russian science into the European Research Area, and to help Russian scientists in gaining access to and participating in joint international programs.

The St. Petersburg EUROSCIENCE Cooperation Centre (SPb ESCC) carries out the functions of the Local Section of Euroscience in the Russian Federation for the Russian members of EUROSCIENCE now. SPb ESCC is a juridical person with its own statutes (see http://euroscience-ru.nw.ru). SPb ESCC is currently the link between the Russian members of EUROSCIENCE, which may in future include other local sections, and the EUROSCIENCE Head Office in Strasbourg.

The St. Petersburg Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences is a hosting organization for ES Local Section.

People

The President of the St. Petersburg EUROSCIENCE Cooperation Centre is Prof. Irina Eliseeva, Associated Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Nelly Didenko was appointed the official representative (Coordinator) of the section.

The Website editorial board consists of Prof. I. Eliseeva, Svetlana Belyaeva (editor of the international department of the all-Russian scientists’ newspaper “Poisk”), Prof. E. Stepanov (Moscow, Centre of Conflictology RAS), Prof. V. Ivanov, and Prof. V. Platonov.

Our team members are physicists, mathematicians, programmers, engineers, philologists, economists, biologists, historians, sociologists, ecologists, lawyers and other scientists, as well as journalists and experts in different areas of Technology transfer. The members of our team live in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Saratov, Kuybyshev, Murmansk, Rostov-on-Don, Ufa, Nizhny Novgorod, Ivanovo, Ulyanovsk, Ural and other cities and regions of the Russian Federation (see the map).

Activities

The main aims of our activities are participation in European activities through working groups, scientific conferences, publications and the web site; expansion of EUROSCIENCE activity in Russia and making it known to the public.

There are several working groups now in the EUROSCIENCE Russian Section, such as Career Development (Young scientists), Women in Science, Science and Urgent Problems of Society (Problems of Risk), Science Policy, Technology Transfer (http://www.spetersburg.technology-transfer.net).

We have close cooperation with NGOs of Scientists in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Saratov and Murmansk.

Our recent activities are multifarious: In July 2006 the working group “Risk” was among the main organizers of the Sixth International Scientific School "Modeling and Analysis of Safety and Risk in Complex Systems" (MA SR – 2006), which took place in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In May 2006, before the G8 summit in St. Petersburg, we had taken part in the Round Table “G8 in a Global World: New Approaches to Science and Education” which was organized by the International Department of St. Petersburg State University. One of the main subjects of this Round Table was “Emergence of the New International Scientific Class”. This process is taking place in the world scientific community, including Russia.


We took an active participation in the NATO Advanced Research Workshop “Impact of Recent Global Crises on Human Awareness and Behavior in Risk Condition”, Tallinn, October 26–28, 2006.

Upcoming events in our section are:

– participation in organization of the International Conference “The main points and peculiarities of development of cybernetics and informatics as a branch of basic research”, 14–15 November 2006, St. Petersburg House of Scientists of RAS


Official figures say that about 60% of scientists live and work in peripheral regions of Russia. According to the words of Dr. Richard Burger, EC representative on Science in Russia, one of the nearest tasks of the EU in Russia is to develop EU activity in Russian peripheral regions. The ES Local Section in Russia aims at attracting more scientists who live and work in peripheral regions, especially young scientists and participants for future ESOFs.

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news & views

THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE PUBLISHING
An overview, 2005–2006

A REPORT on the Group activities, up to January 2006, was presented in EUROSCIENCE News 34 (April 2006). The Group work continued on the same lines, preparation of ESOF2006 study, through its discussion list, of issues in publishing and, for French members, continued action towards Parliament to improve the copyright law draft. The following lines are taken from the Group page on the EUROSCIENCE website and update it.

1 A symposium “Open Access -threat or blessing?” took place in Munich on 16 July within ESOF2006, as a round table discussion. It was centred on “Open Archives”, moderated by Stevan Harnad (University of Southampton and Université du Québec), Panellists were: Eloy Rodriguez (University of Minho, Portugal), Alma Swan (Key perspectives LTD, United Kingdom) and Eberhard Hilf (Institute for Science Networking Oldenburg, Germany). The programme was designed towards the base researchers, to make them aware of the benefits to be drawn from self archiving their articles on dedicated public servers (Open Archives), following the example set, some 10 years ago, by ArXiv, the widely popular and successful repository for physics. The programme can be accessed on the ESOF 2006 web site (http://www.esof2006.org/programme2.php4). A more detailed account is presented below.

2 In March 2006, the European Commission published a Study on “The Economic and Technical Evolution of the Scientific Publication Markets in Europe”, (http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/scientific-publication-study_en.pdf) The EC solicited comments on its recommendations. Our working group focussed on EC recommendation A1: “Guarantee public access to publicly-funded research results shortly after publication”, focussed on Open Archives. Through exchanges within the discussion list, several specific suggestions were drafted for sharpening and strengthening recommendation A1 so as to maximise its likelihood of being adopted and achieving its objectives. Our report received the support of EUROSCIENCE president Jean-Patrick Connerade and was submitted to the EC on behalf of EUROSCIENCE, (http://www.euro science.org/WGROUPS/SC_PUBLISHING/eurorec_final_210506.pdf)

PUBLISH OR PERISH
As Science is mere structured common sense, her means but trial-and-error made intense, the only virtue settling her apart, and raising her above (some think) mere Art, Is her convergence ever on consensus: collective, self-corrective her defenses. A flagellant, she boldly does defy Reality her schemes to falsify, And yet this noble jousting were in vain, and all this pain would yield no grain of pain if Science were content, a shrinking violet, her works from all the World e’er to keep private. Instead, performance public and artistic, restraining all propensities autistic, perhaps less out of error-making dread, than basalt need to earn her daily bread. For showbiz being what it is today, work’s not enough, you’ve got to make it pay. What ratings, sweeps and polls count for our actors, no less than our elected beneficiaries, for Science the commensurate equation is not just publication but citation. The more your work is accessed, read and used, the higher then is reckoned its just dues. Sounds crass, but there may be some consolation, where there’s still some residual motivation to make a difference, not just make a fee: the World Wide Web at last can make Science free.

Stevan Harnad

The verses have been wittily illustrated in a series of cartoons by Judith Economos.

The discussions, both in the Parliament and in the medias, were dominated by the problems relevant to reproduction of audiovisual (mostly musical) works; other issues, such as education, research, open-source

The world wide web at last can make Science free

Une Science enfin en-ligne libérée

Is not just Publication but Citation

de ses trouvailles le monde de priver

Her works from all the World e’er to keep private

Au d’là d’être publié c’est d’être cité:

In France, the subject of intellectual property and copyright was in the forefront of actuality, because of the debates in the National Assembly (December 2005 through March 2006) and in the Senate (May-June 2006) of a new law, as reported in ES News 34. The text voted by the National Assembly refused the “education and research exceptions” to allow copying (downloading or photocopy), even though they were included in the 2001 EU directive which the new law should transpose in national laws. We continued our action towards legislators, in tune with other organisations (Associations of librarians, Conference of University Presidents) to have these exceptions written in the law. P. Baruch, F. Lalou and F. Praderie met Senator J. Valade, Chairman of the Senate Commission for Cultural Affairs, and presented him the specific needs of research. The meeting was fruitful, our arguments for allowing these exceptions for scientific purposes were well received. Senator Valade, a chemist and former Minister of research knew already of this issue and assured us that he would support the scientists views. Indeed, an amendment in this direction, although somewhat restrictive, was voted by the Senate. A joint commission met to smoothen discrepancies between the two assemblies and accepted the exceptions (June 2006). The amended bill was finally voted by Parliament in June 2006, after being screened by the "Conseil Constitutionnel", which rejected some articles, especially about the scale of penalties for illegal downloading, reverting to the current, very repressive, legislation,
software were not in the forefront. The new law is too much restrictive in many fields, has obscurities and does not respond fully to the expectations. Still, many obstacles are avoided, but the law in its present form will be difficult to enforce and will certainly need some revision. Apparently, no other organisation led the fight to defend the interests of science in these debates. We feel that

**OPEN ACCESS – THREAT OR BLESSING?**

Round table ESOF2006, Munich, July 16th 2006–09–16

A report

**THE OPEN ACCESS (OA) era** is approaching rapidly. The European Commission, the national research funders of the UK, Germany and the US, and the national research institutes of France have proposed or already adopted an official policy of providing OA to all scientific publications on the Web.

The ESOF2006 symposium convened European scientists and the general public to inform them about these developments. International specialists described the various aspects of OA.

The panellists were introduced by Helene Bosc of INRA (ret.), pioneer of OA in France, coordinator of the **EUROSCIENCE** Work Group on Science Publishing and organiser of the event.

The chairman, Stevan Harnad (Canada Research Chair, University of Quebec in Montreal, harnad@ecs.soton.ac.uk), summarised current OA developments: Universities, research institutions and research funding agencies are creating Institutional Repositories (IRs) as well as adopting policies of mandatory deposit (self-archiving) therein of all research articles immediately upon acceptance for publication. He summarised the reason why OA is optimal for sciences: the converging evidence that OA significantly enhances the research impact of self-archived publications, compared to those that are not self-archived. He also touched on the subject of metrics – the indicators of scientific progress and performance such as download and citation counts, which OA increases at the same time as allowing them to be measured systematically.

Eloy Rodriguez, (U. Minho, Portugal, eloy@sdum.uminho.pt) described the pioneering and successful system that he established at his university, which facilitated the launching of its IR with a mandatory self-archiving policy coupled with incentives: a small initial financial reward for each article deposited as well as displayed statistics on its rate of use (earlier downloads are correlated with later citations). Two years after launching an IR with such a policy, the financial incentive is no longer necessary, because it becomes the increased scientific impact which motivates the researchers to self-archive.

Eberhard Hilf, (Institute for Science Networking GmbH, Carl von Ossietzky Universität, Oldenburg, Germany, hilf@isn-oldenburg.de) underscored the need for official self-archiving policies. He described the policy of Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the official refereed certification scheme for institutional repositories offered by Deutsche Initiative für Netzwerkinformation (DINI). He then described the benefits conferred by harvesting, search tools, and links to geographical information, as applied to the enhancement of PhysDoc, a retrieval system for Physics distributed documents across local research group websites and personal publication lists.

Alma Swan (Key Perspectives Ltd, Topsham, UK, aswan@key-perspectives.co.uk) summarized the results of her international surveys which have been so influential in the progress of OA: The surveys revealed that researchers do not self-archive spontaneously (c. 15%) but 95% will self-archive if and when their university or their funder adopts an official mandate to self-archive. The growing number of research institutes that have already adopted a mandatory self-archiving policy (such as CERN, U. Minho, U. Southampton, Queensland U. Technology, U. Tasmania) confirm the results of the surveys, with rates of self-archiving rapidly approaching 90% and higher. Dr. Swan also described her published analyses indicating that distributed local/institutional self-archiving – with all researchers depositing in their own IRs – is the optimal system for self-archiving, rather than depositing directly in a central repository: Then central collections can be harvested from the contents of the OA-compliant network of distributed IRs.

The general discussion concentrated on policy implementation details, on legal questions (mostly not relevant, because 94% of peer-reviewed journals already endorse immediate self-archiving ), and on questions about the future of scientific publication: all evidence to date indicates peaceful and complementary coexistence between scientific publication and OA. In the OA era, “Publish or Perish” becomes “Self-Archive to Flourish” (Stevan Harnad). Eberhard R. Hilf has collated the presentations and produced an excellent summary of the event which can be found at http://www.isn-oldenburg.de/~hilf/vortraege/eso06/ with links to the individual contributions.

**Conclusions by the organiser**

The round table attracted some 60 people, among them researchers, librarians, journalists, publishers (2) and two (or more!) delegates from the European Commission and FP6 committees.

Apparently, this facet of “Open Access” through self archiving is of much interest to the EC. Members of the Round Table are now getting many inquiries and requests for reports on this subject. They may be called upon to serve as specialists with future European projects.

This event had the merit of demonstrating to all, and primarily to policy makers, that Open Access through self archiving is not a threat for research, but, on the contrary, increases its impact. With so many important issues at stake, Europe will undoubtedly help in the development of projects, originating from Europe as well as elsewhere in the world.

A pleasant side effect was the award to our chairman, Stevan Harnad, of the ESOF2006 poetry prize (sponsored by the Andrea von Braun Stiftung) for his poem “Publish or Perish”.

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http://www.isn-oldenburg.de/~hilf/vortraege/eso06/ with links to the individual contributions.

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European Institute of Technology: the Commission’s consultation with the stakeholders

**THE PROPOSAL** by the European Commission President, Manuel Barroso, to create a European Institute of Technology (EIT) has stirred up a passionate debate within the European research community. Originally, proposed as a large physical institution, the initiative has developed into a new approach based more on networking of so-called knowledge triangles across Europe.

The idea behind the proposal, which still retains the “EIT” label, is to address the general lack of technological innovation in Europe compared with our competitors, especially the USA. While most people accept the analysis, the cure is more debatable, especially as innovation is market-driven and a top-down solution may not be appropriate.

Currently, the aim is to create knowledge triangles of research – training – innovation in which industry is a key component and provides much of the funds necessary for the success of the initiative. At the same time, central funding to stimulate the creation of the knowledge triangles would come from the Commission and the difficulty here is to find substantial funds without “raiding” existing programmes, especially the Seventh Framework Programme.

EUROSCIENCE, through its Science Policy Working Group, led by Peter Tindemans, produced an ES position paper, which featured in an earlier ES News and was the focus of an interesting and dynamic debate during the EUROSCIENCE Day at ESOF2006. The Position Paper was then revised to take account of this debate and may be found on the EUROSCIENCE website.

As noted above, in the light of the criticism received, the European Commission has extensively revised its proposal and has also entered into a consultation through Stakeholder meetings, the latest of which was held in Brussels on 7 September. In the accompanying article, Renzo Rubele reports on this meeting and the EIT proposal.

In the meantime, the Financial Times, which had, itself, arranged a meeting on competitiveness in Brussels at which President Barroso presented the EIT, has reported that the Commission now faces great difficulty in getting financial support from industry and national authorities. He had anticipated receiving some €800M from these sources. It now seems that the funds will come entirely from the Commission’s own resources, including “raiding” research funds, something which is likely to alarm the research community. At the time of writing, the Commission was planning to present its new proposal to the meeting of the European Council (Heads of Government) in Helsinki on 20 October. The Financial Times article reported on the EUROSCIENCE position paper and the debate in Munich; which demonstrates the influence which EUROSCIENCE has as the grassroots science organisation in Europe.

We will continue to keep you up to date with EIT news as matters develop.

**FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION** of the first Communication on the European Institute of Technology in February 2005 [1] the European Commission started a process of consultation with EU Member States and with some stakeholders to fine-tune the concept with a view to drafting a complete and formal legislative text by November 2006. The “public consultation” was conducted by an on-line questionnaire in Fall 2005 and resulted in a report summarizing also numerous comments and remarks [2], but it was equally clear that the weight and the value to be assigned to each answer should also depend on the relevance and representative power of the respondents, and this could not be inferred from the mere figures.

A number of stakeholders have been following the process more closely in their capacity of major actors of the European Knowledge Area. EUROSCIENCE launched a debate whose outcome has been published in the dedicated web pages [3]. The European University Association issued a position paper in March and another one in July 2006 [4]. The League of Research-intensive Universities (LERU) has been commenting on the proposal in two documents [5] and so did the Commission’s own European Research Advisory Board, the second of them being issued in July 2006 [6]. The Scientific Council of the European Research Council adopted a position on the EIT [7] at the invitation of the Spring 2006 European Council.

All these activities should be better seen in the light of a calendar of meetings that the Commission organized soon after the Head of States gave an (almost) green light to the project in the above mentioned European Council of 22–23 March.

First and foremost, it should be recalled that the Commission had started its works on the EIT in February 2005, after the initial sketch of the idea by President Barroso. An inter-service Steering Group made up by officials from three General Directorates (Education and Culture, Research and Industry) was set up, with DG Education and Culture in the lead. This formation gave visible concreteness to the idea that the EIT ought to be established with the foundational aim of implementing in its very structure the whole knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation.

Coming to the consultations, a meeting with external experts was held in April 2006 to validate the terms of reference for an Impact Assessment that must be conducted by default for these kinds of projects and annexed to the legislative proposal. This assessment, which explores some organisational and financial aspects towards the stated objectives, is being done with the help of external consultancy firms.

Three meetings with the stakeholders were held on April 25, May 18 and September 7 2006. In between, on June 8, the Commission issued the second Communication on the EIT [1]. In association with each of the stakeholder meetings, the Commission held meeting with governmental representatives from the Member States. The whole enterprise was aimed at providing awareness of the Commission’s intentions while building a structured dialogue with the European society in this pre-legislative phase.
It has already been mentioned, in EUROSCIENCE News n.35, how the scientific and academic community was rather sceptical at the outset of the EIT idea, especially in the absence of further details. However these meetings proved to be successful from the side of the Commission which was able to win an ever increasing support by explaining more carefully a number of features and the operative mode of the proposed institution. The dialogue, in other words, helped both the Commission in orientating some choices on open or controversial points and the stakeholders to get acquainted with the EIT concept while providing concrete comments on it.

We can’t report directly from the Member States’ meetings, although we know indirectly that a broad consensus has appeared. This does not preclude further obstacles in the course of the legislative path, and possibly when the proposal will be scrutinized in the European Parliament, which at the moment has still be involved apart from the activities by a core of supporters of the EIT, particularly those gathered around MEP, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis.

We can instead highlight some features of the stakeholders’ meetings, which were attended by a number of selected European organisations – varying from 25 to 45 – and chaired by the Commission. The numerous questions on the structure of the EIT and on the management of the Knowledge Communities – in particular the staffing arrangements – were tackled by the Commission by releasing stricter options and giving ample flexibility and autonomy to both the Governing Board in framing the general scheme of the EIT and to the consortia of partners that will give rise to the KCs, in managing their human resources. In a sense, some of the hot issues have simply disappeared from the scene, so that much of the operative mode of the EIT appears more similar to existing networking schemes. The establishment of Knowledge Communities will resemble the organisation of an academic-industrial partnership, provided that a legal personality is added. The management will be more involved and demanding, but the audience appeared reassured in finding familiar features – avoiding “fragmentation” of parent institutions. The operations of the Governing Board – defining strategies and overseeing the selection of the KCs – will be similar to the role of the Scientific Council in relation to the European Research Council, with the difference in the mission and the complexity of the new institution. All of this has been made clear in the June Communication.

A still open point, which was not possible to solve on September 7, remains that of the degree-awarding power. At this moment it is not clear how it will be sorted out – whether through joint programmes and degrees of Universities participating in the Knowledge Communities or through a new instrument, which however will necessarily build its identity in an unconventional way. Much will depend on the legal studies under way for finding a suitable base for the proposal inside the Treaties.

As regards funding, it has been made clear that these won’t come from “stealing” money to the Framework Programme or from other approved programmes, but the EU will secure adequate public money from 2010 on in the context of the review of the Union’s Financial Perspectives. This will help to fund (or co-fund with private money) six Knowledge Communities. Up until then only limited resources will be needed in the 2007–2009 period, as this will encompass just a formal setting up of the Governing Board after the approval of the Regulation, and maybe some prefuration studies.

The Meetings were of course not exhaustive but the dialogue was frank and fruitful.

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References
[1] All the official material by the Commission related to the EIT, including the two Communications adopted in 2006, is available from the web-site: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index_en.html
[2] The consultation was run via a web-interface, now dismissed, but the report is available from the web-site cited in [1].

Those of you who attended the sessions on “Ludwig II – the Visionary King of Bavaria” at ESOF2006 or who read the little booklet about him (by the way, it is available from the EUROSCIENCE Office in Strasbourg if you missed ESOF2006) know that EUROSCIENCE makes every effort to establish connections between science and the arts – in particular with Poetry. We even had a competition in Munich which inspired poets writing in English, French and in German. The winners received 300 € each, provided by the Andrea von Braun Foundation and a similar event is planned for Barcelona.

A group of “professional” poets (the ones who publish books of poems for the general public) has been inspired by this example, and is attempting to set up a meeting of European Poets to be held in parallel (and in liaison) with future ESOFs. The group involves “La Société des Poètes Français”, “La Maison de la Poésie” in Paris and “Poésie sans Frontières”.

If you know professional poets or associations of poets in your country who would be interested, just tell them to write to EUROSCIENCE.
JPC
EUROSCIENCE project on TV drama featuring female scientists and engineers

The most recent junior awards were made on the occasion of the Euroscience Open Forum in July 2006 in Munich to: Dr. Christina Berndt, German daily newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung; Miklos Hargital, Hungarian daily newspaper Nepszabadsag and Bas Kant, German daily newspaper Der Tagesspiegel.

The awards are financed by the income out of the investment and donations which helped to increase the capital stock from about 50,000 Euros to more than 60,000 Euros. That is a very promising development, but more donations are urgently needed. Therefore, on 21 March 2006 the foundation initiated its first fundraising-campaign.

Following the headline “The Euro for a Good Purpose” representatives of the Sprengel Museum Hannover, the VolkswagenStiftung and the Euroscience Foundation discussed different opportunities to spend money for NPOs.

With the campaign “50x50” fifty participants in the meeting were invited to give 50 Euros to promote the Euroscience Foundation. Although, we did not succeed in having 50 persons spend 50 Euros, but as a result of one generous grant we finally came up with 2,500 Euros that enabled us to finance the three Junior Awards of 2006.

A second campaign that focusses research institutes within Lower Saxony was started in May 2006. Within this campaign letters were sent to the directors of research institutes addressing the tax problem that may occur in connection with fees gained within the official working time. We suggested to give this money to the Euroscience Foundation helping to support science journalists trying to impart research results to a wider public.

Perhaps, this model could be of interest to some of the readers of this article too. Please, contact us for further information, or turn to our homepage www.eurosciencefoundation.de. As of August 2006 the EU domain www.eurosciencefoundation.eu is also available.

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