

Euroscience

A European Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology
Association Européenne pour la Promotion de la Science et de la Technologie

Dublin to host Europe's largest interdisciplinary science conference in 2012

Strasbourg, Thursday 26 November 2008

As the largest European gathering of its kind, the 5th Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF2012) will convene in Dublin, Ireland on 12–16 July 2012, Euroscience announced today.

Held every two years, ESOF, organised by Euroscience, is a unique opportunity for leading scientists, researchers, industry, policy makers, science and technology communicators and the general public to discuss new discoveries and debate the direction that research is taking in the sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Dublin succeeded against one other extremely professional bid from Vienna. The selection process was orchestrated by the ESOF Supervisory Board. This board comprises representatives from Euroscience, together with the Compagnia di San Paolo, Torino, Italy; Fondazione Cariplo, Milano, Italy; Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Stockholm, Sweden; Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany; Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, Essen, Germany.

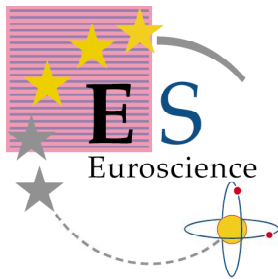
Dr Gail Cardew, Chair of the ESOF Supervisory Board and Vice President of Euroscience expressed her gratitude at Dublin's enthusiasm and commitment on behalf of the Selection Panel, "We are delighted to have such strong candidates and it is always such a difficult decision to make. We were particularly impressed with Dublin's clear vision on opening the event out to the world and the lengths the Dublin Bid Committee went to bring international partners, including industry, on board. The emphasis on maximising the latest communication technologies, allied to the availability of excellent infrastructure for an event of this magnitude was compelling.

"The team involved demonstrated a clear passion for success, and we encourage all Irish science stakeholders, at home or abroad, to follow their example and get involved. We are particularly enthused about the prospect of helping raise awareness about the importance of science to society in Ireland and leaving a lasting effect after ESOF 2012 Dublin" Dr Gail Cardew continued.

Dr Cardew also commented that the bid from Vienna to host ESOF 2012 had also been a high quality proposal and that the decision had been a difficult choice between two excellent host cities.

Dublin's bid had a particular orientation towards science and society, and outlined strong plans to enable ESOF to reach a new platform with respect to gathering those interested in science, society and policy together. Dublin had prepared the ground exceptionally well in their bid, describing a rich global network and an approach that was also geared towards higher business involvement.

Over 50 members of a Dublin steering committee representing the public sector, universities, research institutes as well as business and industry came together in a unique international partnership to deliver the bid under the stewardship of the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, Professor Patrick Cunningham, who will be personally acting as the 'champion' for ESOF 2012.



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Professor Patrick Cunningham commented, "We left no stone unturned and went about this from day one with great energy, vision and professionalism. While being utterly serious about science, our event philosophy is one of science serving society. We want the citizens of Dublin and Ireland to get involved. We have also given much thought to constructing parallel public outreach, media and marketing, and business and careers programmes that will bring the impact of ESOF 2012 to a new level, in Dublin, throughout Europe and to the world at large. We are simply delighted to have won. It has been an enormous effort with lots of challenges along the way but we remained focused and got there in the end."

The next ESOF will be held in Turin on 2–7 July 2010.

Notes for Editors

Dublin Bid Committee

Dublin's proposal has been in preparation since March 2008 by bringing together the scientific, academic and industrial establishment of Ireland. Over 50 stakeholders, drawn from all sectors of society, came together under the stewardship of the Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Patrick Cunningham and Senior Executive of the Bid, Aidan Gilligan. Dublin's aim is to attract 8,000 Irish and international delegates while engaging 50,000 citizens in a truly *Olympics of European Research* style event on 12–16 July 2012.

Further information

- ESOF 2012 Dublin: www.chiefscientificadviser.ie
- ESOF 2012 Bid Committee members:
<http://www.chiefscientificadviser.ie/cityofsciencebid/cityofsciencebid.html>
- Euroscience: www.euroscience.org
- ESOF 2008 Barcelona: www.esof2008.org
- ESOF 2010 Turin: www.esof2010.org

Euroscience

Euroscience is a grass-roots organisation open to research professionals, science administrators, policy makers, teachers, PhD students, post-docs, engineers, industrialists and to any citizen interested in science and technology and its links with society. It represents European scientists of all disciplines (including social sciences and the humanities), in the public sector, universities, research institutes as well as business and industry. EuroScience currently has approximately 4,000 members in 40 European countries. For further information contact www.euroscience.org

The Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF)

ESOF provides European and international science and business communities with an open platform for debate and communication. ESOF presents and profiles Europe's leading research trends in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. They provide opportunity to discuss and influence the future of research and innovation in Europe by involving all main stakeholders - scientists, business executives and policy-makers. For further information contact www.euroscience.org/esof.html



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The ESOF Supervisory Board

The ESOF Supervisory Board conducted the selection process for determining the host city of ESOF2012, and was responsible for the final selection of Dublin. The Board is composed of representatives of Euroscience and the ESOF Supporter's Club. The latter are a group of European science foundations that have come together to support the creation of an ESOF 'hub'. This hub will be based at the Euroscience headquarters, and will act as the institutional memory of ESOF. Euroscience gratefully acknowledges the support of these European foundations: Compagnia di San Paolo, Torino, Italy; Fondazione Cariplo, Milano, Italy; Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Stockholm, Sweden; Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany; Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, Essen, Germany.

Previous European cities to host ESOF have been:

- 2004: Stockholm, Sweden, 25–28 August, with 1,800 participants including 350 journalists, from more than 60 countries. www.esof2004.org
- 2006: Munich, Germany, 15–19 July, with 2,200 participants, including 500 journalists, from 60 countries. www.esof2006.org
- 2008: Barcelona 18–22 July, with 4,000 participants, including 500 journalists. For further information see www.esof2008.org

The next ESOF will be:

- 2010: Turin, Italy, 2–7 July. www.esof2010.org

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