

Application of EUROSCIENCE as a partner of the Bologna Process

§ 1. Introduction.

1.1. EUROSCIENCE (European Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology) is an independent and grass-root association of scientists, engineers, students and all those interested in the pursuit of science and technology for the greatest benefit of European society. It admits also corporate members and seeks to offer an opportunity for other associations and learned societies to exchange positions and build a platform for effective representations and common actions.

From the Statutes [Annex 1] EUROSCIENCE's objectives are:

- *to provide its members with an effective voice in discussions and policymaking about science and technology and society in Europe;*
- *to promote a scientific culture and a dialogue and mutual understanding between science and society, amongst others in order to warrant the free, but responsible pursuit of knowledge to the greatest benefit of society;*
- *to foster a European spirit amongst its members through discussions of issues common to all;*
- *to facilitate co-operation between all stakeholders in science and technology in Europe, and thus contribute to the understanding of science and technology as a common endeavour for the benefit of Europe and its citizens;*
- *to further collaboration among European scientific institutions, as well as scientific and technological relations between Europe and the rest of the world.*

In this respect, EUROSCIENCE's purposes encompass those related to science education, and to higher education in general. It is also to be stressed that the scope of EUROSCIENCE includes the humanities, jurisprudence, social sciences, economics, mathematics, natural, medical and technical sciences (Art. 4.1), therefore all the disciplines and the branches of knowledge and not just "science" according to English semantics.

1.2. EUROSCIENCE was founded in 1997, and has reached a membership of 2400 in 40 European countries. It aims to reinforce collaboration, from the inside and across all European borders and works to extend its influence in the European landscape, also providing expertise on request.

It operates through its Workgroups and Regional Sections, setting up conferences, workshops and other appropriate actions (including awards) on subjects such as Career Development, Integration and Collaboration in European Science, Accountability of Scientists to Society, Ethics in Science, Public Awareness of Science...

EUROSCIENCE has established a Working Group on Education in January 2005 [Annex 2]. The Working Group is a natural framework for dealing issues related to the Bologna Process.

EUROSCIENCE publishes a quarterly Newsletter (Euroscience News) and maintains a web site (<http://www.euroscience.org/>), which is going to be renewed soon.

1.3. EUROSCIENCE has been the initiator of the ESOFs, the EuroScience Open Forums, set up to provide an independent arena for open dialogue on the role of all the sciences, including the humanities, in society. The initiative was taken by the researchers themselves and brought to life by way of EUROSCIENCE.

The Euroscience Open Forum is held every other year, visiting the major scientific cities of Europe and bringing European science to the attention of all citizens. The starting point of ESOF's European journey has been Stockholm, Sweden, in 2004. Two years later, ESOF's itinerary brought to Munich, Germany. And, after ESOF2006, the route will continue southwards: ESOF2008 will be held in the capital of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain, whilst ESOF2010 will be hosted by Turin, Italy.

Among others, EUROSCIENCE has concretely supported initiatives on the career development of researchers, in the field of mobility, and assisted in the elaboration of the European Charter for Researchers.

§ 2. Criteria for partnership.

2.1. Added value to the Bologna Process. EUROSCIENCE is a non-governmental organisation representing – among the rest – professors and students. Through its strong engagement in the field of “science and society” it fulfils the aims enclosed in the tenth Action line of the Bologna Process on the relationships between the EHEA and the ERA.

2.2. Relevance of the stakeholder group. The added value of EUROSCIENCE would be not just in representing “one” specific group, but rather to contribute to merging various interests and activities by different groups of actors of the European Higher Education and Research Areas. Professionals, science administrators, policy-makers, teachers, students, post-docs, engineers, industrialists, and generally any citizen interested in science and technology and its links with society can be involved in one or another way within Euroscience and its activities, and therefore a multiplier effect could be achieved.

2.3. Representativeness. EUROSCIENCE is not a sub-organisation of any other organisations officially recognised by the BFUG. EUROSCIENCE is a major organisation representing actors of the European Knowledge Area, in that the peculiarity of its membership reflects the fact that it breaks down disciplines, countries and contributes to building a unified European community of people having a stake in science and research, particularly through the ESOFs.

EUROSCIENCE is a European organisation, accepts individuals from all the Bologna member states as full members, and has full members from more than 50% of the Bologna countries. It has full members from countries outside the EU/EEA and EU candidate countries.

2.4. Organisational form. EUROSCIENCE is a international, independent and non-profit-making association registered “*according to the local laws of associations prevailing in the departments of Haut Rhin, Bas-Rhin and Moselle, regulated by the article 21 et sq. of the local civil code (law of 1908)*” (Art. 1.2). The seat is fixed in Strasbourg.

Science education, and higher education in particular, is a relevant field of interest for EUROSCIENCE [see also Annex 2].