



## ELSF-ESF Conference

# Research Infrastructures for the Life Sciences

European Parliament • Brussels • Belgium  
Thursday 13 and Friday 14 September 2007

Infrastructures are indispensable instruments for supporting research in the modern life sciences; however, in Europe they often constitute a limiting factor due to lack of mechanisms available for their coordinated organization and funding. An institutional debate on European research infrastructures has been launched over the past few years, primarily through the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) which recently released a “European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures”.

The life scientists’ community ought to contribute to this crucial debate. Several issues, indeed, remain open. Firstly, the ESFRI Roadmap represents a list of priorities established by an advisory body. Formal decisions must still be made and the organization and funding structures have still to be defined by potential participating ESFRI Member States. Secondly, this roadmap is a snapshot of what is a continuously developing set of infrastructure needs and it is only through meetings like this one that the opinion of the broad life science community on future requirements will be heard.

For the reasons outlined above, the European Life Sciences Forum (ELSF), a coalition of independent organizations representative or supportive of the life sciences, biotechnology and biomedical research communities in Europe, and the European Science Foundation (ESF) are organizing the present conference. A Science Policy Briefing will be produced following the conference.

### Objectives of the conference:

- Highlight the specificities and needs of research infrastructures for the life sciences
- Discuss funding and strategic planning for research infrastructures worldwide
- Showcase the various mechanisms existing in Europe that fund research infrastructures
- Discuss the process and any uncertainties as concerns the implementation of the ESFRI Roadmap as well as the ESFRI mandate and strategy for the subsequent roadmaps
- Discuss ways to meet the current research infrastructures needs

### Who should attend?

This conference is intended for life scientists, science administrators and decision makers alike.

### Further information & Registration Procedures

#### Secretariat of the Conference:

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#### Registration:

[www.elsf.org](http://www.elsf.org)

**Provisional Programme**  
**ELSF-ESF Meeting on Research Infrastructures for the Life Sciences**  
**Thursday 13 and Friday 14 September 2007**

14:00	Welcome Address	Jorgo Chatzimarkakis (EP), John Marks (ESF) & Iain Mattaj (ELSF)
		Chair: Alexander Quintanilha (LESC-ESF)
14:15	<u>Keynote speech</u> Research infrastructures: essential instruments for life scientists	John Sulston (Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute)
14:40	Survey of existing life sciences research infrastructures	Neil Williams (ESF) & Hervé Péro (EC)
15:30	<u>Showcase of infrastructures for the life sciences</u> Physics infrastructures for the life sciences	Jochen Schneider (DESY)
15:50	<u>Showcase of infrastructures for the life sciences</u> Strategic planning of research: from basic research to the patient's treatment, the need for research infrastructures	Martine Piccart (EORTC, BIG)
16:10	Coffee Break	
16:30	<u>Roundtable discussion</u> "Funding, upgrading and strategic planning of research infrastructures: local, regional and international approaches" Hervé Péro (EC), Eckhart Curtius (ESFRI, BMBF), James P. Collins (NSF)	Peter Tindemans (Euroscience)
18:30	Reception	
		Chair: Liselotte Højgaard (EMRC-ESF)
9:00	<u>Keynote speech</u> Towards the ESFRI Roadmap II	Carlo Rizzuto (ESFRI)
9:30	<u>Roundtable discussion</u> "Different approaches to fund research infrastructures" Emilia Pola (Region of Cataluña), Charles White (DG REGIO, EC), John Davis (European Investment Bank, EIB), Jorgo Chatzimarkakis (EP), Michal Kleiber (Polish Academy of Sciences, ERC)	Frank Gannon (Science Foundation Ireland)
10:30	Coffee break	
10:50	<u>Showcase of infrastructures for the life sciences</u> EMMA, a paradigm for decentralized research infrastructures	Martin Hrabé de Angelis (GSF - National Research Center for Environment and Health)
11:10	<u>Showcase of infrastructures for the life sciences</u> Facing the challenge of exponential data gathering: the continuous upgrading of biological databases	Ewan Birney (European Bioinformatics Institute)
11:30	<u>Roundtable discussion</u> "Waiting for the ESFRI roadmap to be implemented, how do we meet the research infrastructures needs now?" Fotis Kafatos (ERC), Robert-Jan Smits (EC), Peter Nijkamp (EuroHORCs), Carlos Martínez (CSIC), Colin Blackmore (MRC), Christian Bréchet (INSERM), Marja Makarow (EMBC)	Declan Butler (Nature)
13:00	Concluding remarks	Iain Mattaj (ELSF) & John Marks (ESF)