

Press Release

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Toulouse organizes ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) 2018

EuroScience is proud to announce that the EuroScience Open Forum will be hosted in July 2018 in Toulouse, France. The Université Fédérale Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées, together with an impressive number of national and regional institutions and partners, has worked hard to put together a very convincing bid. Jointly with the University, the Mairie de Toulouse, Toulouse Métropole, the Région Midi-Pyrénées and the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie, demonstrated an enthusiastic collective mobilization during a marathon site visit by members of the ESOF Supervisory Board. The rich history and architectural heritage of Toulouse, rooting back to the Antiquity, blends perfectly with the modern city turned towards Europe, with high technology industries collaborating with European partners. Midi-Pyrénées, the Toulouse Region, is a leading region of France in terms of spending on research, and offers a comprehensive research portfolio covering all disciplines and providing a scientific environment of great international repute with strong links with the industry, that ranks among the highest in France in terms of scientific production. We are convinced that Toulouse will add its name as another major European city to the European Cities of Science that have organized ESOF since 2004 in Stockholm.

Professor Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen, President of EuroScience, said "We are thrilled to count Toulouse as the ESOF 2018 host city. ESOF is the largest interdisciplinary meeting on science and innovation in Europe, and offers a unique platform for scientists, businesses, policy-makers and the general public to meet. The capabilities and the dynamism of Toulouse will ensure a stimulating and fruitful ESOF for all participants."

Dr. Gail Cardew, chair of the ESOF Supervisory Board that EuroScience has established with five partners, said "For a city to be awarded ESOF is to effectively give them the title of European City of Science. The city becomes a focal point for a discussion about science, not just among scientists but with the whole city. Toulouse's deep-rooted academic tradition and strong commitment to scientific and technological innovation together with engaging the public provides a perfect backdrop for ESOF, and we look forward to developing a strong and exciting programme with the CNRS Research Director Dr. Anne Cambon-Thomsen."

Dr. Anne Cambon-Thomsen, Research Director at CNRS, working at Inserm and the University of Toulouse III Paul Sabatier, was leading the preparation of the bid to host ESOF 2018. She said: "By becoming an ESOF champion, I am very happy to have the nice opportunity to prepare this event with such a dynamic collective of national and regional partners in close collaboration with Euroscience. I am thrilled by the idea of contributing to put the label of "European City of Science 2018" on my home town, Toulouse. I will use all my energy to make ESOF 2018 in Toulouse a success."



The central orientation of the event will be around the various facets of sharing science and the dynamics it gives towards new horizons. Several different formulations of the motto, prepared by the Toulouse organizing team in interaction with EuroScience, will be submitted to a vote by Internet of supporters of the ESOF 2018 bid on the website of the Université Fédérale Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées. This democratic start epitomizes the unique spirit of ESOF, bringing together science and society.

About ESOF

The EuroScience Open Forum, ESOF, is well established as the biggest general science conference in Europe. It was organized for the first time in Stockholm in 2004 and has since been held every two years, coming to Munich, Barcelona, Turin, Dublin and Copenhagen. Manchester will host ESOF in 2016. ESOF is the European meeting place for scientists, science teachers, media, politicians, industry and the public at large, and aims to:

- Presenting scientific and technological developments at the cutting edge from natural sciences to social sciences and humanities;
- Stimulating the European public's awareness of and interest in science and technology;
- Fostering a European dialogue on science and technology, society and policy by offering a platform for cross-disciplinary interaction and communication between the public, politicians, industry, the media and scientists on current trends and future roads for science and technology, their interaction with society and policy and the role of the public.

About EuroScience

EuroScience is the European grassroots organization of scientists and all those taking an interest in science. It is the voice of European researchers, across disciplines and countries; promoting dialogue with researchers worldwide. Its objectives are

- Engaging with policymakers, business and society to create a stronger Europe through science
- Convening partnerships to work on careers, rights and responsibilities of scientists and key issues of science policy
- Promoting transparency of, and providing information on European STI policies
- Advancing science for the pursuit of knowledge, prosperity and global development, and for addressing transdisciplinary global challenges.

EuroScience is based in Strasbourg.

For the press

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