



EUROCORES Programme

BOREAS: Histories from the North – environments, movements, narratives

Call for Outline Proposals

What is EUROCORES?

The EUROCORES (ESF Collaborative Research) Scheme provides a framework for national research funding organisations (research councils, academies, ministries and other funding organisations) to fund multinational and multidisciplinary collaborative research projects, in and across all scientific areas. Participating funding agencies publish a joint Call for Proposals for a specific research programme, define the type of proposals to be submitted and agree on the common peer review procedure to be followed. ESF provides support for the networking of funded scientists and dissemination activities, while the funding of the research itself stays with national research funding organisations. Further background information on the EUROCORES Scheme can be found at <http://www.esf.org/eurocores>

Funding initiative for Humanities and Social Science based research in the circumpolar North

Following agreement with funding agencies from Canada, Denmark (with Greenland), Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden and the United States, the European Science Foundation (ESF) is launching a **Call for Outline Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs)** to be undertaken under the EUROCORES Programme BOREAS.

Researchers with funding obtained or expected from funding agencies not participating in BOREAS are eligible to apply as “Associate Partners” in a CRP if they bring added value to a CRP.

The objective of this new EUROCORES Programme BOREAS is to form and fund robust international and multidisciplinary research teams that develop new avenues for circumpolar research from a variety of perspectives.

BOREAS will run for one funding period (three to four years; 2006-2010) and will combine national research funding and ESF support for networking and dissemination activities (EC FP6 Contract no. ERAS-CT-2003-980409).

The Call for Outline Proposals will be published on 2 May 2005. Proposals are to be submitted by 27 June 2005.

Full Proposals will be invited by 20 September 2005 (deadline 11 November 2005).

For a short overview of procedures and documentation required see below; for complete instructions and national contact points, see <http://www.esf.org/boreas>.

The context for BOREAS

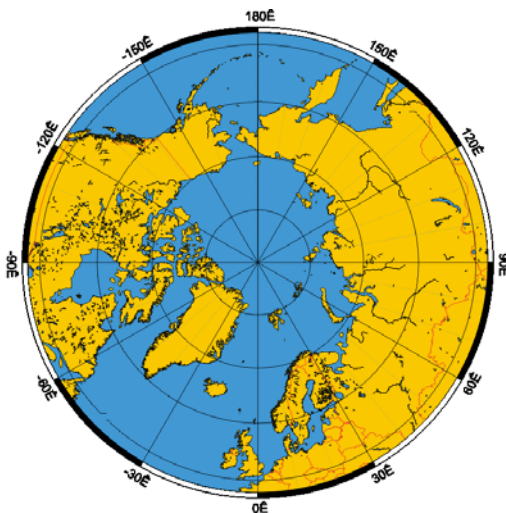
The circumpolar North is now widely accepted as a unique early warning system for changing relations between society and the environment. This region, which includes the Arctic and the sub-Arctic, has moved to the centre of global debates on environmental change, human adaptation, new post-cold-war partnerships and issues of post-colonial governance and strategy. Yet, much Arctic research has been dominated by natural science agendas, looking at the region as a natural ‘laboratory’. Inhabitants of the Arctic are often seen as natural variables, while their understandings of the natural, cultural and spiritual processes that have shaped Arctic civilisations have not been adequately taken into account.

For political and other reasons, the circumpolar region has only recently re-emerged as “one” area, revealing past connections and current common problems and pointing to future challenges, such as the relationships between communities and the modern state (whether Soviet, post-Soviet or Welfare), NGOs and the global economy.

The involvement of local populations as research partners is very advanced in the North, and BOREAS offers a unique opportunity for scholars to explore the intersections of Southern (or ‘Western’) ways of knowing the environment and their local counterparts. BOREAS can redefine the geography of knowledge in Northern Europe and relate it to circumpolar regions worldwide, by moving beyond South-North dichotomies and centre-periphery models, as well as by crossing disciplinary and national boundaries. BOREAS also invites the research community to reflect upon their own approaches to studying the North.

BOREAS is a humanities-led research initiative and can be expected to make a signal contribution to the humanities and social sciences framework themes for the strongly interdisciplinary and large-scale Fourth International Polar Year (IPY, 2007-2008). BOREAS will take a lead in fundamental research, in-depth studies in human cultural development and societal adaptation, while IPY teams will focus more upon practical, observational networks, educational and public outreach, and partnerships with polar communities. BOREAS may provide funding for IPY-focused projects (particularly those initiated by European scholars), in a multilateral and multidisciplinary framework, while such IPY collaboration will give a forceful voice to humanities and social sciences in Arctic studies as a whole. Similar synergies can be envisaged to develop with initiatives such as the International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC) and the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR).

Scientific disciplines expected to make valuable contributions to BOREAS projects include but are not limited to: Anthropology, archaeogenetics, archaeology, architecture, art history, Asian studies, botany, climatology, comparative literature, comparative religion, conflict resolution, cultural studies, demography, development economics, ecology, economics, education studies, ethology, environmental sciences and systems theory, film/media studies, gender studies, geography, geology, history, history and philosophy of science, law, linguistics, metaphysics, museum studies, musicology, nutrition, philology, philosophy, physiology, political science, postcolonial studies, psychology, public health, religious studies, sociology, transport economics, zoology.



Priorities for research

BOREAS places a strong emphasis on fieldwork and other evidence-based methods such as archival research. The aim is to form a wider archive of data, necessary for new approaches to problems of space and time, as well as synergies with other empirical domains of research in the social, natural and medical sciences. All scientific domains are invited to reflect upon their approaches to studying the Arctic.

In BOREAS, research on the circumpolar North will focus on the relationship between humans and **environments**; but both will appear as subjects, and not merely as the recipients, of change.

In order to challenge the image of a static Arctic, BOREAS will explore the importance of **movements** (both seasonal and long-term), especially those associated with the creation, permanence and dissolution of communities, and ways in which these are mapped in new social forms.

A community's engagement with a given or changing environment finds expression in **narratives** (histories, philosophies, mythologies, arts and other forms). BOREAS goes beyond the recording of human techniques of local, ecological adaptation in extreme environments under conditions of (global) change. BOREAS will explore the philosophical and spiritual foundations of such knowledge 'from the North' and aims at tracing the dynamics that shape the transmission of knowing about sustainability in a fragile world.

Specific Research Areas

Teams of scholars will propose their collaborative research projects within the broad framework of the programme, whether for single regions of the North or in a comparative circumpolar perspective.

Proposers are encouraged to ask complex questions that require a multidisciplinary approach. Projects may also include components outside the humanities and social sciences disciplines, such as the natural, environmental and medical sciences.

Issues to be addressed can include, but are not limited to the following:

1 Human ecology of time and space: change and movement

- **How best to use the evidence offered by the northern environment to link the long time-scales from geology to archaeology with the shorter time-scales of colonial history and living memory?**
- **How to understand movement as a pattern of land / water / ice use, and as adaptation to both stability and change?**
- **How best to study forms of extreme environmental adaptation between Arctic and sub-Arctic, seaboard and interior?**
- Commensurability of geophysical and archaeological data and more recently recorded human experience in small, highly mobile populations; perceptions by Northern residents of environmental change
- East-west migrations around the North, including European contacts with
- North America and North Asia; exchange of genomes with the “South”
- Human adaptation to extreme seasonality and long-term climate change: mobility of animals; settlement and mobility of humans; adaptation of movement and patterns to water, snow and ice
- Diversities and commonalities in northern understandings of space, movement, distance and direction; subsistence and plenty

2 Socio-economic and political impacts: governance and sovereignty, industrialisation and subsistence

- **How to map the relationship between central state and local communities?**
- **How to interpret sovereignty and citizenship in northern societies dominated by southern demand for natural resources and revenue dependence on world markets?**
- **How to locate northern research in the field of socio-political forces?**
- Comparisons of advances and retreats of the colonial and post-colonial state in these sparsely populated regions; range and sustainability of state power and infrastructure, access and role of NGOs

- Diversity of models and realisations of sovereignty, and of forms of governance; regional devolution and indigenous self-government; cross-border regimes and transnational forms of cooperation
- Politics and ethics of access to natural resources for utilisation in the South; the role of natural sciences and the impact of national and world economies
- Industrialisation and de-industrialisation in the socialist and capitalist North; regional revenue dependence on non-renewable resources
- Coexistence of mineral and subsistence economies; interplay between mineral/energy-based economies and animal-based economies

3 Local responses: vulnerability and resilience

- **What are the limits to social and cultural adaptability? Which local responses stem or channel outside political and cultural influences and domination?**
- **What is the effect of the northern frontier on mutual identity formation between indigenous communities and immigrants?**
- **Does technology (transport, communication etc) create a new North?**
- The role of culture, consciousness and agency for models of change, response and feedback in remote areas, e.g. applicability of the biology-derived concepts of vulnerability and resilience
- Qualitative, culture-based approaches to issues of social adaptability and public health, especially regarding diversities and convergences among parts of the region intensively subjected to both socialist and liberal development policies
- Electronic communications, cultural models and entertainment in isolated communities
- Perspectives and adaptations of southern settlers to northern conditions; interactions of indigenous communities with immigrants; social and legal statuses and senses of belonging; expression and resolution of conflict
- Scope and limits of social adaptability; generation, gender and family dynamics; education, including boarding school;

alcohol, drugs and youth culture; violence, suicide and trauma

- Changing patterns of nomadic and settled space; health, household and food security in relation to seasonality
- Dependence on transport and supply lines; the development of consumer culture and the relationship to the environment

4 Representations: histories, language, identity

● What are Northern techniques of history and memory?

● How has linguistic change affected Northern societies' ability to interpret their past, present and future?

● How do institutions (media, schools, museums etc) influence identity?

- The production and interpretation of histories, texts and diaries; techniques of memory, including myth, life history and autobiography; comparative collection of changing images, values and narratives by which Northern societies interpret their own pasts, presents and futures
- Post-colonial and other approaches to representation and history; including the relationship of orality, writing, visual arts and artefacts, music, theatre, film and new electronic media (criteria of validity, evidence and voice)
- Ethnic and other identities; contact zones; mutual representations between North and South; role of the North in European self-definition
- Properties of northern languages; changing linguistic forms, usages and contexts
- Indigenous and outsider religions and ideologies: implications of the various forms of shamanism, Christianity, Communism and capitalism for society, history and language
- The marketing of cultural heritage and management of sacred sites

5 Philosophies

● How is the non-human environment (landscape, animals) conceptualised as a nexus of social relations and a field of multiple and contradictory agencies?

● How do narratives of the North's exceptionality and marginality influence research traditions?

● How can researchers and northern residents collaborate as partners in the production of knowledge and the framing of political, cultural and science agendas for the North?

- Experience, evidence, reality and the self-situating of northern civilisations; multiple ontologies and cognitive resilience; implications of these for critiques of theories of knowledge
- Northern indigenous philosophies of human and animal nature and theories of identity, ethics, intention, agency and mental health; comparative cosmology; reincarnation beliefs and theories of identity, responsibility and free will
- Discourses of scholarly and scientific research traditions; definitions and boundaries of the North; southern constructions of "nordicity" and of the North's exceptionality, and contemporary re-evaluation of the region as exemplar of global processes
- The researcher and the human object of research, in a region of advanced involvement of indigenous and settler communities as full collaborators in the process of knowing; comparisons with methodological implications in other civilisations

Networking

Human and social science research in Europe regarding the North tends to be conducted by individuals and small teams linked by informal networks. The infrastructure of European humanities research on this region needs to be developed, both to ensure effective collaboration with other disciplines working in the North and to strengthen the ability of northern studies to make a basic contribution to wider debates in the humanities.

BOREAS provides a distinctive opportunity for forming multilateral and multidisciplinary collaborative research projects, not only between European researchers, but also with the USA, Canada and Russia. All three countries possess extensive northern territory, where northern research is undergoing

significant organisational changes. BOREAS will create conditions to enter into a dialogue with these restructuring research systems and will be open to proposals for collaborative projects with research groups from those three countries. (Note: Applications involving funding from Canadian or US sources may be required by relevant agencies to satisfy additional requirements.)

Projects may also include components outside the humanities and social sciences disciplines, such as the natural, environmental and medical sciences. Networking activities (workshops, symposia, summer schools, conference panels, conferences) under BOREAS will specifically address the need for sustained interdisciplinary dialogue both within the humanities and social sciences, and beyond.

Programme Structure and Management

The funding period of BOREAS is expected to start in summer / autumn 2006 and will run for three to four years.

The programme will be overseen by a *Management Committee*, formed by one representative from each participating funding agency and a representative from the ESF.

Once launched, ESF will support networking and dissemination activities of funded Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) to facilitate cross-project communication, exchange of information and presentation and discussion of results. To this aim, *scientific workshops, summer schools, conference panels and conferences, publications* and similar activities can be organised by the funded scientists on a regular basis. Such activities will be coordinated by a Programme Coordinator appointed by ESF and advised by the *Programme Science Committee* (formed of CRP representatives), the Review Panel and the Management Committee. Web facilities can also be made available and/or be supported.

An independent international *Review Panel* of leading scientists in the participating fields of research, who are appointed by ESF following suggestions from participating funding agencies, will be responsible for the project selection process and will monitor the scientific progress of the Programme. Member-ship of the Review

Panel and the names of referees used in the international peer review will be published after the selection process is complete.

There will be a two stage selection process: *Outline Proposals* will be screened for eligibility. The Review Panel will invite successful applicants in September 2005 to submit Full Proposals.

Full proposals will be internationally peer-reviewed. Referees will be selected by the ESF, principally using a pool of scientists whose names are provided by the participating funding agencies.

Based on the results of refereeing, the *Review Panel will recommend and prioritise the best applications for funding* by the participating funding agencies of the selected applicants. Funding of the proposals recommended will depend on the total amount of money made available in each country by the participating funding agencies.

Use of funds in a project will be subject to the rules and regulations of each participating funding agency as well as to the national laws of those countries.

Programme Terminology

Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) are the international research activities which make up a EUROCORES programme. A CRP consists of a number of **Individual Projects (IPs)**, each led by a **Principal Investigator (PI)**. Associated Projects are also part of a CRP. Each CRP is represented by a Principal Investigator called **Project Leader (PL)**.

All Principal Investigators (PIs) will be responsible for complying with the requirements attached to awards granted by national funding agencies.

The Project Leader (PL) will act as the principal contact for the CRP proposal, and for the duration of the funded CRP. The PL will be responsible for representing the CRP, will steer its participation in programme activities, and for any reporting requirements.

Guidelines for proposals

Specific guidelines for outline (and later for full) proposals will be made available on <http://www.esf.org/boreas>

For general information on the EUROCORES Scheme see also: <http://www.esf.org/eurocores>

Outline Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) for the EUROCORES Programme BOREAS are **to be submitted by 27 June 2005**.

Submission will be by **online application form only**.

Access to the **online application form** can be found through <http://www.esf.org/boreas>. Applicants should follow the **outline proposal guidelines** on this website.

Each CRP proposal must involve scientists or research groups from at least three different countries, normally funded by **three different EUROCORES funding agencies**. At every stage, such CRPs will be evaluated jointly.

Researchers with funding obtained or expected from funding agencies not participating in BOREAS are eligible to apply as "Associate Partners" in a CRP, if they bring added value to a CRP.

This applies to all ESF Member Organisations and other non-ESF funding bodies, such as the Russian Academy of Sciences. "Associated Partners" can boost the strength of a CRP, but do not count towards the eligibility threshold (three agencies).

N.B.: For **specific national eligibility criteria** and individual funding restrictions applied by the participating funding agencies, please see the BOREAS website and contact the relevant national contact points listed. In particular, applications for funding from Canadian or US sources may be required by the relevant agencies to satisfy additional requirements

The online form for **Outline Proposals** will require data to be entered regarding the PL, PIs and Associate Partners, as well as title, starting date, duration and keywords identifying the CRP, as well as an estimation of the budget on a unified template provided.

An Outline Proposal must further comprise (as one uploaded document):

1. Short description of the CRP (max. 1.200 words, incl. overall aims, objectives, methodologies, experiments, fieldwork etc.).
2. Short description how the different partners contributing to the CRP will work together.
3. Short CVs of PL, all PIs and associate partners (max. 1 page each, incl. 5 most relevant publications)
4. Estimated budget (consistent with the rules of relevant national funding agency) in the template provided (for detailed instructions refer to the outline proposal guidelines).

The Outline Proposals will be examined by ESF and participating funding agencies for **eligibility** according to applicable national requirements and restrictions. In particular, applicants wishing to work with US American, Canadian or Russian funded colleagues must be aware of such regulations, as Collaborative Research Projects will be submitted and assessed as a whole. Appropriate steps will be taken by the respective national contact points to make their national regulations easily accessible to interested applicants. US American and Canadian researchers are strongly encouraged to familiarise their European colleagues with the relevant guidelines.

Outline Proposals for CRPs will be screened by the Review Panel according to the following **criteria**:

1. Suitability for the Call for Proposals
2. Originality and novelty of the proposal
3. Level of international and multidisciplinary collaboration (incl. "European added value")
4. Feasibility
5. Qualification of the applicants.

The Review Panel does not, at this stage, comment in detail on the scientific quality of the proposal. *The Review Panel may give recommendations concerning the further development of a proposal such as suggesting the mergers of proposals or the inclusion of existing teams as associate partners.*

Outline Proposals considered to fit within the scope of the Call and to be viable will be **invited by 20 September 2005 to submit Full Proposals by 11 November 2005**.

Full Proposals must comprise the following **elements**: a well-argued scientific case for the CRP, the external standing of the partners, the internal expected collaboration, etc. The detailed funding requests must be split up according to the requested amounts from each participating funding agency.

A Full Proposal will include a brief report on the state of the art, bibliography (max. 2 pages), overall aims, strategy and work plan (milestones), description of the envisaged collaboration (expertise, track record of the partners and their expected contributions), requested budget and information about past (publications) and present (other applications) fields of research.

Detailed instructions will be made available under <http://www.esf.org/boreas>

Full proposals will be assessed by an international peer review managed by ESF according to these **criteria**:

1. Scientific quality of the CRP and IP proposals
2. Level of multidisciplinary integration within the CRP
3. Qualification of the applicants (suitability for this CRP; international standing)
4. Level of collaboration envisaged between the IPs in this CRP
5. Feasibility, incl. suitability of the methods selected
6. Overlap with existing projects (or projects applied for)
7. Suitability of budget items ("value for money")

After receiving all referee reports, these assessments will be made available to the applicants in an anonymised format; applicants will be given a opportunity for a **rebuttal**, that will be taken into account by the Review Panel.

Depending on the rules of the participating national agencies, funds applied for under CNCC can include salaries for scientific and technical staff, equipment, travel costs, consumables. Detailed instructions can be obtained from the national contact points. Applicants should be aware that failing to comply with national rules and regulations may lead to significant budget adjustments on the part of the funding agency.

List of contact persons

Participating EUROCORES funding agencies

Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada (CRSH)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Dr Craig McNaughton

Strategic Grants and Joint Initiatives Division

350 Albert Street

P.O. Box 1610

Ottawa ON K1P 6G4

Tel: +1 613 943 1149

Fax: +1 613 947 0223

Email:

Craig.McNaughton@sshrc.ca

Denmark

Forskningsstyrelsen / Danish Research Agency (DRA)

Ms Mette Bjerge

Artillerivej 88

2300 Copenhagen S

Tel: +45 35 44 63 62

Fax: +45 35 44 62 01

Email: mb@forsk.dk

Estonia

Eesti Teadusfondi / Estonian Science Foundation (ETF)

Dr Luule Mizera

Kohtu 6

10130 Tallinn

Tel: +372 6996 214

Fax: +372 6996 211

Email: luule@etf.ee

Finland

Suomen Akademia / Academy of Finland (AKA)

Dr Kustaa Multamäki

Research Council for Culture

and Society

P.O. Box 99

00501 Helsinki

Tel: +358 9 7748 8349

Fax: +358 9 7748 8299

Email: kustaa.multamaki@aka.fi

Iceland

Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands / Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS)

Dr Eiríkur Smári Sigurdarson

Laugavegur 13

101 Reykjavík

Tel: +354 515 5818

Fax: +354 552 9814

Email: eirikur@rannis.is

Norway

Norges forskningsråd / Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Ms Kari Morthensen

Division for Science

Stensberggata 26

Box 2700 St. Hanshaugen

0131 Oslo

Tel: +47 22 03 74 18

Fax: +47 22 03 74 09

Email: km@rcn.no

Poland

Polska Akademia Nauk / Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN)

Ms Renata Kuskowska

Palace of Culture and Science

00-901 Warsaw

Tel: +48 22 656 63 71

Fax: +48 22 620 33 74

Email: Renata.Kuskowska@pan.pl

Sweden

Kungliga Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien / Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities (KVHAA)

Ms Kerstin Forslund

Box 5622

Villagatan 3

114 86 Stockholm

Tel: +46 8 440 42 80

Fax: +46 8 440 42 90

Email:

kforslund@vitterhetsakad.se

United States

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Dr Anna Kerttula

Arctic Social Sciences

Office of Polar Programs

4201 Wilson Blvd, Room 755

Arlington VA 22230

Tel: +1 703 292 7432

Fax: +1 703 292 9082

Email: akerttul@nsf.gov

Associate status

Researchers with funding obtained or expected from funding agencies not participating in BOREAS are eligible to apply as "Associate Partners" in a CRP if they bring added value to a CRP. This applies to all ESF Member Organisations and other non-ESF funding agencies.

Some specific contacts for "Associate Partners":

Austria

Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung /

Austrian Science Research Fund (FWF)

Dr Barbara Zimmermann

Email: zimmermann@fwf.ac.at

Germany

Max Planck Institutes

Dr Joachim Otto Habeck

Email: habeck@eth.mpg.de

United Kingdom

The British Academy (BA)

Contact via

<http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/contacts.html>

Russia

Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Dr Arkady Victorovich Baulo

Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography

Lavrentiev Ave 17

Novosibirsk, 630090

Tel: +7 3832 30 27 91

Fax: +7 3832 30 11 91

Email: baulo@archaeology.nsc.ru

Copy to:

Professor Anatoliy Derevyanko

Email: derev@archaeology.nsc.ru

Sweden

Vetenskapsrådet / Swedish Research Council (VR)

Professor Bengt Hansson

Email: bengt.hansson@vr.se

For Scientists from the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

INTAS

(International Association for the Promotion of Co-operation with Scientists from the New Independent States (NIS) of the Former Soviet Union)

Dr Gulnara Roll

Avenue des Arts 58/8

1000 Bruxelles

Tel: +32 2 549 01 11

Fax: +32 2 549 01 56

Email: gulnara.roll@intas.be

European Science Foundation (ESF)

Dr Rüdiger Klein

EUROCORES Programme

Coordinator

1 quai Lezay-Marnésia

BP 90015

67080 Strasbourg

France

Tel: +33 3 88 76 71 04

Fax: +33 3 88 37 05 32

Email: boreas@esf.org

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