

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EMS SUMMER SCHOOLS IN FUNDAMENTAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY MATHEMATICS

Following the success of its first E.U. application (which allows the funding of eight Summer Schools or Conferences in 2004-2005, see the EMS agenda page 2 or <http://www.emis.de/etc/ems-summerschools.html>), the European Mathematical Society is now launching a new call for proposals for such Schools and Conferences for 2006, 2007 and 2008. The deadline for this call is **January 12, 2005**, by e-mail to the address: llemaire@ulb.ac.be.

The deadline will allow the EMS to present a coherent proposal of activities for EU funding, thereby allowing organisers of single meetings to be part of a series of events. EMS direct support being limited, the result of this application will make a major difference to the funding for the meetings selected by EMS. There will be similar calls every two or three years in the future.

This call for proposals concerns all Summer schools or Conferences that any group of mathematicians – pure or applied – would like to run in 2006, 07 or 08 in the EU or associated states.

The EU guidelines for these events must be followed strictly in order to have a reasonable hope for funding (the success rate for EU-applications being extremely low).

Thus, there must be a very strong component of training of young researchers (in the first 10 years of their career) by means of integrated courses and lectures at an advanced level. These can be supplemented by conference type research lectures, but the training component is needed.

Each course must aim at an international audience (no more than 30% of participants should come from a single state; otherwise the event in not eligible for funding).

The EMS will make a selection amongst the proposals received, taking into consideration the criteria applied by the EU, i.e.:

- Scientific quality of the project (high quality, cutting edge subject, speakers of high calibre...)
- Quality of the research training activity (training provided to the young researchers, level of interaction between the main speakers and the young ones...)
- Quality of the host (quality of infrastructure, experience in running confer-
- ences, contact making opportunities...)
- Management and feasibility (organisation and management, plans for publicity, dissemination of the results by publications, web sites, any other means...)
- Relevance to the objectives of the EU action and added value to the EU (relevance of the themes in relation with European interests and achievements, measures taken in favour of gender balance, use for integration of less developed regions, plans to favour public understanding of science...).

Concerning the last two criteria, part of the value comes from the EMS organisation, and this will be added in the final application. However, any little point will count, and each organiser can help by stressing qualities.

Proposers are asked to present a project as detailed as possible, with (provisional!) lists of speakers, subjects, and addressing all questions above. They should also include an estimate of the number of eligible participants for each of the three categories (EU or associated states and less than 4 years research experience; less than 10 years; no time limit but a researcher from EU or associated states living outside that zone). For these, no financial estimates should be given. An estimate of “organisational” expenses is also needed, including

all expenses of key speakers which are non eligible.

The proposers should be aware of the rules of funding by the EU: the travel and living expenses of all eligible researchers can be covered, up to a rather generous maximum determined by the EU. If a fee is charged to all participants, the EU will reimburse the fees of eligible ones but then subtract this amount from the expenses below. All other expenses, including expenses of non-eligible key speakers, will be covered at a proportion equal to the ratio eligible participants / all participants. The EU will pay a maximum of 80 % in advance, the last 20 % only when all reports are in, and possibly a year later.

Thus a statement from an organisation (university, conference centre...) must accompany proposals, agreeing that it will cover the complement of organisational expenses, and also be ready to advance 20 % of the funding until payment from the EU has arrived.

To give an idea, for the eight schools in the present project, we had a total of 140 participants of category 1, 155 of category 2, 20 of category 3. Their funding amounts to 366 000 euros, the organisational expenses of each event varies between 12000 and 17 000 euros, of which the EU covers the prescribed percentage.

Note that by a new rule, EU will not fund series of events in a single specific subject. In case that several proposals submit a particular theme, the EMS will have to make a choice or have to determine if a merger between these proposals makes sense.

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EURYI Call for Proposals European Young Investigators Awards

The European Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCS) in collaboration with the European Science Foundation (ESF) have created the European Young Investigator (EURYI) Awards, launched for the first time in 2003. Awards will last for a 5 year period with a total value normally no less than 750 kEuro. In July 2004, 25 awards were granted after the first call.

Young researchers from anywhere in the world with between 2 and 10 years postdoctoral experience – taking into account career breaks – are eligible. The selection criteria for EURYI Awards are the research quality and potential of the applicant and the originality as well as the groundbreaking character of the research proposal and its feasibility.

Applications must be submitted through a national EUROHORCS organisation no later than November 30, 2004. They will then be assessed first at the national level and later at the European level. Awards are expected to be announced at the end of July 2005. Detailed information can be obtained from www.esf.org/euryi.