**INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)**

***Participation in the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2022***

***Venue: Leiden, The Netherlands***

***Dates: 13 to 16 July 2022***

1. **Purpose**

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) invites members from the National System of Innovation interested in participating in the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2022 to submit Expression of Interest (EOI). The call for EOI is targeted to representatives from academia specifically Historically Disadvantaged Institutions and/or Individuals in South Africa. The event will take place in Leiden, the Netherlands from 13 to 16 July 2022. The main theme of the 10th edition of ESOF2022 is ***“Crossing Borders, Engaged Science, Resilient Societies”.***

***Women, people living with disabilities and emerging researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.***

1. **Background on ESOF**

**What is ESOF?**

The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) was founded in 2004 by EuroScience, a non-profit grassroots organization of researchers in Europe. It is a biennial meeting designed to offer the scientific community a platform for interdisciplinary and intersectional debate about scientific culture, scientific research and innovation, for and with society. Since its inception, ESOF has become the largest conference of its kind in Europe.

ESOF routinely brings together over 4,500 leading thinkers, innovators, policy makers, journalists, educations from more than 90 countries to discuss current and future breakthroughs in contemporary science. Each conference aims to deliver stimulating content using a wide range of creative and interactive session formats meant to foster a lively exchange of ideas through debate and other interactions. Originally the hybrid format of onsite and online participation was adapted due to the pandemic. However, it was such as success, that this year’s conference in Leiden has opted to continue the hybrid format since it allows for maximum and inclusive participation and minimizes climate impact.

1. **What to Expect at ESOF?**

ESOF is comprised of four components:

1. **The main programme** with lectures, seminars, workshops, debates and poster presentations on the latest advancements in scientific research, scientific practice and related policy issues, structures around a series of keynote speakers and interactive sessions.
2. **An exhibition** that showcases the best in European scientific activity and research whether academic or industrial, from both the public and private sectors.
3. **A public engagement programme** in the form of the European Science in the City Festival.
4. **A wide variety of other meetings**, satellite events and networking opportunities.

**Science in the City Festival**

In addition to the main conference programme, every ESOF is usually accompanied by a public outreach programme in the form of the Science in the City festival. Traditionally, European City of Science is awarded to one city, that in turn hosts both ESOF and the Science in the City Festival. The festival is an instrumental part from the conference and contains science exhibitions, public hands-on workshops and other forms of citizens involvement that help bring science closer to the general public and generate important exchanges between scientists, researchers and the public.

For more information on ESOF 2022 visit the website <https://www.esof.eu/about-esof/#>

1. **Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) call for Expression of Interests (EoI) and application process**

**The selection criteria is found in the application form attached to the EOI. The following thematic areas of ESOF 2022 will be considered:**

1. Theme 1: A sustainable environment
2. Theme 2: Cultural Identities and Societal Transformation
3. Theme 3: Space for science
4. Theme 4: Healthy societies
5. Theme 5: Freedom and  responsibility of science
6. Theme 6: Science and Business
7. Theme 7: Sustainable Academic Careers

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| **No** | **Activity** | **Date** |
|  | Publish expression of interest | 2 June 2022 |
|  | Closing date for the submission of Expression of Interest. No late submissions will be accepted. Please submit the completed Expression of Interest with supporting documents to [applications@esastap.org.za](mailto:applications@esastap.org.za) | 17 June 2022 |
|  | **DSI review and selection process** | **20 June 2022** |
|  | **Announcement of successful applicants** | **21 June 2022** |

Expression of Interest should be submitted at [applications@esastap.org.za](mailto:applications@esastap.org.za). **Late submissions will not be considered.**

**NB: Please note the DSI will provide seed funding/financial support for travel, accommodation and daily allowance at government approved rates to 7 successful applicants. Successful travellers must ensure that they have a valid passport and have adhered to the COVID requirements of the country of destination. Normal visa costs will be reimbursed by the DSI upon receipt of proof of payment for successful applicants.**

1. **Enquiries: email** [**contact@esastap.org.za**](mailto:contact@esastap.org.za)

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1. **Application Form**

**Deadline for receipt of completed Expression of Interest is 17 June 2022 at 17h00 SA Time**

Please submit the completed form to [**applications@esastap.org.za**](mailto:applications@esastap.org.za)

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| **Details of the Institution** | |
| **Organisation name** |  |
| **Director of research (for universities)** |  |
| **Applicant’s details** | |
| **Name and Surname of the Applicant** |  |
| **ID number** |  |
| **Nationality** |  |
| **Race** |  |
| **Gender** |  |
| **Please indicate if you have any form of disability** |  |
| **Physical address** |  |
| **Postal address** |  |
| **Tel.** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Date of application** |  |
| **Applications to be submitted to:** [**applications@esastap.org.za**](mailto:applications@esastap.org.za)**. No later than 17h00 on 17 June 2022** | |
| 1. **Applicant profile Criteria 1 [25%] (max 500 words)** | |
| ***Provide detailed information about yourself and career path taking into consideration your area of expertise in relation to your organisation***  ***NB: Applicants to also provide;***   * *Overall participation in international projects or events* * *Benefits derived from participating in international activities* | |
| 1. **Submit thematic area you will mainly participate in and identify the objectives of your participation and experience in the field? Criteria 2 [25%] (max 500 words)** | |
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| 1. **How will your participation improve your universities’ collaboration with international partners in Science Technology and Innovation (STI)? Criteria 3 [25%] (max 500 words)** | |
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| 1. **Motivate why you should be selected to represent your university? Criteria 4 [25%] (max 500 words)** | |
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Signature of Applicant:

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Date:

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NOTE: The personal information submitted by applicants shall be solely used for purposes of assessing the Cost seed funding applications received by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI).

In terms of section 11 (1) of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013(POPIA), by submitting the application, the applicant consents to the processing of personal information by the DSI.

All the information submitted shall be used for the purpose stated above, as mandated by POPIA. The DSI undertakes to secure the integrity and confidentiality of personal information in its possession or under its control by taking appropriate, reasonable technical and organisational measures to prevent loss of, damage to or unauthorised destruction of personal information and unlawful access to or processing of personal information.