

Archive of the European Molecular Biology Organisation

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European Science Foundation

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Summary information

Repository:	Archive of the European Molecular Biology Organisation
Title:	European Science Foundation
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Administrative history / Biographical sketch

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) was founded in 1964 by a group of leading European scientists to strengthen research in molecular biology and foster collaboration across Europe. Its establishment was closely linked to the creation of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC, 1969), which provided intergovernmental support for EMBO's activities. EMBO promotes excellence in the life sciences through initiatives such as the election of distinguished researchers to its membership, the awarding of fellowships and grants, and the organization of scientific meetings, workshops, and training courses. In 1974, EMBO played a central role in establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), an intergovernmental research institution. Today, EMBO continues to support life scientists at all career stages and advocates for science policy across Europe and beyond.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

The European Science Foundation was established in 1974 as an association of major national funding agencies and research organisations across Europe. Its mission was to promote high-quality science in a European context by coordinating research activities, funding collaborative programmes, and facilitating scientific networking across disciplines. Headquartered in Strasbourg, France, ESF played a significant role in shaping European research policy, supporting mobility and cooperation, and fostering new areas of scientific inquiry. From the 1980s through the early 2000s, it sponsored research programmes, exploratory workshops, and networking activities across the humanities, social sciences, life sciences, physical sciences, and engineering. With the rise of the European Union's Framework Programmes and the creation of the European Research Council, ESF's role gradually shifted. In the 2010s it restructured, winding down many of its scientific programmes and transitioning to a service-based organisation supporting peer review, evaluation, and research management.

Scope and content

This collection comprises materials related to the ESF and EMBO's relationship with the organisation. It contains correspondence and meeting documents, as well as administrative and organisational documents related to the ESF

This collection is processed at the collection level.

Notes

Other notes

- **Publication status**: Published