Sharing and Maintaining Research Data

Who is responsible?

Dr. John Marks
ESF Chief Executive

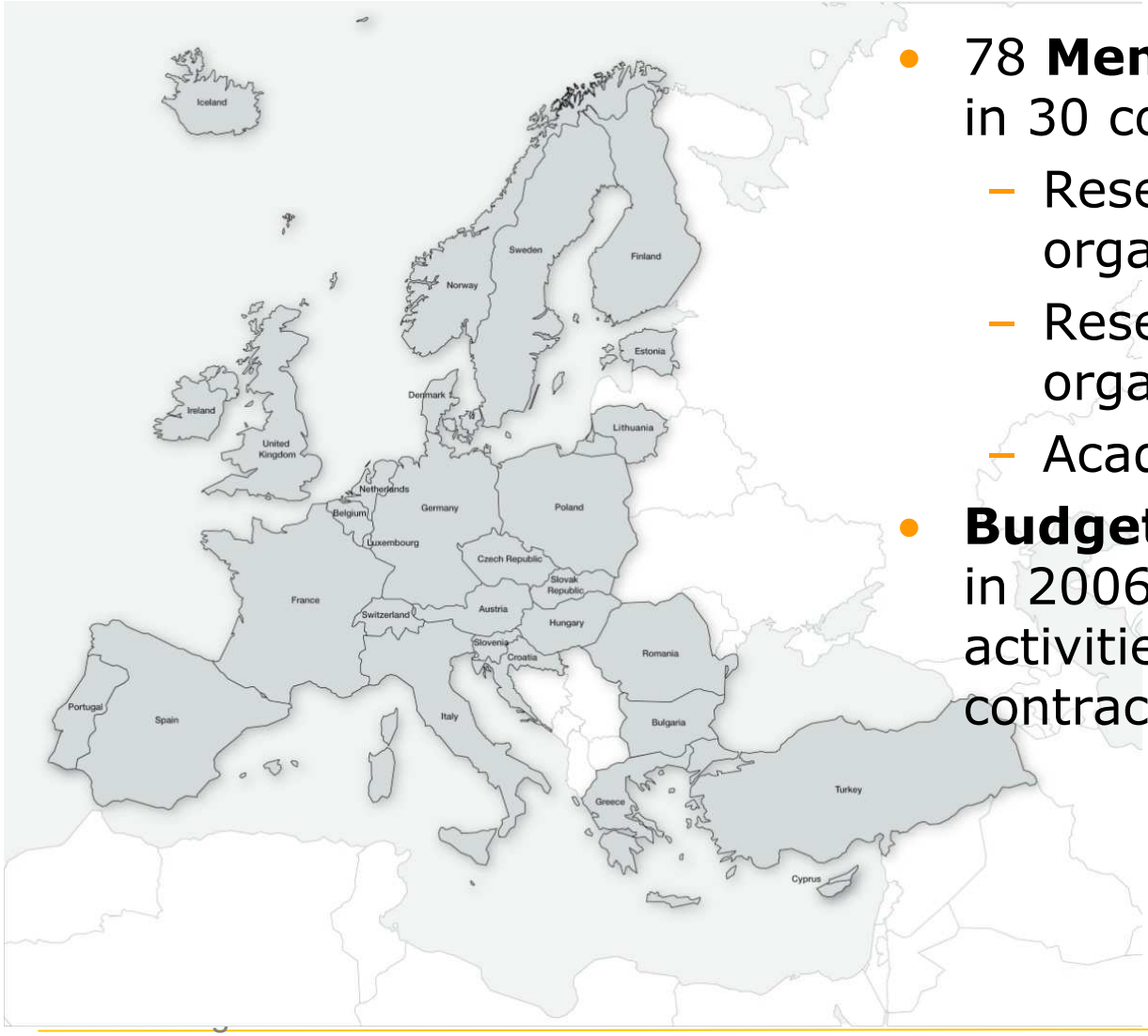
ESF–DFG Workshop ***Shared Responsibitilies in Sharing Research Data***

Berlin 5 Open access Conference Padua, 21 September 2007

Outline of the Presentation

- Briefly about ESF
- Structure of the Workshop
- Data Sharing: who is responsible?

ESF: who are we?

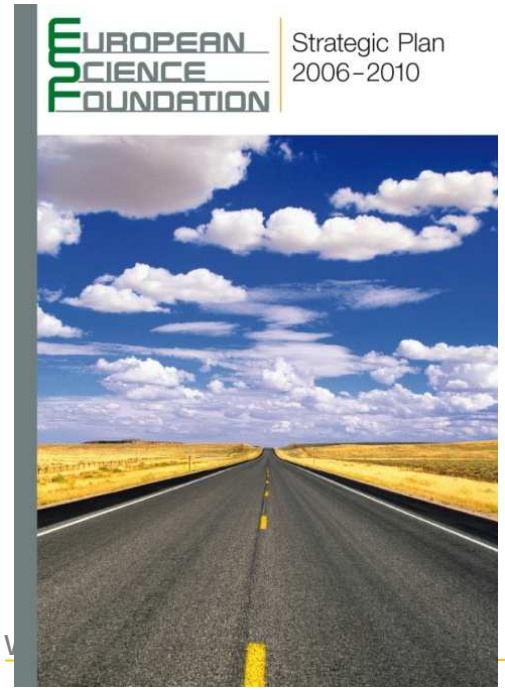


- 78 **Member Organisations** in 30 countries
  - Research funding organisations
  - Research performing organisations
  - Academies
- **Budget**: about € 45 million in 2006, including à la carte activities and external contracts.

ESF: Mission and Activities

ESF provides a common platform for its Member Organisations (MOs) in order to:

- **Advance European research**
- **Explore new directions for research at the European level**



…. A range of activities and instruments grouped in three pillars

- **Science Strategy: such as Forward Looks and MO Fora**
- **Science Synergy: such as joint programmes and networking**
- **Science Management: such as COST**

Structure of the Workshop (1)

…. three perspectives to frame the issues

1. **Principles and Visions**

Clear vision and principles on sharing research data (OECD, ICSU…)

2. **Policies**

Data Sharing Policies of research funding agencies, research institutions, Journals…

3. **Infrastructures**

Physical and virtual infrastructures for storage, curation, access …

Structure of the Workshop (2)

…. three sessions

Introductory session

Two presentations on approaches to overcome challenges in sharing research data

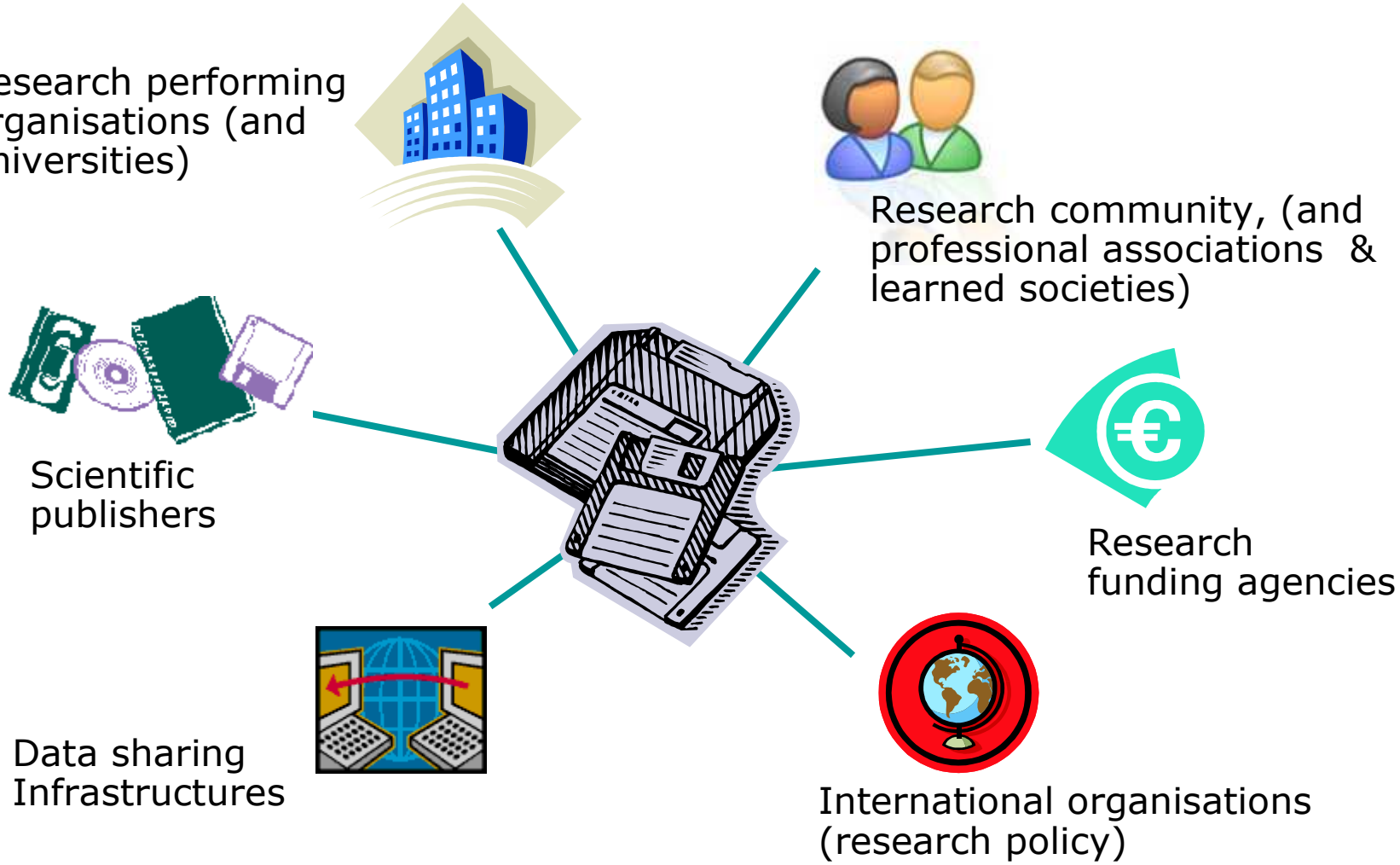
Session 1: Key Stakeholders

Four presentations : perspectives of the scientific community, international initiatives, data sharing infrastructures and scientific publishers

Session 2: Research Agencies

Three presentations : perspectives of research funding agencies and wrapping up

Who are the Stakeholders?



Issues

- With increasing international collaboration and increasing complexity of science (and co-funding of research projects) it is important that *researchers are not confronted with different regulations and that the policies are compatible with each other.*
- How can various stakeholders work together to realise the common vision of sharing research data (as articulated e.g. in the recent **OECD Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding)**
- Relation between data policies and research integrity

Issues

Biologists angered by database access fee

NATURE | VOL 418 | 25 JULY 2002 | www.nature.com/nature

EDITORIAL

nature cell biology

NATURE CELL BIOLOGY VOLUME 8 | NUMBER 5 | MAY 2006

....action is urgently required to select appropriate databases for funding on a stable, long-term basis. We also suggest that this selection should not be executed at the national level but rather in an international setting that reflects the origin of the research contained in the database.

… An international database panel should be set up (…) . This body should have the authority and resources to award indefinite funding to key community databases (… and) ensure that databases remain open access resources

Data sharing: ESF's role?

- Facilitate consultation of MOs on:
  - Harmonising data deposition, storage and access policies: MO Forum
  - Decision making on new distributed data facilities: European Social Survey
  - Long term funding issues
  - Linking to other (EC, non European) initiatives
- Developing policies for example for ESF's own collaborative research programmes EUROCORES