

# Investigating Life in Extreme Environments

*A Call for Expression of Interest from the ESF Standing Committee for Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (LESC) together with ESF's Expert Committees: the ESF Marine Board (EMB), the European Polar Board (EPB) and the European Space Science Committee (ESSC).*

Primitive and complex life forms are capable of surviving within a wide range of extreme environmental dynamics in the polar and marine realms. There is also increasing evidence of potential analogue environments in the space domain as we begin to explore planetary systems. Some common and inter-linked parameters may be identified from the micro to macro scales, including issues such as genetic adaptation, heat regulation, and for higher life forms, the psychological impact of living in a harsh environment.

ESF's Standing Committee for Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences together with ESF's Expert Committees (EMB, EPB, ESSC) have identified the topic *Investigating Life in Extreme Environments* as an important area that should be addressed through broad European scientific and technological activities. **The main purpose of this Call is to identify key challenging topics from any discipline in this area and investigate the best ways to explore them.**

This consultation process will provide ESF with the views of the European scientific community on these issues. All Expressions of Interest received will be synthesised in order to identify key topics of interest to be developed at the European level.

Submissions of Expression of Interest are invited from researchers **based in Europe**. The abstract should be submitted by **23 March 2004** using the attached form and should not exceed 400 words.

A panel will discuss the received ideas (Expressions of Interest) in the last week of April 2004. All scientists who put forward ideas will be informed about the outcome of this exercise. **The most engaging ideas will be pursued in a collaborative way through ESF-managed workshop(s) to be held in 2004/2005.**

## Contact:

Please send Expressions of Interest, and any questions to:

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### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

<b>Title:</b>	
<b>First name:</b>	
<b>Surname:</b>	
<b>Gender:</b>	
<b>Nationality:</b>	
<b>Date of birth:</b> (dd/mm/yyyy)	
<b>Postal address:</b>  (including street number, address and country)	
<b>Tel:</b>	
<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Affiliated institution:</b>  (if different from address given above)	
<b>Key words</b>	

<b>Publications (Max. 5):</b>	
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<b>Topic of interest:</b>	
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<b>Authors:</b>	
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<b>Abstract (400 words max.):</b>	
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I authorise ESF to include my professional information in its database for potential future activities. *(Tick the box).*

Signature: