

EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM 2012 (Dublin/Ireland)

The SUPORT Partnership presents its work to foster HEI/SME collaboration at the Euroscience Open Forum



The Euroscience Open Forum 2012 (ESOF) in Dublin in July was the venue for the launch of the SUPORT resource. ESOF 2012 attracted more than 4,000 multidisciplinary, multinational delegates, among them some of the most influential from the world of science, society and policy. ESOF in Dublin was the largest open forum of its kind in Europe in 2012.

This gathering of Nobel laureates, leading researchers, policy makers, business leaders and international media was a platform for debate, for influencing policy, strengthening the links between science and society and for the launch of the SUPORT Programme's free tools to support more

co-operation between HEIs and SMEs.

The Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF), Europe's largest, general science meeting, is held in a leading European city every two years. ESOF 2012 convened in Dublin from July 11th-15th, 2012.

The first meeting was held in Stockholm in 2004, followed by Munich in 2006, Barcelona in 2008 and Turin in 2010. Copenhagen will host the next ESOF gathering in 2014.

What happens at ESOF?

ESOF showcases the latest advances in science and technology, promotes a dialogue on the role of science and technology in society and public policy and seeks to stimulate and provoke public interest, excitement and debate about science and technology.

The ESOF Programme incorporates a number of distinct strands:

- A Science programme of seminars, workshops and debates on the latest science and technology.
- A Media programme to promote science communication.
- A Careers programme for young researchers.
- A Science-2-Business programme to link basic research with industrial applications.

- An Exhibition to showcase the best of European public and private research.
- A Science in the City programme to engage with the general public.
- A Social programme to ensure that delegate experience is socially, culturally and intellectually invigorating.

As well as top researchers from the natural sciences and the social sciences, ESOF attracts business leaders, senior EU and government officials and international scientific media. In Dublin they discussed the best of European science and addressed through papers and seminars all of the current major global scientific challenges, particularly concerns about energy, climate change, food and health.

SUPPORT at ESOF

An integral part of ESOF was the large dedicated exhibition area, located at the entrance to the conference centre. The SUPPORT project was given the opportunity to display its resources at a stand in the exhibition area where the team welcomed delegates and visitors. The SUPPORT stand served as an information and distribution point for the project resources and materials including multi-language versions of the road map along with live demonstrations of the bite-sized learning materials.

Over the 5 days of the conference there was a constant flow of delegates through the exhibition area who were exposed to the work of the project. SUPPORT Project Manager Joe English was invited to give a comprehensive presentation on the work of the Partnership to the conference delegates before formally announcing the free availability of its tools developed with the financial support of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus. Among those who the SUPPORT team additionally had one-to-one meetings were Professor Thomas Cooney, the President of the International Council for Small Business (ICSB) and Dr Paul Rubig, Member of European Parliament and Tim Conlon, Secretary of the Higher Education Authority.

Details of the project featured in the official programme and literature. Throughout the course of the 5 days of the conference the team aggressively distributed project materials throughout the conference venue.



The ultra-modern Dublin City Convention Centre – an appropriate venue for the sharing of leading edge scientific thinking and the launch of SUPPORT's tools to foster SME/HEI collaboration.



The ESOF 2012 event in Dublin was held in July



SUPPORT programme Manager, Joe English of the Louth County Enterprise Board launches the SUPORT Road Map, on-line Bite-sized Learning Resource and DVD at the ESOF 2012 event in Dublin which attracted 4,000 delegates from across the globe over 5 days in July 2012.



SUPPORT Programme Manager Joe English discussed the work of the European Commission-funded SUPORT Partnership with Professor Thomas Cooney, the President of the International Council for Small Business (ICSB)



Pictured is Maire Geoghegan Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, during her visit to the exhibition area



A photograph taken from the SUPORT exhibition stand.