

Swiss Eureka Chair

Programme 2025–26

Innovating beyond borders – shaping the next decade together

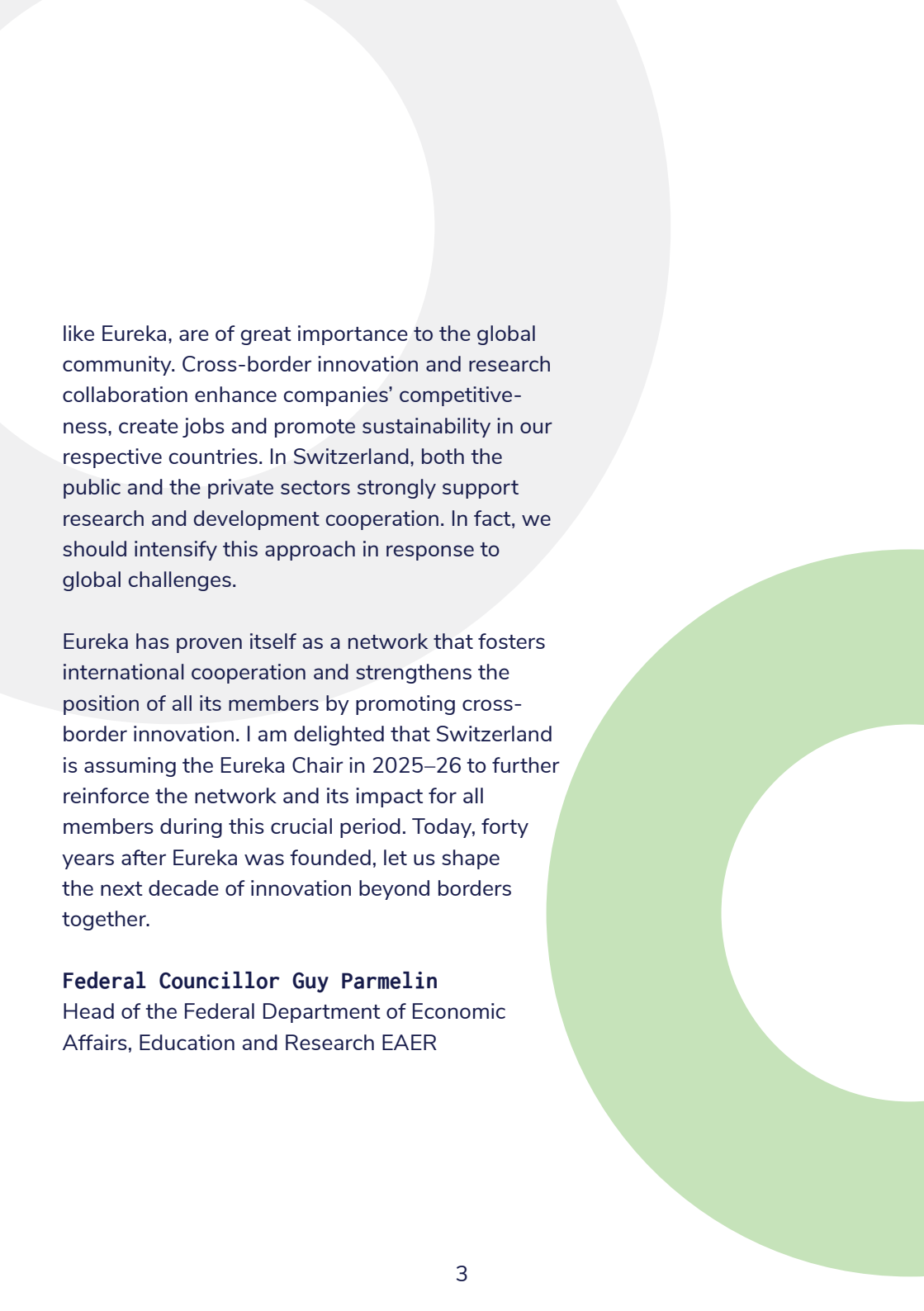


When Eureka was initiated in 1985, the end of the Cold War was not yet in sight and European countries jointly invested in expanding their technological sovereignty.

Forty years later, after a period of globalisation and cooperation, international relations are once again marked by the fragmentation of world politics and international trade. In addition, we face far-reaching ecological and technological transformations and a multitude of overlapping crises.

Securing research and production capacities for new technologies goes hand in hand with efforts to build greater resilience. The economic, trade and financial policies of many states are increasingly shaped by security concerns, while economic relations are becoming more politicised. In a more competitive world, the focus tends to be on strengthening national competitiveness.

Yet despite the strengths of each individual country, in this challenging environment, multilateral cooperation and a strong, long-term innovation alliance,



like Eureka, are of great importance to the global community. Cross-border innovation and research collaboration enhance companies' competitiveness, create jobs and promote sustainability in our respective countries. In Switzerland, both the public and the private sectors strongly support research and development cooperation. In fact, we should intensify this approach in response to global challenges.

Eureka has proven itself as a network that fosters international cooperation and strengthens the position of all its members by promoting cross-border innovation. I am delighted that Switzerland is assuming the Eureka Chair in 2025–26 to further reinforce the network and its impact for all members during this crucial period. Today, forty years after Eureka was founded, let us shape the next decade of innovation beyond borders together.

Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin

Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER

Eureka – a 40 year success story



Since its foundation in 1985, Eureka has recognised the crucial role that global cooperation plays in research and innovation.

Initially created by 18 founding members to increase the technological independence of Europe in key domains of the future. Eureka has since developed into the world's biggest public network funding international cooperation in R&D and innovation. Today, it includes over 45 countries in Europe and beyond. The year 2022 marked a major milestone: Eureka welcomed the first non-European countries – Canada and South Korea – as full members into the network. Eureka will continue to expand its international collaboration and outreach to attract new members who are committed to its shared values and principles.

Eureka wants companies to find the best partners to jointly develop and market competitive products and services worldwide. Since 1985, over 40 billion Euros of public-private investment has been mobilised to

support over 7,000 cross-border innovation projects. This proves the impact that Eureka has had over the last 40 years.

Eureka and its members work together to promote international cooperation. They strive to ensure fairness and shared benefits for everyone involved, in line with their innovation policy objectives.

Innovation is a key component to solving broader social, economic, environmental and security issues. Because only innovations that are successful in the market are able to create a sustainable impact, Eureka concentrates its efforts on supporting businesses to successfully seek novel opportunities, implement their innovations, create new value chains, access international markets, increase their competitiveness and grow.

Eureka's success is determined by the added value of collaborative innovation and the direct impact the network achieves for its stakeholders – yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Swiss Chair team
at Innosuisse



Swiss Chair 2025–26

Our Priorities

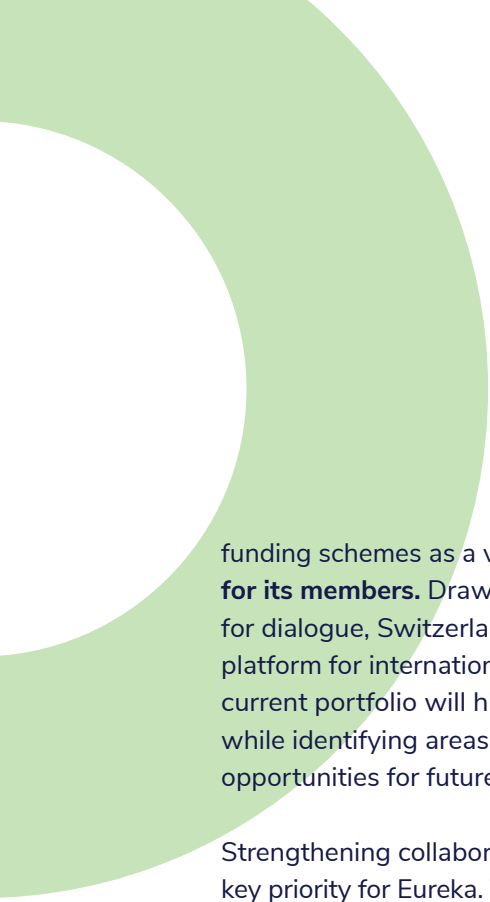
Inspired by Eureka's shared vision, the Swiss Chair programme focuses on **collaboration as the way forward**.

To tackle complex challenges, successful collaboration relies on pooling resources, combining diverse skills and fostering effective teamwork. By promoting joint efforts, the Chair aims to strengthen trust, build synergies, and create lasting impact across the network.

Eureka's success is defined by the **value** it delivers and the tangible **impact** it creates **for its stakeholders**.

Driven by our commitment to **empowering beneficiaries**, we will focus on connecting innovators with the right partners and making funding processes faster and more accessible. We are equally dedicated to ensuring inclusive participation of companies and research organisations from all Eureka member countries in Europe and beyond.

Eureka's 40th anniversary offers an opportunity to celebrate the network's achievements and highlight the impact it makes. It is also the right time to underline what it should continue delivering to its stakeholders in the future. As many countries refocus on their national interests, the Swiss Chair will support the network in navigating the changing context while positioning Eureka's



funding schemes as a valuable and **strategic investment opportunity for its members**. Drawing on its long-standing experience as a hub for dialogue, Switzerland aims to further strengthen Eureka as a platform for international cooperation. A thorough analysis of the current portfolio will highlight the value delivered to stakeholders, while identifying areas for improvement, needs not yet met, and opportunities for future development.

Strengthening collaboration with **partner organisations** remains a key priority for Eureka. This includes reaching out to potential **public funding agencies in non-member countries**, exploring greater synergies with **corporates** through the **Cluster** and Investment Readiness programmes, and deepening ties with the **Enterprise Europe Network**. Emphasis will be placed on pursuing continued cooperation with the **European Commission** under current and future programmes, ensuring strategic continuity and expanded collaboration.

Finally, achieving Eureka's ambitions requires a **strong and agile organisation**. The Swiss Chair will actively use the strategy, strategic roadmap and statutes as guiding tools to ensure sustainable and effective governance.

Priority 1

Creating value for Eureka's beneficiaries, members and partner organisations

In the year of Eureka's 40th anniversary, we will highlight the value of the network in supporting global cooperation and the internationalisation of companies by showcasing the benefits of membership from the perspective of the different Eureka countries.

We will facilitate access to dynamic innovation sectors with a particular focus on life sciences, thereby opening doors for new partnerships and innovation. Events such as the Global Innovation Summit 2026 and Swiss Biotech Days in Basel offer country delegations excellent networking opportunities and targeted match-making for companies. Collaboration with the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) will further strengthen these connections and unlock future synergies.

To better serve Eureka's members, we will prioritise their needs and encourage collaboration through more interactive meeting formats and strengthened peer support opportunities. In addition, we will promote

MILESTONES

- **40th anniversary project**
- **Global Innovation Summit 2026**
- **Collaboration with Enterprise Europe Network and Swiss Biotech Days**
- **Re-association of Argentina and Chile**

joint initiatives and stimulate discussion on how forward-looking planning could improve the financing and impact of future multilateral calls in thematic areas.

The Swiss Chair will pursue the network's goal of providing good framework conditions for its members in Europe and across the globe. We will continue to explore, how Eureka can expand its international reach through the Globalstars programme and the integration of associated countries.

Priority 2

Focusing on impact and shaping the future funding portfolio

To better meet expectations of beneficiaries, we aim to enhance customer orientation in Eureka's funding offers by streamlining processes in line with Eureka's strategic goals.

Understanding the specific benefits of Eureka to each member will be essential. A thorough needs and gap analysis will pave the way for potential scenarios regarding the funding portfolio.

We will actively maintain a high-level dialogue between Eureka and the European Commission in order to explore collaboration opportunities and maximise synergies.

Finally, by moderating discussions on pressing issues such as “research security” and “civil versus dual use”, we will reaffirm Eureka's commitment to responsible and future-oriented innovation for the benefit of its members.

MILESTONES

- Analysis paper “Funding portfolio”
- Taskforce “Cooperation with the European Commission in Framework Programme FP10”

Priority 3

Pursuing operational excellence

We will use the Eureka strategy as a foundation for discussions and decisions across the network. In collaboration with the Executive Board and the next Belgian Chair, we will gather input from members to jointly develop the 2026–2030 roadmap. This roadmap will also support the Eureka Secretariat (ESE) in preparing a multiannual business plan.

To ensure efficient operations, we will promote lean procedures based on learning and members' operational experiences. Furthermore, we will clarify roles and responsibilities across governing bodies, and design inclusive, value-added meeting formats.

Maintaining institutional knowledge and ensuring consistent leadership of the network are crucial. The Swiss Chair will work closely with the Troika – Canada, Germany and Belgium – to ensure a smooth renewal process for the Executive Board and the Risk and Audit Committee, and to continue long-term Chair planning.

MILESTONES

- **Roadmap 2026–2030**
- **Purpose-driven agendas and meeting formats**
- **Chair handbook**

Meetings and Events

1st Network Meeting
Zurich, 4–6 November 2025



2nd Network Meeting
Lucerne, 10–12 March 2026



Date	Event	Location
2025		
1–2 July	Kick-off Meeting (EB retreat)	Berne
30 September – 1 October	1 st EB Meeting	Brussels
4–6 November	1 st Network Meeting	Zurich (hybrid)

Global Innovation Summit
Basel, 6 May 2026



3rd Network Meeting
Lausanne, 9–11 June 2026



Date	Event	Location
2026		
10–11 February	2 nd EB Meeting	Brussels
10–12 March	2 nd Network Meeting	Lucerne (hybrid)
6 May	Global Innovation Summit	Basel
12–13 May	3 rd EB Meeting	Brussels
9–11 June	3 rd Network Meeting	Lausanne (hybrid)

Swiss Chair team and representatives

Chairpersons



Marc Pauchard
Eureka President



Andreas Gut
Chair of National
Project Coordinators

Eureka Representatives



Andreas Gut
High Level
Representative



Christoph Bigler
Deputy High Level
Representative



Colette John-Grant
National Project Coordinator



Janique Siffert
National Project Coordinator

Chair Team



Christoph Bigler
Head of Chair Team



Claudia Wyss
Communication and
Event Manager



Sabrina Maurer
Chair Support



Ophélie Egger
Chair Support



Alexa Nodari
Event Manager



Ladina Schubert
International Matchmaking



Raphaela Kübler
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