

## **Belgium, Chile, France, and Spain multilateral call for Network Projects**

FROM NOVEMBER 28, 2023, TO APRIL 10, 2024

Eureka is the world's biggest public network for international cooperation in R&D and innovation, present in over 45 countries. It is a decentralised intergovernmental organisation aiming to boost the productivity and competitiveness of industries by funding and supporting international collaborative market-driven R&D projects.

This call for projects has been launched following Eureka's Network projects framework based on mutual consent between participating national and regional funding bodies.

The national funding bodies from Belgium, Chile, France, and Spain have allocated funding for organisations collaborating on international R&D projects that target green technologies such as energy, water, farming forestry, pollution waste, transportation, circular economy, and building construction.

You can submit your R&D project application for this call for Eureka Network projects between NOVEMBER 28, 2023, to APRIL 10, 2024. Your project consortium must include at least two firms from two different countries participating in this call. Participation of research institutes/universities and other organisations in collaboration with companies is welcome according to each country's funding regulations.

**Eureka programme:** Network Projects

### **Participating countries/ regions**

Belgium, Chile, France, and Spain

### **Scope**

This call will support R&D projects that target Green Technologies, including fields such as:

- Energy
- Water
- Farming forestry
- Pollution waste
- Transportation
- Circular economy
- Building construction

## Timeframe

Opening of the call: Nov 28, 2023

Deadline for online application submission: April 10, 2024

Feedback for project applications: Until April 19, 2024

National funding and Eureka label decision: From July 2024 onwards

## Funding details

The funding support will be given to each eligible partner by its own National Authority. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary from country to country. The information regarding funding and scope of projects to be supported in each country is explained below.

### 1. BELGIUM (VLAIO - FLANDERS)

- VLAIO only accepts development projects (an innovative idea that can lead to a successful business in the short term, but that still face some challenges that need to be overcome in developing this innovation). Companies can receive funding for up to 60% of the eligible project costs, to a maximum of 500,000 EUR per project. Staff and other costs can be funded with a 25 to 50% subsidy of the project budget, with a minimum budget of € 25.000.
- Only Flemish companies can apply for funding via subsidies. Flemish or foreign academic partners or research institutes can be funded by VLAIO if their expertise is crucial. In addition to the centrally submitted EUREKA project application form, partners from Flanders need to submit an application to VLAIO ([www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject/aanvraag-en-evaluatieprocedure](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject/aanvraag-en-evaluatieprocedure)) including a project plan and a budget for the Flemish partner (company) and if they are subcontracted by this company.
- Flemish partners are advised to contact VLAIO for a pre-check of their project ideas and get support by our team VLAIO advisors [HYPERLINK "https://www.vlaio.be/nl/maak-een-gratis-afspraak-voor-advies-op-maat"](https://www.vlaio.be/nl/maak-een-gratis-afspraak-voor-advies-op-maat)([www.vlaio.be/nl/maak-een-gratis-afspraak-voor-advies-op-maat](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/maak-een-gratis-afspraak-voor-advies-op-maat)). The deadline for submission of the VLAIO application is April 26th 2024 – 12:00 Brussels time.

Detailed information on regional rules and procedures:

[www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject)

## 2. CHILE (Corfo)

- Corfo will check the eligibility of the Chilean applicants after receiving the international application. All Chilean companies must fulfil the requirements mentioned in the matching grant document “Crea y Valida” when submitting the international application.
- In addition to the international application, Chilean participants must submit a separate national funding application through Corfo’s website in Spanish. Dates regarding the opening and deadline of this phase will be timely communicated by Corfo.
- Only companies that are 18 months old and that show proof of sales in the last 18 months at the time of the international application are eligible to receive funding from Corfo. Universities and research organisations are welcome to participate as company collaborators and can be funded as subcontractors only.
- Eligible Chilean partners that receive a positive technical evaluation from the public authorities involved in the call to the collaborative project, will be funded through a matching grant (“Crea y Valida” programme). This grant supports the development of new or significantly improved products, processes and/or technology-based services, covering the phases of low-resolution prototype development to validation at an industrial and/or commercial scale.
- The matching grant covers up to CLP \$220 million (€ 233.000 approx.) of project costs in total. The percentage covered varies depending on firm size: 40% large; 60% medium; and 80% small. The project is expected to be developed within 24 months, extendable to 30 months. If the project involves biological cycles, an extension between 36-42 months is allowed.
- Additional documents or clarifications may be requested by Corfo.
- Partners involved in a joint project will be requested to provide information during the execution of the project to ensure that the project is being developed as expected. Additionally, partners will have to provide information regarding the impact of the project once ended.

Detailed information on national rules and procedures: [Corfo en Eureka](#)

## 3. FRANCE (Bpifrance)

- Target: All French companies up to 2000 employees can join the call. Research centres or other types of actors can also join the consortium but as subcontractors. French partners may also participate on a self-funding basis.
- Eligible costs: Industrial research and experimental development (industrialization and commercialization costs are not eligible)
- Funding: Loan or reimbursable advance up to 80% of the R&D costs for SMEs and large companies below 2000 FTE, limited to 3M€. For deeptech projects, a mix between grant and reimbursable advance can be an alternative (Aide au Développement Deeptech).

In any case, all the above information regarding French funding could be adapted to the company’s profile and project.

- Process:
  1. Contact the International team in charge of the call for projects as well as our “Chargé.e d’affaires” to discuss the project through an online meeting
  2. Submit the Eureka application and a draft of a consortium agreement before the Eureka deadline.
  3. Submit the national funding application no later than April 24<sup>th</sup> (NB: the national funding application is opened by the Chargé.e d’Affaires after first meeting and Eureka submission so first contact is mandatory)
  4. Evaluation by Bpifrance and decision, submit your consortium agreement signed (sine qua non condition for funding validation)

#### 4. SPAIN (CDTI)

- CDTI will finance industrial research and/or technological development activities of Spanish companies. Universities and research centres could take part as subcontractors.
- In Spain the participants will have also to submit a formal R&D international project aid application through CDTI’s website (<https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>) by the deadline of this call including the Eureka Application form (in English) and a draft consortium agreement (optional at this stage, but a signed consortium agreement must be signed and provided prior to obtaining the Eureka label endorsement). Additional documents in Spanish language, containing detailed information on the Spanish participants, could be requested depending on the specific type of funding requested by the company. If the application is not submitted in time by the deadline of this call for project, the international project could be rejected.
- CDTI will check the eligibility of the Spanish applicants after receiving the international application. If it is eligible, funding applications will be generated by CDTI to each Spanish company. Those funding applications must be completed and submitted by them. Deadline to reply is approximately one month after the deadline of the call. If the funding applications are not submitted in time, the international project could be rejected.
- Funding conditions for Spanish partners may vary depending on the nature of the project and the beneficiaries. For more information please access: <https://www.cdti.es/ayudas/proyectos-de-i-d>
- Funding decision is expected within 5 months after submitting an eligible funding application.
- It is mandatory that project activities do not start before submitting the funding applications to CDTI. For further information, please contact CDTI.

## Eligibility

Eureka has limited eligibility criteria for organisations participating in a Network project consortium:

- Your project idea must represent international cooperation in the form of a specific project.
- The project must be directed at researching or developing an innovative product, process, or service with the goal of commercialisation.

- The project must have a civilian purpose.
- Your consortium must include at least two independent legal entities from a minimum of two Eureka countries.
- No single organisation or country can be responsible for more than 70% of the project budget.

This call for projects has additional criteria for organisations to be eligible to receive funding:

- The project should demonstrate the contribution of all participants and the project must be significant to them. In this context, project partners are required to sign a consortium agreement clearly stating what each partner brings to the joint project, how activities will be distributed, and how results, and potential benefits, will be shared.
- Organisations from other countries may also participate, but they will not be funded by the National Authorities formally committed to this call.
- A signed consortium agreement is required before the actual start of the project. It ought to include, amongst others, the ownership and use of know-how and IPR settlements.
- The maximum duration of a project may not exceed 36<sup>1</sup> months.

## Evaluation

Your project application will be reviewed according to our Network projects evaluation methodology.

### 1. Impact

- Is the market properly addressed (i.e. size, access and risks)?
- Is the value creation properly addressed (i.e. employment opportunities and environmental and societal benefits)?
- What are the competitive advantages of your project (i.e. strategic importance, enhanced capabilities and visibility)?
- Are your commercialisation plans clear and realistic (i.e. return on investment, geographical and sectoral impact)?

### 2. Excellence

- What is the degree of innovation? (i.e. is the proposed product, process or service state-of-the-art? Is there sufficient technological maturity and risk)?
- How is the new knowledge going to be used?
- Is your project scientifically and technically challenging for consortium partners?
- Is the technical achievability and risk properly addressed?

### 3. Quality and efficiency of implementation

- What is the quality of your consortium (i.e. balance of the partnership and technological, managerial and financial capabilities of each partner)?
- Is there added value through international cooperation?

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<sup>1</sup> According to national rules of Corfo, the project is expected to be developed within 24 months, although it can be extended to up to 30 months.

- Is your project management and planning realistic and clearly defined (i.e. methodology, planning approach, milestones and deliverables)?
- Is your cost structure reasonable (i.e. costs and financial commitment for each consortium partner)?

#### 4. Overall perception

Experts will list three positive and negative points to your application and finally state whether they recommend your project for public investment.

Your national funding body may carry out a further evaluation (performed by the national project coordinator and technical experts) according to national rules before allocating funds to successful applicants.

## Applying

1. Contact your national funding body using the contact form on Eureka's website to discuss your project idea, financial viability, eligibility and national procedures.
2. Create an account on our application portal (one per consortium) and select the funding opportunity you want to apply to.
3. Using the portal, complete one application form per consortium (in English) and invite other consortium partners to fill in a partner form.
4. Upload a GANTT chart (one per consortium), a signed and completed co-signature form (which you can download from the platform) and any additional required annexes.
5. Your application will be checked for completeness and eligibility before being reviewed using a standard evaluation procedure. If successful, your project will receive a Eureka label.
6. Your national funding body may carry out a further evaluation (performed by the NPC and technical experts) according to national rules before allocating funds to successful applicants.
7. The final step is to complete and sign a consortium agreement (CA). We recommend that you seek legal advice when drafting your CA.

## Contacts

### Chile

CORFO

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