

Eureka multilateral call – Western Balkans 2024

for R&D projects between

Albania, Austria, France, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye

Time schedule		
Announcement of the call	5 February 2024	
Opening of the call	14 February 2024 at 12h00 Brussels time	
Deadline for Eureka application	15 May 2024 at 17h00 Brussels time	
Eligibility feedback to applicants	End June - 2024	
Deadline for additional national applications	see section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body" for detailed information	
National evaluation	October 2024	
Consensus meeting of funding agencies	October 2024	
Eureka label procedure and funding decision	November 2024	
Expected Project starts	End 2024 – Beginning 2025	
Project duration	Up to 36 months	



Eureka multilateral call for R&D projects with Western Balkans

FROM 14 February 2024 TO 15 May 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 **Albania**, **Austria**, **France**, **Hungary**, **Montenegro**, **Serbia** and **Türkiye** have allocated funding for organisations collaborating on international R&D projects. This is a bottom-up call, with no thematic restrictions.

You can submit your **Eureka R&D project application** for this call for projects between **14 February and 15 May 2024.** Your project consortium must include organisations based in a minimum of two of the countries listed **and must include at least one partner from the participating Western Balkan countries**. In addition to those partners, partners from other Eureka countries or countries outside of Eureka can also participate, provided their public funding or selffunding is secured within the call for projects deadlines.

If required by your national funding body, project participants must also submit **a national funding application**, considering all relevant national procedures, deadlines and submission rules (see section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body" for detailed information).

Eureka programme: Network projects

Participating countries/ regions

Albania, Austria, France, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye

Scope

This is a bottom up call, with no thematic restrictions, but applicants are invited to check the section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body" for detailed information.

Timeframe



- 14 February 2024: Call opens (12h00 Brussels time)
- 15 May 2024: Deadline for Eureka application at 17h00 Brussels time (for national rules, please see section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body")
- o End June 2024: Eligibility feedback to applicants
- October 2024: National evaluation
- October 2024: Consensus meeting of funding agencies
- November 2024: Eureka label procedure and funding decision
- End 2024 beginning 2025: Expected Project starts
- Up to 36 months: Project duration

Events

The national funding bodies and Eureka Secretariat will organise an information ONLINE webinar for applicants on **6 March 2024 from 11h00 till 13h30 CET**. https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/386716268791945560

In addition, national information webinars are being planned. Please contact your national funding body for further information.

Funding details

- Albania (NASRI- National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation): Grant of up to 50,000 euro/ up to 80% of eligible project costs for SMEs, universities and research organisations and up to 65% for large companies.
- Austria (FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency): Grant of up to 60% of eligible project costs for small companies, up to 50% of the eligible costs for medium-sized companies or up to 40% of the eligible costs for large companies.
- France (Bpifrance) 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). Academic partners can participate as subcontractors but are not eligible to receive direct funding from Bpifrance.
- Hungary (NRDIO National Research, Development and Innovation Office): Grant of up to 80% of eligible project costs for micro and small companies / up to 75% of the eligible costs for medium-sized companies / up to 65% of the eligible costs for large companies / 100% of the eligible costs for universities or research organisations.
- Montenegro (MESI Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation): Grant up to 150,000.00 euro per project for 36 months or 50,000 euro per year for both companies and research institutions as partners or project leaders. Total budget for 36 months available to Montenegrin applicants amounts 300,000.00 euro.
- Serbia (NITRA Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation): Grant of maximum 50% of total project costs. Beneficiaries: universities/ research organisations. participation of a Serbian company (of any size) in the project is a mandatory precondition for funding beneficiaries.



• Türkiye All companies which were established in accordance with Turkish law can apply for funding for their international projects. There is no budget limit for international projects and they can be funded by TÜBITAK without any restriction in project duration. Only companies participating in international projects are funded within this program but universities and research centers can be funded as subcontractors. Companies receive certain percentage of their eligible costs as a grant in this call. There is no maximum or minimum limit to the budget of project. The percentage is 60% for large companies and 75% for SMEs.

For further information about financing of Turkish participants please directly contact with TÜBİTAK. Detailed information can also be reached from <u>here</u>.

Funding will only be provided to projects that receive a positive evaluation from all relevant national funding bodies. Funding is subject to budgetary availability and national funding conditions outlined by each national funding body.

A Consortium Agreement must be written and signed by project partners, covering project execution, ownership and use of IPR arising from activities and commercialisation of your project's results. Your Consortium Agreement must abide by the relevant laws of the countries participating in the project.

Unless otherwise specified by all national funding bodies in support of a given project, you must have signed a Consortium Agreement before the start of the project. See section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body" for exceptions. The Consortium Agreement should include (minimum) the ownership, use of know-how and IPR settlements.

The national funding bodies will fund selected projects. Support will be given to each project partner by their respective national funding body in accordance with national laws, rules, regulations and procedures, on a non-exchange of funds or soft loan basis, and subject to budgetary availability.

If there is no allocated budget for your organisation type in your country and you want to participate in a project consortium, contact your national funding body using the form below to see whether there are other funding opportunities available or talk to them about self-funding.

Eligibility

Eureka has limited eligibility criteria for organisations participating in a Network projects 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 the additional criteria that:

- Project duration is **up to 36 months**
- Your project consortium **must include at least one partner from the participating Western Balkan countries.**

Each participating national funding body may have additional eligibility criteria based on their national regulations. You are strongly advised, before submitting your application, to contact your national funding body to discuss your project idea and verify your and your project's eligibility.

For detailed information on other national rules please see section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body".

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?



- 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 (see section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body" for detailed information).

Country evaluation

Your project application will be reviewed according to the following additional national evaluation processes:

- Albania: The evaluation of the Albanian project part is carried out by internal experts at NASRI.
- Austria: The evaluation of the Austrian project part is carried out by internal experts at FFG.
- France: French participants must contact Bpifrance prior to applying in order to check their eligibility. Then, the national funding application must be submitted on <u>Bpifrance En Ligne</u> platform. The evaluation after the submission will be carried out by the International Innovation team and the company's regional account manager ("Chargé d'Affaires Innovation").
- Hungary: The evaluation, labelling and selection of funding procedure lasts 4 months with the involvement of independent technical and economic experts. The application is accepted also in case of Eureka project proposals and not only with endorsed projects, however the contracts will be concluded with the National Research, Development and Innovation Office as Funding Agency only if the project gets the Eureka label. In the support programme application of SMEs, large companies, universities and research institutions are accepted, however the public financed institutions need an industrial partner in order to be eligible.
- Montenegro: The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation will engage two independent experts from the List of Independent Experts made in accordance with the Rulebook on Criteria for Appointing Experts and the Procedure for Evaluating Innovation Programs and Projects ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 107/21). In case the evaluations of two independent experts differ, the Ministry will submit the project application to the third independent evaluator for individual evaluation.
- Serbia: formal 2-step evaluation is carried out according to the basic admin criteria and criteria published in national Act for funding of the Eureka network projects.
- Türkiye: Participants must submit a formal national application (in Turkish) through TÜBİTAK TEYDEB's website (https://eteydeb.tubitak.gov.tr/) by June 24th, 2024 including Eureka's application form (in English).



For detailed information on other national rules please see section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body".

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.
- Create an account on our application portal (one per consortium) <u>https://eureka.smartsimple.ie/s Login.jsp</u> 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. Your project application must be completed online by **15 May 2024 at 17h00 CET.**
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- If required by your national funding body, you must submit a related national funding application taking into account all relevant national procedures and submission rules. Submission deadlines might differ between the participating national funding bodies.
- 8. 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.
- 9. The final step is to complete and sign a consortium agreement (CA). We recommend that you seek legal advice when drafting your CA.

For detailed information on national rules and application procedures please see section "Funding conditions and rules per national funding body".

Austria	
Topics of Interest	Bottom-up call with no thematic restrictions
Timeline	15 May 2024
Budget	Open budget
Specific National rules	 Eureka projects can be submitted for funding to the General Programme (Basis programm) of FFG which provides the Eureka funding scheme illustrated below. Rules, procedures, and other national criteria: <u>https://www.ffg.at/programm/basisprogramm</u> Guideline eligible costs: <u>https://www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/kostenleitfaden</u>

Funding conditions and rules per national funding body and contacts



	(evaluation follows the national cut (https://www.ffg.at/content/basis Project applications must be submi	ration is the same as for the Eureka application c-off dates <u>programm-f-rdersitzungen-und-beirat</u>). tted online via FFG eCall: <u>https://ecall.ffg.at</u> is is possible, you are required to contact the
Eligible costs and funding rates	In addition to the Eureka application, the Austrian participant has to submit a separate national full project proposal to FFG General Programme (Basisprogramm) via eCall. All companies registered in Austria are eligible for funding, universities and research centers can be funded as subcontractors only. The evaluation of the Austrian project part is carried out by internal experts at FFG. The project must fulfil the national criteria. There is no dedicated budget for this call. Funding in Austria is provided on an annual basis only, therefore follow-on applications must be submitted for the max. duration of 3 years. General Programme provides grants for Austrian SMEs participating in Eureka projects: - Up to 60% of the eligible costs for small companies - Up to 50% of the eligible costs for medium-sized companies	
Additional documents required	National full project proposal	
Contact persons	Ines Marinkovic Eureka NPC Email: <u>ines.marinkovic@ffg.at</u> Tel: +43 57755-4906	Michael Walch Eureka NPC Email: <u>michael.walch@ffg.at</u> Tel: +43 57755-4901

Albania	
Topics of Interest	Bottom-up call with no thematic restrictions. Priority in the selection of project proposals will be given to the following fields: Agriculture (Veterinary, Zoo technics), Food Safety and Biotechnology; Information Systems and Technologies; Social and Albanian Sciences; Biodiversity and the environment; Health; Water and energy.
Timeline	15 May 2024
Budget	200.000 euro for 2024
Specific National rules	Albania will fund Eureka project participants through the National Programmes for Research and Development at National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation. We can assure a special budget for Albanian Eureka projects participants of 200.000 EUR in 2024, which will be evaluated from the NASRI's team of evaluators within 3 months. We will encourage the Universities to apply together and in cooperation with SMS-s.



Eligible costs and funding rates	Eligible costs are equipment costs, travel costs, personnel costs, external development services and other development costs. Funding rates: - micro and small enterprises up to 80% - universities and research organisations up to 80% - medium enterprises up to 75% - large enterprise up to 65% The max. funding amount per project is euro 50.000
Additional documents required	National project proposals
Contact persons	Robert Dumi Eureka NPC Email: Robert.dumi@nasri.gov.al Tel: +355 68 20 39220

France	
Topics of Interest	Bottom-up call with no thematic restrictions
Timeline	15 May 2024
Budget	Open
Specific National rules	SMEs and large companies below 2000 FTE are eligible for funding. French participants must contact Bpifrance prior to applying in order to check their eligibility. Then, the national funding application must be submitted on Bpifrance En Ligne platform. The evaluation after the submission will be carried out by the International Innovation team and the company's regional account manager ("Chargé d'Affaires Innovation").
Eligible costs and funding rates	 Loan or reimbursable advance from 50 k € and up to 3M€ up to 80% of eligible costs for SME's up to 40% for MidCap (up to 2 000 employees) no direct funding for universities nor research institutions (self-funded or subcontractors) The French funding scheme (ADI – Aide pour le Développement de l'Innovation) is the following: Eligible partner: Innovative company up to 2000 FTE Eligible costs: Industrial research and experimental development (industrialization and commercialization costs are not eligible) Funding amount: from € 50,000 up to € 3 Million (submitted to financial analysis of the company and financial conditions) Funding type: Reimbursable advance in case of technical success or R&D loan with deferred reimbursement Duration: maximum of 36 months



	NB: if the company is considered as a deeptech company, the funding could be different and include a funding in grant. In any case, all the above information could be adapted to the profile and project of the company. Before the application, the French partner can apply to a Diag Partenariat Tech International, if they plan on working with an external expert to help them build their consortium, project or application. The Diag is a grant covering up to 50% of the expert's consultancy services (within the limit of a 25 000€ excluding VAT contract, ie 30 000€ including VAT) and planning on helping companies structuring their international collaborative project. Subject to eligibility.
Additional documents required	Bpifrance could conduct a first "pre-eligibility check" as soon as the company contact the team, before submitting the application. Other documents will be asked for the national funding demand, after the submission of the Eureka application.
Contact persons	Jeanne Andrade Eureka NPC Email: <u>international.innoproject@bpifrance.fr</u>

Hungary			
Topics of Interest	Bottom-up call with no	thematic restrictions	
Timeline	15 May 2024 17:00 CET 30 May 2024 16:00 CET		al)
Budget	Open budget		
Specific National rules	In Hungary, there is a special support programme that co-finances the Hungarian Eureka project participants, including cluster and network project participants. The Hungarian Eureka Programme has a special open budget of 500 million HUF (ca. 1,4 million EUR) in 2024. The application is accepted also in case of Eureka project proposals and not only with endorsed projects, however the contracts will be concluded with the National Research, Development and Innovation Office as Funding Agency only if the project gets the Eureka label. The evaluation procedure lasts 2-3 months with the involvement of independent technical and economic experts. In the support programme application of SMEs, large companies, universities and research institutions are accepted, however the public financed institutions need an industrial partner in order to be eligible.		
Eligible costs and funding rates	Eligible costs are salaries, equipment costs (amortization), externaldevelopment services, travel costs, other development costs etc.Funding RatesIndustrial researchExperimental Development		
	Micro or small enterprise	up to 80%	up to 60%



	Medium-sized enterprise	up to 75%	up to 50%
	Large enterprise	up to 65%	up to 40%
	RTO/University	up to 100%	up to 100%
	The max. funding amou	nt per project is 70 mill	ion HUF (ca. 200.000 EUR)
Additional	National full project proposal (the Hungarian supporting call for Eureka in		
documents required	2024 will be available soon)		
Contact person	László Kun		
	Eureka NPC		
	Email: <u>nemzetkozi@nk</u>	<u>fih.gov.hu</u>	



Montenegro	
Topics of Interest	Bottom-up call with no thematic restrictions Alignment with the Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) is highly recommended. The S3 thematic priorities are: Sustainable agriculture and food value chain; Energy and sustainable environment; Sustainable and health tourism; and Information and communication technologies.
Timeline	15 May 2024
Budget	Total 300.000 €, i.e. 100.000 € per year (50.000 € per project per year)
Specific National rules	The Multilateral Call for co-financing the participation in Eureka West Balkans 2024 will be launched as part of the Public Call for co-financing the participation in Eureka Network Projects, with the specific time schedule and requirements as described above. The support granted to Eureka projects in the case of entities engaged in economic activity, regardless of their legal status and the way in which they are financed, will be provided under the de minimis aid regime (state aid of small value). The SMEs, large companies and research institutions likewise are eligible to apply under the same conditions. The applicant must be registered as Innovative organization in the National Register of Innovative Organizations prior to signing the contract with the funding authority. The applicant from Montenegro is eligible for co-financing of one Eureka project by the Ministry during one year. Consortia must include organisations in a minimum of two of the countries listed and include at least one partner from the participating Western Balkan countries. The result of the project must be a new product or technology in production; software system; strain; sort; significant improvement of existing product and technology, prototype; new methods; new genetic material and the like. The evaluation of the project proposals is conducted by two independent external international experts in project's specific areas selected in accordance with the Rulebook on the criteria for the appointment of independent experts and the procedure for the evaluation of innovation programmes and projects, and upon the completion of standard Eureka projects is published. Eligible costs: Personnel costs; Personnel costs; Pevelopment services or development costs; Costs of participation in relevant events (registration fees, transportation,
	 Per diems and accommodation); and Administrative and overhead costs. The max. funding amount per project is 150.000 EUR for three year duration, or 50.000 EUR a year.
Additional documents required	National full project proposal with accompanying documentation



Contact persons	Aleksandra Mugosa
-	Directorate for Innovation and Smart Specialization
	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation
	aleksandra.mugosa@mpni.gov.me
	and
	Nevena Radović
	Directorate for Innovation
	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation
	nevena.radovic@mpni.gov.me

Serbia	
Topics of Interest	Bottom-up call with no thematic restrictions
Timeline	15 May 2024
Budget	Open budget
Specific National rules	Eligible for funding is consortia of the Serbian industrial and the research partners. Public funding is available to universities and scientific institutes. Companies cover their own project costs. Projects must be aimed at commercially exploitable products, processes or services. Project duration is up to 36 months. After receiving an application, a formal 2-step evaluation is carried out according to the basic admin criteria (Ministry) and national criteria (done by national experts). Rules, procedures, and other national criteria: https://www.nitra.gov.rs/cir/medunarodna-saradnja/multilateralni- programi-saradnje
Eligible costs and funding rates	 Eligible costs are salaries, equipment costs (amortization), travel costs, other development costs. Max 50% of total project costs. Maximal amount per project of 150.000 €.
Additional documents required	National full project proposal Consortium Agreement
Contact persons	Snežana Omić Eureka NPC E-mail: snezana.omic@nitra.gov.rs Phone: +381 11 3616 589



Türkiye	
Topics of Interest	Bottom-up call with no thematic restrictions
Timeline	Turkish applicants must complete the national application by 3 rd of July 2024.
Budget	Open budget
Specific National rules	All companies which were established in accordance with Turkish law can apply for funding for their international projects. Only companies participating in international projects are funded within this program but universities and research centers can be funded as subcontractors.
Eligible costs and funding rates	Companies receive certain percentage of their eligible costs as a grant in this call. The percentage is 60% for large companies and 75% for SMEs.
Additional documents required	Participants must submit a formal national application (in Turkish) through TÜBİTAK TEYDEB's website (https://eteydeb.tubitak.gov.tr/)
Contact persons	Emine Elif Ocakcı
	Umut Ege
	Email:eureka@tubitak.gov.tr