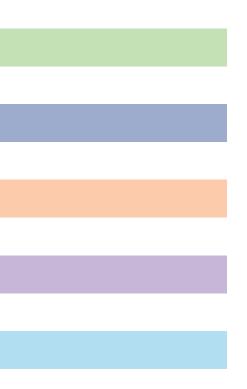
# **Annual report**





2021





# Annual report 2021

We are the world's biggest public network for international cooperation in R&D and innovation, present in over 45 countries.

Our network consists of national funding bodies and the European Commission, who provide funding and support to organisations collaborating on international R&D projects or wanting to explore international markets.

Since 1985, we have supported the R&D of thousands of ground-breaking commercialised products, processes or services that have positively impacted society and helped economies grow.



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# Foreword



"We began the Austrian Chairmanship with optimism that the coronavirus pandemic would soon be over, but it continued to challenge us throughout 2021. Despite this, we achieved our planned transition into a "new Eureka", offering even more opportunity and flexibility for

innovators conducting R&D in a post-COVID-19 recovery period.

During our Chairmanship, we witnessed great achievements: for the second time, Eureka Clusters launched and implemented an artificial intelligence call for projects together; we progressed with defining renewed Eurostars and INNOWWIDE programmes for innovative SMEs; and as a part of our investment readiness programme, we hosted online sessions between corporates and SMEs.

A highlight of our Chairmanship was welcoming Singapore to the Eureka network as an associated country, and Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina as full members. These successes were the result of consistent collaboration and engagement in our enhancing cooperation with the Western Balkans working group. We are grateful for excellent partnerships with the previous Netherlands Chairmanship and current Portuguese Chairmanship (who continue to run both this working group and one dedicated to outreach in Africa).

Unfortunately, we could not host the prestigious event planned for Eureka's 35th birthday in Vienna's Hofburg. Instead, we celebrated with a series of online video messages from ministers and heads of funding agencies from all over the world. Similarly, May 2021's Global Innovation Summit became an ambitious hybrid event that increased our exposure beyond expectations; we saw over 3,700 in-person and virtual attendees from 90 countries.

Our Chairmanship has ended, but we formed even stronger bonds with the Secretariat team in Brussels and Eureka's network!"

Hours Tucklaceon Selugbel

Klaus Puchbauer-Schnabel 2020/2021 Chairperson of Eureka



"In the second half of 2021, the Portuguese Chairmanship accomplished some positive steps towards expanding Eureka's reach in Africa, in Latin America and within

R&D and innovation ecosystems.

Eureka's newly-formed enhancing cooperation with Africa working group initiated dialogue with Nigerian and Kenyan ministries: in December, we spoke at the Kenya Innovation Week, and we are discussing Globalstars calls for projects with both countries. In parallel, we are strengthening ties with Brazil and expect two new initiatives in 2022.

To support these ventures, we organised a series of global "Eureka meets the Atlantic" events in Lisbon, Cape Town, Rio de Janeiro and Boston. In November, we also announced a partnership with the European Space Agency for coordinating earth observation R&D and innovation.

Another of our priorities is to reinforce Eureka's programmes, and we were excited to oversee the first Eurostars-3 call for projects in September.

In June 2022, we look forward to hosting the Global Innovation Summit, Eureka Innovation Awards ceremony and a Ministerial Conference!"

Miguel Bello Mora 2021/2022 Chairperson of Eureka

# In 2021

FEBRUARY Network meetings (online) in Innsbruck Singapore joins Eureka as an associated country Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina become NOVEMBER Network meetings in Porto O Partnership



"I am delighted to introduce Eureka's annual report as Director General of the Eureka Secretariat, a challenge I began in September 2021.

This has been a remarkable year for Eureka, as echoed by our Austrian and Portuguese

Chairmanships. Beyond delivering on our strategic goals and offering excellent customer service, Eureka's network played an important part in supporting startups, SMEs, large companies, universities and research organisations as everyone came to terms with changes to the way we live and work.

I am inspired by beneficiaries who continue to innovate in unique and challenging climates and choose Eureka as a means of supporting their international R&D endeavours. We need to consistently offer support and promote the value of a strong R&D and innovation network like Eureka by demonstrating its crucial role, leveraging even more public funding for innovation beyond borders and aligning what we do with the strategic aims and needs of our members. Through beneficiary activities, jobs are created, economies are boosted, industries are more competitive and R&D results benefit society.

This space is too small to cover all Eureka's achievements in 2021, but here, I have outlined an abbreviated retrospective, which is elaborated on later in this report.

Firstly, Singapore joined our network in May 2021 at the Global Innovation Summit in Graz during the Austrian Chairmanship, becoming Eureka's second Asian country after South Korea. Similarly, thanks in part to a working group set up to enhance cooperation with Western Balkan countries, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina transitioned from national information points to become full member countries.

In tandem, Eurostars-2, a successful joint programme with the European Union, ended in the first part of the year. Soon after, we began the next chapter, Eurostars-3, focusing on an even broader target group: innovative SMEs. A pilot initiative, INNOWWIDE, which financed European SMEs' viability assessment projects in non-European markets, also finished, and Eureka is happy to be taking this programme on alongside Eurostars-3 within the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs, with a first call planned for 2022. The partnership will be in the form of a co-fund grant agreement between Eureka and the European Commission within Horizon Europe. The first grant agreement for the partnership will be signed in 2022; we have been working intensively this year to prepare for it and greatly appreciate the constructive dialogue with the European Commission throughout this period.

In addition to these revitalised programmes, Network projects boasted high participation in calls for projects between many countries, and all five Eureka Clusters ran a joint call for artificial intelligence projects. Globalstars also saw successes: we launched a call for projects with Taiwan and two calls with Brazil are in the pipeline for next year. There has been recognition of our network in Nigeria and Kenya too; both countries have shown interest in a Globalstars cooperation in the future.

Finally, as a part of our investment readiness programme, we hosted sessions and established longstanding relationships with corporates across Europe.

In my capacity, I am listening to and learning from network colleagues and my team at the Secretariat to improve how we work, and engaging with our stakeholders to understand their needs and align our efforts and focus accordingly.

My team have a complex set of tasks and responsibilities and do a great job of supporting the Chair and network, communicating our successes, designing and implementing our programmes and developing and efficiently running our important IT platforms and databases. It is vital that Eureka thrives, addresses global priorities and provides programmes that are efficient policy tools for our members. Challenges lie ahead, but I remain convinced that Eureka has a winning team to address them.

We will continue to promote Eureka's unique qualities: its bottom-up approach, support for SMEs and enabling of international collaboration for close-to-market R&D and innovation, which result in benefits for businesses, policymakers and society as a whole. I am confident that our organisation will play an indispensable part in promoting global cooperation in R&D and innovation going forward."

Director General of the Eureka Secretariat

MAY Hybrid Global Innovation Summit in Graz 35th year anniversary video series JUNE Portuguese Vienna **SEPTEMBER** call countries Eurostars-3 launched member First projects the European Space Agency established with O New project management platform used

# Eureka overview 2021

In a year where a new normal has been defined, Eureka has innovated alongside the organisations we fund and support, continuing to operate in our role as a leading network for international R&D and innovation with a unique global reach. We see successes year after year; in the number of project applications we receive, the amount of public and private investment mobilised and in the resulting economic and networking benefits for participating organisations (e.g., annual revenue growth, access to new markets, employment growth and new business relationships being formed).

In 2021, we laid the foundations for many of our bottom-up funding programmes to be revitalised and implemented. These allow researchers and innovators to determine their needs for recovering from trying economic circumstances. The range of organisations we support is also increasing; we have removed barriers for SMEs, welcomed new countries to our network and strengthened our cooperation with non-Eureka countries and within innovation ecosystems by promoting the accessibility and successes of our programmes.

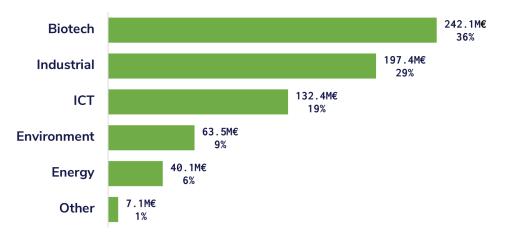
After assessing the priorities of both national funding bodies (NFBs) and participating SMEs, large companies, research organisations and universities, we also launched more thematic calls for projects and created opportunities for companies to develop partnerships with corporates that complement their R&D activities. In coming years, we will continue connecting innovative organisations to further increase the socio-economic benefits of R&D collaborations in our network of 48 countries and beyond.

200 PROJECTS IN 2021

35 COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN PROJECTS 682.5M€ PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN 2021

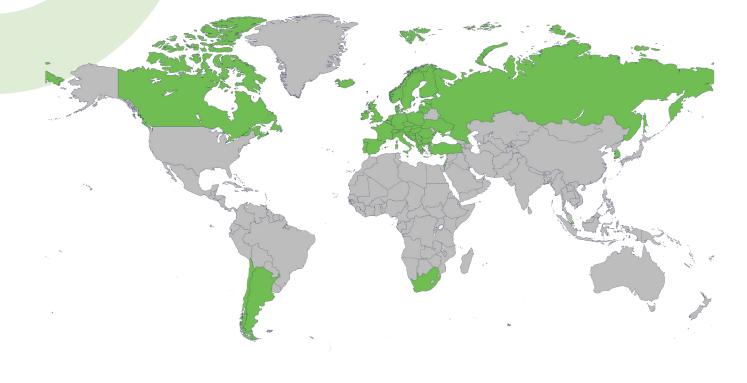
18

CALLS FOR PROJECTS LAUNCHED IN 2021



#### Public-private investment by technology sector

# **Network activity**



#### Number of funded projects per country in 2021

| Austria               | 9   | Luxembourg      | 1  |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|----|
| Belgium               | 10  | Malta           | 1  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovin | a 1 | The Netherlands | 37 |
| Canada                | 6   | Norway          | 12 |
| Croatia               | 8   | Poland          | 4  |
| Czech Republic        | 3   | Portugal        | 3  |
| Denmark               | 21  | Serbia          | 2  |
| Estonia               | 1   | Singapore       | 5  |
| Finland               | 5   | Slovakia        | 5  |
| France                | 18  | Slovenia        | 19 |
| Germany               | 42  | South Korea     | 5  |
| Hungary               | 3   | Spain           | 20 |
| Iceland               | 2   | Sweden          | 23 |
| Ireland               | 2   | Switzerland     | 26 |
| Israel                | 2   | Turkey          | 4  |
| Italy                 | 1   | Ukraine         | 2  |
| Lithuania             | 3   | United Kingdom  | 21 |
|                       |     |                 |    |

There is country-specific data customisable on our website. Visit the interactive dashboard on eurekanetwork.org.

# Eurostars-2

Eurostars is a joint programme between Eureka and the European Commission for SME-driven international R&D projects. The programme was initiated to enhance the growth of R&D-performing SMEs through its support of projects whose results can be introduced into the market within two years of completion. Over the last 14 years, it has become one of the most successful international SME funding programmes and one of only a few close-to-market collaborative R&D programmes that spotlights SMEs.

In 2021, coinciding with the close of the European Commission's Horizon 2020 financial framework programme, our Eurostars programme had a short hiatus as we prepared for Eurostars-3 within Horizon Europe. The second iteration of Eurostars ran from 2014 until 2020, and in this eight-year period, 36 participating countries and the European Commission allocated roughly one billion euro and ran 15 Eurostars calls for projects: the largest cooperative initiative amongst NFBs.

To continue supporting businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, we chose to launch an additional Eurostars-2 call for projects, which ended in 2021. It was the biggest ever; we received 643 applications. 252 of these were ranked above the quality threshold and 123 were funded.

> 1,422 PROJECTS FUNDED SINCE 2014

> > 2,792 SMEs FUNDED **SINCE 2014**

# 7.1B€

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT SINCE 2014** 

> 1.5M€ AVERAGE **PROJECT COST**

Eurostars has a centralised application, evaluation and monitoring process coordinated by the Eureka Secretariat in Brussels, which includes eligibility and ethics checks and two evaluation steps (conducted by remote experts and a panel of independent experts). The evaluation is stringent and ensures the harmonisation and synchronisation of the NFBs' processes. Moreover, the feedback given helps organisations (particularly SMEs) improve their R&D processes and management. This methodology has been further improved on and carried forward into the next phase of the programme.



European

*Eurostars is a programme co-funded by Eureka national funding bodies and the* **Commission** *European Union Horizon 2020 framework* programme.



### Eurostars-2 success

Eurostars has been important for international R&D collaboration for both NFBs and participating organisations alike; the programme's regularity and cohesion make it easier for NFBs to dedicate funding and for participating organisations to rely on consistent financial support to progress in their research activities. Much of Eurostars' success has been thanks to Eureka's strong partnership with the European Commission, who support programme management and provide a top-up amount to NFBs, allowing more organisations to receive public funding.

Thousands of organisations (from the 36 participating countries and beyond) apply to each Eurostars call for projects, and we have been able to support 29% of all project applications. The impact of Eurostars funding, international collaboration, knowledge transfer and new relationships being formed can be measured in revenue and employment growth, and by looking at some of the outstanding individual project results that have positively impacted society. The following organisations have been involved in one or more Eurostars-2 projects whose outcomes have resulted in, or significantly contributed to, their successful products, processes or services.

#### Symptoma



With advanced artificial intelligence (AI), 16 years of medical research and perseverance, Symptoma, a world-leading accurate online symptom checker with a +95% accuracy rate, is reducing one of medicine's biggest blind spots: diagnosis.

#### Green City Solutions



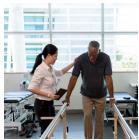
Green City Solutions is harnessing the power of mossy peatlands in their City Tree and City Breeze products to target the most polluted parts of urban areas. The company currently has over 50 projects running in cities that remove thousands of tonnes of CO2 and harmful dust particles.

#### Meatable



Meatable is pioneering labgrown meat by replicating fat and muscle growth to produce an environmentallyconscious alternative. The result is a reduction in water consumption and deforestation caused by raising livestock for meat.

#### École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne



A medical breakthrough in a project has enabled some patients to regain control over their lower extremities with the help of a special probe that is inserted into the bone marrow and powered by an external battery.

### Mirriad Advertising Ltd.



With new technology, Mirriad is able to place adverts within film and video in postproduction, generating new revenue streams for content creators and connecting brands to their audiences.

#### Claned



Claned has developed a customisable online education platform that monitors how people learn. The platform uses AI to personalise courses to suit ability, interests and preferences.

# European Partnership on Innovative SMEs

The European Partnership on Innovative SMEs will be a co-fund grant agreement with the European Commisison within Horizon Europe, comprising of two funding programmes, Eurostars-3 and INNOWWIDE, and accompanying measures. In 2021, Eureka's proposal to the European Commission received a positive evaluation, and we are currently preparing a first grant agreement expected to be signed in May 2022 that builds on our existing relationship. On this basis, 37 countries have committed to the partnership.

### **Eurostars-3**

On the strength of the excellent results of Eurostars-2 (and its notable place within the R&D funding landscape), we renewed Eurostars in 2021. Alongside the 36 countries that engaged in Eurostars-2, new Eureka country Singapore also committed to participating in Eurostars-3.

Eurostars-3's target group has expanded from R&D-performing SMEs to innovative SMEs, supporting companies who do not necessarily have a previous R&D track record, but prove to independent evaluators in their application that their methodology will achieve excellent technical, commercial and societal results. This nurtures high-potential SMEs and widens the scope of R&D and innovation ecosystems in the participating countries. The first Eurostars-3 call was launched in 2021 and saw 436 applications from 1,210 collaborating organisations. Of these applications, 215 were ranked above the quality threshold and 110 were funded. The funding decisions were made in early 2022.

110 PROJECTS FUNDED

248 SMEs FUNDED 155.3M€ PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT

> 1.4M€ AVERAGE PROJECT COST

The ability to collaborate with organisations from any Eureka country is a core value of our network, and we strive to offer equal levels of support for all countries participating in Eurostars. Within Horizon Europe, Eurostars-3 will provide a unique opportunity for European companies to collaborate with non-EU or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who are also supported by their NFB and the programme. Eurostars has expanded European cooperation to include global partners: of the 37 participating countries, ten are non-EU countries and four of those are non-Horizon Europe Associated Countries. There is global interest in the programme, and an expectation that it will attract further participation from other countries.

### INNOWWIDE

From 2019 until July 2021, the Eureka Secretariat actively participated in INNOWWIDE: a Horizon 2020 pilot programme that funded highly innovative European SMEs to assess the viability of their commercial or research ambitions for internationalisation in a target country. SMEs conduct feasibility studies for their innovative solutions over a six-month period, working with local experts from developing countries, large emerging economies and developed countries. The programme had a budget of 7.2 million euro for offering grants of 60,000 euro to 120 SMEs. This amount was split over two centralised calls for applications: the first was launched in April 2019 (funding 50 projects), and the second launched in January 2020 (funding 70 projects).



COUNTRIES APPLIED

120 PROJECTS FUNDED

COUNTRIES TARGETED

The number of applications received in INNOWWIDE's two calls (379 and 597) indicated significant interest in the pilot programme. SMEs from 21 countries were funded for feasibility assessment projects to be carried out in 34 target countries outside of Europe, underlining the potential INNOWWIDE has for supporting the development of new global value chains. INNOWWIDE has already improved Eureka's global visibility, and the programme provides an entry point for organisations collaborating with non-Eureka countries.

As a result of the pilot programme's success, INNOWWIDE will be integrated into the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs, with the first call for projects to be launched in the second half of 2022. Over six calls for projects, approximately 25 million euro will be dedicated to funding 400 market feasibility projects (with 60,000 euro given per project) for SMEs from European Union Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries wanting to explore international markets.

INNOWWIDE supports one beneficiary per project, but companies in target countries that SMEs choose to collaborate with can benefit indirectly as subcontractors, and we intend to extend the programme's reach and increase its impact. For example, calls for projects may focus on a continent, region or thematic priorities.

SMEs can conduct a viability assessment at different stages. For example, when exploring or developing an R&D project idea before applying for funding from programmes like Eurostars, or after a successful R&D project to understand whether their new product, process or service might be commercialised in targeted global markets. This flexibility allows Eureka to maintain support for innovative SMEs throughout their growth and internationalisation process.



European Commission

INNOWWIDE is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 framework programme. It is coordinated by the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI).



# Clusters

The Clusters programme facilitates industry-led and market-driven projects across areas of R&D and innovation that are strategically important for many industries. Clusters assist with project idea development, consortium building, accessing funding and individual coaching and monitoring throughout a project.

Each Cluster supports a thematic community of large companies, SMEs, research organisations, universities and end-users from across whole value chains that form long-term collaborations. Because of the scale and range of organisations participating, Cluster projects develop cutting-edge technologies, receive significant public-private investment and generate strong impact for project participants and participating countries (at economic and societal level).

Supported by NFBs and industry representatives, a revitalised Clusters programme was approved in 2020 and marked a turning point for Clusters. It targets increasing the level of support from countries to the Clusters and fostering the emergence of new innovation ecosystems by exploiting synergies between the Clusters. Driven by these objectives, together Clusters launched joint calls for artificial intelligence (AI) projects in 2020 and 2021 and a call for sustainability projects in early 2022. In these joint Clusters calls, organisations belonging to different communities are encouraged to interact and to implement cross-sectoral activities in a transdisciplinary approach.





PUBLIC-PRIVATE

STARTED IN 2021

Joint Cluster call 35.5M€

PUBLIC-PRIVATE **INVESTMENT FOR AI CALL 2020 PROJECTS STARTED IN 2021** 

#### Statements from Clusters project leaders

"One of the big advantages of our CELTIC-NEXT project, CRITISEC, is to be able to exchange information between partners from different countries, getting new ideas and solutions and making something better than if we were to do it alone." Harold Linke (Research and Technology Manager at HITEC Luxembourg S.A.)

"EUROGIA2030 paves the way for a green, sustainable and energy-efficient future with product and service development. We can combine expertise and knowledge from successful collaborations between large companies, SME and universities."Hülya Akınç (R&D Manager at Enerjisa Electricity Distribution Company)

"Thanks to ITEA, Siemens has a faster and steeper learning curve in new topics. ITEA 4 provides good means for collaboration within a consortium of experts, customers and suppliers covering the full value chain." Thomas Scheiter (Head of Internet of Things Technology Field at Siemens)

"SMART provides a good opportunity to jointly develop approaches that can be tested in different international markets and value chains." Dr. Björn Sautter (Executive Expert Industry 4.0 Ecosystems at Festo SE & Co. KG)

"Our PENTA project, GaNext, creates a tremendous opportunity for our company to engage with leading-edge power electronics companies." Dr. Giorgia Longobardi (Founder and CEO at Cambridge GaN Devices Ltd.)

#### **CELTIC-NEXT**

#### Next-generation communications

Supports projects in the information and communications technology (ICT) domain and vertical sectors. For developing high-performance communications networks to improve data-rich applications and advanced services.

#### EUROGIA2030

#### Sustainable energy solutions

For projects wanting to develop clean, energy efficient technologies and low carbon solutions for energy generation, distribution and storage. Striving to develop an inclusive and sustainable energy transition.

#### **ITEA 4**

#### Software innovation

Enabling software innovation projects in the smart mobility, smart cities, energy, healthcare, manufacturing, engineering and safety and security sectors. Projects push the boundaries of technology fields like AI, big data, simulation and highperformance computing into applications.

#### **PENTA and EURIPIDES<sup>2</sup>**

### Smart electronics and systems, micro- and

#### nanoelectronics

Drive projects related to the development of micro- and nanoelectronics-enabled systems and applications, as well as smart electronic systems integration along the electronic components and systems value chain. The projects help enable the digital economy.

#### **SMART**

#### Advanced manufacturing

Projects support the adoption, integration and upskilling of advanced and discrete manufacturing technologies. Organisations help production companies navigate the global shift to advanced manufacturing.

#### Xecs

### Successor of EURIPIDES<sup>2</sup> and PENTA launched in July 2021

Accelerates the pace of sustainable industrial innovation in the electronics, components and systems community, with projects addressing the full value chain. Projects underpin the digital transformation of our economy and society.

### 7 60.7M€ 9 30.5M€

PROJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE LABELLED INVESTMENT IN 2021 FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2021 PROJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE STARTED INVESTMENT FOR IN 2021 PROJECTS STARTED IN 2021

### **4 9.6M€ 2 4.5M€**

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### 16 140.6M€ 8 78.4M€

PROJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE LABELLED INVESTMENT IN 2021 FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2021

E PROJECTS STARTED IN 2021 F

PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2021

#### **5 67.8M€ 6 73.2M€**

PROJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE LABELLED INVESTMENT IN 2021 FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2021

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PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2021

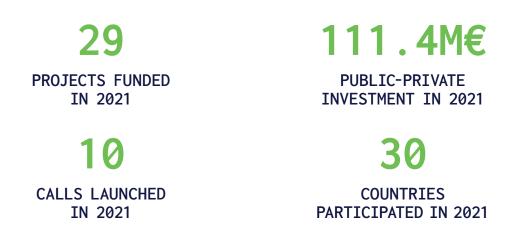
### 12 17.9M€ 9 18.9M€

PROJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE LABELLED INVESTMENT IN 2021 FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2021 PROJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE STARTED INVESTMENT FOR IN 2021 PROJECTS STARTED IN 2021

Labelled projects are high quality projects that have received a positive evaluation and are either funded and running or awaiting funding decisions.

# **Network projects**

Network projects is Eureka's original, flexible, bottom-up cooperation programme. Participants are free to decide their technological focus and apply all year round, but the programme model is also used as an efficient platform for NFBs to cooperate and launch bilateral and multilateral calls for projects (sometimes thematic or based on a specific technology or market area) with dedicated funds. Alongside nine bilateral calls for projects, one large thematic call on green hydrogen was launched in 2021, involving a total of 10 Eureka countries.



In 2021, in alignment with current global efforts to reduce carbon emissions, eight countries pooled resources to fund green hydrogen projects. The German Aerospace Center (DLR) coordinated this call for projects, which was highly valued by participating countries seeking to boost their national companies' efforts to advance green hydrogen technologies.

"The 2021 call for green hydrogen projects addressed transporting infrastructure alongside overarching topics, like production and storage. Eight Eureka countries participated in the call, which garnered considerable interest and response from SMEs, large companies and research organisations."

#### Katharina Leihmeier

(National Project Coordinator at the German Aerospace Center)

Many NFBs also began preparing calls for projects to launch in 2022, using the adaptability of the programme to explore cooperation beyond neighbouring countries and target common priorities. Network projects has a simple mechanism and evaluation methodology that eases international collaboration for both participating NFBs and the companies, universities and research organisations applying for funding. NFBs can initiate or opt into calls for projects according to national priorities and budget, and the programme allows for any additional rules and eligibility and evaluation assessments.

### **Network expansion**

We strive to grow Eureka's network by forming strong relationships with new countries where organisations can benefit from international R&D collaboration. As a result of continuous dialogue led by previous Chairs (the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Austria), cooperation on two Globalstars calls for projects in 2019 and 2020 and involvement in the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH), in 2021, we saw a new addition to Eureka's network: Singapore (represented by Enterprise Singapore) joined as an associated country.

Singapore's association was confirmed in a live virtual signing by Gan Kim Yong, Singaporean Minister for Trade and Industry, at the hybrid Global Innovation Summit in Graz, Austria, in May 2021. Since joining Eureka, Singapore has already committed to participating in Eurostars and launched a first bilateral call through our Network projects programme with others to follow.

"Singapore is excited to join Eureka as an associated country to foster more opportunities for our enterprises to explore partnerships, develop stronger product offerings and venture into new markets. Within the Eureka Network projects programme, we have been closely engaging with new partner countries to launch bilateral innovation calls for projects, such as those with Turkey and South Korea. In parallel, we have been stepping up efforts to build further interest in on-going multilateral initiatives, such as the Eurostars-3 programme and Eureka Clusters sustainability call for projects. We welcome fellow Eureka countries and global companies to work with us on innovation efforts and leverage Singapore as a launchpad to access even more growth opportunities in Southeast Asia."

#### Jonathan Lim

(Director of Global Innovation Network at Enterprise Singapore)

In addition to welcoming Singapore as an associated country, in June 2021, after 30 and 12 years of inclusion in our network as national information points respectively, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina both became full member countries. This decisive engagement was prompted by an Austrian Chairmanship initiative to enhance cooperation with Western Balkans countries.

"The National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI) aims to build a modern system of science and to strengthen research and technology and its integration into higher education. NASRI facilitates the exchange of knowledge, activities and partnerships within and outside Albania. Becoming a full member country within Eureka will support our objectives."

#### Robert Dumi

(National Project Coordinator for Albania at the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation)

"Ever since 2009, when Bosnia and Herzegovina officially joined Eureka's family as a national information point, we considered Eureka to be one of the 'three pillars' of the joint European research initiative, together with the European Union's framework programmes and COST. Bosnia and Herzegovina has now been admitted to full membership in Eureka."

#### Suvad Džafić

(High-level Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The Austrian and Portuguese Chairs continue to lead a working group with Western Balkan countries, which has resulted in the organisation of a large Network projects call for Danube region countries in early 2022. Network projects is a versatile tool for boosting participation in Eureka, as new countries can maintain conformity with existing national R&D funding procedures.

# Globalstars and global strategy

Based on the simple, optimised mechanism of the Network projects programme, the Globalstars initiative has proven to be an efficient system for global cooperation. Globalstars enables NFBs to coordinate and dedicate funds for bilateral or multilateral calls for projects with countries or regions outside the Eureka network. One successful Globalstars call for projects was launched in 2021 with Taiwan, resulting in 43 project applications. Since its realisation in 2016, Globalstars has mobilised 217 million euro of public-private investment and organisations from 22 countries and regions have participated.

Globalstars ensures Eureka's valuable engagement with active R&D markets by providing a means of building sustainable relationships with non-Eureka countries or regions whose companies and organisations have skills and strengths that complement those of Eureka country organisations. Globalstars is part of Eureka's multi-track approach for internationalisation and can be an entry point for a country or region's increased involvement with Eureka (in the form of membership as either an associated, partner or full member).

3438.9M€DRGANISATIONS RECEIVED<br/>FUNDING IN 2021PUBLIC-PRIVATE<br/>IN 20211411PROJECTS FUNDED<br/>IN 202111COUNTRIES/REGIONS<br/>PARTICIPATED IN 2021

The 2021 call for projects with Taiwan:
43 project applications received
40 organisations from four countries applied
Funding decisions made in 2022.

The Globalstars call for projects with Taiwan was coordinated by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

"Although COVID-19 restrictions prevented physical meetings, collaboration on the Globalstars call with the funding organisation in Taiwan has been excellent, and the consortium is planning to organise a launch event for funded projects in September 2022. In addition, a new call for projects is currently in discussion for 2023."

Arnold Meijer (Project officer at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency)

### **Global strategy**

Eureka is the most efficient platform for global R&D and innovation cooperation: we have the biggest diversity within any international R&D framework. Initiatives like Globalstars, INNOWWIDE and targeted outreach strategies are helping Eureka adapt to expanding innovation ecosystems, which have grown far beyond Europe to include a variety of other emerging and large economies.

Since an associated status was established in 2009, there are now five associated countries (Canada, South Africa, Chile, Argentina and Singapore) and one partner country (South Korea) in Eureka's network located outside of Europe. Having welcomed Singapore to the network in 2021, we also aspire to maintain momentum in the relationships developed with both Japan and India, fostering partnerships that continue in the coming years after Globalstars calls for projects in 2020.

The Department of Biotechnology recognised the benefits of having a platform readily available to collaborate with other countries:

"Eureka's Globalstars initiative with India has provided a platform for academia-industry partnerships on projects of translational value. So far, this collaboration has led to the implementation of four projects in 'one health' and key enabling technologies for healthcare, agriculture and water areas."

#### Dr. Abhishek Singh

(Department of Biotechnology, India)

Led by the Portuguese Chairmanship (beginning July 2021), Eureka strengthened existing links with Brazil, too. As a result of this renewed dialogue, we are preparing a declaration of intent with the Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa (CONFAP), the Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa e Inovação Industrial (EMBRAPII) and the Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos (FINEP) to be a basis for multiple Globalstars calls for projects. Already, two calls are in development to begin in 2022.

In addition, at the end of 2020, the Austrian Chair outlined a working group to plan outreach activities that increase Eureka's visibility in African countries, with the intention of enhancing cooperation and eventually launching Globalstars calls for projects. This initiative has been continued by the Portuguese Chair, leading to rewarding communication with Kenyan, Moroccan and Nigerian ministries, all of which are interested in participating in Globalstars calls in the near future. The South African Department of Science and Technology has been actively involved in this working group and introducing us to NFBs on the African continent.

"South Africa values Eureka as a unique platform for enabling market-oriented international research and innovation partnerships addressing key societal challenges. In this context, Africa's dynamic and evolving innovation ecosystem can both contribute to and benefit from participation in Eureka. South Africa therefore strongly supports the efforts to develop such a cooperation."

#### Daan du Toit

(Department of Science and Technology, South Africa)

To consolidate connections with non-Eureka countries (and in particular, to increase Eureka's global scope on sustainability achieved through space-ocean-earth collaborative innovation), the Portuguese Chair has been organising a series of events entitled, "Eureka meets the Atlantic" in Lisbon, Cape Town, Rio de Janeiro and Boston. At these events, Eureka is presented to delegations of potential stakeholders and beneficiaries from the host and neighbouring countries, allowing us to reach regions our network has yet to extend to.

# Investment readiness

InvestHorizon is an investment readiness programme for deep tech SMEs funded by the European Commission in association with Eureka. The programme was officially launched in May 2019 as a merger of Eureka's E!nnoVest and the European Commission's programme, InvestHorizon; a cooperation with the goal of pooling expertise and complementary resources.

The programme offers SMEs free online webinars and courses, bootcamps, peer reviews, workshops, coaching academies and pitching opportunities. In 2021, Eureka implemented additional investment readiness activities as a part of the programme, devised to help SMEs form international connections with investors and corporates. These activities were a combination of online sessions with corporates and participation in international hybrid events in Canada and Singapore.

### 140 COMPANIES ATTENDED INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN PITCHING COMPETITION SLINGSHOT

457 COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

COMPANIES HAD ONE-TO-ONE CONVERSATIONS WITH CORPORATES

In collaboration with the National Research Council of Canada and Enterprise Singapore, Eureka offered free online passes for SMEs to attend Collision in April 2021 and the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH) in November 2021. SMEs had the opportunity to interact with local companies and investors, as well as attend masterclasses and talks. Moreover, at SWITCH, 12 SMEs were invited to participate in the pitching competition, Slingshot.

Concurrently, we hosted thematic corporate activities, having established contacts with leading corporate partners interested in hosting two to three online sessions with innovative SMEs. The corporate activities began in 2021 and are structured around specific industry challenges set by each corporate. The sessions culminate in selected SMEs pitching their solutions to these challenges in one-to-one meetings with the corporate, with the aim of establishing long-term partnerships in the form of a commercial agreement, investment or collaboration on a pilot project (e.g., where the SME tests its solutions within the corporate's business divisions). SMEs also receive valuable feedback on their business, pitch and proposed solution.

The InvestHorizon collaboration with the European Commission finished at the end of 2021, but Eureka will continue its own investment readiness activities into 2022. 13 countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) are financially contributing to the programme, resulting in a total budget of 487,500 euro for the Eureka services targeting SMEs based in those countries.



European

InvestHorizon is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 framework programme **Commission** *in association with Eureka. It is coordinated* by Tech Tour.



### **Corporate activities**

Seven corporates hosted online sessions with SMEs: Agbar, AVL, Enel, Iberdrola, Metsä Spring, Solvay and Telefónica. In the online sessions, the corporates are often represented by corporate venturing teams or innovation hubs that put SMEs in touch with relevant business divisions. In addition to corporate partnerships, we organised sessions hosted by the European Space Agency (ESA), promoting its programmes and opportunities for innovative SMEs.

"Eureka has been able to increase and enrich our innovation ecosystem. With this investment readiness programme, we found new companies. They were coming from places that we could have only reached over a much longer period of time. Now, our knowledge of the innovation ecosystem is better."

#### Carlos Montero

(Chief Technology Officer at Agbar)

"The programme's process was the key success factor for us, because it helped us understand the ecosystem of European startups that are in our search areas much better than we did before. We have seen the whole ecosystem, and through the mutually-agreed qualification and online session steps, we were able to condense the big amount of companies that applied to those that really are the best fit for AVL."

#### Sebastian Jagsch

(Global Head of Creators Expedition at AVL)

"For us, the reach of Eureka and the programme was relevant. It is perfect for us, because it allows us to reach all the different ecosystems and players, position our value proposition for startups and, at the same time, be able to spot startups that can solve our business division's challenges."

#### Fernando Sandoval

(Manager of Hub Europe at Enel)

"The advantage of Eureka's investment readiness programme is its international reach. The programme allowed us to identify companies and technologies that would not have otherwise been on our radar."

#### Erik Kolehmainen

(Vice President of Corporate Venturing at Metsä Spring)

"Eureka's investment readiness programme has provided us with a high-quality window into other European entrepreneurship ecosystems through a highly curated dealflow and connections with SMEs."

#### Agustín Moro

(Global Head of Partnerships at Wayra Telefónica)

"Thanks to our collaboration with Eureka, we had the opportunity to build and strengthen new partnerships with startups."

#### Óscar Cantalejo

(Startups Programme Lead at Iberdrola)

"At Solvay Ventures, the venture capital arm of Solvay, we are constantly scouting for business partnerships and investment opportunities. Partnering with Eureka allowed us to spot startups that perfectly fit the bill."

#### Peter Vanlaeke

(Investment Manager Europe at Solvay)

# **Expert community**

Eureka maintains a network of remote independent experts who conduct objective evaluations of programme applications, assessing projects and applicants according to set criteria. Our ever-expanding database contains over 3,500 technical experts (for example, specialists in electronics, industrial manufacturing, energy and biological technologies) and market experts (specialising in sectors such as medical, energy, transportation and communications) from more than 50 countries. The experts are an added value to our network and are eager to promote their work with Eureka, giving us increased visibility in the R&D and innovation world.

Because of the success of expert evaluations conducted for Eureka's international programmes (e.g., the expert database was used to manage the first Eurostars-3 call for projects in 2021), we are able to offer our service to NFBs for their national programmes. Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) has successfully used the database since 2015 and will continue to do so into 2022.

The customisability of the database makes it an incredibly flexible tool for programme evaluations. Using the system, the evaluation coordinator(s) can specify the technical and market expertise of, and languages spoken by the experts. The service is also scalable, with the possibility of commissioning any number of experts per evaluation, and within two days of contacting all the experts to evaluate programme proposals, over 1,800 on average confirm their availability for the requested dates. Before selecting the experts, the coordinator(s) can decide an evaluation methodology and set a fixed fee per evaluation.

Access to our expert community significantly eases and accelerates operational processes. All invoicing is done by the Eureka Secretariat, simplifying administration for NFBs using the database for national programmes. There is no restriction on the number of evaluations experts can conduct per year and we intend to maintain engagement with further assignments by expanding the service to more clients.

# **PRO-Ethics**

Eureka is a partner in PRO-Ethics: a project exploring international and national programmes' ethics framework principles to optimise guidelines, assessment criteria, good practices and proposals to reflect the R&D needs of citizens, public and semi-public caretakers, NGOs, social entrepreneurs, etc.

Eureka has led and contributed to several of the project's deliverables, including:

- a stakeholder mapping,
- conducting a case study of the Eurostars ethics methodology and
- holding interviews and workshops to gather first-hand information from research funding organisations and ethics bodies about current and potential future ethics procedures.

In 2021, the consortium completed a first version of an ethics framework (tools and guidelines), which will be tested and improved on. The overall aim is to find a balance between ensuring ethics principles of fairness, transparency, gender, privacy and sustainability, and organisations producing exciting R&D and innovation results for commercialisation. The results of the project will help streamline processes for those designing funding programmes.

# LEEP-SME

Learning to enhance the exploitation potential of R&D project results (LEEP-SME) was a collaborative project between funding agencies and networks that worked to establish best practices for application evaluation and monitoring procedures and improve support services for SMEs during their projects. The overall aim is for funding agencies that adopt LEEP-SME's methodologies to see improvements in the ability of funding beneficiaries to realise and successfully commercialise their project results. The project ran for 12 months from July 2020 until June 2021.

The project comprised of three workshops between peer learning groups to exchange experiences. The conclusions from these workshops were used to develop a design option paper (published in June 2021) explaining methods to best help funding beneficiaries and agencies:

- simplify processes for organisations applying for public funding,
- enhance project realisation support services and
- optimise evaluation and monitoring methodologies.

We expect these new best practices to result in high-potential R&D projects being more likely to be earmarked to receive funding, avoidance of risks or crises that could prevent projects from being completed or reaching commercialisation and overall improved experiences for SMEs.

PRO-Ethics is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 framework programme. It is coordinated by the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI).



Eureka was a consortium member of LEEP-SME, which was led by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The other project partners were the Foundation for the Promotion of Applied Scientific Research and Technology in Asturias (FICYT) and the Foundation FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura (FUNDECYT-PCTEX). This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and

Innovation programme under grant agreement No. 947783.

# **Network meetings**

A huge benefit of Eureka is its networking opportunities. With several meetings (for both consultative and decision-making bodies) organised each year in Brussels and chosen locations in the Chair country, ministries and agencies from 48 countries in five continents can discuss current global challenges and R&D and innovation priorities.

Eureka meetings are an opportunity for the network and Secretariat to present activities and updates, and for all Eureka countries to decide on strategic and operational changes. In-person meetings have the added benefit of NFB representatives being able to arrange one-to-one discussions in both formal and more casual settings.

In 2021, the Austrian and Portuguese Chairs hosted a mixture of in-person, hybrid and online meetings. The Austrian Chair had planned to host 2021 meetings in Innsbruck, Vienna, Graz and Krems, but due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings were virtual. By the second half of the year, travel restrictions had eased, and the Portuguese Chair meetings in the Algarve and Porto could take place in a hybrid format.

Outside of these quarterly meetings with the entire Eureka network, NFB representatives regularly meet on a voluntary basis to discuss specific topics in smaller working groups or steering committees.



At our meetings in 2021, we progressed in expanding Eureka's network; Singapore's inclusion as an associated country and Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina's change in status from national information point to full member country was approved. Moreover, with our Cluster CELTIC-NEXT, we signed a four-year memorandum of understanding with the European Space Agency (ESA) to build synergies and coordinate telecommunications R&D and innovation.

NFB representatives also steered the development of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs, the Clusters programme and made suggestions for streamlining programme operations.

# Eureka governance

Portugal currently holds the annual Eureka Chairmanship, having taken over from Austria in July 2021.

The Chair proposes initiatives, sustains the momentum of Eureka and organises network meetings following an annual work plan. The Portuguese Chair is prioritising Eureka's continued global outreach, promoting innovation in the COVID-19 recovery period, collaborating with international initiatives like the European Space Agency, consolidating programmes that will run under Horizon Europe and topics like sustainability, space-ocean-earth systems and the circular economy.

To implement this strategy and manage the operations of the Eureka network, the member countries of Eureka are represented by a centralised Secretariat, incorporated in the Eureka Association AISBL who are based in Brussels, Belgium. Whilst the Chair is the President of the Eureka Association, management of the day-to-day activities is delegated to the Director General of the Secretariat and executed by an international team of some 35 staff members who are highly specialised in their respective fields (legal, finance, IT, HR, marketing and communications, strategy, advocacy, programme management, etc.).

The Eureka Association is an international, non-profit legal entity under Belgian Law, and the central support to the network. It is governed by different groups who represent the interests of Eureka country national ministries. The governance of Eureka is outlined in the Regulatory Corpus, which includes the Statutes.

### **Executive Board**

The Executive Board meets at regular intervals throughout the year and oversees Eureka's activities. Its main responsibility is to implement decisions taken by High-level Representatives and to manage the Eureka Association (the latter of these tasks it delegates to the Director General of the Secretariat for day-to-day operations).

#### For the July 2021 to June 2022 period, the Executive Board is composed of:

- Ulrich Schuh Chairperson from July 2020 to June 2021 Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
- Miguel Bello Mora Chairperson from July 2021 to June 2022 Atlantic International Research (AIR) Centre
- Szonja Csuzdi Hungary National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI Office)
- Paulo Ferrão Portugal Instituto Superior Técnico (IST)
- Klaus Puchbauer-Schnabel Austria Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs
- Luis Gonzalez Souto Spain Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI)
- Ahmet Yozgatlıgil Turkey Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)
- Marc Pauchard Switzerland Innosuisse (Swiss Innovation Promotion Agency)
- Mikk Vahtrus Estonia (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications)

### **Risk and Audit Committee**

Since October 2016, the Risk and Audit Committee has been supporting the Executive Board with finance, internal control, risk management and audit. The Committee met five times in 2020 and is composed of:

- Patrick Jarvis Chairperson Innovate UK
- Theo Bonten The Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
- Agnes Schneider Austria Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (AWS)
- Hector Gonzalez Menendez Spain Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI)
- Aurora Baptista Portugal BEEVERYCREATIVE

In 2021, the Risk and Audit Committee focused on:

- Reviewing outcomes of internal and statutory audit work
- Reviewing and discussing cash flow, financial statements and budget
- Reviewing risk management activities
- Supervising the implementation of internal policies
- Supervising the development of the new project management platform
- Supervising the preparation of the Eurostars-3 programme

### **Risk management**

Risk management is an ongoing practice within the Eureka Association, involving all risk owners by sector or activity. A comprehensive risk register with a summary of the top risks is regularly reported to the Risk and Audit Committee and the Executive Board. All the risks inherent to Eureka activities are identified and evaluated in terms of impact and likelihood. All risks mentioned in the risk register are under control with mitigation actions planned or being undertaken.

### Statutory and internal audit

The Eureka Association is subject to an annual statutory audit (conducted by Ernst & Young auditor Assurance service).

An independent internal audit function is in place and conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. It supports Eureka in several domains of activity according to a yearly revised internal audit plan.

# **Social responsibility**

At the Eureka Secretariat, we make concerted efforts to act responsibly by providing sufficient care to our employees, using our financial resources efficiently and reducing the environmental impact we have on our local and wider surroundings. In writing new human resources, procurement and environmentally conscious policies, we aim to have an increased positive influence on our employees, stakeholders and Brussels and Belgian communities (where our offices are based).

Our commitments for the future can be split into three main pillars:

- Human resources (health and wellbeing in the workplace)
- Procurement (finances and purchasing)
- Environment

By building on our existing sustainable and ethical practices in these areas, the Eureka Secretariat will continue to reflect the core values of the intergovernmental network we represent.

#### Human resources (health and wellbeing in the workplace)

We have improved policies in our workplace that encourage diversity, inclusion and equal opportunities. For example:

- we have a fair and transparent recruitment process in place,
- we actively encourage personal development by investing in training for employees and conducting continuous two-way appraisals with team leaders and managers and
- we support employee health and wellbeing by training in-office workplace counsellors.

#### Procurement (finances and purchasing)

Our procurement policies ensure we choose the most suitable suppliers and services. For example:

- we treat suppliers equally and do not conclude agreements that distort normal competition conditions,
- we review pricing quotes to obtain good value for money through market assessments and balancing the trade-off between quality and price and
- we act in a transparent manner with documented decisions subject to an annual audit review.

#### Environment

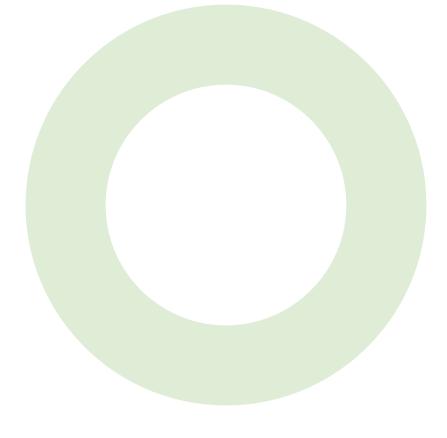
We are committed to reducing our direct impact on the environment. For example:

- we consider and manage our emissions, energy and natural resource consumption,
- we encourage and fully reimburse public transport use and provide an allowance for cycling as a commute option and
- we reduce waste and use of disposable items, recycle and have a water filtration system for drinking water.

## **Our network** (national or regional funding bodies)

- Albania National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI)
- Argentina Secretariat of Government for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (SGCTeIP)
- Austria Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
- Belgium (Brussels) Innoviris
- Belgium (Flanders) Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (VLAIO)
- Belgium (Wallonia) Service Public de Wallonie-Research
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Civil Affairs
- Bulgaria Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA)
- Canada National Research Council of Canada (NRC)
- Chile Production Development Corporation (CORFO)
- Croatia Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)
- Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)
- Czech Republic Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)
- Denmark Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)
- Estonia Estonian Business and Innovation Agency
- Finland Business Finland
- France Bpifrance
- Germany Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Project Management Agency (DLR)
- Greece Ministry of Development and Investments, General Secretariat for Research and Innovation
- Hungary National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI)
- Iceland Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis)
- Ireland Enterprise Ireland
- Israel Israel Innovation Authority (IIA)
- Italy Ministry for Education, University and Research (MIUR)
- Latvia State Education Development Agency (SEDA/ VIAA)
- Lithuania Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA)
- Luxembourg Ministry of Economy and the National Research Fund and Luxinnovation
- Malta Malta Enterprise
- Monaco Direction de l'Expansion Economique
- Montenegro Ministry of Science (Directorate for Innovation and Infrastructure)
- The Netherlands Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
- North Macedonia Ministry of Education and Science

- Norway Norwegian Research Council (RCN)
- Poland National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
- Portugal Innovation Agency (ANI)
- Romania Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
- Russia Agency for Technological Development
- San Marino Patent and Trademark State Office (USBM)
- Serbia Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
- Singapore Enterprise Singapore
- Slovakia Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (MESRS SR)
- Slovenia Ministry of Economic Development and Technology (Internationalisation, Entrepreneurship and Technology Directorate)
- South Africa Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
- South Korea Korea Institute of Advancement of Technology (KIAT)
- Spain Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI)
- Sweden Vinnova
- Switzerland Innosuisse (Swiss Innovation Agency Knowledge Transfer and International Collaborations)
- Turkey Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)
- Ukraine Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Directorate for Science and Innovation
- The United Kingdom Innovate UK







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