



## Austria-Canada Eureka Call on AI and High-Tech

FROM 1 DEC 2024 TO 30 MAY 2025, 23:59 CEST / 17:59 EDT

Ministries and funding agencies in **Austria** and **Canada** have funding for organisations collaborating on **international R&D projects**. Project applications in the fields of **AI** are particularly welcome.

You can submit a **Eureka R&D project application** for this **Eureka Network projects** funding opportunity until **30 May 2025, 23:59 CEST / 17:59 EDT**. Your R&D project must include **at least one organisation from Austria and one from Canada**. Project participants must also submit a national funding application, considering all relevant national procedures, deadlines and submission rules.

### Scope

This is a bottom-up call, with a special focus on AI. Projects within all thematic fields may be submitted for funding, but an additional dedicated budget is provided in Austria for AI technologies to emphasize the need for R&D collaboration in this field. The mission of this call for projects is therefore to:

- 1) **Strengthen and establish bilateral cooperation with partners from Canada and Austria**
- 2) **Promote advanced AI technologies, taking into account fair and inclusive innovation development and ethical considerations**

**Effects to be targeted include (but are not limited to):**

- Improved technological leadership in Canada and Austria by expanding expertise and capacity on AI. Advanced value creation in areas of excellence within the field of AI. Develop key technologies to contribute to technological sovereignty and openness while strengthening international networking.
- Increased acceptance of AI. Enhanced flexible, cooperative, and creative ecosystems where diverse stakeholders collaborate to advance AI solutions in key technologies. Promote the adoption and use of AI in Canada and Austria.
- Amplified use of AI to address social challenges, fostering young talent and diversity, including gender equality. Ensure that the development and utilization of AI are fair and inclusive, considering ethical aspects and sustainability.

**Relevant technologies include (but are not limited to):**

- **AI for Tech - Edge AI:** Edge AI enables AI functionalities to be integrated directly at the data source, whether in mobile devices, sensors, or other networked systems. Digital technologies play a crucial role across the entire lifecycle of Edge AI — from design and development to implementation, testing, and continuous adaptation. Automated driving, decentralised data processing, mobile AI systems and medical applications are just some examples of applications in which the need for Edge AI systems typically arises. The main challenge lies in embedding robust AI systems into environments with limited resources, requiring innovative approaches to system integration. Digital technologies that can operate AI models offline, close to

sensors, or in resource-constrained environments are essential. Simultaneously, robust security measures are needed to protect the integrity and confidentiality of Edge AI systems.

- **AI for Tech - Hybrid AI:** Symbolic AI uses logical, rule-based systems to link facts and events, creating knowledge that can be read and processed by machines. This approach is crucial for adding semantic understanding and enhancing decision-making processes. In contrast, subsymbolic (or non-symbolic) AI includes methods such as machine learning, deep learning and neural networks that use large amounts of training data to derive statistically sound conclusions and decisions. Hybrid AI is a structured, comprehensive and integrated application of both symbolic and subsymbolic AI. Hybrid approaches offer several potential benefits. They enable the use of prior and causal knowledge in modelling, making AI systems easier to explain, understand, and verify. These systems are often more reliable and secure, with easier paths to certification.
- **AI for Green:** Protecting the environment, climate and resources and preserving biodiversity are key sustainable development goals (SDGs). Far-reaching transformation in all areas of life will be necessary to safeguard a liveable world for generations to come. This demands climate and environmental protection measures as well as adapting to the consequences of climate change. AI research can support technology and politics in mitigating climate change as a means of protecting the environment. Against this background, AI for Green is intended to promote interdisciplinary R&D projects that develop AI technologies for use in overcoming ecological challenges. Projects make a significant contribution to achieving the environment and climate goals, for example, through climate protection, adaptation to climate change, sustainable use and consumption of water or marine resources, transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, or protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

## Timeframe

Call for projects opens: 1 DEC 2024

Deadline: 30 MAY 2025, 23:59 CEST / 17:59 EDT

Countries and funding agencies make funding decisions: from August/September 2025

Projects start: from September/October 2025

## Events

Matchmaking Platform and Webinar, online  
(<https://eureka-call-austria-canada-2025.b2match.io>)

## Funding details

**Austria (FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency)**

FFG has a dedicated budget of 2 million (EUR) for projects in the field of AI. All areas of AI are equally welcome.

Projects in Austria can receive a grant of up to 1 million (EUR).

- Up to 80% of eligible project costs for startups and small companies
- Up to 70% of eligible project costs for medium sized companies
- Up to 55% of eligible project costs for large companies
- Up to 85% of eligible project costs for research organisations and universities

FFG has an **open budget for projects not in the field of AI.**

Austrian participants can receive a **grant** of up to **3 million (EUR) p.a.**

- Up to 60% of eligible project costs for startups and small companies
- Up to 50% of eligible project costs for medium sized companies
- Up to 45% of eligible project costs for large companies
- Research organisations and universities may be subcontracted

**Canada (NRC - National Research Council of Canada)**

NRC will fund projects from their general Eureka Network budget; the indicative budget for this call for projects is **1 million (CAD).**

Canadian participants can receive a **grant** of up to **\$500,000 (CAD).**

- Up to 50% of eligible project costs for SMEs

Each ministry or funding agency will fund organisations according to local laws, rules, procedures and available budget.

If your ministry or funding agency does not have funding for organisations like yours, you can still join a project. Contact your ministry or funding agency for information about other funding options or self-funding.

In addition, partners from other Eureka countries or countries outside of Eureka can also participate, provided their public funding or self-funding is secured within the call for projects deadlines.

## Eligibility

Eureka has eligibility criteria for organisations participating in a **Network R&D** project:

- Your project idea must represent international cooperation in the form of a specific project.
- You must direct your project towards researching or developing an innovative product, process or service with the goal of commercialising your project results.
- Your project must have a civilian purpose.
- Your consortium must include **at least two organisations based in at least two Eureka countries/regions.**
- No single organisation or country can be responsible for more than 70% of the project budget.

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.

## How to apply for funding

1. Contact your ministry or funding agency through Eureka's website to discuss your project idea, finances, eligibility and procedures.
2. Create an account on our [application portal](#) (one per project) and select the funding opportunity you want to apply to.
3. Use the portal and complete one application form per consortium (in English). Invite other partners to fill out a partner form.
4. Submit a GANTT chart, a signed co-signature form (available to download on the portal) and any other required attachments.
5. We will check your application is complete and eligible before evaluating it. If successful, your project will receive a Eureka label.
6. We evaluate project applications to determine if your ministry or funding agency should grant funding. Your ministry or funding agency may conduct another evaluation performed by experts and based on national regulations.
7. The final step is to complete and sign a consortium agreement. We recommend that you seek legal advice when drafting your consortium agreement.

Project participants must also submit a national funding application, considering all relevant national procedures, deadlines and submission rules.

#### Austria (FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency)

In addition to the Eureka project application, Austrian participants have to submit a national project application via e-Call at the FFG webpage (<https://ecall.ffg.at/>). The national application must include the Eureka project proposal and a national project proposal.

#### Canada (NRC IRAP - National Research Council Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program)

The Canadian application process for this call for proposals has three phases: Registration, Eureka Proposal, National funding proposal. See Funding Conditions & Rules below for Canada.

## Evaluation

We will review your R&D project application according to our evaluation criteria.

### 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 would new knowledge 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 about your application and state whether they recommend your project for public funding.

Your ministry or funding agency may carry out another evaluation according to national or regional rules before allocating funds to organisations.

Funding will only be provided to projects that receive a positive evaluation from all relevant national or regional ministries and funding agencies.

## Funding conditions and rules per NFB & Contacts

<b>Austria (Option 1/2)</b>			
<b>Field(s)</b>	AI		
<b>Timeline - National Application</b>	2 June 2025, 12:00 CEST		
<b>Budget</b>	2.000.000 EUR (dedicated to AI)		
<b>Specific National rules</b>	<p>FFG will finance industrial research and/or experimental development activities of Austrian organizations. FFG provides the Eureka funding scheme illustrated below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Details on the Eureka application and on the national application: <a href="https://www.ffg.at/europa/ausschreibungen/eureka_canada_call2025">https://www.ffg.at/europa/ausschreibungen/eureka_canada_call2025</a></li></ul> <p>The evaluation of the Austrian project part is carried out by external experts. The project must fulfil the national criteria ("<a href="#">Call guideline Eureka Call on AI</a>").</p> <p>In addition to the Eureka application, Austrian participants have to submit a separate national application to FFG Thematic Programmes via e-Call at the FFG webpage <a href="https://ecall.ffg.at/">https://ecall.ffg.at/</a>.</p>		
<b>Eligible costs and funding rates</b>	<p>Eligible costs: <a href="#">Cost guideline (Version 3.1)</a></p> <p>Funding rates: up to 80% for small companies, up to 70% for medium sized companies, up to 55% for large companies and up to 85% for research institutions.</p>		
<b>Additional documents required</b>	The national application must include the Eureka project proposal and a national project proposal.		
<b>Contact persons</b>	<table><tr><td><u>AI</u>: Markus Proske Expert Thematic Programs Email: <a href="mailto:Markus.Proske@ffg.at">Markus.Proske@ffg.at</a></td><td>Michael Walch Eureka NPC Email: <a href="mailto:michael.walch@ffg.at">michael.walch@ffg.at</a> Tel: +43 57755-4901</td></tr></table>	<u>AI</u> : Markus Proske Expert Thematic Programs Email: <a href="mailto:Markus.Proske@ffg.at">Markus.Proske@ffg.at</a>	Michael Walch Eureka NPC Email: <a href="mailto:michael.walch@ffg.at">michael.walch@ffg.at</a> Tel: +43 57755-4901
<u>AI</u> : Markus Proske Expert Thematic Programs Email: <a href="mailto:Markus.Proske@ffg.at">Markus.Proske@ffg.at</a>	Michael Walch Eureka NPC Email: <a href="mailto:michael.walch@ffg.at">michael.walch@ffg.at</a> Tel: +43 57755-4901		

Tel: +43 57755-4902
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## Austria (Option 2/2)

<b>Field(s)</b>	<b>Different from AI</b>
<b>Timeline - National Application</b>	Funding decisions for national applications submitted until 2 June 2025, 12:00 CEST will be made on 23 October 2025.
<b>Budget</b>	Open budget
<b>Specific National rules</b>	<p>FFG will finance experimental development activities of Austrian organizations. FFG provides the Eureka funding scheme illustrated below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Details on the Eureka application and on the national application: <a href="https://www.ffg.at/europa/ausschreibungen/eureka_canada_call2025">https://www.ffg.at/europa/ausschreibungen/eureka_canada_call2025</a></li></ul> <p>The evaluation of the Austrian project part is carried out by internal experts. The project must fulfil the national criteria ("Basisprogramm-Leitfaden"). 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.</p> <p>In addition to the Eureka application, Austrian participants have to submit a separate national application to FFG General Programme (Basisprogramm) via e-Call at the FFG webpage <a href="https://ecall.ffg.at/">https://ecall.ffg.at/</a>.</p>
<b>Eligible costs and funding rates</b>	<p>Eligible costs: <a href="https://www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/kostenleitfaden">https://www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/kostenleitfaden</a></p> <p>The funding provided by FFG are grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• max. 60% of the eligible costs for small companies,</li><li>• max. 50% of the eligible costs for medium-sized companies and</li><li>• max. 40% of the eligible costs for large companies</li><li>• research organisations and universities may be subcontracted</li></ul>
<b>Additional documents required</b>	The national application must include the Eureka project proposal and a national project proposal.
<b>Contact persons</b>	Michael Walch Eureka NPC Email: <a href="mailto:michael.walch@ffg.at">michael.walch@ffg.at</a> Tel: +43 57755-4901

<b>Canada</b>	
<b>Timeline - National Application</b>	<p>The Canadian application process for this call for proposals has three phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Registration phase: Canadian applicants must register by <b>1 April 2025</b> using the REGISTER button on the NRC IRAP webpage for this Call for proposals, and submit their Expression of Interest by <b>15 April 2025</b>. NRC IRAP will review registrations and contact applicants if more information is required. Qualifying applicants will be invited to submit the Eureka proposal in collaboration with their project partners. The NRC IRAP Canadian Annex form as well as a Template/guidance document for the draft international project consortium agreement will be provided along with the invitation to submit the Eureka proposal.</li> <li>2. Eureka proposal phase.</li> <li>3. National funding proposal phase: Only Canadian participants selected following the Eureka proposal phase will be invited to submit an NRC IRAP funding application. The submission deadline will be communicated at that time.</li> </ol>
<b>Budget</b>	The indicative budget for this call for proposals is 1 million (CAD).
<b>Specific National rules</b>	See the NRC IRAP webpage for this Call for proposals under <a href="#">International opportunities - National Research Council Canada</a>
<b>Eligible costs and funding rates</b>	<p>The National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance program (NRC IRAP) is the funding body for Canada. It provides advisory services and funding assistance to eligible Canadian SMEs for eligible project costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRC IRAP may cover up to 50% of project costs for SMEs.</li> <li>• The maximum funding amount is \$500,000 (CAD) per Canadian participant per project.</li> </ul> <p>Funding is a non-repayable contribution against approved work completed and invoiced.</p>
<b>Additional documents required</b>	<p>At the Eureka proposal phase (see above), the Canadian application package consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Eureka project application form (online)</li> <li>- An NRC IRAP Canadian SME Annex form</li> <li>- A draft international project consortium agreement</li> </ul> <p>At the National funding proposal phase, Canadian applicants will work with their NRC IRAP representative to prepare a funding proposal and contribution agreement.</p>
<b>Contact persons</b>	<p>Eric Holdrinet Eureka NPC <a href="mailto:Eric.Holdrinet@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca">Eric.Holdrinet@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca</a> or <a href="mailto:IRAP.International.PARI@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca">IRAP.International.PARI@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</a> Tel : +1.514.882.9384</p>