South Africa
the new frontier
Learn how to start
an R&D project

Smart Cities
EUREKA Clusters
in the lead

www.eurekanetwork.org
WHAT IS EUREKA?

EUREKA is a pan-European initiative created to strengthen industrial competitiveness. Public and private sector/partners submit collaborative R&D projects in technologies and in partnerships of their choice, to develop products, processes or services to be commercialised.

EUREKA IS A NETWORK
Our people in EUREKA offices across 40+ countries dedicate their time and efforts to transborder collaborative projects. Applicants for EUREKA support are guided at local level by their National Project Coordinators (NPCs): the first points of contact for organisations wishing to expand their activities internationally.

YOU DECIDE HOW TO GET YOUR INNOVATION TO MARKET.
EUREKA is committed to its ‘bottom-up’ principle, ensuring that any R&D project with a good business plan receives the support it deserves, independent of the technology or the type of organisation involved.

AT THE HEART OF EUREKA ARE TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE R&D PROJECTS.
The final result of a EUREKA project must be a commercially viable new product, process or service developed through a cooperation between organisations from at least two different EUREKA countries.
EDITORIAL

The recent memorandum of understanding signed in Basel between me, EUREKA Chairman Bruno Moor and Head of the EUREKA Secretariat, Pedro de Sampaio Nunes, aims to encourage and facilitate collaborative innovative proposals addressing Smart Cities. The Inter Cluster Committee estimates that such projects could represent up to 2 billion euros by 2020 - and urges EUREKA member countries to provide support and communication.

What is a Smart City? It is a place where the quality of life of citizens is improved and optimised through infrastructures and services which have to be user-friendly and affordable. Particularly targeted are transport and mobility, energy and water management, security and emergencies, commerce, infrastructure, entertainment and citizenship. Implementation of privacy-protecting systems will be a prerequisite, as well as data ownership. For that reason, cities are increasingly the architects of Smart Solutions developed by innovators and implemented by system integrators.

Why Smart Cities? One of the main features of EUREKA is that its projects are market-driven! Frost & Sullivan estimates a worldwide potential of $1.500 billion in 2020 for the Smart City market and all its applications. This is a unique opportunity for EUREKA. To meet the needs of cities and citizens, new technologies will need to be implemented and integrated. More and more, multi-disciplinary projects will come up, which will be facilitated by the existing Inter Cluster project framework. Our common effort should simplify the integration of innovative gold nuggets (start-ups and SMEs) at regional, then national but ultimately at world level, enabling them to become European world champions.

In 2015, EUREKA will have existed for 30 years. This will be a promising year for Smart City opportunities in innovation, starting with a big event on 17 February 2015 in Paris, followed by another one in May. Toulouse, my home town, is well known for excellence in making things that fly - think of AIRBUS!! It’s also the city of the author of ‘The Little Prince’, Antoine de Saint Exupéry. I am sure that if he came back today, he would ask me: ‘Please can you draw me a Smart City’!

JEAN-LUC MATÉ is Vice-President, Strategy & Business Development for Continental Engineering Services, part of Continental Automotive, one of the world’s leading companies in its sector. He is the EUREKA Inter Cluster Committee Chairman for 2014-2015, and the man behind EUREKA’s recent initiative on Smart Cities.

The EUREKA Inter Cluster committee gathers the seven running EUREKA Clusters: ACQUEAU, CATRENE, CELTIC-PLUS, EURIPIDES², EUROGIA2020, ITEA3 and METALLURGY EUROPE
TIPS FOR APPLICANTS: An interview with Eurostars-2’s evaluation panel Chairman

CALL RESULTS: Calls in figures

PROJECTS LOOKING FOR PARTNERS: Join a consortium!

EUREKA PEOPLE: Meet EUREKA team Romania

IN YOUR COUNTRY: All EUREKA Network contacts
A UK-BASED R&D SME, ATLANTIS RESOURCES, TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTRE AND NORWEGIAN COMPANY SMART MOTOR AS ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON EUROSTARS PROJECT 7981 ‘TIDAL TURBINE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.’

The TTCDP project will enhance the electrical and mechanical performance of a commercial scale tidal turbine, such as the one showed in this picture, developed by Atlantis Resources. With 10 technological innovations across the project, the results will offer breakthroughs in reliability and redundancy, to ensure the commercial readiness of tidal energy.
791 SMEs participated in the second Eurostars–2 call for projects

On 11 September, cut-off two of the Eurostars–2 programme closed with a total of 356 projects submitted. These involved 1,082 participants, 73% of which were small or medium-sized businesses, representing a total of 791 SMEs. The total cost of applications amounted to €456 million, of which 82% is borne by SMEs. Main technologies represented in the pool of submitted projects are ICT (30%), biotech (28%) and industrial manufacturing and transport (13%).

EUREKA 2020, a roadmap for transnational collaboration in research funding

EUREKA 2020, the new Strategic Roadmap adopted in Bergen, Norway, offers a renewed vision of EUREKA’s mission in Europe and the world. Over the course of the coming years, EUREKA aims to reach four main objectives: providing a clear added value to industry; becoming a preferred initiative for public funding agencies and preferred platform for industry R&D&I cooperation internationally and contribute to the completion of the European Research Area.

New memorandum of understanding on Smart City technologies

The EUREKA inter-Cluster committee, the Swiss EUREKA Chairman Bruno Moor and the Head of the EUREKA Secretariat Pedro de Sampaio Nunes, signed a memorandum of understanding on Smart Cities in Basel in November 2014. All parties are committed to encourage and facilitate collaborative innovative proposals addressing Smart Cities. EUREKA Clusters representing major industry players in Europe estimate that such projects could represent up to 2 billion by 2020; they urge EUREKA member countries to provide support for this initiative. More on this on page 12.

I believe it makes perfect sense for all different innovation programmes and instruments to look beyond present collaborations and explore new opportunities for research and innovation cooperation with the rest of the world – and this with an open mind.”

Pedro de Sampaio Nunes, Head of EUREKA’s Secretariat speaking at the SME assembly organised by the Italian Presidency of the EU Council in Naples in October.

In the segments in which we compete, you better have innovation power and global scale to spread that innovation across more countries.”

Joe Jimenez, CEO of the Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis, at the EUREKA Innovation Event, 19 November, Basel, Switzerland

“...and this with an open mind.”

Pedro de Sampaio Nunes, Head of EUREKA’s Secretariat speaking at the SME assembly organised by the Italian Presidency of the EU Council in Naples in October.

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Joe Jimenez, CEO of the Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis, at the EUREKA Innovation Event, 19 November, Basel, Switzerland

“Our 40+ ministries and innovation agencies make up what is probably the largest public innovation group worldwide.”

Bruno H. Moor, EUREKA High-Level Group Chairman (2014-2015), speaking at the EUREKA Innovation Event

Publicly-supported innovation, from Europe to the world

While the centre of gravity of the global economy continues to shift towards countries outside of Europe, the landscape for innovation is changing rapidly, notably through international collaboration. EUREKA accompanies this change by helping European companies to internationalise their activities outside the borders of the old continent. Because this new order in the world economy of innovation is a multipolar one, EUREKA opted for a ‘gateway’ strategy and chose to develop association agreements based on mutual benefit with countries spread on different continents rather than to focus on a single geographical area.

Currently, EUREKA’s associated countries are:

SOUTH KOREA: South Korea was the first country to join EUREKA as an associate...
in 2009. KIAT, the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology, coordinates the activities of EUREKA in the country under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, the MOTIE.

CANADA: Canada was second to join EUREKA’s association programme in 2012. The country’s national office for EUREKA, located at the NRC, the National Research Council of Canada, is the single contact point for local companies wanting to develop their international activities through EUREKA.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa is since 2014 the newest associated country in the EUREKA network. The Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa (DST) has been designated as the country’s host for the local EUREKA contact office. More on this on page 11.

EUREKA Innovation Award 2014 Oscar Chabrera Villareal, Co-founder and VP Europe at MERKUM-Vilynx, and part of the team of researchers involved in the CELTIC HIPERMED project, winner of the EUREKA Innovation Award 2014 receiving the €20,000 prize from the BBC’s Sian Williams.
Launched in 2000, the European Research Area (ERA) is seen as the ‘fifth freedom of the movement of knowledge’; comparable to what the European Single Market is to the European economy: one of its purposes is to enable researchers, research institutions and innovative businesses to increasingly circulate, compete and cooperate across borders.

ERAC (European Research and Innovation Committee), a strategic policy advisory committee to the EU Council, the Commission and Member States, will draft a document on how ERA priorities could be further implemented. The ‘ERA Roadmap’ will be developed at European level by mid-2015 and will contain guidelines and key measures, emphasising national initiatives, to address bottlenecks.

One of the main challenges to achieve the ERA is the fragmentation of national research and innovation efforts across Europe. EU Member States have become more innovative in recent years. However, differences in innovation performance within the EU remain very high and are decreasingly very gradually. Still today in the EU, an estimated 88% of the public funding for research and innovation is managed entirely at national level and invested into companies, universities and research institutes within a state’s own borders.

EUREKA with its vision ‘Towards being a leading European platform for transnational industrial R&D&I cooperation, fostering competitiveness, growth and job creation’, with a clear objective to contribute to the innovation aspect of the ERA, has a key role in bringing together innovation funding agencies from all over Europe. In order to contribute to the innovation aspect of the ERA, the EUREKA Swiss Chairmanship established a working group to reflect EUREKA’s position in the ERA and to propose concrete actions towards more cooperation, more visibility and more engagement.

EUREKA is fully committed to four ERA key priorities (Priority 1, Priority 2, Priority 5 and Priority 6). Accordingly, the working group has prepared its contribution to the 2015 ERA Roadmap endorsed by the EUREKA High Level Group. This policy document is focusing on four key priorities: more effective national research systems, where EUREKA can offer the reference of the international peer review system set for the Eurostars programme; optimal transnational cooperation, where it can provide its unique international platform to countries wishing to transform priorities and funding programmes from a national to a transnational dimension; optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge, where EUREKA facilitates interaction and strategic partnering between academia and industry and supports the development of joint collaborative research and innovation agendas of different national RDI programmes; international cooperation in R&D, with a network of over 40 member countries and three associated countries (South Korea, Canada and South Africa) could act as a pilot for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The document will be the basis for a ‘EUREKA strategy within ERA’, pointing out the role of EUREKA in the ERA and concrete actions for smart synergies with other ERA stakeholders.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS IDENTIFIED 6 FIELDS OF ACTION FOR THE CREATION OF A STRONG ERA – THE SO-CALLED ERA PRIORITIES:

1. More effective national research systems
2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition
3. An open labour market for researchers
4. Gender equality in research
5. Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge
6. International cooperation in research and development
South Africa is the second largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa and is often perceived as a gateway and technology hub to the continent. It is classified as an upper middle-income country (GDP per capita of $12,504) with an abundant supply of natural resources, well-developed financial and legal systems, well-functioning energy and transport sectors and a relatively modern infrastructure. It is also the most advanced country in Africa in the field of research and innovation. It has a clear ambition of becoming a knowledge-based economy.

South Africa’s growth expenditure on R&D accounts for 1% of its GDP and appears quite significant when compared to other regions or countries in the world. The total annual R&D investment in South Africa reaches around €2 billion with a share of government expenditure amounting to 44.4%. South Africa enjoys an excellent scientific higher education and university system, modern international-level research infrastructures and these factors, along with an important market potential, are beneficial to its EUREKA associated status.

The government shows support towards developing a knowledge-based economy together with a definite will to bridge research and innovation. However, close ties between universities and industry still appear insufficient and turning knowledge into innovative products on the market remains a challenge. South Africa has a science and technology cooperation agreement with the European Union since 1996. The country has been active in nearly all areas in terms of participation in the successive EU Framework Programmes for R&D, showing evidence of its potential in high-technology.

The South African Department of Science and Technology (DST) hosts the national EUREKA contact office. It will facilitate the start-up and operation of EUREKA projects and lead companies through their next stages of development. With innovation in the water sector being one of the main priorities of South Africa, ACQUEAU, the EUREKA Cluster for water technologies, has already initiated several projects with European and South African partners.

Through the association of the Republic of South Africa to its network, EUREKA extends its presence to four continents. With its increasing presence across the globe, EUREKA continues to contribute to stimulating business and growth in its member countries, reinforcing its position as a key international player in innovation.

In 2014, South Africa became the latest country to associate itself with the EUREKA network. The main objective of this association is to strengthen the competitiveness of both European and South African economies through the development of innovative joint research and development projects of mutual benefit. The agreement will secure networking opportunities between innovative firms and research organisations from South Africa and EUREKA member countries, which in turn will provide easier access to European and African markets.
WHEN THE CITY’S MILES BETTER

INNOVATORS HOLD THE KEY TO ENSURE GROWING CITIES ARE GREAT PLACES TO LIVE. NEW BUSINESS MODELS, REGULATIONS AND INVESTMENTS ARE NEEDED TO FOLLOW A CHANGE HAPPENING AT A GLOBAL SCALE.
Thirty years ago, the then Lord Provost of Glasgow Michael Kelly worked with businesses to boost the image of Glasgow. It was a rebranding exercise that created an actual clean-up as investment flowed into the Scottish city in the north of the UK. The Glasgow’s Miles Better advertising campaign used Mr Happy from the children’s books by Roger Hargreaves for its cheerful slogan that suggested Glasgow - once thought of as a grim, dirty, dangerous place - was improved, better than others and ‘smiles’.

"In a smart city, you sometimes invest in one part of the system to get a return in another. We need to reinvent our business models"

consultancy Frost&Sullivan suggests a metropolitan area that uses technology to develop at least five out of eight areas: smart governance, technology, citizens, energy, mobility, healthcare, buildings and infrastructure.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

It cites Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Using public and private financing, the city has encouraged smart city projects through the Amsterdam Smart City Foundation, trialling and implemented all sorts of initiatives to help it cut carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2025. Amsterdam’s residents can use a system that lets them share electric cars and make 39 percent of their commute by bicycle. An intelligent electricity network - “a smart grid” - is being tested for 10,000 homes that uses sensors and better computer systems to remotely control demand. Another pilot looks at ways to dim street lighting according to the weather and use the saved energy to power WiFi networks.

While Amsterdam is particularly active in smart city projects, it is not alone. In the UK, the government has created a minister for cities and last year awarded Glasgow a “smart cities” grant of about €30 million.
Both the Netherlands and the UK are both part of EUREKA’s network of 41 countries committed to making smarter cities a priority.

As well as the social and environmental benefits, the move makes economic sense. Innovators can tap a lucrative market as cities are major generators of wealth and tax revenues, making city authorities major employers and customers. The smart transportation market alone could be worth about 285 billion euros by 2025, estimates Frost&Sullivan.

"EUREKA Clusters can play a role in getting players together to create standards"
Of course, since many of the solutions are experimental, profitability estimates are unreliable. In Derks’ experience they require companies and the public sector to be more visionary. “Businesses have to step outside their comfort zones,” he says. “Their business case depends on others.”

He points to one company that fitted waste disposal units in the sinks of council houses to allow organic household waste to be transported through the sewage system, to be converted to biogas used by the energy company to produce electricity and heat for the city. “The question was who should pay for the units in the sinks and who would benefit?” says Derks. “In a smart city, you sometimes need to invest in one part of the system to get a return in another, so we need to reinvent our business models and close the gap between investment and revenues.”

In a globalised world, reinventing business models will require cooperation between countries and companies to change regulation to include putting a greater value on considerations like the environment, for instance. “EUREKA Clusters can play a role in getting players together to create standards,” he says.

SMEs are driving the kind of innovation needed in tomorrow’s cities, says Derks, while large companies are needed to integrate it in existing systems and infrastructure. Citizens will also drive change in future cities as taxpayers and consumers. Evolving cities will use ICT to tackle the specific challenges of their populations, whether that means getting fresh food every day to the millions of people in Jakarta, the largest population in Indonesia, with new methods like small electric trucks, or doctors in Canada serving an ageing population in their homes through TV conference link-ups. Once standards are set in important domains,
When it comes to smart city projects businesses have to step outside their comfort zones. Their business case depends on others developers will produce products and applications to meet changing consumer habits, predicts Derks. He thinks in the future technology could allow consumers to be sustainable by selling solar energy produced in their homes on to a neighbour or to even select from one of six sports cars through car sharing. He says: “With digitalisation, we’re moving to cities where we own less and less and just pay for what we use.”

For more information about the EUREKA Smart City initiative go to http://www.eureka-smart-cities.org/
A list of all EUREKA calls for innovative projects to fund which are currently open is presented here. To stay up-to-date with our call calendar and check on eligibility criteria, technologies targeted and countries involved, visit the dedicated page on our website: www.eurekanetwork.org/calls

Innovative companies and universities from EUREKA member countries that are not taking part in these calls - and countries outside the EUREKA network, may also participate in agreement with their national innovation agency/ministry.

It is highly recommended to contact your national EUREKA office before submitting a proposal (see contact list on page 23 of this issue).

> BILATERAL CALL BETWEEN CZECH REPUBLIC AND SWITZERLAND

DEADLINE 31 December 2014

Countries involved: Czech Republic and Switzerland.

Technologies: medical devices and diagnostics, intelligent manufacturing, efficient design and modelling automation, software intensive systems and intelligent applications.

More info: http://www.eurekanetwork.org/calls

> BILATERAL CALL BETWEEN BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND

DEADLINE 15 January 2015

Countries involved: Belgium and Switzerland.

Technologies: health biotechnologies, medical technologies, advanced manufacturing systems, sensors and automation in manufacturing, additive manufacturing, aeronautic applications and systems.

More info: http://clecticplus.eu/

> CALL FOR ACQUEAU PROJECTS

DEADLINE 15 January 2015

Countries involved: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Technologies: water resources and water treatment, water distribution, customer services, agriculture, industry services, low energy wastewater treatment.


> CALL FOR UMBRELLA PRO-FACTORY-PLUS PROJECTS

DEADLINE 15 January 2015

Countries involved: Hungary, Finland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey.

Technologies: flexible production, mechatronics and sensors for smart production, resource efficient production, automation engineering and factory automation, production processes and machine tools for lightweight components, smart and sustainable manufacturing processes, smart manufacturing equipment.

More info: http://www.pro-factory-plus.eu/

> CALL FOR CELTIC-PLUS PROJECTS

DEADLINE 10 February 2014

Countries involved: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Technologies: telecommunications, new media, future internet, applications and services.

More info: http://clecticplus.eu/

> CALL FOR EUROSTARS-2 PROJECTS

DEADLINE March 5, 2015

Countries involved: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, South Korea.

Technologies: all types.

More info: https://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/

> CALL FOR EUROGIA2020 PROJECTS

DEADLINE March 6, 2015

Countries involved: Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Technologies: biomass, solar, wind, waves and tides, hydro, geothermal, hydrogen, energy efficiency, CO2 migration, reduced CO2 footprint for fossil fuels, new materials.

More info: http://www.eurogia.com/
Sinan, what would be your main recommendations to Eurostars project applicants?

An application has to demonstrate several points: first of all you need a good international consortium with a combination of the best possible institutions in a given field. Links to top research institutions and companies able to demonstrate good market access are most welcome! An application should also show that your technology is patentable, or already patented. Good ‘pre-applications’ of patented ideas help, as does a healthy financial structure. Good planning of the future product’s marketing is essential!

Finally, being able to show a good track record of international project management and detailed milestones in the project you are about to launch is a real plus.

What is your role as Chairman of Eurostars-2 Independent Evaluation Panel (IEP)?

I make sure that the evaluation process is carried-out in full compliance with regulations and within the given limited amount of time. As the evaluation is an essential part of the process leading to the allocation of public funding, we have to make sure that we do not delay things and help achieve the shortest time-to-funding-contract possible, which is a specificity of the Eurostars-2 programme. The IEP as a whole ensures that all projects have been rightly and objectively evaluated. For this purpose we have the support of a very well established infrastructure provided by the EUREKA Secretariat. For example, the statistical data provided allow us to make sure that our grading is appropriate and consistent.

What are the projects’ evaluation criteria?

The evaluation follows three simple criteria. First of all, a good project starts with a good innovative idea. Secondly, the realisation of this idea has to be carried out by a good, well-balanced consortium of companies and research organisations. Thirdly, the commercialisation of the final product, service or process has to be well explained in the draft proposal.

Overall, I think that the Eurostars-2 application procedure is a healthy thing for an SME to experience, because it forces the company to go through a critical but constructive process and to reflect seriously on the project to be carried out.

Once the project has been positively evaluated by the IEP, what next?

If a project has been selected, a national body will support a certain amount of funding. But the SME has to bring on the table its own share of the investment as well. This share may be a loan from a bank. If your project has been positively evaluated, the difficulty and cost in accessing this type of private funding can be greatly reduced.

A signed funding contract for a Eurostars-2 project is now a well-known ‘qualification’, carrying with it the recognition of a company’s market value. So a positive evaluation is a proof of success in itself. Take that result to a bank and just say: “I have been selected by a group of top experts mandated by the European Union and more than 30 innovation funding agencies in Europe and beyond.” I believe that an SME will be most of the time pleasantly surprised by the answer.
On this page, you will find the results in figures of calls for R&D projects realised in the frame of EUREKA’s funding and support instruments. EUREKA projects generated in the past 6 months enjoyed the fruits of an increase in the number of bilateral calls for example in growth in collaborations between Swiss and Swedish organisations. The number of participations in Eurostars-2 projects is booming in Romania, Slovenia and Germany, while Spain, Germany have registered the highest numbers of new EUREKA individual projects. In terms of technologies and markets, internet and communication technologies remain dominant, although the biotech and medical sectors follow closely, driven by Eurostars-2 projects in that area generated in Western European countries.
PROJECTS LOOKING FOR PARTNERS

The projects listed below are currently looking for partners able to bring complementary skills, knowledge and market access in order to achieve their research and commercial objectives.

E! 9580 - BSM
Building a buyer supplier marketplace to create an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) platform for the e-procurement market. Procurify is seeking a partnership to build the EDI in line with a current client, ASCO Industries.
Participating countries: CANADA, GERMANY
Contact: Procurify
Mr. Kenneth Loi - Project Lead // COO
keneth@procurify.com

E! 9175 - EMBAR
The aim of the project is the production of multifunctional textiles for shielding from electromagnetic fields in order to protect men and sensitive special equipment.
Participating countries: CZECH REPUBLIC, POLAND, ROMANIA
Contact: IW TEXTILE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LODZ
PHD ENG. JADWIGA SOJKA-LEDOKOWICZ - R & D DIRECTOR
ledakowicz@mail.iw.lodz.pl

E! 9589 - TilowMultiB
The project aims to development of a new legume variety.
Participating countries: ISRAEL, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA
Contact: Universidad de Lisbon / Instituto Superior de Agronomia
PhD Patricia Vidigal - Post-doc researcher
pvidigal@isa.ulisboa.pt

E! 8807 - INNCHERRY
The selections and farming of new cherry cultivars is the main goal of the project.
Participating countries: SERBIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, PORTUGAL
Contact: RESEARCH AND BREEDING INSTITUTE OF POMOLOGY HOLOVOSY LTD.
Ing. Jaroslav Vacha - Director
vsuo@vsuo.cz

E! 9147 - SteamRadSter
The project will explore steam and irradiation as complementary methods for decontamination and preservation of food ingredients.
Participating countries: SERBIA, GERMANY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA
Contact: Polytechnic Institute of Bragança
Escola superior Agraria
Prof. Albino Bento - Director
bento@ipb.pt

E! 9157 - INGESIN
The main goal of this project is the development of mortars based on innovative geopolymeric ingredients which by adding WEEE powders can enable the production of new construction materials with enhanced flame retardation, thermal, acoustic and electromagnetic properties.
Participating countries: CZECH REPUBLIC, ROMANIA
Contact: ICECON S.A.
Dr. Adrian Tabrea - Senior researcher
certincon@icecon.ro

E! 8815 - EUREKA TOURISM+
The network’s objective is increasing the competitiveness of the tourism industry via the generation of industrially relevant research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) projects oriented to the sustainable development and improvement of tourism, leisure and cultural sectors, through technological innovation.
Participating countries: BULGARIA, SWITZERLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC, SPAIN, FRANCE, GREECE, PORTUGAL, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM
Contact: Mr. Jaime Monserrat Quintana turistec@turistec.org

EUREKA Umbrellas looking for partners
EUREKA Umbrellas are networks aimed towards the generation of R&D projects in specific technological areas. Umbrellas can connect you to the right people, keep an eye on funding opportunities and help you manage the admin involved in putting a European project together.

E! 9159 - EUROAGRI FOODCHAIN 2
By bringing together national agro-food programmes in close connection with European platforms, this network facilitates access to knowledge, funds, partnerships, new markets and project building for organisations within the agro-food sector.
Participating countries: BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, SPAIN, FRANCE, HUNGARY, ITALY, LITHUANIA, THE NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, TURKEY
Contact: Eng. Joao Santos Silva jsilva@isa.ulisboa.pt
Romanian companies and research organisations have been very well represented in EUREKA projects in recent years. Can you explain the dynamic behind this positive trend?

In 2008, we introduced a national programme for innovation as part of the 2nd National Plan for RDI. This programme has a specific, dedicated funding instrument named ‘International cooperation within EUREKA and Eurostars’. The programme is well known in Romanian research. We also have a ‘great’ small EUREKA office that aims to foster all initiatives in elaborating new projects. Lastly, Romanian companies work hard to become more competitive and international which leads them to engage in new partnerships and projects.

This positive trend slowed at the end of 2013. In 2014, the closure of the last National Plan brought some delays in the funding process. We didn’t manage to maintain the same growth rate and as a result fewer projects were funded. We expect to have a new funding framework launched soon, within the 3rd National Plan for RDI.

How much funding is awarded every year?

Each year, we allocate between €1.6 and €1.9 million. This budget is used as grants for the three types of EUREKA projects: Individual, Cluster and Eurostars. In Eurostars-2, we have committed up to €1 million annual funding, double that under Framework Programme 7.

How are EUREKA and its instruments promoted in Romania?

EUREKA is promoted on the official sites of the Ministry and the Executive Agency. We participate in all major events dedicated to RDI, where we promote EUREKA calls and inform potential project initiators. Direct contact by phone or email is also an important way to explain to companies how to build a project, to underline eligibility rules and the need to focus on direct marketable results.

Can you briefly present your team? Who does what and what does your day-to-day job involve?

As deputy NPC for EUREKA, I am involved in direct contact with Romanian companies and research organisations, offering support at the early stages of a project’s conception, matching partners through the Enterprise Europe Network and submitting Romanian proposals to the EUREKA network’s database. I also represent the agency in Eurostars-2 related matters. I have my own team of eight in the agency composed of project officers involved in contracting new projects and in the technical monitoring of registered projects. We use a comprehensive database of project information. This electronic platform is used both by project leaders within the contracted companies and by the project officers. One of my colleagues, Catalin Molagic, is the contact person in the PROFACTORY+ EUREKA Umbrella, in which Romania is involved.

As this issue of EUREKA News was about to go to press, we learnt of the passing of Romanian NPC Vasile Lungu. Vasile was much loved and admired by his EUREKA colleagues across the world and the great contribution he made to our work, along with his kindness and sense of humour will be greatly missed by all. Our sincere condolences to his family.
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