Annual report

eureka

innovation beyond borders

2020

eureka
innovation beyond borders

Annual report 2020

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.

www.eurekanetwork.org

Eureka Network

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Foreword

"The coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated that only global collaboration can address global problems, and in 2020 we have proven that Eureka is a network that can offer essential support to businesses, universities and research institutions, even in difficult circumstances. Responding quickly to the crisis, we were one of the first international R&D and innovation organisations to dedicate funding to COVID-19-related solutions; our Network projects programme was a ready-to-use tool for countries in the network. 2020 was a challenging year not only because of the pandemic, but as a result of necessary pivotal planning for the long-term success of the organisation. These were no small tasks, covering many of our programmes and involving cooperation from the whole network and Secretariat.

Eurostars is one of the most successful SME-oriented programmes at European and global level, giving participating organisations flexibility to choose their research topic, and easier and faster access to global collaboration. In 2020, we had open discussions with the European Commission (our partner since Eureka's foundation in 1985) to define Eurostars-3 within the next research and innovation multi-annual financial framework, Horizon Europe. We established that Eurostars-3 will be a co-funded partnership, and clarified important topics that will shape the programme for the next seven years.

We also finalised a new working model for our Clusters programme that streamlines processes and can adapt to changing innovation landscapes. Since its conception, the Clusters programme has been a huge success, and we are now in a position to welcome organisations in other innovation ecosystems to join thematic calls for projects.

2020 was a significant year for our complementary activities: INNOWWIDE had a successful second call for viability assessment projects and we hosted and participated in informative workshop sessions with the PRO-Ethics and LEEP-SME consortia, fulfilling our role in both projects. For our joint investment readiness programme with the European Commission, we planned future international missions with network partners and designed tailormade online corporate activities to help SMEs access venture capital. These events are highly anticipated in 2021.

Whilst we optimised the complementarity and efficiency of our evolving programmes, our Globalstars programme has continuously been successful in encouraging new global partners to increase their involvement in Eureka. Singapore's official request to join Eureka indicates that our network is equipped to address pressing global challenges (e.g. climate change, artificial intelligence, health and digital autonomy). In keeping with strengthening our cooperation within the network and beyond, we have also strategised outreach campaigns in the Western Balkans and select African countries; connections that we believe will be important for achieving national and international green transition goals.

Throughout 2020, the Secretariat has been a reliable partner for our stakeholders, acting as the link between R&D projects, national funding bodies and policy and political actors. With excellent knowledge, skills and experiences, and unique collaborations being made in Europe and globally, the Secretariat has ensured the stability of our international presence and efficient processes to help project participants reach their goals. We made some significant improvements for applicants and participants, launching a new comprehensive public website, migrating Network projects and Globalstars applications to the SmartSimple platform and continuing to develop Eureka's own project management platform. Internally, we are also developing a social responsibility policy, which is addressed in newly-defined HR, procurement and mobility policies.

I am proud that in the past 12 months our team (jointly with the Dutch and Austrian Chair) succeeded in shaping Eureka's future of global and trusting collaborations for the next 35 years!"

Clemens Zielonka
Managing Director of the Eureka Secretariat

In 2020

MARCH Singapore apply for associated country status platform first used **JUNE** Strategic Roadmap 2021-2027 **JULY** Refreshed visual identity and new Eureka website Linz network meetings (online) **DECEMBER** Final Eurostars-2

"We all faced new challenges at the beginning of 2020 during the second half of the Netherlands Chairmanship, which required all of us to be flexible. Working from home with online meetings between our network (in different time zones) became normal, and measures were put in place by the Secretariat to ensure meetings and processes ran as smoothly as possible on online platforms.

As project participants began adapting or reappropriating their research to tackle the consequences of the pandemic, Eureka had to continue to reflect the organisations it serves. The theme of the Netherlands Chairmanship proved to be relevant; connect, innovate and grow. The network had quick-action responses to COVID-19 with two multilateral calls for projects between countries set up very soon after the disease became a global threat.

We continued our outreach to countries outside of the Eureka network, notably resulting in Globalstars calls for projects launched with India, Singapore and (for the first time) Japan. We also welcomed a formal application from Singapore to have associated country status.

The Eurostars-3 innovative SMEs partnership proposal was submitted to the Commission in May, receiving positive feedback and continued support from participating Eureka funding bodies. A revitalised Eureka Clusters programme was also approved, with possibilities for opening the programme up to national industrial and thematic priorities, thus enhancing its appeal to Eureka countries while still preserving the qualities highly valued by companies and our entire network. The first inter-Cluster call on AI was launched successfully in 2020.

Towards the end of our Chairmanship, we were able to deliver the Strategic Roadmap 2021-2027 and the new public website, along with a refreshed visual identity. These milestones will increase Eureka's synergy and visibility for years to come."

Odilia Knap
2019/2020 Chairperson of Eureka

"The second half of 2020 was virtual but productive for our Austrian Chairmanship. In this period, we focused on the transition towards a "new Eureka", as we began implementing improved models for the Clusters programme and continuing the Eurostars-3 programme design. Another priority was completing the re-organisation of the Secretariat and approval of new HR policies, which will streamline many processes.

We also established some important working groups to explore outreach possibilities in Africa and to revitalise participation in Western Balkan countries. The network is continually expanding; it will soon grow to include Singapore, and in December 2020 Eureka had an online presence at Enterprise Singapore's event, the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH), for the first time.

We were disappointed not to be able to host the network and Secretariat in our home country in 2020, but are hopeful for in-person meetings in 2021 and for the Global Innovation Summit to take place at least in a hybrid event capacity!"

Ulrich Schuh
2020/2021 Chairperson of Eureka

NOVEMBER ○ First network meetings (Rotterdam) held online under Dutch Chair ○ SmartSimple finalised ○ Handover from Dutch Chair to Austrian Chair at Hague meetings (online) launched ○ Korea Day ○ European Forum for Electronic Components and Systems call (15) launched ○ Participation in the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology

Eureka overview 2020

In a year that has demanded exceptional resourcefulness, Eureka has continued to support and fund innovative organisations and operate in its 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 turnover growth, access to new markets, employment growth and new business relationships being formed).

In 2020, our bottom-up funding programmes have allowed researchers and innovators to determine their needs for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have focused on defining and implementing new improvements to our programmes as we enter an important revitalisation period, and the range of organisations we support is increasing; we are removing barriers for SMEs and strengthening our cooperation with non-Eureka countries. By assessing the priorities of both national funding bodies (NFBs) and participating SMEs, large companies, research organisations and universities, we have also developed and participated in programmes that complement R&D activities, offering international networking and viability assessment opportunities. In coming years, we will continue connecting innovative organisations to further increase the socio-economic benefits of R&D collaborations in our network of 47 countries and beyond.

365

PROJECTS IN 2020

642.9M€

PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN 2020

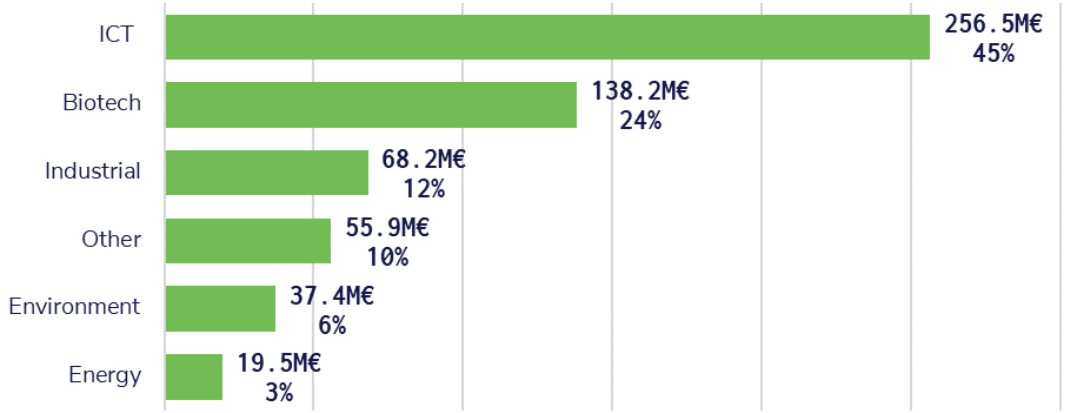
46

COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN EUREKA PROJECTS

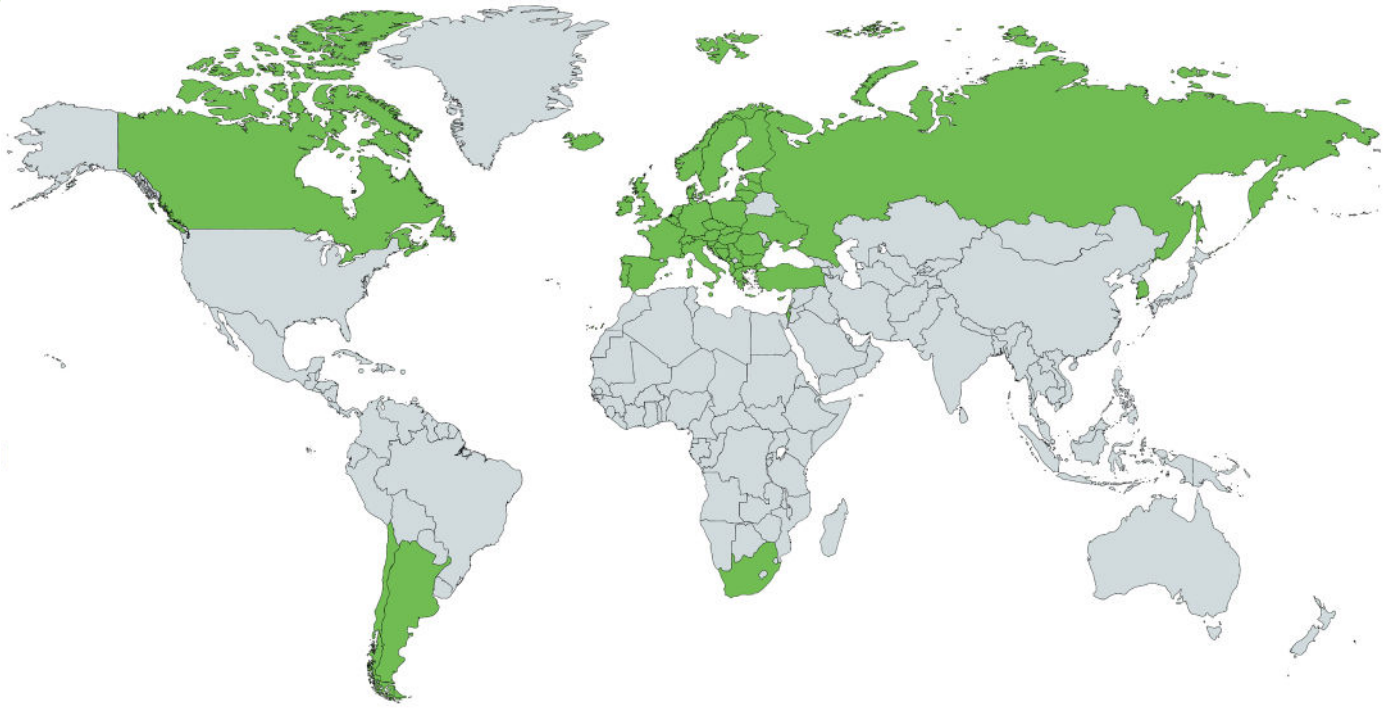
31

CALLS FOR PROJECTS LAUNCHED IN 2020

Public-private investment by technology sector



Network activity



Number of projects per country in 2020

Argentina	3	Lithuania	20
Austria	23	Luxembourg	1
Belgium	35	Monaco	1
Bulgaria	1	The Netherlands	91
Canada	45	Norway	29
Chile	2	Poland	9
Croatia	10	Portugal	13
Czech Republic	12	Romania	17
Denmark	38	Slovakia	3
Finland	18	Slovenia	22
France	40	South Africa	2
Germany	81	South Korea	23
Hungary	8	Spain	61
Iceland	4	Sweden	61
Ireland	3	Switzerland	56
Israel	6	Turkey	27
Italy	7	Ukraine	5
Latvia	3	United Kingdom	68

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

Eurostars

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 13 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 2020, 36 participating countries and the European Commission allocated 159.9 million euro (triple the programme's original annual budget) for two Eurostars calls for projects: the largest cooperative initiative amongst NFBs. 2020 saw 1,019 applications from 3,084 collaborating organisations and each successive call received the highest number of applications ever received for a single Eurostars-2 call (448 and 571 respectively). Of the total 1,019 applications, 409 were ranked above the quality threshold and 221 were funded. A third call for projects launched in 2020 will close in February 2021.

221

PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020

330M€

PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN 2020

461

SMEs FUNDED IN 2020

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.

In the second half of 2021, we intend to launch the first Eurostars-3 call for projects under Horizon Europe with reviewed methodologies and programme guidelines and using our own new project management platform.

European Commission

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

eurostars™

Eurostars in the future

On the strength of the excellent results of Eurostars-2 (and its notable place within the R&D funding landscape), all Eureka countries unanimously support the continuation of the programme beyond Horizon 2020. This opinion is shared by the European Commission Scrutiny Board, who in 2020 recommended that the Innovative SMEs Partnership run with a co-fund status within Horizon Europe. Discussions to conclude final details of the programme are still underway with the European Commission, as we prepare a memorandum of understanding that builds on our existing relationship. So far, over one billion euro (a value that is continuously increasing) has been allocated at national level to funding Eurostars-3 projects, which already far exceeds the total national allocated funding for Eurostars-2.

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 the Horizon Europe framework, 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 36 participating countries, nine are non-EU countries and three 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.

Korean NFB, **KIAT** indicates the significance of Eurostars-3 for Korean companies:

"For Korea, Eurostars is the most active and effective programme for global open innovation. Korean organisations have not only achieved technological innovation in each project, but as a non-EU country, Korea has also had the opportunity to coordinate with Europe's competitive technology environment through Eurostars-2. Korea is one of the leading R&D countries outside of Europe, and Eurostars-3 will provide more diverse and wider opportunities for innovators."

Joo Suk Kang

(National Project Coordinator at the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology)

Representative from the **UK** highlights the importance of Eurostars-3 for British organisations:

"With its focus on support to SMEs seeking to grow their businesses in new markets through research and innovation collaboration, the Eurostars-2 programme has helped strengthen European innovation ecosystems, and successfully brought national innovation agencies together to focus on common goals. As an Associated Country to Horizon Europe, the UK looks forward to the rollout of a successor programme to Eurostars-2 that will build on past achievements and continue the recent trend of fostering collaboration with a wider array of global partners."

Chris North

(High-level Representative from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)

The new Eurostars model will expand the target group 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 will nurture high-potential SMEs and widen the scope of R&D and innovation ecosystems in the participating countries.

Eureka is also investigating possible accompanying measures to help project participants commercialise their project results in international markets. As a part of this process, we are building synergies with similar organisations; Eurostars has been accepted as a fast-track accelerator service within the European Innovation Council (EIC) and we are exploring activities that promote the internationalisation of European SMEs and help them realise global ambitions.

Clusters

The Clusters programme facilitates funding for industry-led mid- to long-term R&D projects that can include organisations along a whole value chain. Each of the Clusters supports thematic communities comprised of large companies, SMEs, research organisations, universities and end-users. Because of their scale and the range of organisations participating, Cluster projects often develop highly advanced technologies and receive significant public-private investment.

In 2020, the Clusters launched ten calls for projects, including the first joint AI call between five Clusters, which 16 countries participated in. This call for projects aided the alignment and synchronisation of the Clusters' processes in anticipation of a new strategy to revitalise the programme that was approved in June. The new Clusters model will encourage industry-wide collaboration and the forming of new innovation ecosystems.

533

PARTICIPANTS IN 2020

215.4M€

PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

A statement from Valérie Blavette
(inter-Cluster spokesperson July 2019–July 2020):

"In 2020, we were kept busy defining the reinvented Clusters programme, which we developed under the Dutch Chair and began implementing under the Austrian Chair in September. NFBs and Clusters communities (industry representatives) have been engaged in designing and steering the programme, and the intention is that the new working structure will facilitate a continuous dialogue between the two parties.

A multi-annual plan covering the next four years is currently in development. These documents will outline thematic priorities for Clusters calls for projects. High on the agenda are smart healthcare, smart cities and housing, autonomous mobility, space-earth-ocean integrated ecosystems for a sustainable and safe society and the circular economy. Eureka's environment is very proactive, and two new thematic Clusters calls for projects are planned for the first part of 2021 (on AI and a technology-driven green transition).

The Clusters programme will still be bottom-up and a core element of the new model is that there is space and flexibility for new trends to emerge, and for both individual and thematic cross-Cluster calls for projects to run. Another benefit is that outside communities can participate in thematic calls for projects.

The Clusters have had many success stories, and if this new approach is fully exploited, the programme is likely to generate many more."

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.

13	68.3M€	7	61.4M€
PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

EURIPIDES²

Smart electronic systems
Drives projects related to smart electronic systems integration embracing the electronic components and systems (ECS) sectors. Organisations input expertise into the development of materials, equipment, technologies, components and embedded and integrated systems.

3	6.1M€	4	3.3M€
PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

EUROGIA2020

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.

1	0.89M€	1	2.3M€
PROJECT LABELLED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PROJECT STARTED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

ITEA 3

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 high-performance computing into applications.

33	325M€	12	93.3M€
PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

PENTA

Micro and nanoelectronics
Projects develop micro- and nanoelectronics-enabled systems and applications along the electronic components and systems (ECS) value chain. The projects help to enable the digital economy.

6	80M€	6	51M€
PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

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.

15	29.9M€	2	4.1M€
PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS LABELLED IN 2020	PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020	PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

Labelled projects are high quality projects that have received a positive evaluation and are 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 many bilateral calls for projects, four large thematic calls on advanced materials, healthy ageing and solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic were launched in 2020, involving a total of 24 Eureka countries. These are a positive indicator for future international R&D collaborations in response to global challenges.

99

PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020

84.5M€

PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN 2020

15

CALLS LAUNCHED IN 2020

40

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN 2020

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.

In 2020, we introduced a new project management portal, SmartSimple, upgrading from our previous system. The platform has been optimised for companies, universities and research organisations applying to the programme and streamlines our processes. A new project management platform is also currently in development, which will eventually be an entry point for all Eureka programmes, beginning with the integration of Eurostars.

Network projects

Network projects has been a reactive programme during the COVID-19 pandemic; countries were able to quickly allocate funds to achieve a common goal. By mid-April, a multilateral call for solutions to the next waves of the pandemic was launched between eight countries and a second was launched in May between 11 countries. The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) coordinated these calls for projects, which were highly valued by participating countries seeking to boost their national companies' efforts to cure or stem the spread of the new virus and to prepare technologies to minimise the effects of future viruses.

"Following the COVID-19 global pandemic declaration on 11 March 2020, the NRC pivoted to support the Canada-wide response to help protect the health and safety of citizens. We rapidly recognised the opportunity to leverage the Eureka network to combine forces between members and work together on developing global responses to COVID-19.

Through a strong network of engaged international partners, in less than three weeks, we were able to mobilise the engagement of 12 Eureka countries in two calls for projects focused on developing co-innovation collaborations between small businesses, researchers and innovators to find and accelerate solutions to the new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was made possible thanks to NRC leadership, as well as the agility and collaborative nature of the network, whose members acted quickly to accelerate their national processes to implement and launch these new opportunities."

Eric Holdrinet and Sonia Nour
(National Project Coordinators at the National Research Council of Canada)

"The NRC is honoured to have been at the forefront of this Canada-led global R&D initiative to respond to COVID-19 challenges. This demonstrated the value of our strong Eureka network to rapidly bring together key international innovation partners to join a collaborative effort against this global pandemic."

Mitch Davies
(President of the National Research Council of Canada)

Network projects was also used as a platform for a multilateral collaborative success between 13 countries in 2020: the advanced materials call for projects coordinated by the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT). Projects funded under this call are currently researching and developing e.g. piezoelectric sensor manufacturing processes and low power silicone devices.

Similarly, the healthy ageing call for projects had participation from nine countries and was coordinated by Innovate UK. The call had a focus on the development of digital health tools and smart devices to promote healthy ageing, and resulted in projects being funded researching topics such as using virtual reality rehabilitation for brain injuries, vision aids and gut microbiome-associated phenotypes.

Towards the end of 2020, the Austrian Chair began a new initiative to encourage increased involvement from Western Balkan countries (i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) in the network. Network projects will be a versatile tool for these countries to boost participation in Eureka, as they can maintain conformity with their 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 outside the Eureka network. Three successful Globalstars calls for projects were launched in 2020 with India, Singapore and (for the first time) Japan, and the call for projects with Singapore received the most project applications of any Globalstars cooperation yet. Since its realisation in 2016, Globalstars has mobilised 29.1 million euro of public-private investment and organisations from 28 countries 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 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 countries' increased involvement with Eureka (in the form of membership as either an associated, partner or full member country).

33

ORGANISATIONS RECEIVED FUNDING IN 2020

13M€

PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN 2020

13

PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020

23

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN 2020

The 2020 call for projects with Japan:
- 27 project applications received
- 82 organisations from 7 other countries applied

The 2020 call for projects with Singapore:
- 86 project applications received
- 270 organisations from 13 other countries applied

The 2020 call for projects with India:
- 26 project applications received
- 80 organisations from 7 other countries applied

Funding decisions made in 2021.

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 the associated status was established in 2009, there are now five associated and partner countries in the network located outside of Europe (South Korea, Canada, South Africa, Chile and Argentina). In 2020, Singapore officially requested to join Eureka; they will be confirmed as the newest associated country in 2021 after a fact-finding mission presenting a comprehensive overview of R&D and innovation in the country is completed. In addition, because of increased cooperation with Singapore, Eureka was invited to have an online presence at the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH) in December 2020, organised in part by NFB, Enterprise Singapore. Participation in this hybrid event (attended by over 95,000 innovators and entrepreneurs) will have increased our global visibility, particularly in neighbouring Asian countries.

We aspire to maintain this same momentum with Japan, fostering a relationship that continues in the coming years following the first ever Globalstars call for projects in 2020. This was a successful cooperation with seven Eureka countries that resulted in nine funded projects. Japanese NFB, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (NEDO), have expressed satisfaction with having a platform available to collaborate with other countries

"Our first experience to launch a multilateral call under Eureka Globalstars turned out to be quite successful. It dramatically increased the number of applications, and we were able to approve nine projects, all with good prospects for success, from a single call."

Izuru Kobayashi
(Executive Director of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization)

The second Globalstars call for projects (within the scope of key enabling technologies for healthcare, agriculture and water) with India also demonstrated great cooperation to support processes that are normally complex for applicants: a matchmaking platform was set up through B2Match, supported by Enterprise Europe Network, and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) hosted an informative joint webinar with the Indian NFB, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

"Because of the success of the first Globalstars call with the Department of Biotechnology in 2018, we launched a second multilateral call in 2020. A virtual marketplace was set up for interested organisations to search for project opportunities and to facilitate introductions between potential partners; more than 100 organisations registered on the B2Match platform. Due to COVID-19, no physical joint events could be organised to promote the call, so NFBs held national information sessions. We also organised an online information seminar where a contact from every participating NFB was available to answer questions."

Niels Van Leeuwen
(Project Officer at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency)

At the end of 2020, the Austrian Chair outlined a working group to plan outreach activities that will increase Eureka's visibility in African countries, with the intention of enhancing cooperation and eventually launching a Globalstars call for projects with one of the targeted countries. This initiative will continue under the upcoming Portuguese Chairmanship (beginning July 2021).

Investment readiness programme

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. It supports collaboration between up to 500 highly innovative SMEs and investors or large companies (through both non-financial and financial partnerships). In 2020, Eureka began to implement additional investment readiness activities as a part of the programme, with a focus on internationalisation and corporate venturing.

As a precursor to two international missions expected to take place in Canada and Singapore in 2021, Eureka and Enterprise Singapore offered free premium online passes to the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH) hybrid event held in December 2020. Over 55 SMEs supported by Eureka and InvestHorizon attended the event. They had the opportunity to interact with local companies and investors, as well as participate in masterclasses and talks. The positive response to the event was a promising indication of a planned 2021 in-person international mission to Singapore and an online event in Canada.

In tandem, we designed and arranged thematic corporate activities by establishing contacts with leading corporate partners interested in hosting online sessions with innovative SMEs. The corporate activities will begin early 2021 and are structured around specific industry challenges set by each corporate. The sessions will culminate in selected SMEs pitching their solutions to these challenges with the aim of establishing long-term partnerships and creating investment opportunities.

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 Commission

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

INVEST HORIZON

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 3,700 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, we are now able to offer our service to NFBs for their national programmes. Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) has successfully used the database since 2015 and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) also used the database for two calls for projects in 2020.

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.

INNOWWIDE

In 2020, the Eureka Secretariat actively participated in INNOWWIDE: a Horizon 2020 programme that funds highly innovative European SMEs to assess the viability of their commercial or research ambitions for internationalisation. SMEs conduct feasibility studies for their innovative solutions over a six-month period, working with local experts from developing countries, large emerging economies (like Brazil, China and Mexico) and developed countries. The programme has 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).

597

SMES APPLIED IN 2020

70

PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020

The number of applications received in INNOWWIDE's two calls (379 and 597) indicates significant interest in the pilot programme. In 2020, SMEs from 17 countries were funded for viability assessment projects (VAPs) to be carried out in 24 target countries outside of Europe, underlining the potential INNOWWIDE has for supporting the development of new global value chains.

SMEs can conduct a viability assessment with INNOWWIDE at two stages of their technology readiness level: on developing an R&D project proposal 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 has allowed Eureka to maintain support for innovative SMEs throughout their growth and internationalisation process.

Moreover, INNOWWIDE has improved Eureka's global visibility, and it provides an entry point for navigating the innovation landscapes in non-Eureka countries. For example, as Eureka develops an outreach strategy in Africa, we can identify high-potential countries and understand the reasons R&D organisations choose to participate in cross-continental collaborations.

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).

INNOWWIDE

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.

In 2020, Eureka led and contributed to several of the project's deliverables, including:

- a stakeholder mapping,
- conducting a case study of the Eurostars ethics methodology (which involved surveying project participants and experts, hosting a workshop and writing a report) and
- holding interviews and workshops to gather first-hand information from research funding organisations and ethics bodies about current and potential future ethics procedures.

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) is a collaborative project between funding agencies and networks working to establish best practices for application evaluation and monitoring procedures, and to improve support services for SMEs during their projects. The overall aim is for funding agencies who adopt LEEP-SME's methodologies to see improvements in the ability of funding beneficiaries to realise and successfully commercialise their project results. The project runs for 12 months from July 2020 until June 2021.

The project comprises three workshops between peer learning groups to exchange experiences. The conclusions from these workshops will be used to develop an instruction manual (design option paper) with improved methods to best help funding beneficiaries and agencies, resulting in:

- simplified processes for organisations applying for public funding,
- enhanced project realisation support services and
- optimised evaluation and monitoring methodologies.

We expect these new methodologies 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 is a consortium member of LEEP-SME, which is led by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The other project partners are 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

European Commission

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.

Eureka governance

Austria currently holds the annual Eureka Chairmanship, having taken over from the Netherlands in July 2020. They will be succeeded by Portugal in July 2021.

The Chair proposes initiatives, sustains the momentum of Eureka and organises network meetings following an annual work plan. The main objectives of the Austrian Chairmanship are to encourage widespread participation from the network and to support the optimisation and renewal of existing Eureka programmes as they (and their operations) are improved to adapt to changing R&D and innovation landscapes. The Austrian Chairmanship follows the Eureka Strategic Roadmap 2021-2027, and they also were instrumental in developing new sustainable HR policies and an organisational chart for the Secretariat.

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. The Eureka Association is governed by the General Assembly (its highest decision-making body composed of High-level Representatives from each Eureka member country) and is managed by the Executive Board. The day-to-day activities of the Eureka Association are managed by the Head 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 governance of Eureka is regulated by the Eureka Regulatory Corpus, which includes the Statutes of the Eureka Association.

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 the General Assembly and to manage the Eureka Association (the latter of these tasks it delegates to the Head of the Secretariat for day-to-day operations).

For the July 2020 to June 2021 period, the Executive Board is composed of:

- Odilia Knap – Chairperson from July 2019 to June 2020
  Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
- Ulrich Schuh – Chairperson from July 2020 to June 2021
  Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
- Szonja Csuzdi – Hungary
  National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI Office)
- Chris North – United Kingdom
  Department for Business, Energy and Industrial strategy
- Eduardo Maldonado – Portugal
  National Innovation Agency (ANI)
- Klaus Puchbauer-Schnabel – Austria
  Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs
- Luis Gonzalez Souto – Spain
  Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI)

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)

In 2019, 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 revised internal policies
- Supervising the development of the new project management platform
- Supervising the preparation of Eurostars-3

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 reinforced by an external audit firm (PricewaterhouseCoopers). It supports Eureka in several domains of activity according to a yearly revised internal audit plan.

Our network
(national or regional funding bodies)

- 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
- 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 – Enterprise Estonia (EAS)
- 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 (Rannìs)
- 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 – Center of Innovation Technologies and Engineering of the Moscow Technological University
- San Marino – Patent and Trademark State Office (USBM)
- Serbia – Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
- 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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Eureka Network

eureka

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