

Eureka
TÜRKİYE
CHAIRSHIP | 2023-2024

TÜRKİYE 2023-2024
EUREKA CHAIR YEAR
in review

Eureka since 1985

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

Its network consists of ministries and national and regional funding agencies 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, Eureka has supported the R&D of thousands of ground-breaking commercialised products, processes or services that have positively impacted society and helped economies grow.

Introduction to the Chair review period (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024)

One or more Chair countries represent Eureka for a 12-month period, beginning on 1 July and ending on 30 June. The Chair proposes strategic initiatives, sustains Eureka's momentum and hosts and organises network meetings, following an annual work plan.

From 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024, Türkiye held the Chair, managed by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) under the guidance of the Ministry of Industry and Technology. İsmail Doğan acted as President.

In this year-long period, the Turkish Chair outlined four main priorities: impactful instruments, embrace the globe, building a green and digital future and the sustainability of Eureka.

In this document, we highlight some of the significant achievements from this period.

Foreword



“I knew we would progress in Eureka’s strategic goals of global outreach, strengthening our programmes and demonstrating impact”

Brit Helle - Director General of Eureka Secretariat

“I was delighted when Türkiye volunteered to hold Eureka’s Chair. Not only does Türkiye, with its geography and rich history, act as a bridge between Europe and Asia, but it was also one of Eureka’s founding members in 1985 and has since been consistently engaged in all Eureka programmes. With such a powerful position, I knew we would progress in Eureka’s strategic goals of global outreach, strengthening our programmes and demonstrating impact.

Looking back on the year that has passed, I am proud of what we have managed to achieve as a network and how far we have come in fulfilling the ambitious priorities the Chair outlined in July 2023.

The Eureka network has grown in size and strength, and our versatile programmes have been further optimised to take us into the years ahead and champion even more innovators.

Speaking on behalf of the Eureka Secretariat, we are honoured the Turkish Chair team chose to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Türkiye’s Republic and 60th anniversary of TÜBİTAK’s founding with Eureka; we experienced an enriching year culminating in a highly successful Global Innovation Summit.”

Brit Helle - Director General of Eureka Secretariat





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“With every new Chair, Eureka will reinforce its position as the biggest innovation network dedicated to finding solutions to common global challenges.”

İsmail Doğan - President of Eureka and Vice President of TÜBİTAK



Turkish Chair team

Chair statement by İsmail Doğan

As one of Eureka's founding members, Türkiye has played a significant role in the network's evolution. We are proud to be one of its most active participants, contributing to and benefiting from its vibrant community. This is Türkiye's third time taking on the role as Chair - a valuable addition to our longstanding activities in Eureka.

With our coordination, we have hosted significant events and meetings, each aimed at fostering international industrial cooperation and pushing technological boundaries. Our Chair was marked by key initiatives, including high-level meetings that facilitated crucial discussions throughout the year. These gatherings resulted in **new governance rules merging Eureka network statutes and its regulatory corpus**, with a focus on clear and simple wording and an efficiency gain in network meetings.

Strategic discussions and collaboration during these meetings helped establish a foundation for shaping Eureka's future role in the global innovation landscape. This includes **focusing on disaster resilience, response, and recovery**, recognising its critical importance in a rapidly changing world. This effort led to a call for projects in this area in June 2024.

I am particularly proud of the progress made in the creation **of a data strategy and governance task force**, with a mission to advance data-driven processes and policymaking, showcasing impact through visualisation. This multi-Chair group will concentrate on defining objectives and goals, crafting a comprehensive data dictionary, and ensuring alignment with strategic objectives.

Our Chair period highlight was June 2024's **Global Innovation Summit**, which brought together almost 2,000 stakeholders from research, innovation and industry to explore collaboration opportunities, showcase cutting-edge projects and promote cross-border partnerships. With diverse sessions, including thematic discussions, pitching opportunities and country presentations, the event provided a comprehensive platform to engage with the latest trends in technology development, funding mechanisms and best practices in research and innovation.

I would particularly like to highlight Brazil's commitment to joining Eureka, formalised with a declaration of intent at the Global Innovation Summit. The **Eureka network will soon be strengthened by the inclusion of Brazil**: one of the biggest and most innovative economies in South America.

With every new Chair, Eureka will reinforce its position as the biggest innovation network dedicated to finding solutions to common global challenges. As we broaden our horizons and embrace new opportunities, we will continue to drive forward the frontiers of innovation, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for all. We are sure the incoming Canadian and German Co-Chair's dedication and hard work will propel Eureka to new heights, reinforcing our collective mission of fostering innovation and cooperation across borders.

İsmail Doğan - President of Eureka and Vice President of TÜBİTAK

The Turkish Chair outlined **four pillar priorities** that defined its work programme from 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024:



Significant achievements: embrace the globe

Brazil soon to join Eureka's network

At the Global Innovation Summit in İstanbul on 14 June 2024, Brazil committed to becoming the 48th country in Eureka's network. Brazil will follow Chile and Argentina as the network's third South American country and will be represented by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and its federal-level innovation agency, Finep. Brazil's accession will follow many years of successful cooperation, including four Globalstars calls for projects, one during Türkiye's tenure as Chair.

Eureka's collaboration with Brazil gained traction during the Portuguese Chair from 2021-2022, with formal proceedings for accession starting in October 2023 when Brazilian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Luciana Barbosa de Oliveira Santos, formally requested Brazil's association to Eureka. In January 2024, a high-level delegation of Eureka network representatives visited the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology and several Brazilian funding agencies with the mission of exploring the mutual benefits of Brazil associating to Eureka and recommending its candidacy. Eureka network representatives voted in favour of Brazil becoming its newest associated country at meetings in İzmir on 16-18 April 2024.



Brazil's commitment to joining Eureka was formalised by Brazilian Vice Minister for Technological Development and Innovation at the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Guila Calheiros, and Turkish Vice Minister of Industry and Technology, Ahmet Yozgatlıgil, signing a declaration of intent at the Global Innovation Summit on 14 June 2024.

In tandem, Finep (represented by the Manager of the Department of International Cooperation at Finep, Alexandre Barragat) and Eureka (represented by İsmail Doğan, Vice President of TÜBİTAK) signed an agreement to support the participation of Brazilian companies in Eureka programmes. Eureka's network will soon be strengthened by the inclusion of Brazil: one of the most innovative and biggest economies in South America.



“Our interest in joining the Eureka network comes from the understanding that greater international innovation cooperation is needed to achieve (societal and economic) goals. Carrying out innovative projects with the Eureka quality label in a consortium with qualified companies from member countries will benefit the Brazilian innovation sector.”

Luciana Barbosa de Oliveira Santos
– Brazilian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation

New connections with Colombia, Ecuador, Qatar, United States of America and Uruguay

As a part of Eureka’s global outreach strategy, the Chair held introductory meetings with seven countries and states interested in Eureka as a framework for international cooperation:

- Colombia, represented by the Colombian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
- Ecuador, represented by the Digital Transformation Cluster in Guayaquil
- Qatar, represented by the Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council (QRDI)
- Maine, represented by the Governor’s Energy Office
- North Carolina, represented by the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP)
- New Jersey, represented by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA)
- Uruguay, represented by the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII)

Western Balkans reinvigorated

The Turkish Chair also achieved a milestone in increasing engagement from underrepresented countries in Eureka’s network: a call for Western Balkan projects was launched using Eureka’s Network projects programme between 14 February and 15 May 2024, resulting in project applications involving over 40 Albanian, Montenegrin and Serbian organisations.

Historically, Western Balkan organisations have participated in few Eureka projects, so the allocated funding and support for this specific call for projects has proven effective in attracting many new organisations from this region.

The Chair outlined Eureka’s vision, mission and structure, and the mechanisms through which international R&D projects can be funded. These discussions will continue, with the end goal of a declaration of intent to launch a Globalstars call for projects as the first step for engaging with Eureka’s network. Already, Uruguay funding agency, ANII, are devising a Globalstars call for projects with a focus on climate change solutions.

Significant achievements: sustainability of Eureka

A memorandum of understanding with the European Commission

In June 2022, Eureka signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Commission, and since then, both parties have worked together to find synergies between the European Commission and Eureka's network and programmes. A task force was set up, which soon outlined a roadmap of actions. The task force's main mission is a high-level dialogue for implementing the memorandum

of understanding, concerning four areas for cooperation: European innovative SMEs, global cooperation, the European Research Area and the New European Innovation Agenda. As a result of this memorandum of understanding, Eureka has gained visibility within the European Commission and had closer dialogue with its representatives in the Turkish Chair period.

A gender balance policy for projects, experts and employees

With the launch of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs in 2021, an obligation to address the gender dimension in a project's scientific methodology and in the number of full-time equivalents working on a project were included in Eureka application forms. The aim is to prompt Eureka beneficiaries to develop innovations that benefit all citizens equally and draw attention to gender balance when organisations embark on an R&D and innovation project.

The Turkish Chair and Eureka Secretariat also identified that Eureka's expert community, a pool of experts who evaluate Eurostars and Innowide applications, has a lower number of women

experts. As such, new methods to attract more women to apply to become a Eureka expert are being trialled. These include writing calls for experts in a way that attracts diverse candidates and targeting organisations with women innovators, scientists, engineers and investors in less well-represented Eureka countries.

In April 2024, Eureka's network supported the exploration of other methods of promoting gender balance in Eureka programmes.

Turkish minister visits Eureka Secretariat

On 15 November 2023, the Turkish Minister of Industry and Technology, Mehmet Fatih Kacir, visited the Eureka Secretariat in Brussels. With this visit, Türkiye demonstrated continued political support for Eureka as a mechanism for international R&D and cooperation and affirmed its longevity.



Chair launch event at Turkish Ambassador's residence

Marking the beginning of the Turkish Chair on 1 July 2023, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the European Union, Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı, hosted the Eureka network and other Brussels-based ambassadors at his residence for a reception. In doing so, Türkiye exemplified its commitment to Eureka and boosted its visibility on the world stage.



Significant achievements: impactful instruments

Investment readiness programme grows

The period of July 2023 to June 2024 saw significant positive changes to Eureka's investment readiness programme. Notably, the programme was included within the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs, resulting in more budget for sponsoring a greater number of startups and SMEs to go on international missions to major events like Web Summit in Portugal and the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH) in Singapore.

Moreover, Eureka welcomed three new corporate partners to the programme: Siemens Healthineers, KSOE HD Hyundai and Turkish Airlines. With these additions, the programme now offers startups and SMEs opportunities to connect with leading corporate venture teams in the healthcare, shipping and transport sectors.



“We benefit from meeting some of the exciting healthcare and medtech startups and SMEs Eureka supports.”

Simon Juergen - Vice President of Technology Strategy and Head of Technology Accelerator at Siemens Healthineers



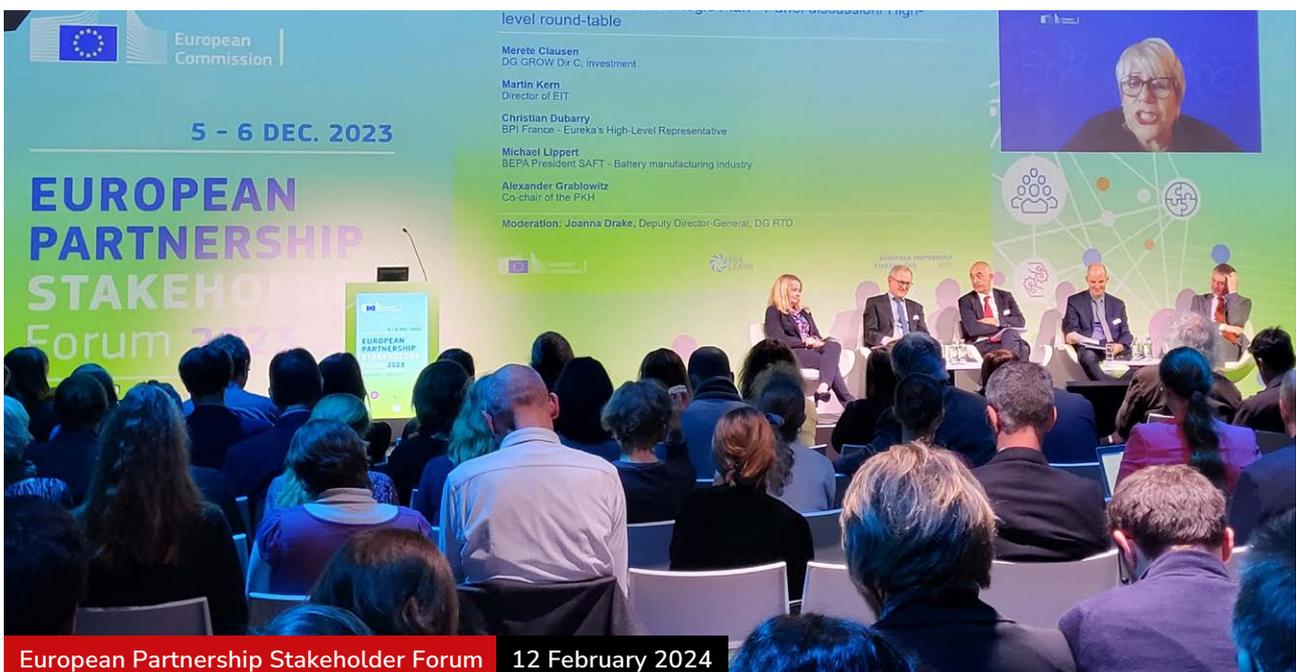
KSOE signing 30 October 2023

A stance on the next European Union research and technological development framework programme

As the half-way mark of Horizon Europe approaches, Eureka must highlight its position as a strong player in the European innovation ecosystem to ensure the continuation of its Eurostars and Innowwide programmes within the tenth European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. To achieve this objective, Eureka wrote a position paper addressed to the expert group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe, headed by Professor Manuel Heitor. It outlines the impact of Eureka's programmes on innovative SMEs and affirms the continued relevance of business-led R&D and innovation programmes like Eurostars and Innowwide.

To assert the impact of Eureka's programmes, Eureka's President, İsmail Doğan, Director-General of the Eureka Secretariat, Brit Helle, and Head of European Affairs at Bpifrance, Christian Dubarry, spoke at key policy events, drawing attention to the complementarity of Eureka and European Commission programmes and particularly the European Innovation Council Accelerator:

- The European Partnership Stakeholder Forum on 6 December 2023
- A panel on the tenth European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development as part of Science Business' annual network conference on 12 February 2024
- The European Innovation Council forum as part of the European Research and Innovation Days on 18 March 2024



Significant achievements: creating a green and digital future

Disaster resilience, response and recovery

In the face of the devastating impact of the war in Ukraine and recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, in March 2023, Eureka countries expressed solidarity with the efforts of governments, non-profit organisations and companies to prepare for, respond to and recover from these and future disasters.

The Turkish Chair established a taskforce to address how Eureka's network could be mobilised to strengthen resilience towards natural and human-made disasters. The taskforce met regularly and held workshops to agree on the best Eureka mechanism for funding R&D projects with this shared goal and brainstormed how existing innovations could be re-purposed and re-engineered to increase societal resilience.

The work culminated in a multilateral Network projects call between 14 countries and regions, launched at the Global Innovation Summit on 13 June 2024. The call for disaster resilience, recovery and response projects will fund preventive, immediate and long-term solutions to both natural and human-made disasters, tackling e.g., innovative and resilient construction, damage prediction and early warning systems, search and rescue, resilient communications, health and post-disaster waste management.

To build momentum, a session was held at the Global Innovation Summit, where ideas on a variety of technologies and application areas were pitched. Bolstered by an online matchmaking platform, the outcome and reach of the call for projects and the eventual impact is expected to pave the way for future initiatives on this topic.



Unveiling tomorrow's digital green solutions

The Global Innovation Summit in 2024 sought to highlight the critical role of sustainable practices and technological advancements in shaping our future.

Many of the event's sessions were designed to encourage more green and digital innovations: two sessions on green transition and digitalisation were held specifically for Turkish companies, and organisations had the opportunity to pitch project ideas in a showcase titled, "unveiling tomorrow's digital green solutions".

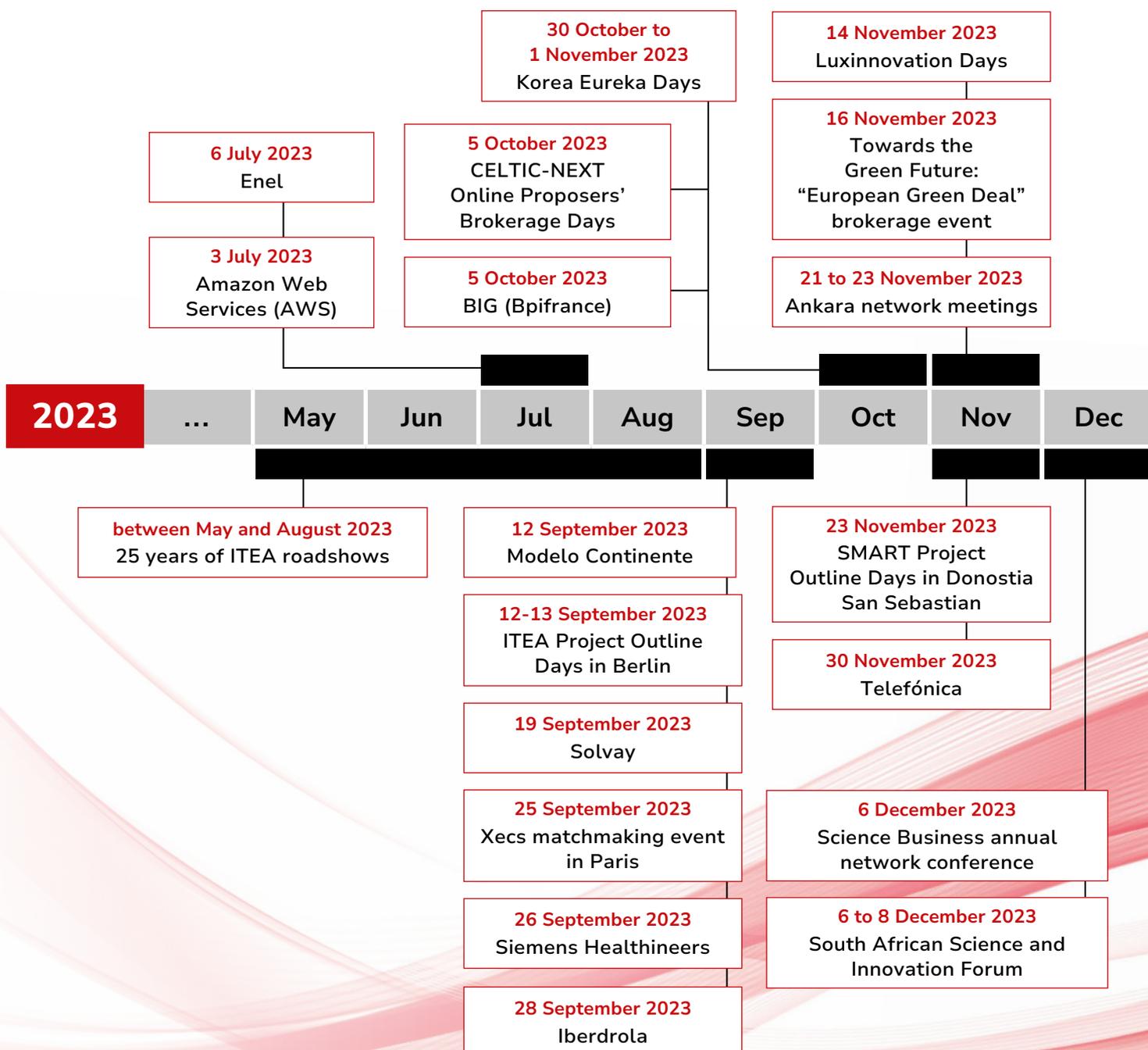
The showcase session proved very popular, giving visibility to those presenting, encouraging matchmaking and so inspiring projects on environmental sustainability and digital progress.

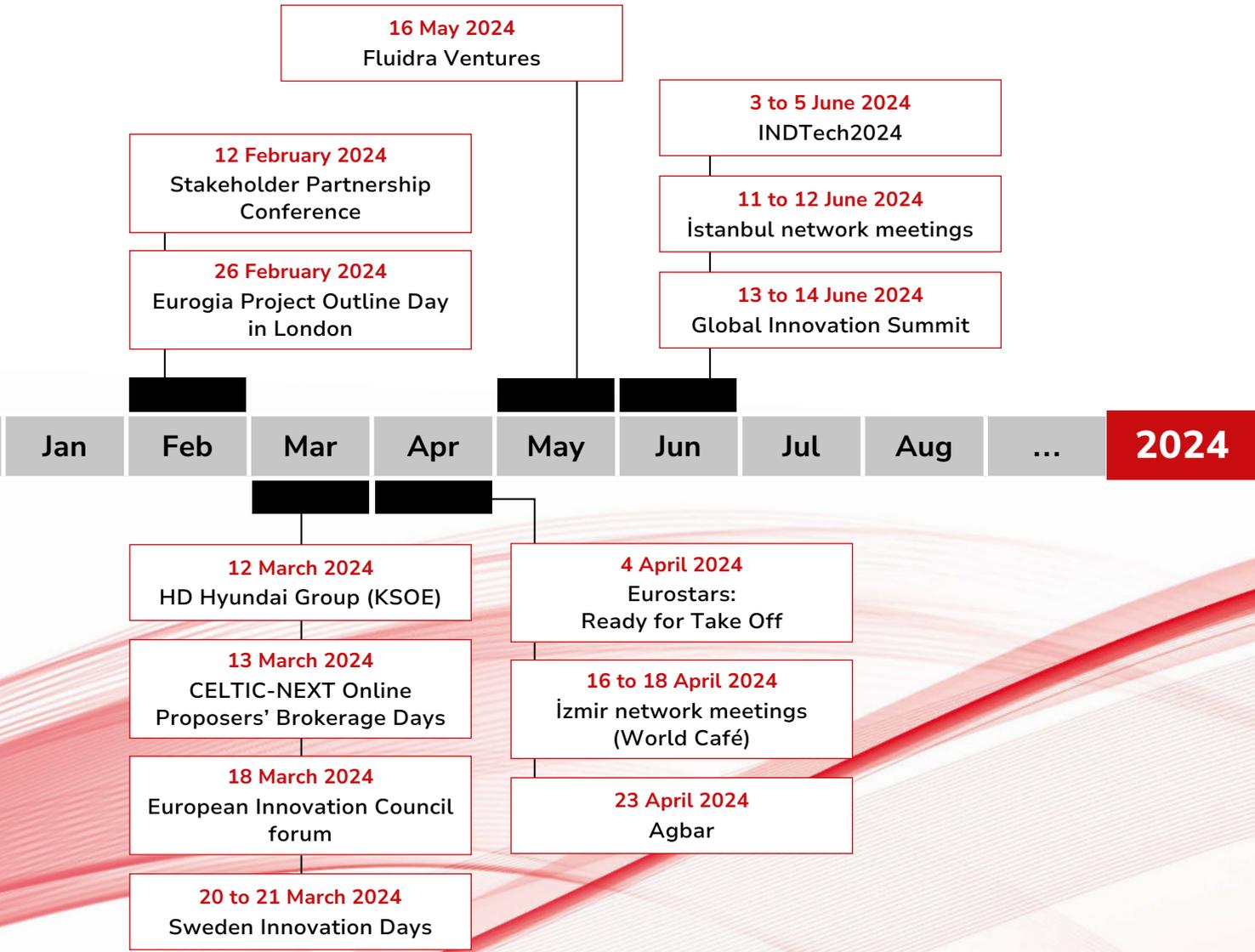


Event and meeting highlights

Eureka regularly hosts and attends a wide range of events for both stakeholders and beneficiaries, many of which are organised or heavily supported by the Chair. These span from Eureka network meetings (where representatives from ministries and funding agencies gather three times a year to

discuss Eureka’s strategy and operations), policy events, networking events for Eureka’s Clusters, investment readiness online sessions with corporates and events for potential beneficiaries that increase Eureka’s visibility and the number of organisations applying to its programmes.





Eureka network meetings

Ankara

The first network meetings hosted by the Turkish Chair were in Ankara on **21-23 November 2023**. The meetings allowed Eureka stakeholders to propose new ideas for supporting researchers and entrepreneurs. High on the agenda was Brazil and the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) requesting to join Eureka's network as an associated country and the design of new thematic calls for projects on quantum and lightweighting technologies.



İzmir

The Turkish Chair hosted the second network meetings in İzmir on **16-18 April 2024**, where Eureka representatives from around the world shared perspectives on how to optimise Eureka R&D and innovation funding mechanisms. A highlight of these meetings was a vote in favour of welcoming Brazil to Eureka and a workshop on disaster resilience, response and recovery.



World Café

As part of the İzmir network meetings on **16-18 April 2024**, the Turkish Chair organised workshops on European Union structural funds and InvestEU support.

This was the first in a series of planned peer-to-peer exchanges and allowed ministry and funding agency representatives to share best practices on how to finance more SMEs through Eureka programmes.



İstanbul

Meetings in Istanbul on **11-12 June 2024** concluded the outstanding projects started during Türkiye's Chair period and provided a platform for Eureka's network to plan future funding collaborations. In a handover ceremony, Türkiye welcomed Canada and Germany as the next Co-Chair countries, represented by the National Research Centre (NRC) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) respectively.



Global Innovation Summit



To conclude a highly successful Chair year, Türkiye hosted the 2024 edition of Eureka's flagship event in İstanbul's Haliç Congress Center on **13-14 June 2024**: the Global Innovation Summit.

The event welcomed nearly 2,000 innovators, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and policymakers from 39 countries to exchange ideas, establish partnerships and influence the future of innovation. At the Global Innovation Summit, participants enjoyed invaluable international networking opportunities, B2B meetings and an exhibition area to connect, collaborate and showcase contributions to advancing innovation.

When not networking, participants could attend keynote speeches and diverse sessions, including discussions on key themes (like creating a green and digital future, the circular economy, data dynamics and smart cities), pitching opportunities and presentations from national ministry and funding agency representatives.

The 2024 Global Innovation Summit was successful in providing a comprehensive platform to engage with the latest trends, funding mechanisms and best practices in research and innovation.



Eureka Innovation awards

A highlight of the Global Innovation Summit was the Eureka Innovation Award ceremony, which celebrated the standout Eureka projects that positively impact and generate value for industries and society.

The Turkish Chair defined three award categories for the 2024 edition of the Eureka Innovation Awards, and over a two-month period, accepted nominations from Eureka ministries and funding agencies. Eight shortlisted projects were invited to attend the Global Innovation Summit and offered a stand to promote their organisation and research.

In a ceremony in the plenary room, the three winners were announced and presented trophies:

- SensiScreen for best Eurostars project
- AI4Green for best Clusters project
- NonActivPans for best Network project

These projects have made breakthroughs in developing qPCR tests for detecting somatic mutations characteristic of many types of cancer, optimising telecommunications networks' energy use based on consumption and designing antimicrobial, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory medical dressings.



Clusters events

Every year, Eureka's Clusters, specialising in ICT, low-carbon technologies, software innovation, advanced manufacturing and electronic components and systems hold in-person and online networking events where organisations pitch R&D project ideas, learn about funding rules and eligibility criteria in their country or region and meet potential project partners. These events prove invaluable for fostering the Cluster communities of industry specialists; many organisations find project partners and significantly improve their project applications after attending. The Turkish Chair period was no different; CELTIC-NEXT, Eurogia, ITEA, SMART and Xecs were all active in promoting their funding opportunities to potential beneficiaries.



Investment readiness programme events

Eureka runs online sessions in the context of its investment readiness programme, devised to help startups and SMEs explore relationships, partnerships and investment opportunities with large corporates and corporate venture teams. In the online sessions, the corporates are often represented by corporate venturing teams or innovation hubs that put startups and SMEs in touch with relevant business divisions.

The sessions culminate in selected startups and SMEs pitching their solutions to these challenges in one-to-one meetings with the corporate, with the aim of establishing long-term partnerships in the form of a commercial agreement, investment or collaboration on a pilot project (e.g., where the startup or SME tests its solutions within the corporate's business divisions). Startups and SMEs also receive valuable feedback on their company, pitch and proposed solution.

Between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, ten corporates covering the water technology, renewable energy, telecommunications, computing, swimming pool, shipping manufacturing, healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors hosted online sessions with startups and SMEs: Agbar, Amazon Web Services, Enel, Fluidra, HD Hyundai Group (KSOE), Iberdrola, MC, Siemens Healthineers, Solvay and Telefónica. These attracted many startups and SMEs from Eureka's 47 countries.

Business event highlights

Eureka promotes its programmes to thousands of innovators at in-person and online events every year. By collaborating with other select organisations and attending or speaking at their events, Eureka maximises the benefits of new platforms for reaching a wider scope of relevant stakeholders and innovators at international, European, national and regional level.

Thanks to Eureka's international nature, during the Turkish Chair, Eureka and its programmes were presented to audiences in Korea, South Africa and Brazil, as well as in most European countries. All these efforts undoubtedly result in more interest in and applications to Eureka programmes.





14 November 2023 Luxinnovation Days



16 November 2023 Towards the Green Future: European Green Deal



6 to 8 December 2023 South African Innovation Forum



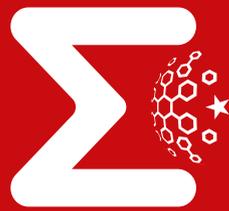
7 December 2023 Estonian SME fact finding mission to Brussels



4 April 2024 Eurostars: Ready for Take Off



3 to 5 June 2024 INDTech



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TÜBİTAK