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by Science and Technology



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Announcement:

Belgium – Switzerland – Luxembourg Call for R&D Project Outlines

Continuous Submission between 24 November, 2015 and 13 May, 2016

Scope

Switzerland, Belgium and Luxembourg are member states of the EUREKA initiative and support innovation projects through the different EUREKA instruments (EUREKA and Eurostars projects). All three countries collaborate continuously with the over 40 EUREKA member states and support all innovation topics as EUREKA is by nature bottom-up and focused mainly on the innovation activities of companies.

Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg are jointly announcing a **Call for outlines for joint innovation projects** under EUREKA and Eurostars. The Call is open for **all topics**, but focuses on specifically promoted topics (see chapter *supportive measures*): **Space related technologies, Bioinformatics, Biotech and Medtech.**

The call is managed, in line with the EUREKA initiative (www.eurekanetwork.org), by the EUREKA offices at:

- la Direction des Programmes fédéraux et internationaux (SPW-DGO6) – Wallonia Belgium
- the government agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT) - Flanders Belgium,
- l'Institut Bruxellois pour la Recherche et l'Innovation (Innoviris) – Brussels Belgium,
- the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) – Switzerland.
- Luxinnovation - Luxembourg

Call Launch and Structure

The Call is launched on 25 November, 2015. Eligible partners are invited to present joint outlines for market-oriented, innovative R&D projects according to the following procedures:

1. Qualifications

- The consortium should **include at least one company**. Research institutes and universities are welcome as additional participants.
- The project must have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from at least two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure etc.).
- The project should demonstrate the creation of added value for the participants of all involved countries in a balanced way.
- Partners from other Eureka countries may also participate. This requires funding from their respective home countries.

Any partner, whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria, can apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect (see Annex).

2. Submission and the approval procedures will be of two phases:

In the **first phase**:

- Partners will be asked to present a **short project outline** using the template, which is available on www.sbf.admin.ch/eureka or <http://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/go/eureka> or <http://www.innovation.public.lu/en/financer/competitivite/index.html>.

- The completed project outlines of the phase 1 should be submitted to the Eureka offices of all involved countries simultaneously with copy to all partners of the project outline.
- **Submission** is open between **24 November, 2015** and **13 May, 2016**. Project outlines can be submitted at any time within this timeframe. The submission of all relevant documents has to be done by email to the addresses listed at the end of this document (no physical documents needed).
- The outlines will be screened by EUREKA offices in Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg and the partners will be notified of the results within the shortest possible delay after the submission (about 2-3 weeks).

In the **second phase**:

- Partners with approved outlines will be recommended to submit their **full applications** according to national procedures **to Eureka** or international procedures **to Eurostars**.
- In cases where Eureka and Eurostars do not seem to be suitable, the EUREKA offices in Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg can suggest other funding measures.
- The EUREKA offices in Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg will give recommendations on how to submit full applications.

3. Financing

Funding support to successful project proposals of Phase 2 will be given to each partner by its own funding organization (SPW- DGO6, IWT and Innoviris in Belgium, SERI and Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI in Switzerland, Luxinnovation in Luxembourg) in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

Concrete funding mechanisms depend on the funding framework (EUREKA/Eurostars) that will be decided on in Phase 2 of the submission process. Information on the funding mechanisms is available on the following websites and in the annex to the Call:

Belgium:

SPW-DGO6: Eureka Projects: <http://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/go/eureka>

Innoviris: www.innoviris.be/fr/soutien-financier-entreprises/programmes-europeens/eureka

IWT: www.iwt.be/subsidies/extrasteun/eureka

Switzerland: SERI: www.sbf.admin.ch/eureka

Luxembourg: Luxinnovation: <http://www.innovation.public.lu/en/financer/competitivite/grants/meco-projets-programmes-rd/index.html>

4. Supportive Measures

The EUREKA offices in Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg will facilitate the identification of project partners within academia as well as among industry partners. These offices are cooperating with Enterprise Europe Network, with national clusters and other national experts and points of contact.

The Wallonia-Brussels Delegation to Switzerland organizes the following dedicated missions

(<http://www.diplomatie.be/bernfr/default.asp?id=24&ACT=5&content=47&mnu=24>):

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- **24-25/11/2015**: Swiss-Belgium mission in space technologies to Brussels, Charleroi, Mons and Liège
 - **15-16/12/2015**: Swiss-Belgium mission on Bioinformatics to Lausanne
 - **04/2016**: Swiss-Belgium mission on Biotechnologies and Medical Technologies to Switzerland

Partners participating in these missions are invited to submit project outlines for the present calls.

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Annex: Funding conditions and eligibility criteria in short by country

Each country will fund its eligible participants according to their national procedure and funding rules. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary from one country to another. The main funding criteria are:

Funding Rules in Wallonia

SPW-DGO6 applies the following funding rules:

- Minimum 40% of the Walloon budget must be allocated to an enterprise;
- The funding rate will be the maximum allowed by the decree of the 3rd of July 2008;
- SMEs, large industries, research centres and Universities are eligible.
- The project must add benefit to the regional economy;
- A Walloon funding request's form must be submitted to the SPW-DGO6.

Funding Rules in Flanders

Funding through the IWT support scheme for industrial research and development.

All companies based in Flanders are eligible if they can exploit the results of the project and if this can lead to a significant increase in employment and/or investments in the company.

Funding % depends on activities, for Development activities the funding is:

- 55 % of eligible costs for small enterprises
- 45 % of eligible costs for medium sized enterprises
- 35 % of eligible costs for large companies

If the activities in the project can be designated as Industrial Research a higher funding % can be asked (up to 80 % for a small company and 60 % for a large enterprise).

Belgian or foreign academic partners or research institutes can be funded by IWT if their expertise is crucial for the Flemish partner and if they are subcontracted by this company.

Funding rules in Brussels

Companies wishing to receive a funding from Innoviris must:

- be established on the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region, demonstrate a sustainable RDI activity there and carry out, partly or totally, the activities planned in the project within this territory.
- prove a sound financial situation and their financial capability to cover the share of their expenses which will not be covered by public funding
- have fulfilled their obligations in the framework of past financial support they would have received from the region,
- demonstrate their capability to carry out the tasks assigned to them in the project, exploit the results of the latter and the project's likelihood to have a positive impact on the Brussels-Capital Region's economy, employment and/or sustainable development

The funding rates vary between 40 and 80% depending on the size of the enterprise and on the type of activities (Research or development).

Brussels-based research organisations participating in a project may be awarded with a regional financial support (max 100%) but only in the framework of collaboration with a Brussels-based company.

Funding Rules in Switzerland

CTI funding is approved to successfully evaluated Swiss partners in **EUREKA Network projects** as follows:

- Swiss academic partner and Swiss company share costs of the project 50:50; CTI may fund the share of the Swiss academic partner, i.e. up to 50% of eligible costs;
- Swiss academic partners are funded 100% by CTI. Additionally, 10% of the funding costs of CTI comes in form of a cash contribution (e.g. for material use by the research partner) from the Swiss company.
- Foreign academic partners can be funded if their expertise is crucial for the project.
- Swiss companies get the right to exploit the project results in their specific business area.

SERI funding is approved to successfully evaluated Swiss partners in **Eurostars projects** as follows:

- 50% of eligible costs for SME, universities and R&D institutions
- 25% of eligible costs for large companies
- Maximum funding for all Swiss partners per project: 500'000 €

Funding rules in Luxembourg:

- Funding for all Luxembourg companies is awarded in accordance with the modified law of June 5th 2009 relating to the promotion of Research, Development and Innovation or any law replacing it.
- A participating company should demonstrate its viability and financial soundness regarding its own contribution to the project and the implementation of the results. Companies that are in danger of insolvency cannot be funded.
- A participating company shall demonstrate the positive impact of the expected project outcome on its growth and future assets.