

Eureka’s value proposition under the EU MFF 2028-2034

1. What is Eureka?

[Eureka](#) is the world’s largest intergovernmental network for international research, development, and innovation (RDI).

Founded in 1985 by 18 European countries and the EC, to enhance European competitiveness and productivity, it **now spans 47 countries worldwide**, offering companies, universities, and research institutes access to funding, business tools, and expert advice.

Managed by national agencies with support from a Brussels secretariat, it channels funding through complementary programmes using processes that have proven effective and successful on national level.

2. Added Value of Eureka under Horizon Europe 2021-27

Eureka coordinates the [European Partnership on Innovative SMEs](#) (InnovSMEs), co-funded by the EC and 37 Eureka countries.

Funding innovative SMEs is crucial for the EU innovation ecosystem to **close the gap between Europe’s excellent innovation output and successful commercialisation and scaling up**.

InnovSMEs is contributing to achieving this goal by funding market-driven and transnational RDI projects led by SMEs. It ensures continuity across the innovation pipeline—from national programmes to European and global scaling. The key programmes operating under this partnership are

Eurostars	supporting international collaborative projects led by SMEs
Innowwide	helping SMEs with market feasibility to go global
Investment Readiness	Connecting SMEs with multinational corporates and private investors

Halfway through the programme, the partnership has already **supported over 1800 SMEs** (60% startups, 25% deep tech) delivering solutions for the **green** (37% of the portfolio) **and digital** (52% of the portfolio) **transition**.

Its funding portfolio aligns with EU priorities with major focus areas in **cleantech (20%)**, **advanced materials (17%)**, and **AI (20%)**.

Since 2021, **50+ InnovSMEs firms have joined the EIC portfolio** (a number expected to increase through support offered by the [Eureka Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator](#)), demonstrating strong cross-ecosystem pathway development.

With **EUR 2 billion of expected investment (2021–2027)**, InnovSMEs delivers strong **leverage for the EC (1:7)**, mobilising significant public and private co-investment. This makes it a powerful instrument in Horizon Europe for supporting innovative SMEs and boosting European competitiveness.

However, despite increasing national contributions, around 70% of high-quality proposals cannot currently be funded, meaning there is significant **untapped potential for creating further impact**.

3. Future contributions of Eureka under the next MFF

Eureka can help to...	through...
keep the entry barriers low for the internationalization of SMEs	National Funding Bodies, operating close to the level of businesses, in their language and currency
support high-potential SMEs throughout the entire innovation journey	connecting national, Eureka and EU programmes
accelerate innovation implementation	lean processes and fast decisions
multiply the impact of EC investments	aligning public funding from EU, national and regional sources to leverage substantial private investment
contribute to the pipeline of breakthrough SMEs in the EIC accelerator	Fast Track scheme
foster excellence based international collaborations and allow broad and inclusive participation within Europe and beyond	trusted collaboration platform between 47 countries; PPP with multinational corporates
support EU policy goals	smart portfolio management and thematic calls

Eureka and the EC have a **shared mission** to **strengthen Europe’s innovation capacity and [competitiveness](#)**.

With [Eurostars](#) (proven track record of more than 15 years) and [Innowwide](#) Eureka already incorporates four key characteristics: **SME-driven, bottom-up, multi-lateral and global**. It supports SMEs in their internationalisation, facilitates access to new markets, and stimulates both competitiveness and knowledge transfer in a trusted environment.

Eureka is a central pillar in **interconnecting EU-members while simultaneously offering a gateway to global cooperation**. It not only connects the EU within Europe (with countries such as Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Ukraine) but also includes Emerging Countries of the global South (Brazil, Chile and South Africa) as well as advanced economies and technological leaders in America and Asia, like Canada, Singapore and South Korea. Most global members are either associated with, considering association with, or strategically partnered with the EU, and by vetting participants through National Funding Bodies, collaboration risks for SMEs are also reduced.

Maintaining low entry barriers for SMEs is essential: many SMEs operate only nationally, and Eurostars is often their first international step. Simplified processes and minimal consortium requirements allow broader participation, including widening countries.

Eureka has also shown **agility with thematic calls** in order to quickly react to challenges and opportunities: e.g. [Covid-19](#), [Disaster resilience, response, and recovery](#) (after the earth-quakes in Turkey), [Applied quantum technologies](#), and [circular value creation](#).

Through its [clusters program](#) Eureka maintains strong PPPs with important industry sector organisations in the fields of [Next-generation communications](#), [Low-carbon technology](#), [Software innovation](#), [Advanced manufacturing and production](#) and [Electronic components and systems](#).

We are convinced that it is in the mutual interest of the EU and Eureka to renew and strengthen the collaboration under the next MFF.

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