

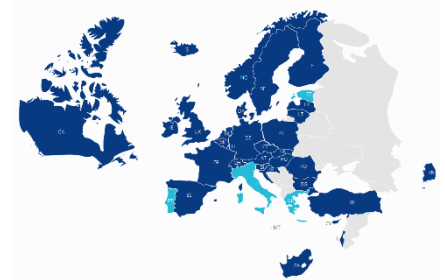


## A pan-European Programme for innovative SME

The **mission of Eurostars** is the support of R&D-performing entrepreneurs, by initiating pan-European projects and co-funding their research activities, enabling them to compete internationally and become leaders in their sector. The Eurostars Programme addresses a niche market of research- and innovation-performing businesses that fulfil the EU-adopted definition of an SME (<250 full time equivalent collaborators, < 50 million Euro turnover, < 43 million Euro balance sheet total) and that, in addition, invest 10 % or more of their full time work equivalent or turnover in research activities.

A **Eurostars project** must be led by an R&D-performing SME within a consortium involving partners from a minimum of two Eurostars participating countries. The project life cycle must be short (three years maximum) and no more than two years after project completion the result of the research should be ready for introduction onto the market. A typical Eurostars project has a total value of 1.5 million Euro and involves between two and three SME participants, a larger company and a research institute or a university.

Today 36 countries are members of Eurostars and provide a total **funding** of 900 million Euro for the period of 2014 – 2020. Eurostars is a joint programme with the European Union according to article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The European Union contributes additional funding of 300 million Euro from the Horizon 2020 programme.



Each country provides a **National Project Coordinator**, who assists applicants. It is recommended to contact the National Project coordinator before the submission of a project to optimise the application procedure with the European partners.

The **application procedure** is organised centrally from the Eureka Secretariat. All relevant documents (Eurostars application form, business report of all private entities and draft Consortium Agreement) are submitted electronically to [www.eurostars-eureka.eu](http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu).

Generally, 4 months after the cut-off date the result of the evaluation and 5 months after the cut-off date the availability of funding is communicated to the applicants by the Eureka Secretariat. The projects are funded along the ranking list by the national funding bodies. The negotiations for the funding contracts with the national funding bodies and for final Consortium Agreement between project partners should lead to an overall **time to contract** of less than 7 months.



## Funding Conditions for Swiss Eurostars participants

Eurostars is implemented by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI in Switzerland. According to the national rules defined by the Swiss Federal Council in its decision of 18th August 2010 (as well as Art. 13 and 14 of the Ordinance of 12 September 2014 on Measures for Switzerland's Participation in the Framework Programmes of the European Union in Research and Innovation (FRPBV, SR 420.126)); the following funding rules are applicable for Swiss partners of Eurostars projects:

For SME, Universities, R&D Institutions the following funding rates apply:

In kind contributions SME, universities and R&D institutions	Funding SERI
50%	50%

For Large Companies the following funding rates apply:

In kind contributions large enterprises	Funding SERI
75%	25%

Of all costs, which are foreseen in the Eurostars Application Form, only eligible costs are taken into consideration for the determination of the Swiss SERI funding rate.

**Eligible costs**, are:

- Salaries and Overheads
- Travel costs for project meetings
- Consumables
- Depreciation of Equipment
- Subcontracting R&D up to 50% of the costs of the Eurostars Project Partner responsible for the subcontracting. Subcontracting R&D is only funded, if a Swiss University or R&D Institution is the Subcontractor. If not, the subcontracting must be self-financed.

**Non-eligible-costs** are:

- Other costs
- Subcontracting non R&D

The **maximum funding per project** is 500'000 Euro.

For the **execution of a Eurostars project** the Swiss partners negotiate one contract per project with SERI and report every 6 months about the progress and every 12 months about the financing of the project.

For **further information**, please contact:

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