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 by 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

Switzerland is represented in Eurostars by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI; following funding rules are applicable for Swiss partners of Eurostars projects:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In kind contributions SME, universities and R&amp;D institutions</th>
<th>H2020</th>
<th>Earmarked Eurostars Funding of Switzerland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Large Companies the following funding rates apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In kind contributions large enterprises</th>
<th>H2020</th>
<th>Earmarked Eurostars Funding of Switzerland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of all costs, which are foreseen in the Eurostars Application Form, only eligible costs are taken into consideration for the determination of the funding. The eligible costs (this applies for all Swiss funding), 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 with a Swiss SME is 500’000 €
The maximum funding per project without a Swiss SME is 250’000 €.

For the execution of a Eurostars project the Swiss partners negotiate a contract per project with SERI and report every 6 months on the progress and every 12 months on the financing of the project.
SERI-Funding rules

1. SERI funding rules for salaries and overheads

- SERI funds salaries and overheads according to the rules of the Swiss innovation system represented by the innovation agency CTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation).
- Salary costs are to be calculated on the basis of the employee categories and numbers of working hours (i.e. 1,824 hours per person per year / 152 hours per person per month).
- The effective gross salary costs customary for the location where the employees work are to be used.
- Companies have to apply gross salary rates up to the maximum rates per category listed in the remuneration table below.
- Where company hourly rates are higher than maximum rates accepted by SERI, the maximum rates have to be applied.
- Universities, universities of applied science, institutions of the ETH domain and other research organizations apply the gross salary rates fixed by CTI individually.
- The net salary rate is calculated as (gross salary rate + 20% for social costs) * 15% overhead as indicated in the table below.
- A project can only have one project coordinator and one deputy project coordinator. The hours on these categories are be limited to 20 % of the total annual working hours or max. 365 hours (an extension of this rule requires detailed justification).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee category</th>
<th>Gross salary rate</th>
<th>Social costs (20%)</th>
<th>Overhead (15%)</th>
<th>Net salary rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project coordinator</td>
<td>max. CHF 105/h</td>
<td>CHF 21/h</td>
<td>CHF 18.9/h</td>
<td>max. CHF 144.9/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy project coordinator</td>
<td>max. CHF 87/h</td>
<td>CHF 17.4/h</td>
<td>CHF 15.7/h</td>
<td>max. CHF 120.1/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced researcher</td>
<td>max. CHF 71/h</td>
<td>CHF 14.2/h</td>
<td>CHF 12.8/h</td>
<td>max. CHF 98/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research assistant, Scientific collaborator</td>
<td>max. CHF 60/h</td>
<td>CHF 12/h</td>
<td>CHF 10.8/h</td>
<td>max. CHF 82.8/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technician, Programmer</td>
<td>max. CHF 54/h</td>
<td>CHF 10.8/h</td>
<td>CHF 9.7/h</td>
<td>max. CHF 74.5/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate, Assistant</td>
<td>max. CHF 32/h</td>
<td>CHF 6.4/h</td>
<td>CHF 5.8/h</td>
<td>max. CHF 44.2/h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where the maximum rate is not applicable, please calculate the hourly rates as follows:

```
salary   social costs  overhead
          100%          15%
```
2. Fixed assets
   To purchase fixed assets explicitly needed for a project, and use non-exclusively on the project, the participant is required to perform a tendering process, if the purchase price is >CHF 25’000.
   A copy of the documents have to be sent to the national project coordinator or project officer together with the corresponding financial report. Only depreciation can be funded on the fixed assets purchased for a project. Eligible costs for fixed assets are calculated as follows:

   \[
   \text{eligible fixed asset cost} = \frac{\text{purchase price}}{\text{lifetime}} \times \text{time fixed asset is reserved for project}
   \]

3. Consumables and travel costs
   Project expenses like consumables and travel costs which are directly in connection with the funded project, as well as miscellaneous expenses, mandatory for the execution of the project, and for exclusive use on the project, will be financed (all expenses must be specified in detail).

4. Subcontracting
   Up to 50% of the project work in R+D can be subcontracted. Subcontracting can only be funded directly by SERI, if a Swiss University or R&D institution is the subcontractor. If not, the subcontracting must be financed by the project partner in-kind costs and will not be covered by SERI co-funding.

5. Non-eligible costs
   The following cost categories are not eligible for funding and will not be considered for the calculation of the amount of funding:
   - Other costs: Certifications of products (CE labelling), all work related to securing a patent, services and consultant fees etc.
   - Subcontracting non-R&D in any form.

Please contact:
Mr. Janique Siffert, Eurostars Project Officer
Phone: 058 465 46 03
Email: janique-manuel.siffert@sbfi.admin.ch

Ms. Colette John-Grant, EUREKA National project coordinator
Phone: 058 464 91 43
Email: colette.john@sbfi.admin.ch

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
Einsteinstrasse 2
3003 Bern
www.seri.admin.ch

UPDATE 07/2018