



eurostars™ **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 32 countries are **members** of Eurostars and provide a total **funding** of 300 million Euro for the period of 2007 – 2013. Eurostars is a joint programme with the European Union according to article 185 of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The European Union contributes additional funding of 100 million Euro from the 7th EU-Framework-Programme. Each country provides a National Project Coordinator, who assists the 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.

Generally, 14 weeks after the cut-off date the result of the evaluation and 17 weeks 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 take no longer than 3 months.



Funding Conditions for Swiss Eurostars participants

According to the national rules defined by the Swiss Federal Council in its decision of 18th August 2010 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	FP7	Earmarked Eurostars Funding of Switzerland
50%	10%	40%

For Large Companies the following funding rates apply:

In kind contributions large enterprises	FP7	Earmarked Eurostars Funding of Switzerland
75%	5%	20%

Switzerland assigned a **yearly budget** of at least 2 million Euro. The budget assigned for the corresponding call is communicated on the Eurostars homepage (www.eurostars-eureka.eu).

All costs, which are foreseen in the Eurostars Application Form are taken into consideration for the determination of the funding rate. The **eligible costs for funding** (this applies for both FP7 and Earmarked Funding of Switzerland), are:

- Salaries and Overheads
- Travel costs for project meetings
- Consumables
- Depreciation of Equipment (excluding costs for Pilot- and Demonstration installations)
- Subcontracting R&D, if a Swiss University or R&D Institution is the Subcontractor and up to 50% of the costs of the Subcontracting Eurostars Project Partner

Costs, which are not eligible for funding are:

- Other costs
- Subcontracting non R&D

The **maximum funding per project** is 600'000 Euro (FP7 plus Earmarked Funding of Switzerland).

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

For **further information**, please contact the Swiss National Eureka Project Coordinator:

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