

Eurostars Brokerage webinar June 8th, 2022, Questions & Answer session

No	Question	Answer
1	what does it mean to “be innovative SME”?	We define an innovative SME as any SMEs with the ambition to collaborate on R&D and innovation with international partners to develop new products, processes, and services for European and global markets. Innovative SMEs do not need to have a proven track record of R&D activities, however activities such as examples of patent filing, and previous project success enable you to substantiate this term.
2	Can one organisation apply multiple times with different companies?	Some countries have specific rules with regard to the maximum number of applications, approved projects and/or running projects at the same time. Other countries do not. Always discuss with your NFB whether specific rules apply.
3	Are the financial criteria checked at national level?	There are Eureka financial eligibility criteria with regard to the consortium (min 50% projects costs by SMEs without subcontracting & no greater difference than 70/30%) which are checked automatically on the platform at the international level. The financial checks during the legal and financial viability check are performed at the national level according to published national rules to ensure that your participation is viable for National Funding.
4	How many projects will be awarded in this round?	This number depends strongly on the available budget in each participating country and the requested funding. Globally, and based on the history of calls for proposals, a success rate of between 25% and 30% of projects funded is estimated, which varies from country to country. More information on this during the contributions from the national funding bodies later during the webinar.
5	Where do we find our national funding bodies?	The NFBs contact are available on the Eureka Network website: https://www.eurekanetwork.org/countries/netherlands/eurostars/ . You can go to the bottom of the webpage and then change the country to yours and contact the corresponding NFB.
6	How much time does SMEs typically use for the application process? What percentage of applications is given a grant? Are grants under the EU de minimis rules?	Do not underestimate the time required to complete the application. You can find a downloadable template at this web address (within the library) https://www.eurekanetwork.org/programmes/eurostars/guidelines . There are no metrics on success rates as each country will have varying rates of submitted applications. The key thing is to ensure you read the Evaluation criteria to ensure you have the correct information within the application, be ambitious but be realistic. With regard to the third question, since Eurostars funding is basically national funding in an international format, there is no issue with EU de minimis rules.
7	How much funding is available? What is the expected budget for projects?	The funding amount differs per participating country. There is not one big pool of funding for all projects, but each participating country funds their own organizations. More about this during the contributions by the national funding bodies.
8	Are the activities such as optimization and commercialization of the product, service, or process on the market, help with go-to-market strategy and technology transfer eligible? or do we need to be doing R&D specifically?	This depends on the country eligibility and financing rules you are requesting funding in. In general, Eurostars is aimed at TRL level 4-6, at point of application, but please contact your national funding body to discuss the specific activities you are planning and whether they would be eligible for funding.

9	What is the average grant request? (or the max grant request per project?)	Each participating country sets their own max grant request. For the Netherlands and Denmark this number is for instance €500.000 per project. For Spain, there is no maximum or minimum budget, but a maximum grant of €400.000 per project and beneficiary. The key aspect is to set a budget that is consistent with the working plan, with the contribution of each partner to the planned activities and with its capacity. More in this during the contributions by the National Funding Bodies.
10	Do you have some statistics on the success rate of project proposals? It would be nice for a comparison with other funding programmes, in regard to how many applications get funded from how many submitted applications.	The exact details on success rate differ a bit per country, but the grand overall success rate is somewhere around the 25-30% mark.
11	Is there a overall limit on funding for projects from a particular Eurostars country?	Each country has their own budget available per call. They award this sum to their participants according to the international evaluation of the proposal until the budget is exhausted. There is no limit with regard to the number of applications per country, so in theory any country could be involved in 100% of all applications. However, they will be able to only fund a subset of these projects in line with their available budget
12	In case a project is evaluated as successful is there a deadline for the start of the project? For instance, should it start ASAP, in 6 months, one year or once it is evaluated successful the project is entitled for funding anytime?	There is no strict criteria at international level with regard to the start date of the project. Some national funding bodies may however require a specific start date limitation. The start date can however not be before the date of approval. There is a deadline with regard to the consortium agreement, that has to be submitted within 6 weeks after approval. Also, national funding bodies usually require a national funding application, which is not about the content but rather about finances, that has certain deadlines attached to it, including the starting and finishing dates of the participant.
13	How is any IP produced in the project expected to be handled by the partners?	After approval of the proposal, it is required to submit a consortium agreement that is signed by all partners. Here you negotiate IP related matters. There is however also a question about IP in the application form, so you need to have at least a general idea of how you will deal with this during the project. However, specific details can be approved in the consortium agreement after proposal approval.
14	If a project is centrally approved, but does not reach the financing threshold in one of the partner countries, does this scupper the project for everyone?	Not necessarily. Eurostars offers the possibility of self-funding participants from a country where the budget has exhausted, when other participants in the same proposal get the public fund, enabling the international consortium to carry out the project. If the participant from a country with no funds available cannot self-fund the activity committed in the proposal, or no public funds are available for any of the partners, the project will unfortunately be rejected. There is no possibility to withdraw project partners at this stage because the proposal has been evaluated by the evaluators based on the consortium as a whole and their complementarity.

15	Can the individual countries please state what their overall annual budgets are for Eurostars?	Budget levels vary widely across the EUREKA network. Some countries designate a specific amount to each EUROSTARS call while others rely on general funding budgets. The Eurostars website gives a high-level overview of funding mechanisms and supports available from National Funding Bodies (NFB) but it is advisable to contact your own NFB directly to confirm budget levels, rules, eligibility criteria and detailed information on how to apply in your country if you are considering a project proposal.
16	Please can you point me in the direction of the Germany contact?	https://www.eurekanetwork.org/countries/germany/eurostars/ You can contact DLR through the contact form at the bottom of this webpage
17	Can the Spanish NPC be contacted by a consultant, or should the SME specifically contact the NPC?	Anyone is very much welcome to contact the NPC with regard to Eurostars, so that includes consultants.
18	Are there any specifications if a Spanish company works with a university located in Belgium?	Consortium make-up is described in the eligibility criteria as set out by Eureka Eurostars Secretariat. See this link to the library of guidelines - https://www.eurekanetwork.org/programmes/eurostars/guidelines . In case the Belgian University participates as a Partner, it is necessary to validate its eligibility at national level. In the case that the University participates as subcontractor of the Spanish SME, it is necessary to consider the national limits on subcontracting and to provide adequate justification.
19	Are all the Eureka countries joining the next Eurostars call? If not, which? Thank you.	Some countries have no available budget for the next Eurostars call. Please check with your NFB whether they have budget available. Notification of this should also be on the Eurostars Home Page.
20	There was mention of an eligibility checker online, where can we find it?	This tool will be available at the Eureka Project Management Platform once the call has opened on July 13th. Please note that this is for your guidance only and it is for applicants to decide whether they wish to continue with the application process. NFBs will carry out detailed financial viability checks during the process once the submission deadline passes.
21	Is it compulsory to reach a good financial evaluation under the online financial tool to be able to submit the proposal? Or will be the national entity to carry out the final financial check.	The financial capability assessment tool is indicative, non-binding in the evaluation, anonymous and voluntary. It is a supporting tool, which gives an approximation of the financial capacity for a participating entity in order to evaluate its eligibility (when applicable) and decide its contribution and participation into a project. However, it should be noted that this tool does not include some aspects that may be considered by the NFB when analysing the participant financial capacity, such as: the entity's project budget, other projects executed simultaneously with public funds committed, etc...
22	Since the rules are different for each country, is confusing for me to know how the evaluation of the proposals take place. Does the application have to be assessed by the countries from the applicant location separately? does each participant get a separate evaluation letter or do they get it as a consortium from Eureka?	The content of applications is evaluated in two steps on the international level. First, 3 experts will score the proposal and if those scores are sufficient, the proposal will be evaluated by the independent evaluation panel. National funding bodies will not evaluate the content of the application, they will only focus on the legal and financial aspects for the entities from their country. More information on the evaluation of proposals can be found here: https://www.eurekanetwork.org/programmes/eurostars/evaluation-monitoring