



Eureka and the EU innovation ecosystem: Paving the way for innovation

7 March 2025, 9:30 - 15:30 | World Conference Center, Bonn

Join us for the Bonn Conference 2025, a joint conference of the Canadian-German Eureka Co-Chair 2024/25 and the European Commission entitled “Eureka and the EU innovation ecosystem: Paving the way for innovation”. This event will focus on Eureka’s pivotal role and impact on innovation and business ecosystems.

The agenda features:

- Keynote and welcome notes by policy leaders and decision-makers
- A dynamic panel discussion
- Three engaging breakout sessions

Don’t miss this opportunity to connect and collaborate with members of the Eureka network, the EU institutions, as well as with science, research and innovation professionals!

Venue:

World Conference Center Bonn, Plenary Building,
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 2, 53113 Bonn

Moderation:

Nadia Meyer, DLR Projektträger

AGENDA

9:30 - 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 - 10:05	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rudolf Haggenmüller, Eureka President 2024/25
10:05 - 10:30	Welcome notes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission• Stephan Ertner, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
10:30 - 10:45	Keynote: Performance and challenges of the EU innovation ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manuel Heitor, Full Professor at Instituto Superior Tecnico, Chair of the expert group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe, Portuguese Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education (2015-2022)

10:45 - 12:00

Panel discussion on Eureka and the EU innovation ecosystem

- Melanie Cullins, Eureka Deputy High-Level Representative, National Research Council Canada
- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Stephan Ertner, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
- Mark Ferguson, EIC Ambassador, Former Chairman of the European Innovation Council (EIC) Board
- Manuel Heitor, Full Professor at Instituto Superior Tecnico, Chair of the expert group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe, Portuguese Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education (2015-2022)
- Vinny Pillay, Eureka High-Level Representative, Department of Science and Innovation, Republic of South Africa
- Marc Vaez-Olivera, Co-founder of POLYFLY SL., Eurostars and EIC Accelerator beneficiary

12:00 - 13:00

Lunch

13:00 - 14:30

3 Breakout Sessions (parallel)

Session 1: Eureka and the European innovation system - innovators' perspectives

This session will explore the perspectives of innovators and policy practitioners. International innovators (Start-ups and SMEs), which have previous experiences with both Eureka as well as the EU Framework Programs, will share their innovation journeys and international research experiences with policy-makers from national and EU level. The aim is to analyse what Eureka and the EU can do to further support start-ups and scale-ups in their innovation journeys and to boost competitiveness.

Moderation:

- Nadia Meyer, DLR Projektträger

Panel discussion:

- Sónia Ferreira, Founder & CEO, BestHealth4U
- Jimena García-Romeu, CEO, Alcyon Photonics, S.L.
- András Inotai, Head of Innovation Policy and Access to Finance Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Antonio Schmandke, Eureka Vice President 2024/25, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
- Rudolf Schulze Vohren, CEO, Nano4Imaging GmbH
- Stefan Weik, Assistant Professor of Finance, University of St. Gallen (with keynote)

Session 2: Partnership Innovative SMEs: lessons learnt and way forward

This breakout session will be organized in collaboration with the Eureka Co-Chair Working Group Innovative SMEs 2.0. A status presentation and a discussion of the results (lessons learnt and possible future pathway) of the Working Group will be given.

Moderation:

- Barbara Betz, Eureka National Project Coordinator Chair 2024/25, DLR Projektträger

Discussion:

- All participants of session 2.

Session 3: Scaling companies and achieving strategic autonomy in critical technologies

The session will explore how member countries use the Eureka framework and associated toolkit to help companies build on and complement the support the Commission is providing via the European Innovation Council (EIC) to scale up companies developing critical technologies. The session will also explore opportunities to strengthen such links in the future.

Moderation:

- Keith Sequeira, Head of European Innovation Council Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Panel discussion:

- Melanie Cullins, Eureka Deputy High-Level Representative, National Research Council Canada
- Dolf Grasveld, Eureka High-Level Representative, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, The Netherlands, tbc.
- Brit Helle, Director General, Eureka Secretariat
- Táňa Hálová Perglová, Eureka High-Level Representative, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

14:30 - 14:45

Conclusions

- Rudolf Hagenmüller, Eureka President 2024/25

14:45 - 15:30

Farewell coffee