

Food tech call on alternative proteins for R&D and innovation projects between Sweden, Israel, Switzerland and Singapore

Opening of the Call	11 September 2023
Deadline for Eureka and national applications for participants in Israel, Switzerland and Singapore	15 May 2024
Deadline for national application participants in Sweden	17 May 2024
Consensus meeting of funding agencies	Aug. 2024
Funding decisions and Eureka label	From Sept. 2024
Project start	Nov. 2024

Revision history

Date	Revision
2023-09-14	Singapore joins the call

FROM 11 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 15 May 2024

Eureka is the world's biggest public network for international cooperation in research, development and innovation (R&D&I), present in over 45 countries. It is a decentralised intergovernmental organisation aiming to boost the productivity and competitiveness of industries by funding and supporting international collaborative market-driven R&D&I projects.

This call for projects has been launched following Eureka's Network projects framework based on mutual consent between participating national funding bodies.

The national funding bodies (NFB) from Sweden, Israel, Switzerland and Singapore have allocated funding for organisations collaborating on international R&D&I projects in the field of alternative proteins.

You can submit your R&D&I project application for this call for projects between 11 September 2023 and 15 May 2024. Your project consortium must include:

- Organisations based in a minimum of two of the countries listed in this call¹.

The parties listed above must be unrelated parties (i.e., no direct, indirect, beneficial, or constructive ownership interest between these parties). Multilateral projects between all three countries listed in this call are also encouraged. Universities and research institutes can participate according to national funding rules in each of the call participating countries.

¹ For specific national rules see Section "Funding conditions and rules per NFB & Contacts"

Eureka programme: Network projects.

Participating countries/ regions

Sweden, Israel, Switzerland and Singapore.

Scope of the call

This call is for R&D&I projects in the field of alternative proteins with priority given to plant-based, fermentation-derived and cultivated meat/seafood. Hybrid products and enabling technologies, such as plant molecular farming, are also included in the scope. In short, this call aims to promote development of alternatives to protein from living animals.

Trend forecasts predict that the demand for healthy and sustainable food, including alternative proteins, is about to increase. Research has made it clear that a dietary shift is essential for implementing the Agenda 2030. Transnational collaborations can contribute for example by intertwining leading expertise and important infrastructure which in turn can accelerate technical development, broaden perspectives and increase the understanding of societal developments and unfolding market opportunities.

Collaborations in the field of alternative proteins can increase sustainable food production, strengthen corporate competitiveness, provide new job opportunities, and develop future skills supply. It might enable increased export opportunities as well as a higher rate of self-sufficiency, resilience, and preparedness.

This call applies to alternative proteins for human consumption.

The following fields are prioritized:

Plant-based alternatives

Plant-based food products play a key role in enhancing public health and protecting environmental integrity, especially when using a wide range of plant-based food sources, such as beans, peas, lentils, grains, nuts, seeds, algae and edible mushrooms.

Projects can target various challenges that hamper further growth of the plant-based sector, such as issues related to taste, texture, nutrient bioavailability, and price parity. Efforts are needed to address shortcomings in the entire plant-based value chain - from cultivation, through processing, to trade and consumers.

As an example, to enhance taste, texture and nutrient bioavailability of plant-based food products, emerging processing techniques can be combined with mature processing techniques (such as traditional fermentation).

Fermentation-derived alternatives

Biomass fermentation and precision fermentation are examples of new fermentation techniques for the production of alternative proteins.

Fungal protein (mycoprotein) is produced through whole biomass fermentation. The microorganism that is produced through this process is in itself the key ingredient for the protein rich product.

There is potential to explore new collaborations between large-scale industrial projects and food production to take advantage of synergies and sustainable resource utilization. Residues and waste streams from one industry could serve as a valuable input material for others. Fungal protein is sometimes referred to as mycoprotein.

Another way to utilize fermentation is through the production of specific ingredients used as input to produce the next level alternatives to animal products such as dairy and eggs. This approach is referred to as precision fermentation. By changing the genetics in the microorganism used as a fermentation agent, i.e., the fungi and/or bacteria, new possibilities can be unlocked to produce ingredients that can enhance the culinary experience in animal free products.

Cultivated meat/seafood

The scope of the call also includes cultivated meat/seafood as alternatives to protein from living animals. This meat/seafood are produced through animal cell culture. Cultivated meat/seafood are sometimes called cell-cultivated, cell-cultured or lab-grown meat/seafood.

Cultivated meat/seafood could serve as the preferred alternative for consumers not attracted by plant-based food. Unlike many plant-based alternatives, cultivated meat/seafood contain nutrients with high bioavailability, including minerals like iron and zinc. However, several challenges must be addressed for commercial production and price parity.

Hybrid products and enabling technologies

Various techniques, used for producing plant-based alternatives, fermentation-derived alternatives and cultivated meat/seafood, could be combined. For example, plant molecular farming can be used to produce specific ingredients important for the alternative protein space. Enabling technologies to produce alternative proteins (such as growth factors, ingredients, downstream process, etc.) are also included in the scope of the call.

Your project should:

- address at least one of the fields mentioned in the call description and
- demonstrate the potential to research or develop a product, process or service for commercialisation.

Relevant industry sectors include (but are not limited to):

- Food industry

Timeframe

11 September 2023: Call opens

15 May 2024: Submission deadline Eureka application 15:00 (CET) (Brussels)

17 May 2024: Submission deadline Vinnova application 14:00 for Swedish participants

November 2024: Projects start (Expected)

Events

25 October 2023 at 10:00-11:00 CET. Promotion webinar with networking.

Program: Short presentations of the four national funding bodies (NFB) Vinnova, Israel Innovation Authority, Innosuisse and Enterprise Singapore. An overview of R&D&I needs within the scope of this call (Food tech call on alternative proteins) by a Good Food Institute Europe (GFI Europe) representative. Thereafter each participant will be sent to the digital breakout room he/she selected when registering for the webinar 1.Plant-based, 2.Fermentation-derived, 3.Cultivated meat/seafood, 4.Hybrid products and enabling technologies. The call text will be updated shortly with a registration link.

13-14 November 2023: The Connector matchmaking event in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The Connector for Transformational Food Systems of Tomorrow is an innovation accelerator aiming to connect the leading actors of the Israeli FoodTech scene with the equivalents in the Swedish area in order to explore possibilities of long-lasting mutually beneficial innovation collaboration. Companies within the scope of this call (Food tech call on alternative proteins) from Switzerland are also welcome to join the matchmaking event. Contact person matchmaking event: Christoffer Bengtsson. Phone: +43 69912351519. E-Mail: christoffer.bengtsson@business-sweden.se To participate in the matchmaking event Swedish SMEs can apply for a travel grant via Vinnova in advance. The travel grant can cover travel and accommodation costs up to 25 000 SEK. Contact person: Joanna Boquist. Phone: +972 54 899 04 91. E-Mail: joanna.boquist@vinnova.se

Funding²

Sweden (Vinnova): SMEs up to 50% of eligible costs, large companies up to 30% of eligible costs and universities and research institutes up to 100% of eligible costs. Total grant from Vinnova is maximum 50% of eligible costs for the joint Swedish project consortium up to the maximum amount 3 million Swedish Krona, SEK (around 250 000 Euro).

² For detailed information please see Section “Funding conditions and rules per NFB & contacts”.

Israel (Israel Innovation Authority): The support is in the form of a conditional grant amounting generally up to 50% (+ regional incentives for companies located in "development zone ") of the eligible R&D budget. Further details regarding grants and payment of royalties are available at the Innovation Authority web site: <https://innovationisrael.org.il/>

Switzerland (Innosuisse): Maximum 70% of the eligible Swiss project costs can be covered by Innosuisse. It grants up to 70% of project costs for Start-ups, up to 50% of project costs for SMEs, up to 25 % to large companies and up to 100% to universities or research organisations. Depending on the project set-up, the max. limit for each project partner may not be reached. Additionally, a university or research organisation has to be involved in the international consortium.

Singapore (Enterprise Singapore): Grant of up to 70% (startups and SMEs) or 50% (non-SMEs) of the total qualified project costs by the Singapore company.

Funding will only be provided to projects that are positively evaluated by all relevant participating national funding bodies. Funding of project partners is subjected to budgetary availability and national funding conditions stipulated by each national funding body.

If there is no allocated budget for your organisation type in your country and you want to participate in a project consortium, contact your national funding body to see whether there are other funding opportunities available or talk to them about self-funding.

Eligibility

Eureka has limited eligibility criteria for organisations participating in a Network projects consortium:

- Your project idea must represent international cooperation in the form of a specific project.
- The project must be directed at researching or developing an innovative product, process or service with the goal of commercialisation.
- The project must have a civilian purpose.
- Your consortium must include at least two independent legal entities from a minimum of two Eureka countries.
- No single organisation or country can be responsible for more than 70% of the project budget.

This call for projects has additional criteria for organisations to be eligible to receive funding:

- The project must benefit all involved partners.
- The project should have an obvious benefit and added value resulting from the technological cooperation between the participants from the different countries (e.g., increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure etc.).
- The product or process must be innovative and with the potential to create impact.
- The maximum duration of a project may not exceed 36 months.
- A signed consortium agreement is required upon approval, before the actual start of the project. It ought to include, amongst others, the ownership and use of know-how and IPR settlements.

Applying

1. Contact your national funding body (NFB) using the contact form on Eureka's website to discuss your project idea, financial viability, eligibility and national procedures.
2. Create an account on our application portal (one per consortium) and select the funding opportunity you want to apply to.
3. Using the portal, complete one application form per consortium (in English) and invite other consortium partners to fill in a partner form.
4. Upload a GANTT chart (one per consortium), a signed and completed co-signature form (which you can download from the platform) and any additional required annexes.
5. Your application will be checked for completeness and eligibility before being reviewed using a standard evaluation procedure. If successful, your project will receive a Eureka label.
6. Your national funding body may carry out a further evaluation (performed by your national contact and technical experts) according to national rules before allocating funds to successful applicants.
7. The final step is to complete and sign a consortium agreement. We recommend that you seek legal advice when drafting your consortium agreement.

For detailed information on national rules and application procedures, please see Section "Funding conditions and rules per NFB & contacts".

Evaluation

Your project application will be reviewed according to our Network projects evaluation methodology.

1. Impact

- Is the market properly addressed (i.e. size, access and risks)?
- Is the value creation properly addressed (i.e. employment opportunities and environmental and societal benefits)?
- What are the competitive advantages of your project (i.e. strategic importance, enhanced capabilities and visibility)?
- Are your commercialisation plans clear and realistic (i.e. return on investment, geographical and sectoral impact)?

2. Excellence

- What is the degree of innovation? (i.e. is the proposed product, process or service state-of-the-art? Is there sufficient technological maturity and risk)?
- How is the new knowledge going to be used?
- Is your project scientifically and technically challenging for consortium partners?
- Is the technical achievability and risk properly addressed?

3. Quality and efficiency of implementation

- What is the quality of your consortium (i.e. balance of the partnership and technological, managerial and financial capabilities of each partner)?

- Is there added value through international cooperation?
- Is your project management and planning realistic and clearly defined (i.e. methodology, planning approach, milestones and deliverables)?
- Is your cost structure reasonable (i.e. costs and financial commitment for each consortium partner)?

4. Overall perception

Experts will list three positive and negative points to your application and finally state whether they recommend your project for public investment.

Your national funding body may carry out a further evaluation (performed by the national project coordinator and technical experts) according to national rules before allocating funds to successful applicants.

Country evaluation

Your project application will be reviewed according to the following additional national evaluation processes:

- Sweden: In addition to applying through the Eureka application portal, Swedish participants need to apply on the Vinnova web page *Food tech and alternative proteins - call between Sweden, Israel and Switzerland within Eureka* <https://www.vinnova.se/en/calls-for-proposals/eureka-network-project/eureka-call-within-foodtech-and-2023-01515/>
For detailed information on national rules and application procedures, please see Section “Funding conditions and rules per NFB & contacts”.
- Israel: In Israel, the Israeli partner is required to submit the National Application Form in accordance with the Israel Innovation Authority regulations, through an online system <https://innovationisrael.org.il/international/rnd>
- Switzerland: In addition to the centrally submitted online Eureka project application form, Swiss participants of the international project consortium apply on the Innosuisse web page: <https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home/about-us/application-platform.html>
- Singapore: Singapore companies are required to fill in a preliminary assessment form here: <https://go.gov.sg/enap2023> by 1 February 2024. Thereafter, eligible companies will be notified to submit a full application via the Business Grants Portal (BGP) by 26 February 2024, with the following documents:
 - Latest ACRA business profile (retrieved within six months from application date)
 - Applicant’s latest and previous two years audited financial statements (Company and Group level), or official management account
 - Relevant key quotations (e.g. equipment and software, materials and consumables, professional services).

Funding conditions and rules per NFB & Contacts

Sweden	
Timeline - National Application	11 September 2023 – 17 May 2024, 14:00 CET
Budget	10 million Swedish Krona, SEK (around 1 million Euro)
Specific National rules	Vinnova's national call is aimed at companies, universities, research institutes or other relevant actors in Sweden that want to collaborate with organisations in the participating Eureka countries. At least <u>two</u> Swedish project partners must be part of the project consortium, of which at least <u>one</u> is a small or medium-sized company (SME). A participant seeking a grant must be a Swedish legal entity. In this respect, a Swedish legal entity is equated to a foreign organization with a branch or establishment in Sweden.
Eligible costs and funding rates	<p>Swedish participants can apply for grants according to Vinnova's general terms and conditions for grants. State aid rules apply to organisations that carry out economic activities³. The rules on state aid for research, development and innovation are stated in the European Commission's General Block Exemption Regulation No 651/2014 (GBER). In this call article 25 in GBER applies.</p> <p>In addition, the following funding levels apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SMEs up to 50% of eligible costs - Large companies up to 30% of eligible costs - Universities and research institutes up to 100% of eligible costs - Total grant from Vinnova is maximum 50% of eligible costs for the joint Swedish project consortium up to the maximum amount 3 million Swedish Krona, SEK (around 250 000 Euro). <p>Information on terms and conditions for funding and eligible costs: https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/terms-and-conditions-for-our-funding/</p> <p>Please note the additional information and documents (attachments) required for Swedish participants below.</p>
Evaluation of sustainable development and gender equality	<p>Vinnova works to enable innovation that will contribute to solving today's societal challenges. The national evaluation in this call will consider to what extent the project has potential to contribute to sustainable development of food systems.</p> <p>In the application to Vinnova Swedish participants should add (as attachment Bilaga 2 Hållbar utveckling) a description of how the project can contribute to a sustainable development of the food system. For example, the problem area and</p>

³ <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/state-aid-to-companies/>

which transformation is needed as well as solutions and effects the project can contribute to. This will be evaluated as part of the *Impact* criteria “Is the value creation properly addressed” (see Section “Evaluation”).

Vinnova recognize that gender equality is one of our most powerful tools for achieving the goals of Agenda 2030. Many problems/societal challenges, solutions and effects may appear to be gender neutral, but turn out to affect women and men in different ways. By research and innovation taking into account sex and/or gender perspectives, which include both women's and men's needs, conditions and behaviours, the value and relevance of the project results can increase.

In the application to Vinnova Swedish participants need to answer the question “Are there equality aspects (sex and/or gender perspective) that may be important to take into account in connection with the project's problem area, solutions and effects?” This will be evaluated as part of the *Impact* criteria; “Is the market properly addressed” and “Is the value creation properly addressed” (see Section “Evaluation”).

Swedish participants should add (as attachment **Bilaga 3 Jämställdhetsplan och jämställdhetsintegrering**) a description of their plan for gender equality and fill in the table Summary of gender distribution for the Swedish part of the project; number of men and women working in project (in %), proportion of work (hours) performed by men and women (in %), and proportion of men and women in decision-making position in the project (in %). If the project is not equal (40/60) at present, the participants need to justify why and describe how they will work to achieve the (40/60) goal. This will be evaluated as part of the *Quality and efficiency of implementation* criteria; “What is the quality of your consortium” (see Section “Evaluation”).

Please note “Application to Vinnova. Additional documents required for Swedish participants”.

<p>Application to Vinnova.</p> <p>Additional documents required for Swedish participants.</p>	<p>In addition to applying through the Eureka application portal, Swedish participants need to apply on the Vinnova web page <i>Food tech and alternative proteins - call between Sweden, Israel and Switzerland within Eureka</i></p> <p>https://www.vinnova.se/en/calls-for-proposals/eureka-network-project/eureka-call-within-foodtech-and-2023-01515/</p> <p>Swedish participants that require funding from Vinnova are recommended to get in touch with one of the Vinnova contact persons before submitting the national application.</p> <p>In the application to Vinnova the budget (in SEK) for the Swedish part of the consortium should be entered. The Vinnova application contains questions about objectives of the project as well as sex and/or gender perspective of the project. The questions can be answered in Swedish or English, except from a project summary in Swedish.</p> <p><u>Obligatory attachments:</u></p> <p>Projektbeskrivning. Complete Eureka application in pdf format. There is no page restriction.</p> <p>Bilaga 1 Projektledarens CV. (Project manager’s CV.) Use the template, max 1 A4 page.</p> <p>Bilaga 2 Hållbar utveckling. (Sustainable development.) Use the template, max 1 A4 page.</p> <p>Bilaga 3 Jämställdhetsplan och jämställdhetsintegrering. (Plan for gender equality and gender distribution for the Swedish part of the project.) Use the template, max 2 A4 pages.</p> <p>Prior to the project start, all Swedish participants, including the assigned Swedish coordinator, must fill in the form “Participant Approval.” All project participants shall enter into a Consortium Agreement. The Consortium Agreement shall include the Participants’ mutual commitments, conditions concerning rights to foreground and background information and other issues of significance to the cooperation. The participants shall have entered into the Consortium Agreement before the start of the project. Applicants will also need to submit an abstract (or agree wording based on the proposal submission) that will be published by Vinnova.</p>
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Contact persons (Sweden)	<p>Eureka and the Eureka application procedure: Peter Lindberg. Phone: +46 (0)8 473 31 93. E-Mail: peter.lindberg@vinnova.se</p> <p>The Connector Matchmaking in Israel 13-14 November: Christoffer Bengtsson. Phone: +43 69912351519. E-Mail: christoffer.bengtsson@business-sweden.se</p> <p>Israel, travel grant for Israel: Joanna Boquist. Phone: +972 54 899 04 91. E-Mail: joanna.boquist@vinnova.se</p> <p>Switzerland: Peter Lindberg. Phone: +46 (0)8 473 31 93. E-Mail: peter.lindberg@vinnova.se</p> <p>Singapore: Joanna Boquist. Phone: +972 54 899 04 91. E-Mail: joanna.boquist@vinnova.se</p> <p>The scope alternative proteins: Camilla Sjors. Phone: +46 (0)8 473 31 14. E-Mail: camilla.sjors@vinnova.se</p>
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¹¹ <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/state-aid-to-companies/>

Israel	
Timeline - National Application	11 September 2023 – 15 May 2024, 14:00 CET
Budget	Not limited.
Specific national rules	An Israeli R&D performing company which initiates a single or multi-year program that will provide know-how, processes, or methods for the manufacture of a new product, application, technology-based service, or process is eligible to apply. The product must have a sizeable potential for export sales. Research institutes or other participants may apply as a subcontractor to a company.
Eligible costs and funding rates	The support is in the form of a conditional grant amounting generally up to 50% (+ regional incentives for companies located in "development zone ") of the eligible R&D budget. Further details regarding grants and payment of royalties are available at the Innovation Authority web site: https://innovationisrael.org.il/
Additional documents required	In Israel, the Israeli partner is required to submit the National Application Form in accordance with the Israel Innovation Authority regulations, through an online system https://innovationisrael.org.il/international/rnd
Contact persons	Mr. Uzi Bar-Sadeh Phone: +972-3-5118185 E-mail: Uzi.BarSadeh@innovationisrael.org.il

Switzerland	
Timeline - National Application	11 September 2023 – 15 May 2024
Budget	1'000'000 – 2'000'000 Euro
Specific National rules	A Swiss company has to be involved in the project with a research organization or a university participating in the consortium. The research organization or university does not have to be Swiss.
Eligible costs and funding rates	Swiss participants can apply for grants according to Innosuisse conditions for funding . Innosuisse grants up to 70% of project costs for Start-ups, up to 50% of project costs for SMEs, up to 25 % to large companies and up to 100% to universities or research organisations. Depending on the project set-up, the max. limit for each project partner may not be reached since maximum 70% of the total eligible Swiss project costs can be covered by Innosuisse.
Additional documents required	In addition to the centrally submitted online Eureka project application form, Swiss participants apply on the Innosuisse web page: https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home/about-us/application-platform.html All project participants shall enter into a Consortium Agreement. The Consortium Agreement shall include the Participants' mutual commitments, conditions concerning rights to foreground and background information and other issues of significance to the cooperation. The participants shall have entered into the Consortium Agreement before the start of the project.
Contact persons	Christoph Bigler Phone: +41 58 481 70 32 E-mail: eureka@innosuisse.ch

Singapore	
Timeline - National Application	11 September 2023 – 15 May 2024, 14:00 CET

Budget	Not limited.
Specific National rules	<p>All Singapore companies must meet all of the following eligibility criteria in order to apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business entity registered and operating in Singapore • Company has at least 30% local equity held directly or indirectly by Singaporean(s) and/or Singapore PR(s), determined by the ultimate individual ownership • Company has a Group Annual Sales Turnover not exceeding S\$100 million, OR a Group employment size not exceeding 200 employees • Company is financially ready to start and complete the project
Eligible costs and funding rates	Grant of up to 70% (startups and SMEs) or 50% (non-SMEs) of the total qualified project costs by the Singapore company.
Additional documents required	<p>Singapore companies are required to fill in a preliminary assessment form here: https://form.gov.sg/6501703fe3fae000119efc29</p> <p>Thereafter, eligible companies will be notified to submit a full application via the Business Grants Portal (BGP) by 26 February 2024, with the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest ACRA business profile (retrieved within six months from application date) • Applicant's latest and previous two years audited financial statements (Company and Group level), or official management account • Relevant key quotations (e.g. equipment and software, materials and consumables, professional services)
Contact persons	E-Mail: jerrold_chua@enterprisesg.gov.sg