**Eureka Alternative Proteins Call for R&D&I Projects between Sweden, Israel and Switzerland**

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| **Preannouncement of the Call** | July 2023 |
| **Opening of the Call** | 11 September 2023 |
| **Deadline for Eureka and national applications** | 26 February 2024 |
| **Consensus meeting of funding agencies** | May 2024 |
| **Funding decisions and Eureka label** | From June 2024 |
| **Project Start** | September 2024 |

FROM 11 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 26 FEBRUARY 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 from Sweden, Israel and Switzerland 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 26 February 2024. Your project consortium must include:

* Organisations based in a minimum of two of the countries listed in this call.

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.

**Eureka programme**: Network projects.

**Participating countries/ regions**

Sweden, Israel, Switzerland

**Scope**

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 and seafood. Hybrid products and enabling technologies, such as plant molecular farming, are also included in the scope.

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.

The following areas 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 and seafood**

This scope also includes meat and seafood produced through animal cell culture. Cultivated meat and seafood could serve as the preferred alternative for consumers not attracted by plant-based food. Unlike many plant-based alternatives, cultivated meat and seafood contain nutrients with high bioavailability, including minerals like iron and zinc. However, several challenges must be addressed for commercial production and price parity. Cultivated meat and seafood are sometimes called cell-cultivated, cell-cultured or lab-grown meat and seafood.

**Hybrid products and enabling technologies**

Various techniques, used for producing plant-based alternatives, fermentation-derived alternatives and cultivated meat and 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

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

September 2024: Projects start (Expected)

**Events**

**25 October 2023**: promotion webinar.

**13-14 November 2023**: The Connector matchmaking event in Tel Aviv, Israel. [*The Connector for Transformational Food Systems of Tomorrow*](https://theconnector.co.il/index.php/events/transformational-food-systems) 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. Contact person: 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

**Funding[[1]](#footnote-2)**

**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).

**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): Grant of up to 70 % of project costs to Start-ups, up to 50% of project costs for SMEs/ up to 25 % to large companies/ up to 100% to universities/ research organisations. A university or research organisation has to be involved in the consortium. A total of 70% of the project costs can be covered by Innosuisse.

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 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 the centrally submitted online Eureka project application form, Swedish participants of the international project consortium apply on the Vinnova web page to the national call: <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>

**Funding conditions and rules per NFB & Contacts**

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| **Sweden** |
| **Timeline -National Application** | 11 September 2023 – 29 February 2024, 14:00 CET |
| **Budget** | 1.000.000 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 two Swedish project partners must be part of the project consortium, of which at least one is a small or medium-sized company. 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. National evaluation process: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. 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.Swedish applicants 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 applicants also need to include a plan for gender equality and answer questions on gender equality integration; 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 %). 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 the additional documents and information required for Swedish applicants below.  |
| **Eligible costs and funding rates** | 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 activities [[2]](#footnote-3). 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. In addition, the following funding levels apply: * 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).

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/>  |
| **Additional documents required** | 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. In addition to the centrally submitted online Eureka project application form, Swedish participants of the international project consortium apply on the Vinnova web page to the national call: <https://www.vinnova.se/en/calls-for-proposals/eureka-network-project/eureka-call-within-foodtech-and-2023-01515/> In the national application to Vinnova, you submit the complete international Eureka application in English, including all information on your international partners and the international project plan with work packages, as the project description (projektbeskrivning). There is no page restriction. You also enter the budget for the Swedish part of the consortium in SEK.The following documents in pdf format must be attached to the national application:2. Swedish project manager's CV (max. 1 A4).3. Brief plan for Gender equality and intended division of labour for the Swedish part of the project (max. 1 A4). Indicate the composition regarding gender distribution for those who work in the project and how large a share of the work will be performed by men and women respectively. If the project is not equal (40/60) at present, justify why and describe how you will work to achieve the (40/60) goal. 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. |
| **Contact persons** | Contact persons regarding questions on:**Eureka and the Eureka application procedure:** Peter Lindberg. Phone: +46 (0)8 473 31 93. E-Mail: peter.lindberg@vinnova.se **The Connector Matchmaking in Israel 13-14 November:** Christoffer Bengtsson. Phone: +43 69912351519. E-Mail: christoffer.bengtsson@business-sweden.se **Travel grant, Israel:** Joanna Boquist. Phone: +972 54 899 04 91. E-Mail: joanna.boquist@vinnova.se **Switzerland:** Peter Lindberg. Phone: +46 (0)8 473 31 93. E-Mail: peter.lindberg@vinnova.se **The scope alternative proteins:** Camilla Sjörs. Phone: +46 (0)8 473 31 14. E-Mail: camilla.sjors@vinnova.se |

[[1]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=sv&rs=sv%2DSE&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fvinnova.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FSOKlimatneutralochhlsosammat-arb-vinnova%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F0dc7df1497244eff85eab5a964a98ff5&wdlor=c0CA63CD1-2F86-4F15-990D-D96D9B1E5538&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=7A70C420-B5C1-4CCB-911E-7C0E0F59A009&wdorigin=BrowserReload&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v1&newsession=1&corrid=9ff27e81-e28d-4aa6-a4f2-afbfe5c4e498&usid=9ff27e81-e28d-4aa6-a4f2-afbfe5c4e498&sftc=1&cac=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush&rct=Normal&ctp=LeastProtected#_ftnref1) <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/state-aid-to-companies/>

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| **Israel** |
| **Timeline -National Application** | 26 February 2024, 12:00  |
| **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-SadehPhone: +972-3-5118185 E-mail: Uzi.BarSadeh@innovationisrael.org.il  |

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| **Switzerland** |
| **Timeline -National Application** | 11 September 2023 – 26 February 2024, 15:00 CET  |
| **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. Funding contributions: Start-ups up to 70%, SMEs up to 50% of eligible costs, large companies up to 25% and universities and research institutes up to 100% of eligible costs. A total of max. 70% of the project costs can be covered by Innosuisse.  |
| **Additional documents required** | 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> 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 BiglerE-mail: Christoph.Bigler@innosuisse.ch Phone +41 58 48 17032 Colette John-GrantE-Mail: colette.john@innosuisse.ch  |

1. For detailed information please see Section “Funding conditions and rules per NFB & contacts”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/state-aid-to-companies/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)