

## Why becoming a Eureka IEP expert

Eureka is an international network of over 45 member states and the European Commission whose aim is to raise the competitiveness and productivity of small and medium-sized companies through innovation and technology-based product development.

Eureka supports European innovation by funding international R&D and innovation projects developed in collaboration by SMEs, research centres, universities, large industry, and other types of organisations.

One support mechanism is Eurostars. Within the Eurostars programme, SMEs and their partners can develop collaborative and international R&D projects which result in marketable products, processes, and services.

The program runs from 2021 to 2027, with two calls for applications organised every year. The Eureka Secretariat is the implementing body of Eurostars. It is responsible for the organisation of calls and the monitoring of running projects, while synchronising the actions performed at national level.

Another funding instrument is Innowwide, which helps SMEs assess the viability of their research or commercial ambitions in international markets. Over a six-month period, SMEs work with local subcontracted partners in their selected target country.

Innowwide organises one call for projects per year. The Eureka Secretariat manages and coordinates all steps of the evaluation and selection process, including contracting with selected companies.

For both programmes, during the evaluation phase, shortlisted applications are assessed by an Independent Evaluation Panel (IEP) whose members meet to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. The panellists produce a ranking list of all applications and recommend the best ones for public support.

**Eureka is looking for outstanding individuals to join its pool of IEP experts!**

### >Being a member of the IEP pool

As an expert of the pool, you may be contacted to participate in Eurostars calls (twice per year) and/or Innowwide calls (once per year) as a member of the IEP. Your role will involve contributing your unique perspective to the evaluation process and using your expertise to make sure that the best innovators receive public support to grow and thrive in the global market.

You may also be contacted to analyse requests for changes regarding approved Eurostars projects. Eurostars projects may undergo different types of changes during their lifetime, including in their scope and content, milestones and deliverables, etc. Eurostars participants must submit a request for change anytime they plan a change in their project. As an IEP expert, you may be asked to analyse a request for change and give your opinion on whether it should be approved or rejected.

Independent evaluation panel members must have a high-level of strategic, technical, market and business development. In the case of Innowwide, panel members must also have financial expertise. They may be asked to analyse and confirm the SMEs' statuses and financial capabilities to implement the market feasibility project for the applicant SMEs in shortlisted applications.

In addition, by being in the IEP pool, you may be contacted to participate in the evaluation panel of other Eureka's funding programmes.

#### >Eligibility Criteria:

- o Excellent level of English (both written and spoken).
- o Advanced university degree (PhD, MSc, MBA...).
- o At least 15 years of professional experience.
- o Excellent understanding of business principles and the market application of R&D projects and results.
- o Excellent appreciation for the innovation, business landscape and emerging markets in their field of expertise.
- o Good understanding of current research developments and state-of-the-art in their field of expertise.
- o Currently active within, or having recently left, their industrial sector.

#### >Examples of profiles:

- o A venture capitalist or Business angel with extensive experience in setting up companies and providing leading consultancy services.
- o Company board member for a large multinational organization.
- o A leading technologist in a large company (Head of technology development, Chief Scientific Officer, Head of manufacturing/production...).
- o An entrepreneur; a founder of R&D SMEs.
- o A University professor with extensive experience in market exploitation of R&D&I, fostering industrial innovation and start-up companies.
- o An individual with unparalleled experience in the evaluation of industrial research projects.
- o A technical background preferably with industrial R&D experience and experience on how companies make decisions on R&D investments.

#### > Remuneration

Each IEP member signs a Master Service Agreement (MSA).

During the Eurostars evaluation process, IEP members can be contracted for up to 10 working days, receiving a daily rate of 450€ per day. Participation to the IEP session hosted in Brussels can be required.

**>Application requirements:**

- o a copy of your updated CV;
- o a completed IEP profile questionnaire.

Interested candidates are invited to send the requested documentation to [applications@eurostars-eureka.eu](mailto:applications@eurostars-eureka.eu).