

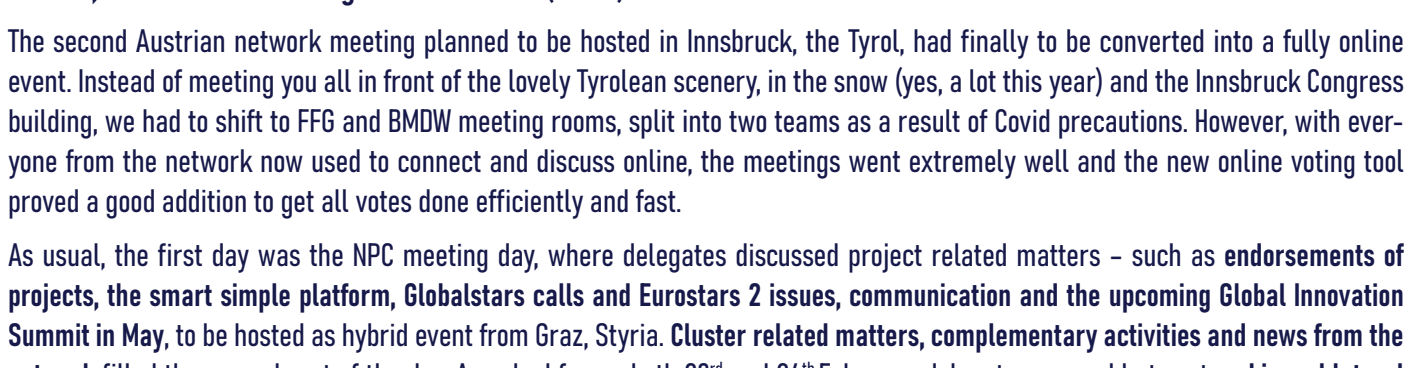
Happy 35th Birthday Eureka!

We have a reason to celebrate! 35 years ago, the foundation of Eureka was laid during the Hanover and the Paris declaration! In Paris, the setting was the impressive Élysée Palace 35 years later, Vienna's Hofburg should have set the stage for the anniversary celebrations.

The event, however, switched to a COVID-safe series of podcasts, covering statements by many high-level speakers on topics relevant to Eureka and the global research and innovation landscape. We received key notes from Minister Bódis (HU), Deputy Minister Doláček (CZ), Minister Heitor (PT), State Secretary Keijzer (NL), State Secretary Lukas (GER), Minister Schramböck (AT), Minister Solloway (UK), and EU Commissioner Gabriel. Moreover, contributions from the chairpersons of the Clusters Public Authority Committee, Sivasegarani Manimaaran and the Clusters Committee, Reinhard Ploss as well as of directors of Canadian, Swiss and Korean NFBs and Paul Rübig, former MEP and Eurostars companion, reached us. Also, Miguel Belló, the incoming chairman gives an overview of the priorities and missions for the upcoming Portuguese chairmanship.

Our sincere thanks to everybody, who contributed to these sessions for their inspiring words and providing interesting insights!

You can find more information at the [Eureka network website](#).



The advantage of this format is that you can enjoy the clips any time you want!

Needless to say that the chair team would have preferred to welcome you in person in Vienna.

2nd NPC, HLG and GA Meetings in Innsbruck (online)

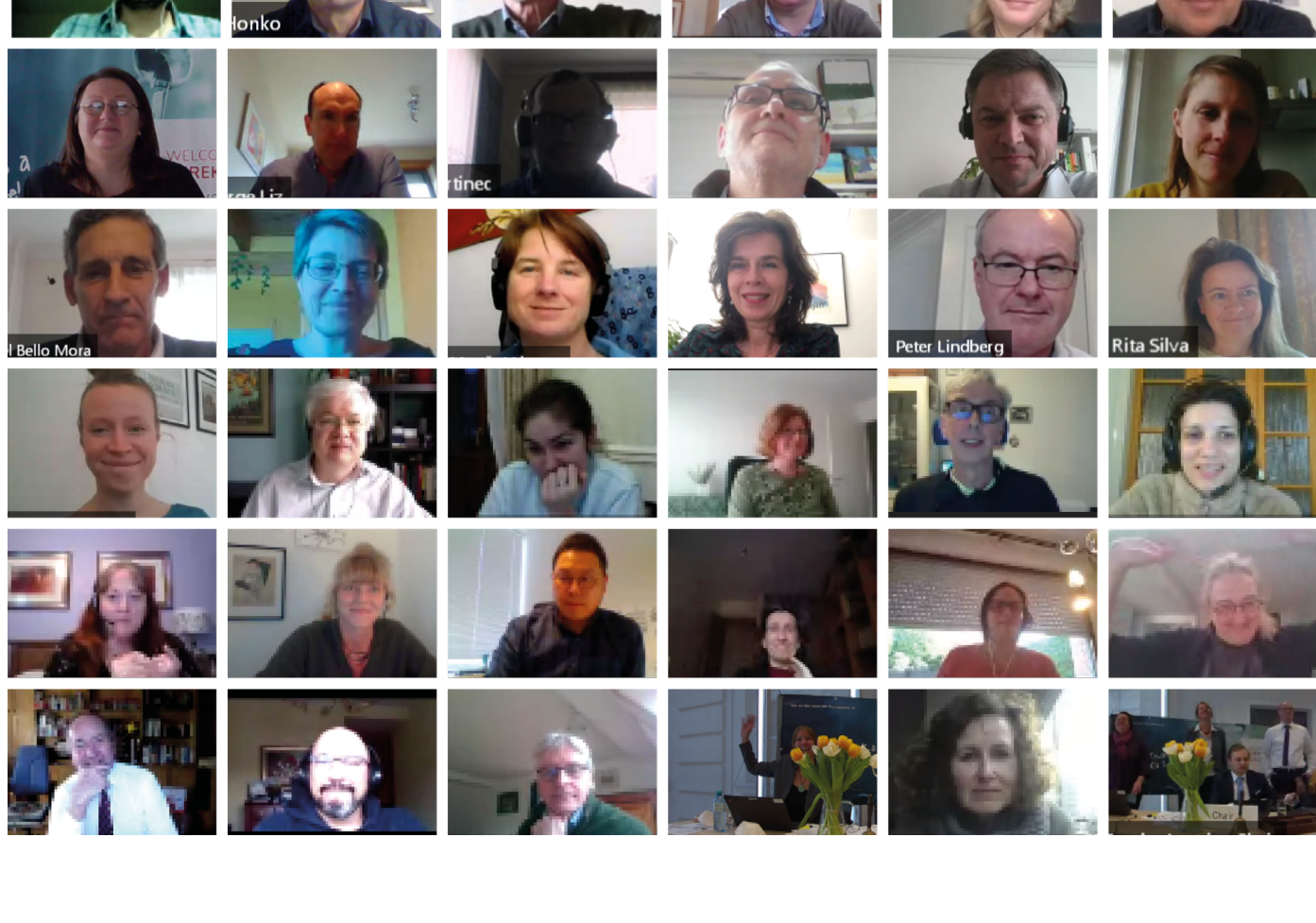
The second Austrian network meeting planned to be hosted in Innsbruck, the Tyrol, had finally to be converted into a fully online event. Instead of meeting you all in front of the lovely Tyrolean scenery, in the snow (yes, a lot this year) and the Innsbruck Congress building, we had to shift to FFG and BMDW meeting rooms, split into two teams as a result of Covid precautions. However, with everyone from the network now used to connect and discuss online, the meetings went extremely well and the new online voting tool proved a good addition to get all votes done efficiently and fast.

As usual, the first day was the NPC meeting day, where delegates discussed project related matters – such as **endorsements of projects, the smart simple platform, Globalstars calls and Eurostars 2 issues, communication and the upcoming Global Innovation Summit in May**, to be hosted as hybrid event from Graz, Styria. **Cluster related matters, complementary activities and news from the network** filled the second part of the day. As asked for, on both 23rd and 24th February, delegates were able to set up bi- and lateral meetings on an online B2B platform. A Eurostars workshop to present and discuss the upcoming new Eurostars 3 cofund programme with the EC (Partnership on Innovative SMEs) was held on 24th February in the morning. The second day combined a first session of the HLG group and the General Assembly. After a report from the NPC meetings and new workshops, the HLG slot concentrated on Eurostars 3 discussions, with a focus on the draft proposal for the new **Cofund, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the partnership dialogue**. With many details to present and discuss, not least the timeline of steps to take, the morning passed quickly.

The afternoon was dedicated to the General Assembly meetings, divided in two sessions. First, the Risk and Audit committee informed on the situation of Eureka audits, finances and the overall risk situation. Then, the finance department gave a general status update. Then, delegates were informed about the latest developments related to the EPMP, i.e. the new IT platform which will be ready for use for the upcoming Eurostars 3 calls. In terms of HR, the GA was informed and later approved the selection of the **new Head of Secretariat** as well as the extension of the interim management solution installed to ensure smooth ESE management. In addition, two minor revisions in regulations (governance rules, risk and fraud prevention) were presented for approval.

The third day focussed on the remaining HLG plenary meetings. It started with a session on globalisation, including the upcoming **association of Singapore**, which was later approved by online vote. Singapore gave an interesting short presentation with insights into its innovation structure and cooperation possibilities. A longer session was dedicated to the implementation of the **new Eureka Cluster Programme**, presenting the cluster communities, planned activities as well as the current status of Multi Annual Plan (MAP). The findings of the global cooperation survey, the **upcoming re-association of South Africa and Chile**, information from the **working groups on Africa and Western Balkans** as well as the planned membership status change of NIP countries and some (minor) revision of the governance rules kept the attendees busy until late lunch – which unfortunately was only a virtual offer (too sad that the 100 000 calories of chocolate cake only the Austrian team gets to eat).

We hope, that despite COVID and the online instead of person-to-person meetings, you did enjoy the network event and hope to see you – maybe this time really in person – in June 2021 for our last network meeting, currently scheduled a hybrid event from 14th-17th June in Krems in Lower Austria, at the Danube River, in a lovely stretch of country side called Wachau.



EUROSTARS 3

A lot of progress has been made on the various issues related to the development of the Innovative SMEs Partnership. The proposal has been developed further in different settings and on different levels: On 16 February, 4 March and 25 March technical mee-

tings took place between Eureka and the

European Commission to discuss the ongoing evolution of Horizon Europe, Pillar III, and specifically the European Innovation Ecosystems sub-pillar where Eurostars-3 is located.

The drafting team has been meeting frequently – once to twice a week and on 28 January, 28 February and 22 March Eurostars 3 working groups took place.

The Eurostars key issues/requirements where progress has been made or where we are still working on solutions are the following:

- The **1:1 rule** is related to the involvement of non-EU countries and countries not associated to Horizon Europe. A solution could be found with the EC which allows to get top-up funding for projects involving such countries in bilateral projects in the same way as it was possible in Eurostars 2. The draft Model Grant Agreement which is relevant for all partnerships was adapted accordingly.
- Also related to the **ranking list** progress has been made. A solution is currently being worked out, stating excellence and impact as the guiding principles and defining the mechanism of evaluation and selection procedure. In addition, the selection of projects without applying the gap filling mechanism and funding as many projects – as it was possible under Eurostars 2 should be ensured.
- The EC position related to the **budget for Eurostars 3** is that the estimated budget for Eurostars 3 is calculated on the basis of a similar share of the budget allocated to Eurostars 2 under H2020. Eureka is currently negotiating an agreement on an adequate budget with the support of the EIC&EIE-Shadow-Committee members. Also discussions for the development of a scaled-up Innovative programme is ongoing.
- The Chair, Executive Group and European Commission have been working on the latest content and formulations of the draft **Memorandum of Understanding**. On the basis of the exchanges between the EC and ESE, we are close to a text satisfying all requirements and objectives that are behind the MoU. On some parts of the text, the EC would still have minor comments to make, there will be some re-drafting and new wording could be suggested. Once the text is agreed, the EC will undergo an internal adoption process for signature by the Commissioner. The EC however believes that the principles and main orientations will be kept.
- A lot of progress has been made also in the **proposal writing process**. The Drafting Team and the Eurostars 3 Working Group have been working intensively on issues dealing with the administrative issues related to the whole Eurostars 3 funding process and the accompanying measures foreseen for the programme.

INCOMING CHAIR



Portugal will hold the Presidency of Eureka from 1st July 2021 until 30th June 2022.

Portugal was a founding member of Eureka and remains very committed to the success of Eureka as an international collaborative network for R&D&I and innovation,

where research and industry work for the development of new products and services “close to the market” using a flexible and dynamic model. In the past, Portugal held the Chairmanship of Eureka in 1997-98 and in 2008-09. This is the third time that Portugal assumes the presidency of Eureka, and in these previous occasions, the

fundamental objectives were to increase the global outreach of Eureka, focusing on Asia, with the incorporation of South Korea as an associated country during the second presidency of Portugal. On this new occasion, Portugal also has as one of the

strategic lines to **increase Eureka's global footprint**, this time shifting the focus to the Atlantic, aiming at **collaboration with countries in Africa and Latin America**. The Portuguese Chairmanship of the Eureka network in 2021 follows, in chronological

terms, to the Presidency of the Council of European Union (January-June 2021), and coincides with the co-presidency by Portugal of the Council of the European Space Agency (ESA) at ministerial level, also during the year 2021. Both of these momentums

will certainly lead to unique synergies for promoting new programmes and activities within the Eureka Network. The strategy of the Portuguese Chairmanship is summarized with this motto:

“ INNOVATION FOR A GREENER, DIGITAL AND HEALTHIER PLANET THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH”.

The Portuguese Chairmanship of Eureka wishes to contribute to the success of Eureka as a major tool to promote research and innovation, strengthening the bottom-up, open and flexible nature of the network by certainly building up on the work done by the

Austrian Chairmanship.

CLUSTER

The implementation of the Eureka Cluster Programme is ongoing. The Public Authorities Committee (PAC), the Cluster Committee (CC) and the respective support groups are currently developing the Multi Annual Plan (MAP) and the Annual Operating Plan (AOP), supported by the Central Coordination Function, Ms Nadja Rohrbach. A first draft of the MAP has been presented at the HLG meeting in February and at the PAC and CC meeting in March. Finally, the MAP will be approved by the HLG in June. We once more cordially invite all countries to contribute with a short summary their prioritized policy areas and send their input to Ms Nadja Rohrbach. She is also happy to answer any further questions.

The discussion about topic(s) for joint call(s) is still ongoing. A proposal to define criteria in order to support the decision on this was taken into account and discussed during various meetings. Among others, the challenge of ‘sustainability’ in a broader sense was proposed. Next, the formulation of sub-topics and country support is requested, aiming to implement this as the first joint Cluster call in the new MAP and AOP.

ENHANCING R&I COOPERATION WITHIN AND BEYOND THE EUREKA NETWORK

In 2020, the Austrian Chairmanship team in close cooperation with the incoming Eureka Chairmanship team from Portugal and the Eureka Secretariat started two new initiatives: first one focusing Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) to encourage increased involvement from this region in Eureka. The second one in close cooperation with South Africa to explore the possibilities of cooperation with other African countries. Both initiatives are also seeking to increase Eureka's visibility as a first step in respective countries and regions.

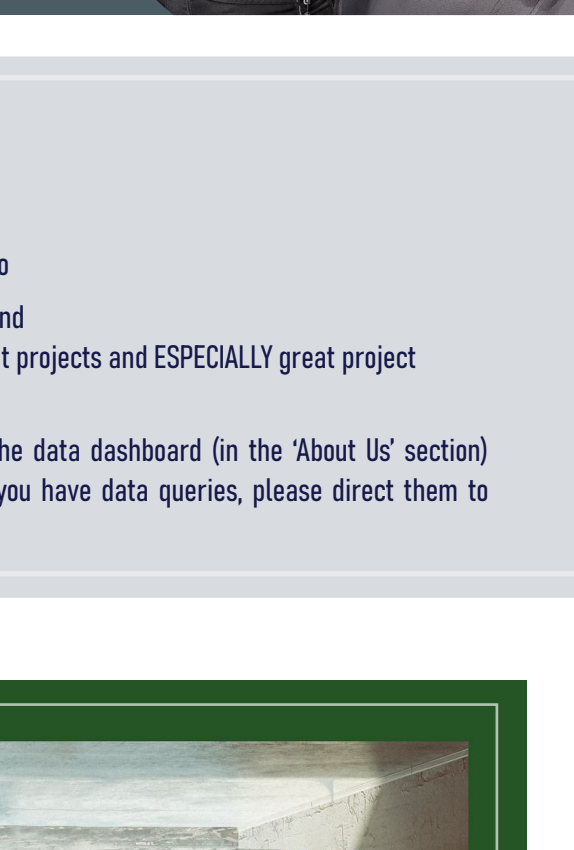
As a follow up of a series of workshops accompanied by great interest from the network, it was suggested to form two official Eureka working groups: “Eureka Working Group on Western Balkans” and “Eureka Working Group on Africa”. We are happy to announce that **both working groups were approved by the Eureka High Level Group during the HLG meeting in Innsbruck**. Thanks to Portugal as incoming Eureka Chair, continuity of the actions taken is ensured also during the Portuguese chairmanship and both groups will continue with the work also in the following year. By doing so, sufficient time is available for the groups to prepare and implement activities towards enhanced cooperation with Africa and with Western Balkans.

The overall long term goal of both initiatives is to help generate new R&I cooperation projects within and beyond the Eureka network. For this purpose the Working Group members are currently drafting strategy papers and working on supporting activities that might result in future multilateral joint call(s) and/or Global Stars call(s).

SUCCESS STORY

WWS WASSERKRAFT

To cope with the rising energy demand while simultaneously trying to protect the environment, renewable energy sources play a key role. By using the natural environment in an efficient way, hydropower amounts for the biggest part of renewable energy worldwide. To further increase this amount without having negative impact on the natural environment, it is essential to adapt to the regional conditions and find effective ways to meet the regions demand. The Project Low Head Hydropower aims to offer a solution to regional characteristics by constructing highly adaptable and compact turbines. Through pre-assembling the modules in the factory, the transport costs are reduced and quick installation is possible. Furthermore, the Norwegian-Austrian project team was able to optimize the efficiency of the turbines for every location by using modern CFD Simulation.



COMMUNICATION REMINDER

From marcomms@eurekanetwork.org

A friendly reiteration of what was said at the ‘Innsbruck’ NPC, appealing to all of you to

- please check your country and funding information on www.eurekanetwork.org and
- please send us nominations for our success story programme – do you have great projects and ESPECIALLY great project participants that we can feature in our communications?

Also, we are experiencing some technical issues with the website resulting with the data dashboard (in the ‘About Us’ section) not being updated! We're working to resolve this as a priority, in the meantime, if you have data queries, please direct them to Jelena.Vitic@eurekanetwork.org and she'll aim to provide you with what you need.



Dear entrepreneurs and innovative minds,

are you ready to take a sneakpeak into the future? Can't wait to make a positive impact on a greener and more digital society and fuel economic growth? Are you eager to find out about sustainable solutions and the economic upswing after the Covid crisis?

#gis2021 as much as the Eureka network itself stand for enlargement of thoughts and horizons, exchange of experience, and establishment of collaborations. Under the Austrian chairmanship, Eureka, as the world's largest public network for international cooperation in research, development and innovation, enables this completely new event experience!

The international streaming event #gis2021 held in Graz, Austria, offers discussions on subjects of the future, - be it in relation to the Green Deal, the Digital Transformation or encouraging cooperation and funding possibilities Post Covid - as well as numerous networking opportunities supported by the Enterprise Europe Network. The programme includes top level international speakers and the keynote by Bertrand Piccard, who is a true pioneer in his way to look at ecology through the lens of profitability..!

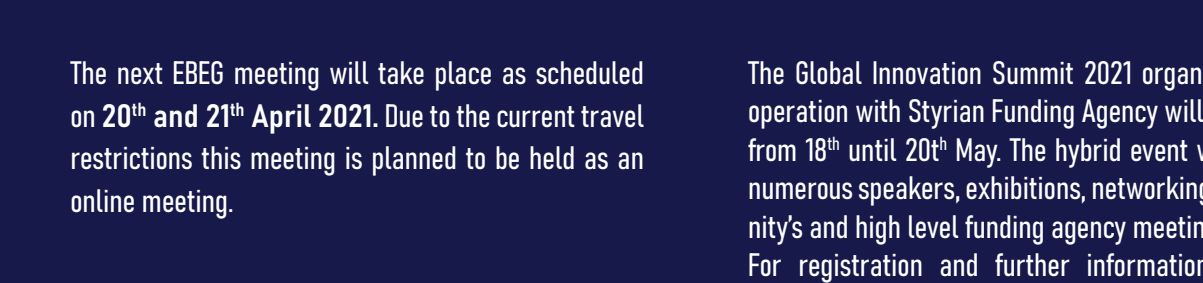
The event is free of charge! What are you waiting for?

REGISTER HERE

ALL INFO HERE

PS: Just to remind you about the great opportunities being offered to countries and networks at the Global Innovation Summit 2021. Our contractors have come up with an innovative (of course!) solution for a virtual exhibition zone. This will appear to online visitors as a galaxy. Clicking on a star will take them to an individual country or project page. The stars will be colour-coded to reflect different themes: Countries and networks; Post-COVID projects; Green transition; Digital transformation. For more information: alexandra.peng@ffg.at and catherine.simmons@eurekanetwork.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



6th Executive Board and Group Meeting

The next EBEG meeting will take place as scheduled on **20th and 21st April 2021**. Due to the current travel restrictions this meeting is planned to be held as an online meeting.

Global Innovation Summit 2021

The Global Innovation Summit 2021 organized in co-operation with Styrian Funding Agency will take place from 18th until 20th May. The hybrid event will include numerous speakers, exhibitions, networking opportunity's and high level funding agency meetings. For registration and further information visit the Website: www.gis2021.com