

The Finnish

EUREKA

Chairmanship 2017/2018

SMART EUREKA

EXTENSIVE EUREKA

EUREKA IN EUROPEAN INNOVATION POLICY



FINLAND 2017/18
EUREKA CHAIR **+**



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PREFACE

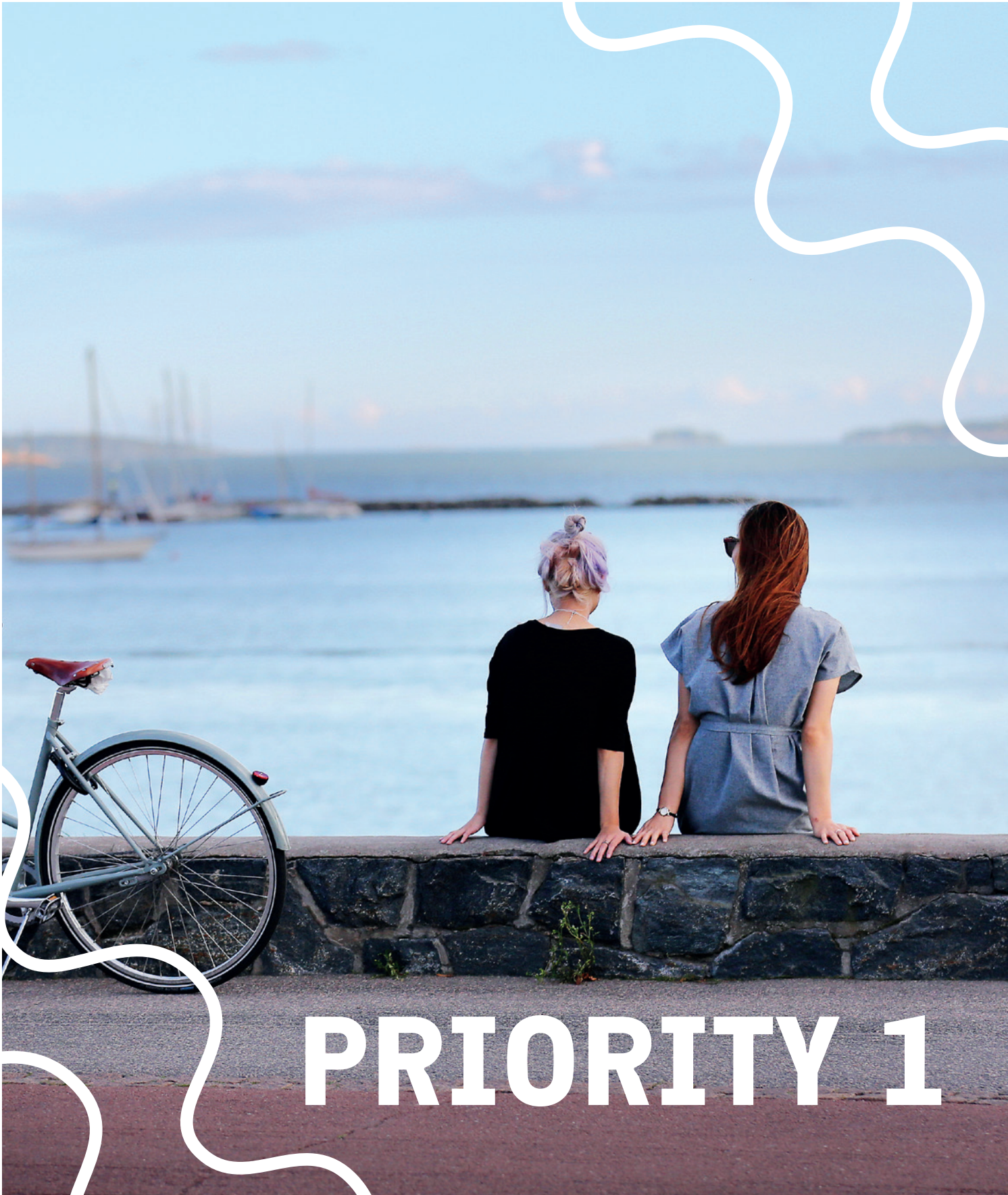
Ever since it was founded in 1985, EUREKA has made an important contribution to European innovation policies. Initiatives like the Eurostars programme and EUREKA clusters show that EUREKA has been able to keep up with new challenges during the past 30 years. Its bottom-up modus operandi and focus on industries, markets and businesses has created a successful platform for cooperation between countries throughout Europe and beyond.

Today more than ever, economies and enterprises are facing fundamental and critical challenges regarding innovation and emerging new global structures and value chains. We constantly find ourselves in situations where key parts of relevant knowledge and resources exist outside national or corporate boundaries. Effective communications has made the world smaller than ever, and with information and communication technologies fundamentally changing our working methods, cooperation and international contact are easier and quicker than ever. Therefore, cross-border collaboration has become an intrinsic part of research and innovation everywhere. EUREKA, a network that connects national policy programmes while maintaining close proximity to the industries and companies in each country, provides policymakers with a solid framework for building support for innovation in cases where stakeholders from several countries are simultaneously involved.

Finland is a founding member of EUREKA, and we are determined to be a part of its continued success. Promoting the work of EUREKA and its services to end users and helping the enterprises participating in the projects innovate deserves our full attention. Finland celebrates 100 years of independence this year and we are proud to chair EUREKA for 2017/2018. The theme of Finland's Centennial Year fits perfectly with the spirit of EUREKA: Together!



Heikki Uusi-Honko
EUREKA Chairperson 2017/2018



PRIORITY 1

THE KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FINNISH CHAIRMANSHIP

Chairmanship gives us the opportunity to go above and beyond and truly impact the development of even the largest organisations. Below we share the key priorities for the Finnish chair period. They have been derived from the strategic goals and directions set out previously, notably the revised EUREKA 2020 Strategic Roadmap. The priorities communicate what the Finnish chair feels is relevant and needs be addressed, and we hope that they will act as guidance and as a source of inspiration for the work of the entire EUREKA network.

SMART EUREKA

The fundamentals of EUREKA are as valuable today as ever, and it starts with the needs and expectations of enterprises seeking to cooperate cross border in their innovation work. Business-led activities and bottom-up principles characterize the whole EUREKA network. Nevertheless, EUREKA's tools and the ways we use them and communicate about them needs constant attention. Our offering has to be clear and built to serve customers today and in the future. To maintain a strategic, future-oriented mindset across the network, lean management and taking care of administrative issues in an efficient and smooth way is a must. A strong focus on improving services for the end-users is needed both in governing meetings and across the organization. The work and resources of the EUREKA Secretariat also play an important role in reaching these targets.

The Finnish chair intends to continue the work of the previous chairs by following and further refining practices and working

methodologies that support keeping us focus on strategic issues. This combination of focusing on internal efficiency, and on delivering easy-to-approach services for customers is what we call *Smart EUREKA*.

In line with the EUREKA 2020 Strategic Roadmap, the key goals for the Finnish chair are:

- Implement lean governance – maintain and include customer focus in all efforts
- Secure the implementation of the SRM
- Secure the use of EUREKA secretariat's resources to further the network's strategic goals
- Improve communication about EUREKA's offerings to all stakeholder groups



PRIORITY 2

EXTENSIVE EUREKA

Today, globalisation is a driver for change everywhere in our societies and economies. The rise of new, fast-growing economies and their powerful industries is apparent. At the same time, Europe's leading role in knowledge generation is being challenged. Innovation, enterprises and markets are increasingly embedded in broad global value chains that are extremely relevant for many potential EUREKA project participants. This means that the opportunity to cooperate with countries that are outside Europe but still associated with EUREKA is an important asset for the network, and the related activities can still be expanded for the benefit of all parties involved.

As a part of a step-by-step approach to internationalisation, the Finnish chair will focus on possibilities for deepening the cooperation with the existing global partners. The internal practices and rules of the network must be supportive to this end. In addition, EUREKA must keep its eyes open for opportunities to selectively extend the network.

Another important issue is developing the use of the GlobalStars policy instrument, allowing for truly global cooperation. We wish to learn from the existing pilots, and support more extensive use of this initiative, possibly building a brand name for global cooperation on calls and making it available for all EUREKA partners. The existing EU strategy for international

cooperation identifies a number of different cooperation objectives that are based, amongst other things, on the research and innovation capacities and the market conditions present. EUREKA GlobalStars can also be seen as a powerful tool that contributes to several of these goals by reinforcing the cooperation between EU member states and countries outside Europe.

Finally, the extensive European network that reaches throughout the continent is a key asset for EUREKA, benefitting all network members. Therefore, targeted information and supporting actions that help to maintain and increase the activity level of the broad European network is particularly important.

In line with the EUREKA 2020 Strategic Roadmap, the key goals for the Finnish chair are:

- Enhance EUREKA's engagement with countries outside Europe – promote the use of GlobalStars as a cooperation tool
- Develop cooperation with associated countries as key partners in the network
- Support activation across the entire European network



PRIORITY 3

EUREKA IN EUROPEAN INNOVATION POLICY

Throughout its history, EUREKA has acted as a platform for the introduction of different policy instruments that support cross-border cooperation within the European research and innovation landscape. The extensive network, the skills and abilities of the national agencies and the ministries responsible for EUREKA is a unique asset that furthers the development of services while creating the conditions for innovation on all levels. EUREKA has also acted as a learning platform by sharing good practices amongst national agencies and ministries, for example when executing joint calls.

One focal point of the Finnish chair is to fully explore the full potential of the Eurostars programme after 2020. It is a beneficial and well-performing element of the European research and innovation landscape and it is very important to renew and strengthen the European Union's support to the programme. Also, commitment from the participating countries can be further reinforced and harnessed to substantially boost the development of innovative SMEs throughout Europe and across EUREKA countries.

Eurostars is an excellent European policy instrument as it brings national and EU innovation policies together and joins their forces in implementation. There is the possibility for similar actions in other areas, and more cooperation with countries outside Europe should be explored.

In line with the EUREKA 2020 Strategic Roadmap, the key goals for the Finnish chair are:

- Ensure synergies with EU R&D&I initiatives and networks
- Enhance EUREKA's presence as a key innovation stakeholder and advocate for European innovation policy
- Champion the use and development of Eurostars. Establish a commitment for continuation of the programme beyond 2020
- Promote the use of GlobalStars as a cooperation tool



MEET THE FINNISH TEAM

THE FINNISH EUREKA CHAIRMANSHIP TEAM



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EVENTS

Meeting	Time
EG I (Helsinki)	11–12 July, 2017
EG II (Brussels)	19–20 September, 2017
NPC-HLG I (Tampere)	17–19 October, 2017
EG III (Brussels)	6–7 February, 2018
NPC-HLG II (Oulu)	6–8 March, 2018
EG IV (Brussels)	15–16 May, 2018
NPC-HLG III (Helsinki)	19–21 June, 2018
EUREKA Innovation Event (Helsinki) – TBC!	May–June, 2018

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www.tekes.fi/eureka

Tekes – the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation

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Tekes

 **FINLAND** 2017/18
EUREKA CHAIR 

team
FINLAND