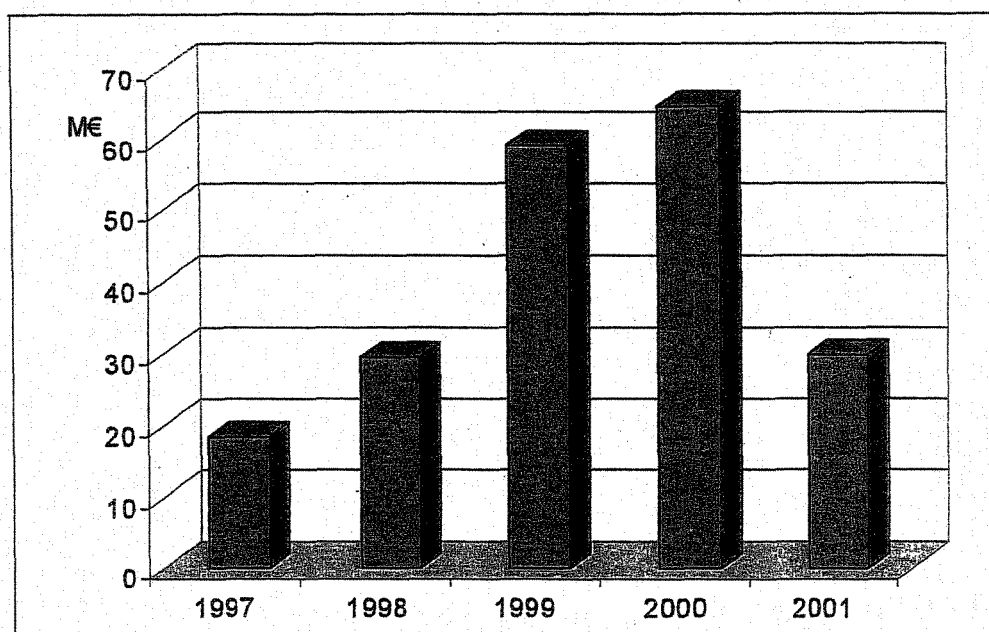


FINANZIAMENTI EUREKA DELIBERATI DAL MIUR

Anno	Contributo (M€)	Numero progetti	Numero partner
1997	18,36	7	12
1998	29,46	9	16
1999	59,12	24	28
2000	64,55	31	47
2001	29,72	34	41



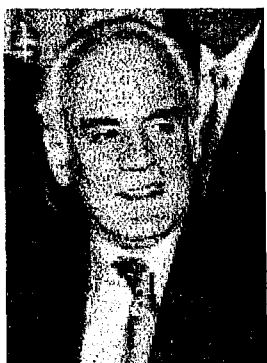
PAGINA BIANCA

Rapport annuel

PAGINA BIANCA

EUREKA Hellenic Chairmanship

His Excellency Akis Tsohatzopoulos, Minister for Development of Greece



Europe faces great opportunities, big expectations and new challenges. One of them is how to achieve greater prosperity, growth and cohesion in a global economy through a more comprehensive and co-ordinated European research and innovation system. For more than 15 years the EUREKA Initiative has reacted positively to the new economic and structural challenges and has proven a valuable tool in co-ordinating research. It was one of the first European R&D initiatives to open up to Central and Eastern European Countries and today 34 members work closely together and reach common policy decisions.

The Hellenic Chairmanship has been a landmark year for EUREKA. Its reputation for facilitating market-oriented innovation has grown apace through its fruitful collaboration with the European Commission and the

Initiative has become a respected partner in the fast-developing European Research Area.

November's Hellenic Event, held at the European Parliament, raised EUREKA's political profile significantly and underlined the challenges met by Greece's Chairmanship. These included improving the quality and marketability of the project portfolio and the transparency of EUREKA's activities and project assessment and exploring further the potential of the private sector as a source of venture capital.

One of EUREKA's most important functions is to generate projects. Under the Hellenic Chairmanship 169 new projects were launched, amounting to a total value of €410 million. During the past year EUREKA has established a joint working group with the EC to explore opportunities for co-operation with the Framework Programme and developed partnerships with other complementary bodies, such as the network of Innovation Relay Centres and the European Business Network.

The Hellenic Chairmanship has worked to enhance co-operation with countries in the Balkan and Mediterranean regions. These countries have scientific potential and it will be to the benefit of both EUREKA and the regions to bring them into the network. There is still work to be done, but in the meantime it is with great pleasure that EUREKA welcomes the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Cyprus as the Initiative's newest members.

The Hellenic Event

Affirming EUREKA's standing in European innovation

November's Hellenic Event, hosted by the Hellenic Chairmanship at the European Parliament, was one of the highlights of a milestone year for EUREKA. Firmly establishing the expertise the Initiative brings to the European Research Area (ERA), it was also confirmation of how the organisation is changing, its influence with the Commission growing and the respect with which it is held by Europe's R&D community.

Dignitaries attending the high profile event included Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin, Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca, Vice President of the European Parliament, Gérard Caudron, Rapporteur of the European Parliament's ITRE Committee, Dimitrios Deniozos, Hellenic Secretary-General for Development, members of the European Parliament and senior officials of the Commission.

Focusing on the event's central theme, support for the ERA, Commissioner Busquin stressed: "In order to define the ERA one must put together all those who work on research in Europe. We must optimise possibilities whilst respecting our institutions and our differences." He proposed the following key areas for co-operation between the Initiative and the Commission's 6th Framework Programme: combining financial support under the Framework Programme with national support provided by EUREKA; promoting common use of instruments and networks such as the Commission's Innovation Relay Centres; and setting up technical groups to exchange information on research and project funding and identify priorities and common projects with a European dimension.

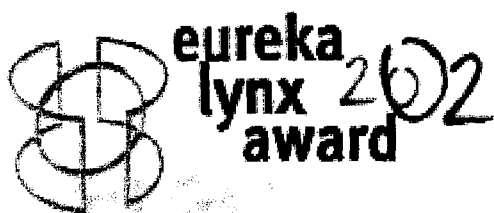
The Hellenic Event also set the agenda for new initiatives designed to increase EUREKA's effectiveness and make project assessment procedures stricter and more transparent. The quality of EUREKA's project portfolio will prove crucial in attracting investment capital from the private sector, one of the major challenges now facing the Initiative. Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca also suggested that: "Use of the Structural Funds in favour of innovation to support the disadvantaged regions is a theme which merits attention."

The Danish Chairmanship will be consolidating the progress made during the Hellenic Chairmanship. It will also build upon the Hellenic Event's success in raising EUREKA's political profile by hosting a Danish Event at the XIVth Interparliamentary Conference, to be held in Copenhagen on 23-24 June 2003, and to which the European Parliament's ITRE Committee and the EU's Research Commissioner will again be invited.



EUREKA Awards

Celebrating the best of European innovation



The 2002 EUREKA Lynx Award

The Spanish Chair established the EUREKA Lynx Award in 2001 to honour fast-growing enterprises that have turned a EUREKA project into a marketplace success. The award opens doors to the investment community and potential customers worldwide, and the winning company is presented with EUREKA's prestigious 'EUSY' trophy and a cheque for €10,000.

The 2002 Lynx Award winner was Dutch company Contronics Engineering B.V., which has seen its turnover for a humidifying system that keeps food fresh and wholesome increase by 20% in 2000 and 42% in 2001, and is on target for a 50% increase in 2002. The humidifier, which employs cooling technology developed from two EUREKA projects, E! 1692 SANIFOgger and E! 2055 TRAVEL FOGGER, is used in cold stores and supermarket refrigerated cabinets and achieves lower labour costs and 60% less wastage.

"EUREKA has helped us to develop a system which is now a big commercial success," says managing director Frank Bakker. "Winning the EUREKA Lynx Award was very motivating for my team and is a sign that our product is something special. It will bring us a lot of attention worldwide and new customers in new fields."

The 2002 EUREKA Lillehammer Award

The EUREKA Lillehammer Award was established by the Norwegian Chair in 1994 to recognise a project that has made an outstanding contribution to improving Europe's environment and developing sustainable solutions to the problem of waste and pollution. The winning project team is presented with EUREKA's 'EUSY' trophy, a cheque for €10,000 and an original painting by Norwegian artist and Lillehammer resident, Jakob Weidemann.

Millions of repairable electronic products containing re-usable components are being scrapped in favour of newer, state-of-the-art models. The winner of the 2002 Lillehammer Award, project E! 1689 CARE ELECTRONICS MATERIALS & AGEING, has developed tools for promoting the re-use of components and repair of electronic equipment by the manufacturing industry.

"Winning the EUREKA Lillehammer Award means that companies will take our ideas seriously and think about re-use and repair and the whole concept of eco-design," says Dr Urs Sennhauser of the project's lead partner Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research.



EUREKA Synergies

Creating synergies to benefit innovators

One of EUREKA's most important functions is to ensure that innovating organisations, particularly SMEs, have a direct line to support and information. While there is no shortage of information available, at both regional and national levels, the problem is the time and effort it takes to track down the many different sources, which have traditionally worked in isolation from each other.

Co-ordinating the efforts of Europe's research and innovation mechanisms and programmes offers the most practical way of achieving this and provides customers with a more synchronised, often one-stop, service. Consequently, during the past year EUREKA has established a joint working group with the EC to explore opportunities for co-operation with the Framework Programme and developed partnerships with other complementary bodies, principally the network of Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs), the European Business and Innovation Centres (BIC) Network and the Association for Technology Implementation in Europe (TAFTIE).

Fast track to new technologies

In spring 2002 EUREKA came to an arrangement for closer co-operation with the network of IRCs. Created in 1995, the network has 68 centres throughout Europe, including Iceland and Israel, which offer a regional gateway to specialised business services, primarily targeted at SMEs, which support the trans-border transfer of new technologies. A local IRC will offer a single point of access to the entire range of support, which includes assisting companies to sell or license technology outside their own country or track down foreign partners for the purposes of joint R&D ventures. Now, when an SME approaches its regional IRC for information about available technologies it will automatically be informed of the expertise and support offered by EUREKA, and vice versa.

Linking Europe's regional business and innovation centres

The European BIC Network (EBN) is the leading network gathering together 150 BICs and similar organisations in Europe. BICs are regional focal points for innovators and entrepreneurs, co-operating with other organisations to provide a complete range of services to new and existing SMEs. Each BIC is designed to meet the unique needs and economic challenges of its region and to complement rather than duplicate other EU, national and regional enterprises support mechanisms such as EUREKA. The Initiative and the EBN are currently exploring areas of common interest for potential collaborations that could benefit members of both networks.

Synchronising support at a national level

TAFTIE comprises 14 national technological and innovation organisations from 13 countries, which have the responsibility for their country's national innovation programmes. The founding members in 1992 were France's ANVAR, Spain's CDTI, Italy's ENEA, Finland's TEKES, Norway's NTNF and Dutch agency STIPT, the predecessor of Senter.

Member organisations can guide companies and research institutions to national innovation programmes, which best suit their needs, as well as EUREKA, the EU's Framework Programme and the COST Programme. As part of its declared aim to tighten project assessment procedures EUREKA is in the process of evaluating TAFTIE's TechRate system, which is used for the ex-ante evaluation of projects.