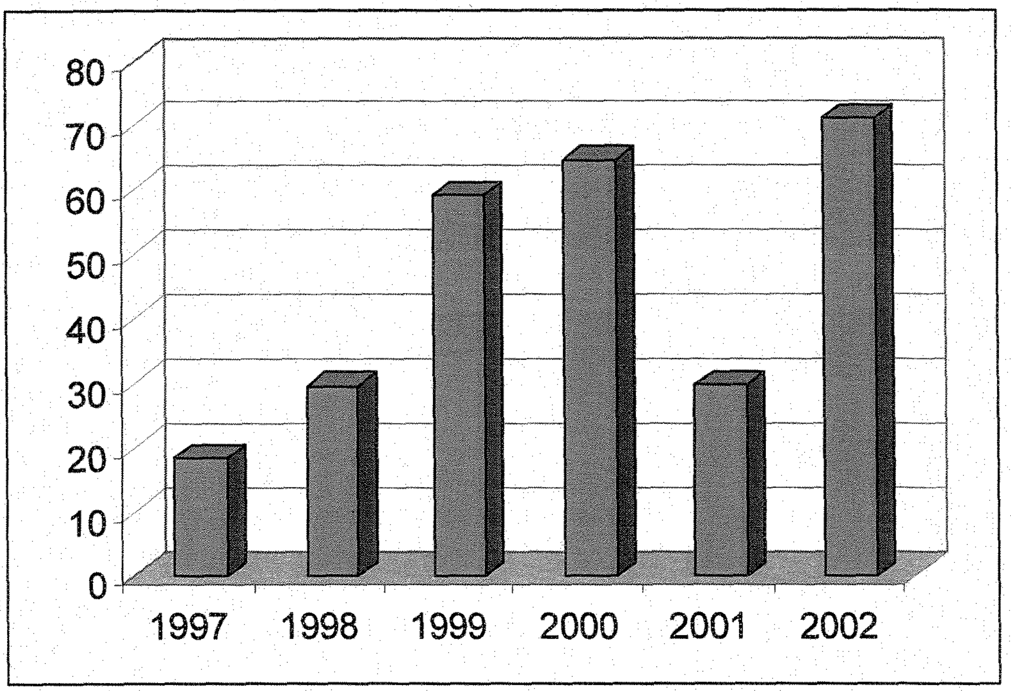
Sintesi dei finanziamenti deliberati dal MIUR, dal 1997 ad oggi, per i progetti EUREKA

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
2002	70,99	28	46

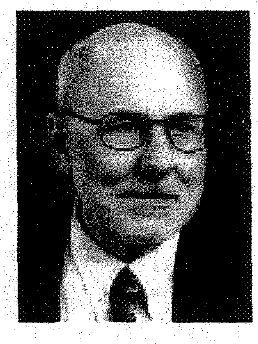


PAGINA BIANCA

EUREKA annual report

Dr Knud Larsen, High Level Group Chairman

Danish Chair reflects on the achievements of the Danish Chair Year



During Denmark's Chair Year (July 2002 - June 2003), EUREKA has taken a significant step forward in reshaping itself in preparation for its role in the European Research Area (ERA) and to better serve Europe's innovation community. Major initiatives have been implemented to achieve these objectives and 168 new individual projects have been launched with an estimated value of 398 m€. In addition, the cluster programmes, which account for two-thirds of EUREKA's total financial value, generated 14 new projects with a value of 458 m€. This brings the total value of new projects to 856 m€.

EUREKA's market-led approach and extensive links with industry and business make it an essential instrument of the ERA. Equally, they equip the Initiative to play a crucial role in meeting the EU's goal of increasing investment in R&D to 3% of GDP by the end of the decade. To both these ends, the Danish Chair has concentrated on optimising practical links with the EU Framework Programme. The Interparliamentary Conference in June also examined ways of improving support for innovation at the political level, along with the specific measures needed to synchronise relevant policies at local, regional, national and European levels.

Since EUREKA's launch 18 years ago, the political framework in which the Initiative operates has changed considerably; its membership has doubled to 34 countries and will increase still further. EUREKA's long-standing policy of embracing new members is to the ultimate benefit of European innovation and competitiveness, and proof, should the EU need it, that enlargement can be successful and enriching.

EUREKA itself, however, has not evolved to adapt to these changes. The Danish Chair has therefore given the highest priority to streamlining EUREKA's organisation and decision-making processes so that it can become an efficient and dynamic instrument for market-oriented research. Following comprehensive consultations with all members, the Chair proposed major changes to the Initiative's organisational structure and a redefining of the roles and responsibilities of the resulting new bodies.

The Danish Chair also addressed as a matter of priority the challenges of obtaining investment capital from the private sector. For this to happen, projects must be seen to be worthy of the EUREKA label and they must increase their attractiveness to the private finance sector. The Project Assessment Methodology (PAM), a network tool for improving the quality of the EUREKA portfolio, was introduced to help national offices assess projects seeking endorsement more objectively and transparently.

Positioning EUREKA within the evolving ERA, streamlining its organisation and decision-making processes and improving project quality form a three-year agenda developed in collaboration with the ensuing French and Dutch Chairs. The rationale behind this novel, more integrated approach is summed up in three words: continuity, efficiency and quality - all of which have been the guiding principles of the Danish Chairmanship.

Knud Larsen

Head of Secretariat

El director del Secretariado

Michel Vieillefosse, new Head of the EUREKA Secretariat

Introductory note

EUREKA will be a dynamic focal point for European innovation by 2005, says Michel Vieillefosse, new Head of the Secretariat

EUREKA operates in very different political and economic environments from its launch 18 years ago and faces many challenges. The innovation gap between Europe and its competitors is growing and networks such as ours must put everything we have into exploiting Europe's research potential. The EU's 3% R&D investment target provides the focus, but is only achievable with increased private funding on a Europe-wide scale.

EUREKA, with its market-oriented approach, is one of the best-positioned instruments for generating quality projects and programmes that appeal to private investors. Accordingly, our new Strategic Plan is designed to complete our transformation into a European-wide focal point for European innovation and make us the easiest for all markets to do business with by our 20th anniversary in 2005. The plan aims to:

- Improve market understanding of all strategic domains
- Increase industry involvement and participation
- Promote EUREKA as a primary tool for European competitiveness in ERA
- Increase the attractiveness of our projects to venture capitalists
- Improve EUREKA's efficiency and decision-making processes
- Maximise the use of electronic media in all our areas of activity
- Reinforce the network's coherence and core values and foster a culture of teamwork.

In pursuit of these objectives the incoming French Chair will forge closer links with a more pragmatic approach between EUREKA and the 6th Framework Programme (FP6) within the framework of ERA. It will also continue streamlining the Initiative's structure and decision-making processes. The introduction of the Project Assessment Methodology (PAM) will strengthen the EUREKA label and identify good, commercial projects to encourage private sector funding.

Raising awareness of the EUREKA label, another priority, will be achieved by: winning greater recognition for our successes, promoting our complementarity with FP6 and other European innovation instruments, and improving our market knowledge through a series of joint communication exercises with FP6 in specific areas with a view to publicising European assets and achievements.

The French Chair will help members to generate new, high quality projects focused on areas of strategic priority; they will be based on strong financing and closely dovetailed with the other European instruments. To reinforce the network's coherence, special attention will be paid to integrating SMEs into the larger projects, while the cluster projects, which to date have not had enough influence in the network's decision-making, will be restored to their primary role within EUREKA. They will make it possible to achieve our ambitious objectives, namely to establish programmes capable of attracting broad support and managed by multiple partners in areas of strategic priority.

EUREKA would like to thank Heikki Kotilainen, previous Head of the Secretariat during the past four years, for his contribution to the Initiative.

Les facettes d'EUREKA · EUREKA in Aktion · EUREKA in action · EUREKA in azione · EUREKA actividad

EURÉKA's remit is to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's industries through the promotion of collaborative, market-led high-technology R&D ventures. The Initiative functions through a network of National Project Coordinators in 33 member countries who facilitate cross-border projects involving multinational companies, SMEs, research organisations and universities.

EUREKA has achieved some measurable successes:

- 3,500 people in 17 European countries are currently collaborating on MEDEA+, one of EUREKA's most productive clusters, to develop the technology and applications of the future for Europe's microelectronics industry with particular reference to broadband communications, the internet and the automotive and security industries.
- The ITEA cluster brings together 2,500 people in 20 countries to work on the interoperability of digital technologies and applications for business, the home and for mobile phones and networks. ITEA embraces many industrial fields, including consumer electronics, telecommunications, avionics, the automotive industry and the health sector.
- 2,000 people are cooperating on other multilateral and innovative projects across a broad spectrum of technologies, including medicine and biotechnology, robotics, new materials and tools, transport and the environment.

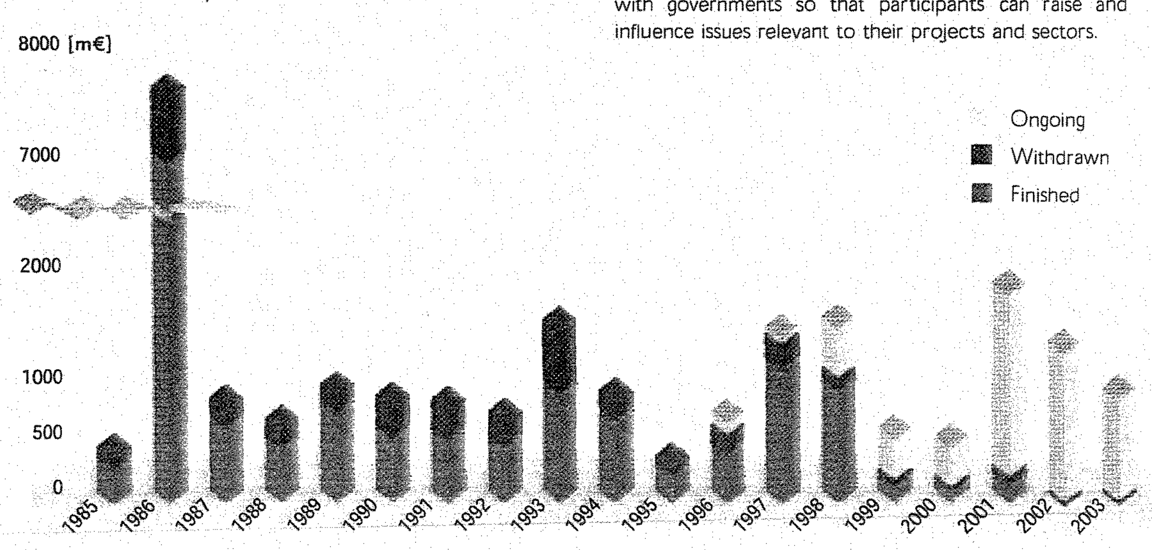
EUREKA helps organisations react quickly to a changing market

Collaboration is a key factor in maintaining a competitive edge and technological advantage over Europe's competitors. Without it, for example, most SMEs simply wouldn't be able to undertake the innovation that is essential to their competitiveness and sheer survival. Pooling ideas, resources and expertise enables organisations to carry out ambitious and larger projects. It also cuts the costs and risk associated with innovation, accelerating the time from drawing board to marketplace.

Project participants appreciate EUREKA's unbureaucratic, hands-off style. It frees them to use their own initiative to formulate, develop and finance R&D projects and retain ownership of the resulting intellectual property rights. EUREKA's way is not to interfere with a project, but to offer help and support when needed. Through its pan-European network the Initiative provides access to expertise, skills, resources and national funding schemes and enables participants to collaborate with the best partners in order to be ready for the market in due time.

EUREKA offers support when needed

Practical support is provided in several ways. EUREKA's partner search facilities and wide range of networking activities help projects find partners, and vice versa. Regular partnering events on specific technological issues provide excellent forums for promoting the benefits of collaborative research, establishing contacts and discussing ideas which could lead to R&D ventures. EUREKA can advise projects on applying for funding support schemes run by other member countries and facilitates contact with governments so that participants can raise and influence issues relevant to their projects and sectors.



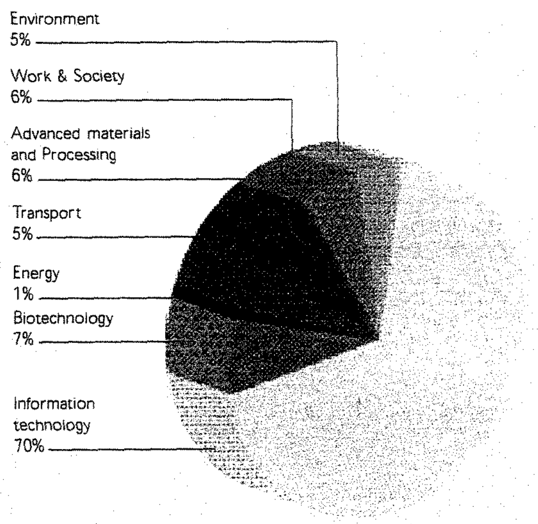
Total committed public and private investment in projects by year [incl. clusters]

EUREKA is an internationally recognised label
Projects are widely promoted on the Initiative's database and through various national and European publications, international fairs and exhibitions. Projects bearing the EUREKA label enjoy internationally recognised status, a significant advantage when marketing a product, process or technology and seeking finance from public and, increasingly, private investment sources to fund a project and, the most difficult stage of all, transferring it to the marketplace.

EUREKA projects offer flexible frameworks for collaboration
Cluster programmes
EUREKA's cluster programmes set a practical framework for cooperation and are managed by industry itself. They are longer-term, strategically significant projects aimed at developing generic technologies of key importance for European competitiveness. Deliberately flexible so that they can respond to rapid advances in global technology and changes in market demands, they typically begin with a set of objectives, which are filled in over the ensuing years with scores of individually defined and funded projects and large numbers of participants.

Umbrella projects
Umbrellas are networks which focus strategically on a specific thematic area of technology, creating pan-European synergies between organisations, networks, etc. Coordinated by a working group of EUREKA representatives and industrial experts, their key objective is to facilitate the generation of individual EUREKA projects in their own target area.

Individual projects
Operating on a smaller scale than cluster or umbrella projects, an individual or single project is originated by a team of two or more organisations sharing a common interest in developing products, processes or services which represent a significant advance in their sector. This category of projects makes it possible for SMEs with limited resources to access their potential for innovation, as well as resources and expertise from other countries.



Ongoing projects by area in 2003