

SwissCore Annual Event 2026

Cooperate to Innovate

What we can learn from the Eureka Network

29 June 2026
15:30 - 20:00

EFTA House
Av. des Arts 19H, 1000 Brussels

SwissCore

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Event Summary



Switzerland – through its Innovation Agency, Innosuisse – takes an important global role in the innovation landscape by **chairing the Eureka network** from July 2025 to June 2026. Founded in 1985, Eureka has evolved into the world’s largest intergovernmental network supporting international cooperation in innovation across 47 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. Over four decades, it has enabled ministries and funding agencies to address tangible innovation challenges together. Eureka’s flexible instruments and business-driven, bottom-up approach, have helped startups and SMEs to develop solutions with global relevance, while strengthening the entrepreneurial, applied, and innovation capabilities needed to compete in international markets. The [*Blueprint for a better tomorrow*](#) showcases many of the network’s most impactful cross-border collaborations, demonstrating the significance of pragmatic, trust-based cooperation platforms that link governments, funding bodies, companies, and research institutions.

As Switzerland concludes its Eureka Presidency, the SwissCore Annual Event 2026 takes stock of what this model of “cooperate to innovate” has achieved – and what it can offer going forward. The event offers an opportunity to examine the **essential factors underpinning successful innovation in both Switzerland and the Eureka network and what lessons can be learned for the preparation of the innovation funding instruments in FP10** and related EU innovation policies.

Event Agenda



From 15:30

Registration and refreshments

16:00

Introduction

Laurin Reding, Head of Office, SwissCore

16:05

Welcome remarks

Ambassador Michael Gerber

Director-General International Programmes & Organisations,
Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and
Innovation

16:20

Keynote address

Maria Cristina Russo

Deputy Director-General, DG RTD, European Commission

16:35

Panel discussion: Why we need international cooperation

Dominique Gruhl-Bégin

CEO, Innosuisse

José Moisés Martín Carretero

Director General, CDTI

Thomas Werder Schläpfer

Co-Director, Swiss National Science Foundation

MEP tbc

Member of the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament

Event Agenda



17:30

Eureka 40th anniversary publication

Jean-David Malo

Acting Director for ERA and Innovation, DG RTD, European Commission

Marc Pauchard

Eureka President 2025/2026

Aziz Naji

Eureka President 2026/2027

Brit Helle

Eureka Director General

18:00 – 20:00

Networking Reception