



# Eureka Clusters AI Call and a new model for Eureka Clusters, the ECP

On April 1, the Eureka Clusters Celtic-Next, Eurogia, ITEA, PENTA and Euripides opened the Eureka Clusters AI Call for projects. The aim of this Call is to boost the productivity and competitiveness of European industries through the adoption and use of AI systems and services.

Artificial Intelligence is a rapidly developing technology with the potential to influence or transform almost every aspect of the economy and society. In-depth knowledge and leadership in developing and applying this powerful capability is an essential requirement, if industry is to maintain its leadership in multiple application areas, or take advantage of new opportunities.

The Call was looking for projects that form innovative ecosystems, with AI at their core, that enable advances in the State-of-the-Art and result in opportunities for commercial and societal impact in the application areas addressed. The intent was to bring together partners from across the broad AI adopters Community of all types (Large Enterprise, SMEs, Research & Technology Organisations and Universities) into collaborative teams

that are able to demonstrate a high impact in the chosen application area at the end of the project.

Within the Eureka framework, this Call on AI has so far received over 40 Million Euros of funding commitments and expressions of support from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

Also the interest from industry was significant. With 109 project ideas and over 700 contacts that created a profile for the Partner search, the interest in the AI Call was clearly visible in the Brokerage tool that ITEA built for this purpose. At the deadline of 15 June, over 40 project proposals were submitted, of which 27 opted for ITEA as (primary) Cluster. One project consortium chose ITEA as secondary Cluster. All submitted proposals in this Call represent a potential total investment of well over 200 Million Euros, where ITEA has over 160 Million Euros in AI, mainly in Europe.

Currently, the submitted project proposals are being reviewed by experts of all involved Clusters. Proposals will be assessed for technical quality. National Public Authorities will check the eligibility of all participants to receive funding support. The results of the reviews will



be available early November at the latest. This Eureka Clusters AI Call was a first Call for projects organised together with a set of other Eureka Clusters. In the future, similar Calls can be set up, next to the yearly Cluster Calls for projects, whenever there is an important overlapping topic to boost the productivity and competitiveness of European industries, that will create impact on economy and society.

More information on this Call can be found on <https://eureka-clusters-ai.eu>.

## The Eureka Clusters Programme

In June 2020, a new model for Eureka Clusters was approved under name of ECP, the Eureka Cluster Programme. Additional to the bottom-up Calls of each Cluster, there will be Joint Calls on new subjects where Communities of Clusters may work collaboratively. Experience on the AI Call will be used to optimise the approach for this new type of Call under the ECP. A Multi-Annual Plan and Annual Operation Plans for the ECP will be prepared by Clusters and Public Authorities, so that the strategies of Cluster Communities and Public Authorities will be aligned. This new model has been successfully designed during the Dutch Eureka Chairmanship and Austria will finalise the implementation plan during its forthcoming Chairmanship. ITEA is looking forward to this next step in the future of the Clusters.

## Eureka Cluster events and Call dates

	7-11 Sep	Online ITEA PO Days 2020	<a href="https://itea3.org/onlinepodays2020/index.html">https://itea3.org/onlinepodays2020/index.html</a>
	10 Nov	Deadline for submission of Project Outlines	<a href="https://itea3.org">https://itea3.org</a>
	19 Oct	Project submission deadline CELTIC Autumn Call	<a href="http://www.celticnext.eu">www.celticnext.eu</a>