

to enhance cooperation between EUREKA and the Community's Framework Programs through invitations to EUREKA members, including Canadian partners, to attend seminars on corresponding projects.

The FPs and EUREKA represent only a fraction of what Europe spends on RTD. Member states have created their own funds and initiated their own programs to target the development of particular technologies. What follows is a non-exhaustive compilation of information provided by several Canadian embassies in Europe on publicly supported RTD consortia in Europe.

France

The idea of targeting support for various critical technologies has preoccupied French economic planners since the early 1980s and has been the subject of a number of studies and, occasionally, government initiatives. A decade ago, the French government created the GIPs (Groupement d'Interet Public) which operate as fora for inter-firm cooperation centred on public laboratories. Public support is kept to a minimum of 51% of GIP capital and, although support is provided for a given period of time for specifically defined projects, the time period can last 5, 10 or even 15 years. Some examples of industries in which GIP have been formed are information technologies and biotechnologies, for example, Mutations Industrielles and Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le SIDA.

Another program used to support industrial cooperation and technology transfer in an international context is FACET, the French-American Cooperative for Entrepreneurship and Technology, which is managed by the Agence nationale de valorisation de la recherche (ANVAR). The latter is the French agency responsible for the development of industrial innovation.

It bears mentioning that a number of Canadian firms have gained access to Community RTD programs through strategic alliances with French companies. A list of Canadian companies who have formed partnerships with French companies under EUREKA is attached in Appendix A.

Britain

The UK now provides little support for near market R&D following the disappointing results of early programs such as the Alvey program for information technologies. However, there are indications that this view may be changing as a result of a recent policy review conducted under the auspices of a new independent