

In addition, financial aid for the set-up and support of projects can be provided. InnovARC has a budget of €132,000 for this. Public funding (territorial authorities, Interreg, Horizon 2020, EUREKA, EUROSTARS, etc.) and private financing (investors) can provide additional support for the set-up of these French-Swiss consortia.

## INNOVARC PHASE 2 (2015-2018):

InnovARC has already laid the foundations for its continuation (2015-2018) via an Interreg V project.

In this new phase, InnovARC will continue to play the role of incubator for French-Swiss project consortia by making its services more professional thanks to the experience acquired over the past few years.

This work on the ground will be carried out in new innovative areas in close partnership with the different players that support innovation and the regional technology transfer services. The latter will be even more involved thanks to synergies set up with the Communauté du Savoir (Community of Knowledge) that brings together the main universities and other higher education institutions in the French-Swiss Jura Arc. This network is also supported by Interreg France-Switzerland.

## TO WHAT EXTENT CAN THIS GOOD PRACTICE BE ADOPTED IN OTHER CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES?

The particular context of French-Swiss cross-border cooperation (cooperation with a country that is not an EU member) makes it a laboratory for innovative tools aimed at facilitating the coordination of different programmes and mechanisms that support economic cooperation. The highly competitive nature of this border underscores this experimental dimension.

The MinnovARC and InnovARC projects show how it is possible to operate a cross-border platform for the incubation of innovative projects with several successive Interreg projects (broadening the focus in the second project and increasing the involvement of partners that support innovation in the third) and thereby reconcile the life cycles of innovation and European projects, which are not very compatible.

Moreover, over the years, a work methodology has been honed to optimise the development of innovation projects composed of French and Swiss partners. Other cross-border territories could draw on this approach to implement similar initiatives.

These initiatives are also interesting in that they combine Interreg funding, intended primarily for public and semi-public structures and the use of European programmes specifically dedicated to supporting SMEs active in R&D.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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