

# MinnovARC and InnovARC

BORDER	France-Switzerland
TERRITORY	Jura Arc
EUROPEAN PROGRAMME	INTERREG IV A France-Switzerland
DURATION	2010-2013 / 2013-2015
PARTNERS	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Doubs Department, <a href="http://arcjurassien.ch">arcjurassien.ch</a> / Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Franche-Comté Region, <a href="http://arcjurassien.ch">arcjurassien.ch</a>
OBJECTIVE	To set up innovative project consortia formed of SMEs and French-Swiss laboratories
MAIN ACTIVITY	MinnovARC (2010-2013): drafting of a policy document on the future of microtechnologies by a French-Swiss think-tank and organisation of workshops aimed at networking and promotion of local expertise in microtechnologies. InnovARC (2013-2015): organisation of thematic workshops to lay the foundations for French-Swiss project consortia for growth markets





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## WHAT DO THE TWO PROJECTS CONSIST OF?

### MINNOVARC (2010-2013):

**MinnovARC (Microtechniques INNOVation ARC jurassien) was set up in order to stimulate innovation in the microtechnologies sector in the French-Swiss Jura Arc.**

Launched in 2010 for a three-year period and supported by the Interreg IV A France-Switzerland programme, the project was born out of a partnership between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Doubs Department (France) and **arcjurassien.ch**, an association under Swiss private law bringing together the Cantons of Bern, Jura, Neuchâtel and Vaud that is active in regional development. This initiative was spurred by the awareness realisation of the lack of connection between the cutting-edge expertise and skills in microtechnology on either side of the border, which were underexploited as a result. The aim in particular was to give greater visibility to the Jura Arc's microtechnologies sector internationally.

The project consisted of four main areas for action:

- **A think-tank**, coordinated by a joint presidency and secretariat and bringing together manufacturers from the sector, scientists and institutional players, set about reflecting on the promotion of local technological and entrepreneurial skills and the future of microtechnologies in the region and in the economy in general. Day work sessions were held alternately in France and Switzerland, with the last two opened up to a wider public. Forward-looking and strategic reflections were set out in a policy document aimed at political and economic players (available on the project's website [www.minnovarc.fr](http://www.minnovarc.fr)).

➤ **Six thematic workshops** involving around 60 business directors, managers and heads of laboratories were held in the form of day-and-a-half working sessions (Thursday afternoons and Fridays), also alternating between the two sides of the border. Each workshop enabled the speakers and participants to enlarge their networks, identify potential markets and exchange their experiences and points of view on the topics discussed:

- How to open up one's key skills to new markets
- How to develop networked projects
- Innovative marketing methods to bring subcontractors closer to the final customer
- Cleantechs programmes: the most promising approaches
- International: supporting innovative projects and promoting direct access to distant markets
- The "Blue Oceans" approach and other creative approaches.

➤ **A cartographic and statistical study of microtechnologies**, carried out with the Jura Arc Cross-Border Statistical Observatory (OSTAJ) assisted the participants in the think tank and workshops in identifying and locating expertise and skills in the territory. <

➤ **A meta-portal listing over 200 websites** linked to microtechnologies was also created, with the possibility for visitors to add to it. Research criteria (markets, technologies, services, territories, etc.) make it easier to use.

## INNOVARC PHASE 1 (2013-2015):

The interest shown by the participants and MinnovARC's first results (60 potential collaborations and three European projects involving regional players) justified pursuing the initiative with a second project also co-financed by Interreg: InnovARC, led by **arcjurassien.ch** and the Franche-Comté Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

As its name suggests, this project, which was launched in September 2013 and was completed in June 2015, has a broader scope than solely microtechnologies and aims to stimulate innovation networks in the Jura Arc across the board.

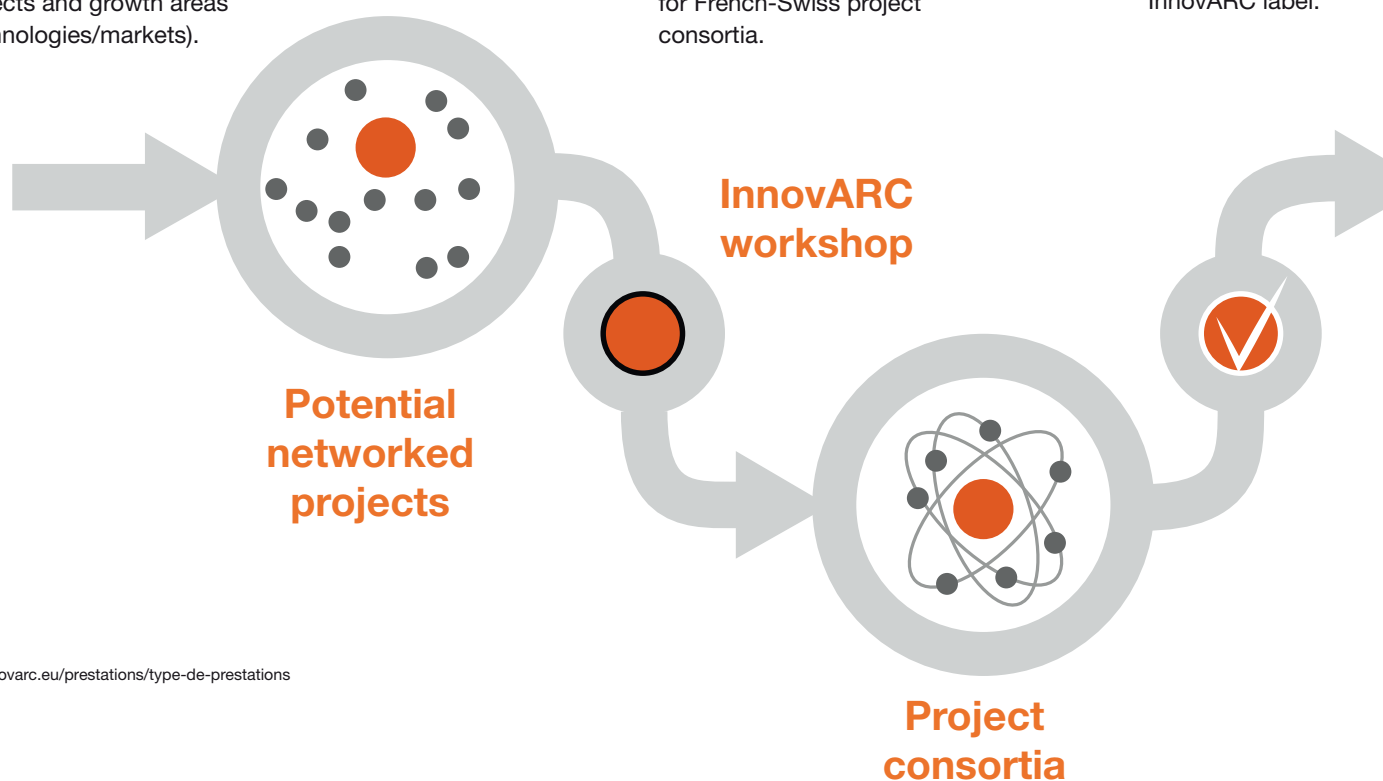
The broader thematic focus encompasses innovation markets for mobility (vehicles, products and services), smart cities, medtechs (e-health, robotics and new materials) and cleantechs (eco-industries, energy, services activities and consultancy linked to cleantechs). The online tools have been made permanent and the thematic workshops repeated, with enhanced stimulation and coordination for the setting-up of innovative project consortia across the French-Swiss Jura Arc.

### The InnovARC process: towards the setting-up of French-Swiss consortia

1. Identifying potential projects and growth areas (technologies/markets).

2. Laying the foundations for French-Swiss project consortia.

3. Awarding the InnovARC label.



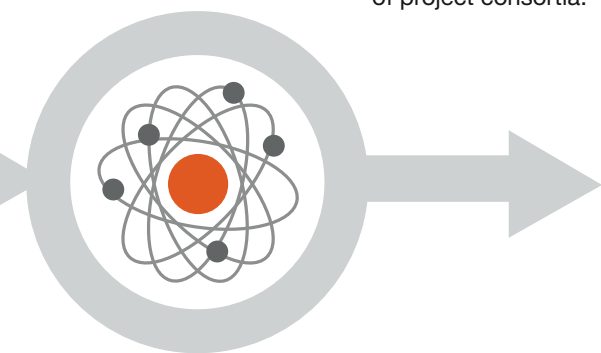
Source: <http://innovarc.eu/prestations/type-de-prestations>

Help in setting up consortia is one of the key objectives of the InnovARC project. These consortia must comprise at least one French-Swiss pairing from the Jura Arc, including at least one business, with a possible opening for external partners. **The projects completed under MinnovARC, innovation areas of the future and trends identified in the workshops, as well as the dissemination of European calls for project proposals constitute a reservoir on which businesses can draw and laboratories facilitating the emergence of new projects.**

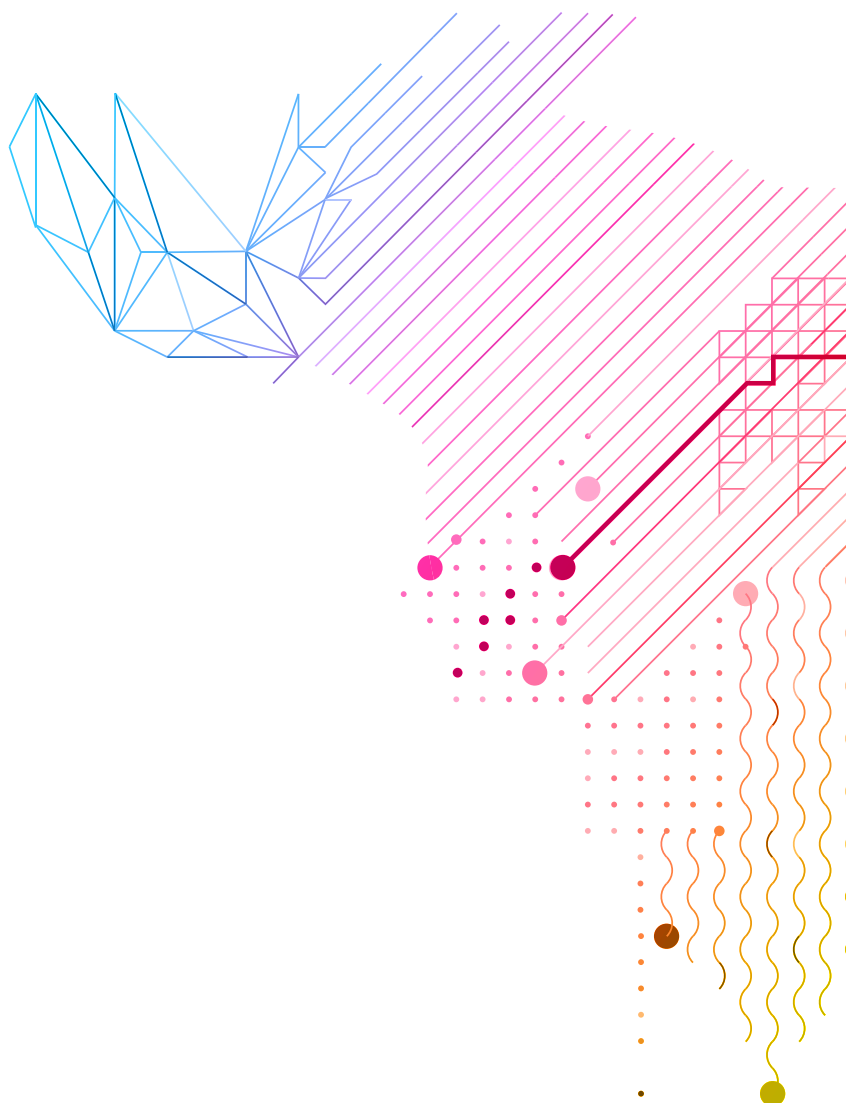
This support comes from the project team, but also in the form of external services (facilitation of creativity sessions, technical feasibility studies, market/risk analyses, business models and help with putting together European projects, etc.) provided by players that support innovation:

FRANCE	SWITZERLAND
<b>Public-sector players:</b> competitiveness hubs, clusters, professional organisations, Franche-Comté Innovation Network, Bpifrance, SATT (Société d'accélération du transfert de technologie), FC'INNOV, etc.	<b>Public-sector players:</b> economic departments of the four cantons involved, universities and other higher education institutions, regional and inter-cantonal players that support innovation, etc.
<b>Private-sector players:</b> nine service providers dedicated to innovation selected by tender procedure	<b>Private-sector players:</b> an evolving network adapting to projects' needs

#### 4. Financing and support of project consortia.



**Consortia  
awarded  
InnovARC label**



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:

<http://www.minnovarc.fr>  
<http://www.innovarc.eu/>

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