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**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**

International Research and Innovation Programmes

Swiss participation in the Horizon package 2021–2027

Q&A on Horizon Europe, Digital Europe Programme, Euratom programme and ITER (Horizon package 2021–2027)

Information as of 12 December 2025

The Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) updates this Q&A according to developments in Switzerland and the European Union (EU) with regard to the Horizon package.

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1 Horizon package 2021–2027: From programme year 2025 onwards

1.1 Generally applicable

1	Q	Is Switzerland associated to the Horizon package 2021–2027?
	A	Yes, the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA) was signed on 10.11.2025 and Switzerland is therewith associated to Horizon Europe, the Euratom programme and the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) retroactively from 1 January 2025 and will participate in ITER as of 1 January 2026. Project funding is provided by the European Commission, as Switzerland pays a mandatory contribution to the EU for this purpose. The EUPA was signed ahead of the package Switzerland-EU, but remains part of it, meaning that it is provisionally applied until ratification of the package Switzerland-EU.
2	Q	What are the consequences of signing the EU Programmes Agreement for the transitional arrangement?
	A	EUPA replaces the transitional agreement and hence the transitional agreement does no longer apply.
3	Q	How do Swiss organisations participate in the calls now that Switzerland is associated to the Horizon package 2021–2027?
	A	Researchers and innovators in Switzerland must participate as 'beneficiaries' in **Horizon Europe** and **Euratom programme** calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards (including mono-beneficiary calls). This means that they can submit project proposals in the role of the coordinator. For Switzerland's participation in calls in areas considered strategic by the EU (e.g. quantum and space) see **question 6**. With regard to the **Digital Europe Programme,** project participants in Switzerland must also apply as 'beneficiaries' in calls for proposals from the 2025 programme year onwards. This means that they can submit their project proposals in the role of coordinator. Specific Objectives 3 (Cybersecurity) and 6 (Semiconductors) are exceptions to this; they are only accessible to EU member states and, to a limited extent, to countries in the European Economic Area (EEA). For questions about the Digital Europe Programme: **digital-europe@sbfi.admin.ch** and see **chapter 1.3**.
4	Q	How should project participants in Switzerland prepare their budgets and how are positively evaluated projects funded?
	A	For calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards, Swiss participants must prepare their project proposals respectively their budgets as 'beneficiary'. This means that the budget of the Swiss partner must be included in the total amount of project funding requested by the consortium from the EU. Project funding comes directly from the European Commission, as Switzerland pays a mandatory contribution to the EU for this purpose.

5	**A**	Who can support me as a researcher or innovator in my application for research and innovation funding in Horizon Europe?
	Q	The **Euresearch** network, which is mandated by SERI, supports applicants in the preparation of proposals, either individually or by offering courses and webinars, for free. For University or ETH domain participants, please refer to your Euresearch **Regional Office** and/or your institution's research office. For participants from other institutions or companies, please refer directly to the Euresearch **Network Office.**

1.2 Horizon Europe (from 2025 programme year onwards)

1.2.1. Collaborative projects (from 2025 programme year onwards)

Please also take note of section 1.1 Generally applicable.

6	**Q**	Can Swiss organisations participate in restricted calls for proposals in strategic areas in Horizon Europe?
	A	Research and innovation actors in associated third countries such as Switzerland must undergo a validation process in order to gain access to Horizon Europe and DEP calls for proposals in areas considered strategic by the EU (e.g. quantum and space). The EU's basis for this restricted access are Article 22(5) and Article 12(6) of the respective programme regulations. In the Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2025 and 2026–2027, Switzerland has gained full access to calls for proposals in strategic areas (e.g., Cluster 4: Artificial Intelligence, quantum, communication and network technologies, as well as space-related research topics). Certain calls for proposals, for example in the field of space, are only open to EU and EEA member states. These calls were not part of the validation process and remain inaccessible.
7	**Q**	Are participants based in Switzerland allowed to submit a project proposal as coordinator for calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards?
	A	Yes.
8	**Q**	Can Swiss entities participate as beneficiaries in the calls of the institutionalised partnerships under Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)?
	A	Yes, researchers and innovators in Switzerland can participate as 'beneficiaries' in the calls of Institutionalised Partnerships under Horizon Europe, except for PRIMA. For Institutionalised Partnerships under DEP: • Participation in EuroHPC JU calls is open to Swiss entities as 'beneficiaries'. • Participation in the Chips JU is not possible for calls funded through DEP. However, Swiss entities can participate as beneficiaries in Chips JU calls funded through Horizon Europe.

9	**Q**	Does SERI continue to fund the participation of Swiss institutions in cascade funding (officially known as financial support for third parties, FSTP) projects in calls for proposals from 2025 onwards (including EIT KIC calls)?
	A	**Calls opening in 2025 or later (excluding EIT KIC)** With regard to cascade funding calls for proposals opening in 2025 or later, in which Swiss institutions are not eligible for funding by the consortium, **SERI will not provide direct funding**. Please check the call documents accordingly. **Calls opening in 2024 with cutoff in 2025 (excluding EIT KIC)** For cascade funding calls opened in 2024, but with a cutoff in 2025, direct funding remains available under the same conditions as previously (see question 34). **EIT KIC calls** EIT KIC projects are prefinanced by SERI for requests submitted to SERI until September 2025. After the signing of the EUPA, the EIT takes over funding for Swiss partners, who then reimburse SERI for the initial payments.
10	**Q**	Does SERI provide financial contributions to Swiss project coordinators?
	A	In the past SERI has granted CHF 10,000 towards Swiss project coordinations. However, in view of the federal government's strained financial outlook, these contributions are discontinued from 2025. The payments helped to compensate for a coordinator's additional work in preparing a funding application but did not cover all costs.
11	**Q**	What happens to project participation of calls for proposals with call identifiers 2025, but with budget allocated from call years 2021-2024?
	A	For all calls for proposals from the 2025 programme year onwards, participants in Switzerland must prepare their project proposals as beneficiaries and thus apply for EU funding. With the signing of the EU Programme Agreement, project participations by Swiss actors are funded by the EU through Switzerland's mandatory contribution. Hence no SERI funding is available for such projects. This also applies should participants in Switzerland exceptionally not be eligible for EU funding.

1.2.2. European Research Council (ERC) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

Please also take note of section 1.1 Generally applicable.

12	**Q**	Do researchers in Switzerland have access to the ERC calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards and how will these ERC grants be funded?
	A	Yes, researchers in Switzerland can participate in the ERC calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards. Successful proposals are funded by the European Commission, as Switzerland pays a mandatory contribution to the EU for this purpose.

1.2.3. Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

Please also take note of sections 1.1 Generally applicable

13	**Q**	Do researchers and innovators in Switzerland have access to the mono-beneficiary calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards?
	A	Yes, Swiss organisations, researchers and innovators can participate as 'beneficiary' in all MSCA calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards (including MSCA Post-doctoral Fellowships) and can coordinate projects. Successful proposals are funded by the European Commission, as Switzerland pays a mandatory contribution to the EU for this purpose.
14	**Q**	Can Swiss citizens and long-term residents apply for the Global Fellowships?
	A	Yes, this is possible: For the long-term residence calculation, the status of Switzerland as non-associated third country in the last years is of no importance. What counts is the status at the call deadline: **EU Funding & Tenders Portal**.

1.2.4. European Innovation Council (EIC) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

Please also take note of sections 1.1 Generally applicable

15	**Q**	Can Swiss start-ups and SMEs apply to the EIC Accelerator 2025 and 2026?
	A	Yes, Swiss start-ups and SMEs can submit applications for the EIC Accelerator calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onward. Funding for the participation of the Swiss project partners is provided by the European Commission, as Switzerland pays a mandatory contribution to the EU for this purpose.
16	**Q**	Can Swiss candidates apply as single applicants for the EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onward? What will happen to their eligibility and funding if the association is not finalized when the grant agreement is signed?
	A	Yes, Swiss candidates can apply as single applicants for EIC Pathfinder Challenges and EIC Transition calls for the programme years 2025 onward.
17	**Q**	Are Swiss entities able to apply for the EIC Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Scale Up Call?
	A	Yes, Swiss companies are eligible to participate in relevant calls for proposals for STEP equity investments.Furthermore, as with other parts of the Horizon Europe work programme, some STEP calls may restrict eligibility conditions in order to safeguard the EU's strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security and accordingly Swiss companies may be excluded.
18	**Q**	Can a BRIDGE project serve as a "previous project" for EIC Transition 2025?
	A	No, EIC Transition is restricted to proposals based on results generated by Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 projects, such as e.g. EIC Pathfinder or ERC Proof of Concept projects.

1.3 Digital Europe Programme (DEP) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

19	**Q**	Can Swiss institutions participate in the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)?
	A	Yes, the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA) was signed on 10.11.2025 (see **question 1**). This allows researchers and innovators in Switzerland to participate as 'beneficiaries' in the calls for proposals of the DEP, from the 2025 programme year onwards. This means that they can submit their project applications in the role of coordinator (see **question 7**). Specific Objectives 3 (Cybersecurity) and 6 (Semiconductors) are exceptions to this; they are only accessible to EU member states and, to a limited extent, to countries in the European Economic Area (EEA). Further information: **Digital Europe Programme**.
20	**Q**	Does SERI provide national co-founding for DEP calls?
	A	Yes, SERI may provide national co-funding of up to 50% for proposals submitted under the 2025–2027 work programme. Funding is subject to the budget approved by the Federal Council and Parliament. The total available budget is distributed equally among the successful Swiss project participants. Further information: **Digital Europe Programme**.
21	**Q**	Can Swiss entities participate as beneficiaries in the calls of the institutionalised partnerships under Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)?
	A	Please see **question 8**.
22	**Q**	Can Swiss organisations participate in restricted calls for proposals in strategic areas in the Digital Europe Programme?
	A	**2025–2027 work programme**: On 31 March 2025, the European Commission informed Switzerland that its application to participate in the restricted calls for proposals in strategic areas under Article 12(6) of the **regulation establishing the Digital Europe Programme** have been positively evaluated. **This means that Swiss organisations are eligible to apply for all calls for proposals in Specific Objectives (SO) 1 (including EuroHPC JU), 2, 4 and 5 in 2025–2027, provided that they meet the conditions set out in the 2025–2027 work programme.** For SO3 and SO6 please see **question 19**.

1.4 Euratom programme & ITER (from 2025 programme year onwards)

23	**Q**	Can researchers and innovators in Switzerland participate in the current generation of the Euratom Research and Training Programme?
	A	Yes, the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA) has been signed. This allows researchers and innovators in Switzerland to participate as 'beneficiary' in the calls for proposals of the Euratom programme from the 2025 programme year onwards (see questions 1, 3 and 4).

24	**Q**	Can Swiss entities answer to calls for tenders of Fusion for Energy (F4E) and ITER Organisation?
	A	A transitional solution for 2025 has proved to be unsuitable for ITER. Switzerland will therefore resume its participation in the construction of ITER as a member of F4E from 2026 onwards, under the same conditions that applied to Switzerland until 2020. This means that from 2026 onwards Swiss entities will have the same conditions as entities in the EU with regards to access to ITER opportunities (see **SERI website**).

2 Horizon package 2021–2027: Programme years 2021–2024

2.1 Generally applicable

25	**Q**	What happens to projects of the 2021–2024 calls for proposals in view of the signature of the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA)?
	A	SERI will fund these projects for their entire duration, regardless of Switzerland's status. This is subject to parliamentary budget decisions (see **question 27).** The Federal Decree on the Financing of the Horizon package 2021-2027 allows for funding of entities based in Switzerland, even if Switzerland is not or only partially associated to Horizon Europe. Swiss partners in projects, which have been positively evaluated by the European Commission (EC), but are not financed by the EC, can receive funding from SERI within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament. (For units of the central federal administration special conditions apply.) Corresponding financial guarantees for the 2021–2024 calls for proposal can be found on the **SERI website**. To submit your funding request for a collaborative project, please check the **SERI website on transitional measures and direct funding**. All the necessary information and steps for preparing and submitting a funding application and the corresponding financial reports to SERI are provided there. Special conditions applying to **units of the central federal administration** are also indicated on the website, as well as instruction on how to apply for funding for certain **mono-beneficiary projects** 2021.
26	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: How can researchers and innovators, whose projects were positively evaluated by the European Commission, submit their funding request to SERI?
	A	To submit your funding request, please check the **SERI website on transitional measures and direct funding**. All the necessary information and steps for preparing and submitting a funding application and the corresponding financial reports to SERI are provided there. Special conditions applying to **units of the central federal administration**. For information regarding submission deadlines for funding requests for collaborative projects of the 2021-2024 calls for proposal please see **question 28.**

27	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: What are the rules of SERI to approve the budget of participants based in Switzerland?
	A	The 'Guidelines for financial reporting' for participants based in Switzerland (including companies and SME) are accessible on the **SERI website**. Rules on funding and financial reporting that apply to beneficiaries (project partners from EU member states or associated countries) in principle also apply to participants based in Switzerland. However, there are some specific rules according to the legal base for funding of Swiss participations in Horizon Europe projects. Based on the ordinance **FIPBV** (available in German, French & Italian) there are maximum salary rates for companies, including SME, as well as non-commercial research centres and institutions outside the university sector (Article 7). Also, funding can generally only be provided for costs that are incurred in Switzerland (exceptions laid out in Article 11 paragraph 6). SERI reserves the right to impose funding cuts should the costs of the Swiss participant be disproportionally high. This includes the right to mandate an external expert panel to review the Swiss project part. **Please note:** The volume of already submitted and still anticipated funding requests is very high and is expected to exceed the available funds for direct financing. For this reason, SERI applies measures based on an order of priority to all pending funding requests in relation to 2021–2024 calls for proposals, in accordance with the relevant ordinance (**Ordinance on the measures for Switzerland's participation in EU programmes, FIPBV,** SR 420.126). The order of priority and detailed information on the measures and their implementation can be found on the **SERI website.** For information regarding submission deadlines for funding requests for projects of the 2021-2024 calls for proposal please see **question 28.**

2.2 Horizon Europe (programme years 2021–2024)

2.2.1 Collaborative projects (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of section 2.1 Generally applicable.

28	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: Is there a deadline for the submission of my funding request to SERI?
	A	Yes**,** as of 1 August 2025, requests for funding for collaborative projects must be submitted to SERI within six months of signing the grant agreement. If the project coordinator and the European Commission signed the grant on different dates, the later date shall apply. This measure is part of an order of priority. Detailed information can be found on the **SERI website > Order of Priority**. For example, if the grant agreement was signed on 1 May 2025, the funding request must be submitted to SERI by 31 October 2025 at the latest. Any submissions received after this date will not be eligible for funding and will be automatically rejected.

29	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: Can Swiss entities participate in Horizon Europe collaborative projects funded according to the lump sum mechanism?
	A	Yes, organisations based in Switzerland can participate in lump sum projects and receive direct funding by SERI. However, note that SERI does not use the lump-sum funding model and will only cover the actual eligible and reported project costs. Funding (i.e. payment tranches of 50%, 30% and 20%) and reporting (in accordance with **SERI Guidelines for financial reporting**) will therefore be carried out in the same way as for other collaborative projects. For further information please refer to the factsheet of **Euresearch**.
30	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: Can participants based in Switzerland sign the grant agreement?
	A	No, 'associated partners' do not sign the grant agreement. The former legal status 'beneficiaries not receiving EU funding' does not exist anymore in the **Model Grant Agreement**. Participants from non-associated third countries (not eligible for funding from the European Commission) are thus no longer classified as 'beneficiaries not receiving EU funding', but as 'associated partners'.
31	**Q**	What happens to partners based in Switzerland in projects of the 2021–2024 calls for proposals if the status changes from non-associated third country mode to Switzerland being an associated country?
	A	Project partners based in Switzerland who participate in a collaborative projects with call identifiers 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (meaning 2021, 2022, 2023 or 2024 is included in the call ID on the **Funding & Tenders Portal**) will continue to receive funding from SERI for the entire duration of the project within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament. This continues to apply even after the signature of the EU Programmes Agreement, (see **question 25 and question 27**).
32	**Q**	What happens if a Swiss project partner wants to join a project of the 2021–2024 calls for proposals?
	A	Swiss participants can join ongoing projects as long as the general eligibility criteria are fulfilled. This requires an invitation by the consortium and is subject to approval of the granting authority. The same applies for redistributing tasks among the consortium members. If tasks are transferred to a Swiss 'associated partner' (AP), the costs to perform these tasks (as defined in the grant agreement) can be considered for direct funding by SERI. This applies to both Swiss partners who are already part of the consortium or who join it. The tasks transferred to the Swiss AP must be evaluated and their costs must be defined either in the grant agreement or in a corresponding amendment issued by the European Commission. Importantly, as of 20 June 2025 only the transfer of task between Swiss partners is possible, provided that it is cost-neutral within the existing commitments of SERI and the Swiss partners. Costs incurred from taking over tasks from project partners outside Switzerland are not eligible for direct funding. This measure is part of an order of priority applied to not yet approved funding requests. **Please see question 27.**
33	**Q**	Can researchers and innovators based in Switzerland participate in COST Actions?
	A	Yes, Switzerland continues to be a COST Member and participation in COST Actions is open to researchers and innovators based in Switzerland. For further information please refer to the website of the **Swiss National Science Foundation**.

34	**Q**	Does SERI provide financial support for Swiss participation in collaborative projects funded by cascade funding (officially known as financial support for third parties, FSTP) from Horizon Europe project consortia?
	A	SERI can provide financial support for Swiss participation in **collaborative projects** funded by cascade funding from Horizon Europe project consortia if: • The cascade funding call opened in 2024 or earlier (see **question 9** for 2025), • the call for proposals and the evaluation of the projects have been carried out according to criteria of the European Commission, • the Swiss participation is excluded from funding and • the applicant is listed as an associated partner or as a project partner in the sub-grant agreement between the sub-grantees and the funding body of the activity mandated by the European Commission. If a Swiss project partner has already applied for third-party funding in the main project (i.e. the project implementing the cascade funding programme), the Swiss participations must be financed through this budget. **Concerning the budget the following point is important:** The budget of the Swiss partner should be in line with the other partners as defined in the cascade funding call document or the grant agreement of the main project. If successful and once the sub-grant agreement has been signed, the funding request has to be submitted through the general portal for **funding requests for collaborative projects to SERI**. Before submitting the request, applicants have to get in contact with SERI in order to receive an internal project number. In addition, a confirmation from the main project coordinator must be submitted stating that the call for proposals and the evaluation of the proposals have been carried out in accordance with the criteria of the European Commission.

2.2.2 European Research Council (ERC) (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of section 2.1 Generally applicable.

35	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: What happens if researchers and innovators at an institution based in an EU member state or associated country who have been awarded an ERC grant in response to a 2021–2024 call for proposals transfer it to Switzerland (as the Grantee is appointed to a Swiss institution)?
	A	For ERC Transfer Grants, only funds from ongoing decommitments will be available from 1 January 2026. Direct funding will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis to the extent of the available budget. This measure is part of an order of priority applied to not yet approved funding requests. **Please see question 27.**

2.2.3 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of sections 2.1 Generally applicable and 2.2.1 Collaborative projects

36	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: How are the MSCA fellows who complement an MSCA action and are funded by SERI officially called?
	A	Doctoral or postdoctoral fellows in MSCA COFUND or Doctoral Networks based at Swiss institutions and not funded by the European Commission but by SERI can call themselves 'SERI-funded MSCA DN Grantees' or 'SERI-funded MSCA COFUND Grantees'. They have acquired a 'SERI-funded MSCA DN Grant' or 'SERI-funded MSCA COFUND Grant' and should be employed with the same conditions and rights as the official MSCA fellows. The doctoral and postdoctoral candidates employed at Swiss institutions are not official MSCA fellows but can benefit from the training and research opportunities of the Doctoral Network and COFUND programmes.
37	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: What happens to MSCA collaborative projects now that Switzerland's status has changed from non-associated third country mode to Switzerland being an associated country?
	A	Please see question 25.
38	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: What happens to a MSCA Global Fellowship submitted from an EU member state or associated country with an outgoing phase to Switzerland being a non-associated third country, now that Switzerland is associated to Horizon Europe?
	A	In the 2021–2024 calls for proposals Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country and can therefore be the place of a host institution for MSCA Global Fellowships. This fellowship continues, even though Switzerland is now associated to Horizon Europe as of calls for proposals 2025.

2.2.4 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of sections 2.1 Generally applicable and 2.2.1 Collaborative projects.

39	**Q**	Calls 2021–2024: What further information on the budget does SERI need from the Swiss partner upon submission of an EIT project for direct funding? How will the funding rate be determined?
	A	Upon submitting a funding request for EIT projects, SERI requires confirmation on which part of the costs would have been covered by EIT funding, if Switzerland were associated. Ideally, this should be confirmed directly by the KIC. SERI will then apply the same funding rate.