



Swiss participation in EU framework programmes for research and innovation (Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe)

Information update: 20 May 2020

General Questions / Questions on H2020 projects

1.	Q:	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, what would happen to the Swiss partner(s) in the ongoing Horizon 2020 projects?
	A:	<i>Not being associated to Horizon Europe has no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of its participation mode in Horizon Europe.</i>
2	Q:	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, could a Swiss partner enter in an ongoing Horizon 2020 project (for example to replace a missing partner) and get EU funding? Would the Swiss partner in this case be considered as an entity from an «associated country»?
	A:	<i>Yes and yes. Switzerland pays its contribution to the EU budget upfront, i.e. to the very budget, from which the European Commission publishes calls in Horizon 2020. It has thus paid its entire contribution to a call at the moment any Horizon 2020 project is funded; Swiss participants are thus eligible in all Horizon 2020 projects. Not being associated to Horizon Europe would have no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of its participation mode in Horizon Europe.</i>
3	Q:	Financial Support to third parties (FSTPs): If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, could Swiss entities participate and get funding in FSTP calls from Horizon 2020 projects?
	A:	<i>Yes. A non-association to Horizon Europe has no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of its participation mode in Horizon Europe.</i>
4	Q:	To avoid that EU coordinators prefer not to include scientists from Switzerland in a consortium: Can Euresearch inform monthly from 2021 via website/newsletter and NCP networks to clarify the current situation regarding the Swiss participation and funding?
	A:	<i>SERI will regularly update its website with new developments on Horizon Europe relevant to Swiss participants. Meanwhile, Euresearch will distribute the information on participation modalities of Swiss researches in Horizon Europe throughout their NCP networks and refer to SERI's website.</i>

5	Q:	If Switzerland were not associated to the first calls, and funding would be provided nationally, will the lump sum funding be implemented in exactly the same way as on EU level?
	A:	<i>National funding must be in line with the national legal basis therefore, we cannot guarantee that the implementation will work exactly in the same way as on EU level.</i>
6	Q:	Seal of Excellence: What measures are planned to increase the visibility of the Seal of Excellence holders? How about events with investors?
	A:	<i>Since Switzerland is a non-EU member state, SERI is not directly involved in discussions regarding such measures on the European level. On the national level, no concrete measures are currently planned</i>
7	Q:	Will the NCP structure be re-organised to be aligned with the new Horizon Europe structure?
	A:	<i>Yes. This structure is currently under discussion at the European level.</i>
8	Q:	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, how would the role of the NCP's change? Would the title "NCP" still apply?
	A:	<i>Not being associated to Horizon Europe does not affect the role of NCPs in H2020. According to the last official updates, a similar NCP system will remain in place for Horizon Europe. In Switzerland, Euresearch will continue to support applicants in the preparation of proposals, either individually or by offering courses and webinars. However, details will only be clarified at a later stage.</i>
9	Q:	Is a full participation of Switzerland in the first HEU calls and thereafter possible, including the right to coordinate a consortium? Will SERI or the EC fund the Swiss participants in the first calls and thereafter?
	A:	<i>We cannot answer this question at the moment, as we do not have any knowledge of either the call deadlines in 2021 nor the association status of Switzerland at that point in time. The goal is that Swiss researchers can participate in the first calls, funded either by the EC (if association agreement is ready in time) or by the SERI. A full or partial association would give Swiss entities the right to coordinate a consortium. SERI is examining possible alternative measures to support R&I if Switzerland were not associated to (parts of) Horizon Europe.</i>
10	Q:	Does Brexit affect the current Horizon 2020 projects with UK partners / coordinators?
	A:	<i>UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in, bid for and lead projects in Horizon 2020, as if the UK remained a Member State. (Link to UKRO Factsheet)</i>
11	Q:	Will the UK be associated to Horizon Europe?
	A:	<i>The association of the UK to Horizon Europe is part of the negotiations between the EU and the UK.</i>

Pillar I

12	Q: ERC SyG	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I: is there any risk that running projects with PIs from Switzerland will have to be terminated or modified (PI converted to team member, projects that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria)?
	A:	<i>No, there is no risk. Switzerland is associated to Horizon 2020 and the conditions for projects running under the Horizon 2020 rules will remain the same until the end of the project, even after 2020.</i>
13	Q: ERC SyG	ERC SyG: If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I: what is the decisive date, the call deadline or the date of signature of GA? If the latter might be relevant, what would happen to SyG-2019 projects with Swiss PIs and already another 3 rd country PI?
	A:	<i>Switzerland is associated to Horizon 2020 and the conditions for projects running under the Horizon 2020 rules will remain the same until the end of the project, even after 2020.</i>
14	Q: ERC	ERC: If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I: Is there a risk that running projects (GAs signed before 1.1.2021) will be terminated?
	A:	<i>No, like the FP7 projects after 2014, the H2020 projects will continue to run under the H2020 rules until the project ends (even after 2020). This is also independent of the GA signature date.</i>
15	Q: ERC	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I, would a researcher holding an H2020 ERC grant be allowed to move this ERC project to an institution based in Switzerland? If not, will there be national compensation measures in place to fill in the gap?
	A:	<i>Yes, a grant can be moved to Switzerland if Switzerland has been associated at the time of the respective call deadline. Not being associated to Horizon Europe would have no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020.</i>
16	Q:	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I, would there be compensation measures foreseen to support incoming fellows?
	A:	<i>SERI is examining possible alternative measures to Pillar I activities to support researchers if Switzerland could not associate to (parts of) Horizon Europe.</i>
17	Q: MSCA- ITN	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I, would there be national compensation measures to fund activities within MSCA training networks, in particular the employment and training of Early Stage Researchers (ESR) by institutions based in Switzerland, which would not be able to participate in ITN projects as beneficiary and would take part as partner organisations instead.
	A:	<i>Yes, SERI will inform you about this at an early stage. SERI is committed to ensure that suitable measures (e.g. direct financing) are taken if Switzerland could not associate to Pillar I.</i>

Pillar II

18	Q:	In case, Switzerland were not associated and researchers and other stakeholders of Swiss institutions could still participate in Pillar II projects but would not be eligible for funding, will there be a back-up plan for national funding ? And if so, at which time will this be communicated ? Will it be possible for consortia to start developing project ideas in time for the first calls?
	A:	<i>Yes, SERI will inform you about this at an early stage. SERI is committed to ensure that suitable measures (e.g. direct financing) are taken if Switzerland could not associate to (parts of) Horizon Europe.</i>
19	Q:	Can SERI proactively inform on regular intervals on the developments regarding participation and funding of each specific partnership that will be linked to Pillar II? E.g. AAL, IMI, Clean Sky, COST, EDCTP.
	A:	<i>The set-up of the partnerships is currently discussed by the European Commission and the Member States in course of the strategic planning process. SERI is actively following this process and will regularly update its website . Specific information on the Swiss participation and funding opportunities will be provided by the national bodies in charge of the particular partnerships once the modalities for a Swiss participation have been clarified.</i>

Pillar III

20	Q: EIC	If Switzerland were not associated to the EIC and/or Pillar III. Would there be a back-up plan for national funding?
	A:	<i>If Switzerland were unable to participate in the third Pillar of Horizon Europe or parts thereof, SERI will examine possible alternative measures to support innovation.</i>
21	Q: EIC	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar III – is there an option that Swiss entities can participate as applicants from a third country in EIC pathfinder (collaborative) projects?
	A:	<i>We cannot answer this question, as the concrete association and participation modalities have not been defined yet.</i>
22	Q: EIC	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar III, Swiss companies can no longer benefit from EIC Accelerator as a mono-beneficiary grant. Are there ongoing discussions to set up a national funding instrument as a replacement?
	A:	<i>The legal basis for such a scheme is currently not in place. (This was already the case in 2014-2016 for the SME-Instrument).</i>

Questions on Partnerships

23	Q:	Will the participation of Switzerland in Eurostars be negotiated independently from a participation to Pillar 3?
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	A:	<i>The set-up of the partnerships is currently discussed by the European Commission and the Member States in the course of the strategic planning process. The future of Eurostars and its form of integration in Pillar III of Horizon Europe have not yet been decided upon. Furthermore, the concrete association and participation modalities have not been defined yet. Therefore, we cannot answer this question at the moment.</i>
24	Q: PPP	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, can Switzerland participate as a third country in the successor programmes of IMI / BBI and other PPPs?
	A:	<i>The set-up of the partnerships is currently discussed by the European Commission and the Member States in course of the strategic planning process. Furthermore, the concrete association and participation modalities have not been defined yet. Therefore, we cannot answer this question at the moment. In general, this depends on the implementation of the respective partnerships (co-programmed, co-funded or institutionalised).</i>
25	Q: ERA-Nets	If Switzerland were not associated to HEU, how would this affect the eligibility of researchers based in Switzerland to participate in ERA-NET calls (including calls for proposals organised within H2020 funded ERA-NET projects)?
	A:	<i>Participants of H2020 ERA-NETs are not affected. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of the participation mode in Horizon Europe. As for Horizon Europe, ERA-NETs will be integrated into the partnership landscape, whose set-up is currently discussed by the European Commission and the Member States in course of the strategic planning process.</i>

The SERI will update the answers of the Q&A accordingly if circumstances change.