



## **HORIZON 2020: PARTICIPATION BY RESEARCHERS IN SWITZERLAND**

### **Submission of Horizon 2020 proposals to the European Commission 2016-2017**

**Updated information as of 17 August 2016**

#### **Switzerland's situation**

The agreement on Switzerland's participation in the 8th Framework Programme of the European Union 'Horizon 2020' provides for Switzerland's full association to Horizon 2020 from 1 January 2017, on condition that Switzerland has ratified the protocol extending the free movement of persons to Croatia by 9 February 2017. The Swiss Federal Council signed the protocol on 4 March 2016; the Swiss Parliament approved the ratification on 17 June 2016 on condition that regulations on the steering of immigration are in place, which are compatible with Swiss law. Regulations to that effect could be adopted by Parliament in December 2016, which would allow the Croatia protocol to be ratified within the specified timeframe.

#### **Project submissions for participants from Switzerland**

Due to the situation described above and in accordance with the [latest information](#) published in June 2016 by the European Commission on the Swiss project partners in Horizon 2020, SERI advises researchers in Switzerland to prepare their project submissions on the basis of Switzerland's full association from 2017 and to consider the following recommendations:

- Participants from Switzerland should submit project proposals for all calls as participants from associated countries using the 'Participant Portal' for Horizon 2020. In doing so, it is important that on the EC project submission form, participants from Switzerland provide their full attributable research budget ('Budget for the proposal' and 'EC requested funding' column) in order to receive funding from the EC budget. Please consider in addition the detailed recommendations below. That includes calls for PPPs under Art. 187 TFEU. With regard to the SME instrument, researchers from Switzerland are advised to submit proposals to the 2017 cut-off dates as soon as Switzerland is fully associated to Horizon 2020.
- Please be also aware that a consortium must consist of at least 3 organisations from different EU Member States or Associated countries in addition to the Swiss partner in order to be sure that the project is eligible in the case that Switzerland will not be associated as of 2017. Moreover, Swiss partners can also coordinate projects, whatever the status of Switzerland will be as of 2017.

## Detailed recommendations for project submissions (Pillar II and III)

In addition to the recommendations listed above, SERI advises Swiss researchers preparing project submissions in pillars II and III to consider the following:

1. As indicated above, project participants from Switzerland should submit project proposals for all calls as participants from associated countries.
2. Adding the Swiss budget to the EC requested funding should not result in any constrain, provided that the recommendations of [SERI's factsheet](#) are followed, which states (point B.2, page 3): "Swiss project partners are recommended to keep the overall budget of their collaborative project within the financial limits approved by the EU (including the Swiss contribution, even if this is not funded by the EU)."
3. If proposals are already at the stage, at which changes in the budget distribution are not possible any longer, please contact SERI directly ([europrogram@sbfi.admin.ch](mailto:europrogram@sbfi.admin.ch)). Exceptions for participants from Switzerland submitting projects as a Third-Country participant will be considered only for calls with deadline earlier than 30 September 2016.
4. SERI understands that specific problems can be encountered in case of two-stage project submissions. If at the first stage, Swiss project partners submitted its budget as a Third-Country participant (EC contribution = 0), SERI accepts that the Swiss partner submits its budget as a Third-Country participant at the second stage too.

## Fall-back scenario

In the event that Switzerland should not have full associated status from 2017, the following will apply:

### *1. Pillar I / Spreading excellence / Euratom (currently associated):*

According to the European Commission (EC), Swiss project partners will be certain to receive EC funding if the grant agreement is signed before 31 December 2016. The federal government will strive to find a solution for all other eventualities, particularly if projects have already been positively evaluated, but the grant agreement cannot be signed before the end of 2016.

### *2. All other programme sections (pillar II, pillar III, Science with and for society, EIT, etc.; currently not associated):*

Researchers from Switzerland can continue to participate in collaborative projects, although they will not receive direct EC funding. In this case, the federal government will take the necessary measures to cover the expenses of the Swiss project partner, as is currently the case in these programme areas.

**In brief**

In view of the expected full association, participants from Switzerland are encouraged to apply for *all calls for Horizon 2020 and Euratom* as participants from an associated country. In order to receive grants, *they have to request relevant funding through the European Commission.*

In case of questions or encountered constrains researchers should contact Euresearch or SERI directly.

**Contact**

Questions concerning the submission of research proposals:

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