Current status of Switzerland in Horizon Europe

Information from 22 June 2021

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) provides regular updates on Switzerland's participation in the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe.

- The European Commission (EC) published the main part of the calls for project submissions under the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon Europe" on 22 June 2021.

- One of the accompanying documents (the "Programme Guide") is also published on the European Commission's website. In this document, Switzerland does not appear on the list of states for which early association is envisaged. However, this list can be updated or supplemented at any time.

- Currently, no country is associated to Horizon Europe. As a transitional solution, researchers and innovators from countries for which an association is planned in the near future can already submit projects in the status of an associated country. If the association agreement of the respective country is concluded before the start of the project, the funding of these project partners will be provided by the EC.

- In the case of Switzerland, negotiations are not yet taking place. However, an association in the near future is still possible and remains the Federal Council's goal.

- Without a timely association, the Confederation will directly fund all project partners from Switzerland whose projects are successfully evaluated in Brussels but cannot receive funding from Brussels (in both individual and collaborative projects). Funding is then not provided by the EC, but by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). The Parliament deliberately decided on the funding of Swiss participation in the Horizon package to the tune of CHF 6.15 billion, as well as the possibility of direct funding for researchers and innovators based in Switzerland.

- SERI expects to receive information from the European Commission soon (probably in calendar week 25/26) and will inform immediately thereupon.
IMPORTANT FOR RESEARCHERS AND INNOVATORS IN SWITZERLAND

➤ You can find an update on the current status of the situation and relevant information for researchers and innovators on the SERI website at www.horizon-europe.ch

➤ For more details on project submission regarding Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives, see “Questions and Answers on Switzerland’s participation in the European Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation”.

➤ If Switzerland does not immediately become an Associated Country to Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives, Researchers and innovators based in Switzerland are not completely excluded from participating in Horizon Europe. Participation as a so-called third country remains possible.

➤ Project partners in third-country mode do normally not receive funding for their project costs from the EC. In this case, funding is provided by SERI wherever possible.

➤ In the third-country mode, however, participation is restricted: Researchers and innovators based in Switzerland can no longer participate in all the programme components and instruments but only in some parts.

➤ Due to the complexity of the programme and the numerous instruments, researchers and innovators are strongly encouraged to seek advice from the Euresearch network, which is funded by SERI for this purpose, when submitting projects.

Contact

For questions on the status of Switzerland and on federal funding of Swiss participation in EU projects:
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI
EU Framework Programmes Department, tel. +41 58 463 50 50, europrogram@sbfi.admin.ch

Media enquiries:
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI
Communications Department, Tel. +41 58 462 96 90, medien@sbfi.admin.ch

For questions on submitting research proposals:
Euresearch, Tel. +41 31 380 60 00 (9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm), info@euresearch.ch