



Status Update: Swiss participation in the Horizon package 2021–2027

Information as of 16 July 2024

SERI provides regular updates on the status of Switzerland's participation in the Horizon package 2021–2027 (Horizon Europe, Euratom Programme, ITER and Digital Europe Programme):

Latest developments

- **16 July 2024, transitional measure MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) 2024:** SERI has assigned the SNSF to implement the call SNSF Swiss PF 2024, which will be funded by SERI. Further information can be found on the website of the SNSF.
- **4 July 2024, Access for researchers in Switzerland to the first three ERC Calls 2025:** Due to progress in the negotiations, the EU has decided that researchers in Switzerland can participate as 'beneficiaries' in the 2025 calls of the ERC Starting Grant, ERC Synergy Grant and ERC Consolidator Grant. This means that researchers in Switzerland can apply directly to the EU for funding in these calls. [Further information: Q&A.](#)
- **10 April 2024, Transitional measures 2024*:** The Federal Council will fund additional transitional measures in 2024 (see [section A](#)). These are funds for direct funding and for the MSCA PF 2024, as well as additional funding for activities in the areas of space and cybersecurity.
- **25 March 2024, Financial guarantee for Horizon Europe and Euratom programme calls 2025:** Switzerland and the EU have agreed on a transitional arrangement for the Horizon Europe and Euratom programme year 2025, as soon as an association agreement between Switzerland and the EU has been initialled. In the event that no association agreement with the EU is in force at the time of the signature of the grant agreement, the Swiss participation will be funded by the Swiss government, for which SERI has provided the financial guarantee for Horizon Europe and Euratom programme calls 2025 on its [website](#).
- **25 March 2024, Financial guarantee ERC Advanced Grants (AdG) 2024:** Due to the transitional arrangement agreed with the EU for the ERC AdG 2024, which entered into force in March 2024, SERI has provided the financial guarantee for Swiss participants in the ERC AdG calls 2024 on its [website](#).
- **18 March 2024, Activation of the transitional arrangement 2024:** With the start of negotiations on the [overall package](#), the EU has put the transitional arrangement 2024 into effect, which enables researchers in Switzerland to participate in the ERC Advanced Grants call 2024 as 'beneficiaries'. This transitional arrangement will apply to all Horizon Europe and Euratom calls for proposals for the 2025 programme year as soon as a corresponding agreement has been initialled between Switzerland and the EU.
- **18 March 2024, Start of negotiations on association to EU programmes:** Switzerland and the EU have adopted their negotiating mandates on the [overall package](#) and officially started negotiations on 18 March 2024. The negotiations on the association to the EU programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe, Euratom, Digital Europe Programme, ITER and Erasmus+) are part of the negotiations on the overall package.
- **Various transitional measures 2021, 2022 and 2023*:** See [section A](#).

* The implementation of all transitional measures is subject to the approval of Parliament within the Confederations' credit and budget process.

General information on Switzerland's current status

- Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country¹ in Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives (Euratom programme, the Digital Europe Programme, DEP). As far as the construction of ITER is concerned, the EU no longer considers Switzerland a participating state for the time being.
- Switzerland and the European Commission have started negotiations on the overall package in March 2024. The negotiations on the association to the EU programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe, Euratom Programme, Digital Europe Programme, ITER and Erasmus+) are part of the negotiations on the overall package.
- Due to progress in the negotiations, the EU has decided that researchers in Switzerland will be eligible as 'beneficiaries' for the first three calls for proposals of the European Research Council (ERC) in the 2025 programme year. Further information: Q&A.
- Switzerland is still aiming to fully activate the transitional arrangement 2025. Switzerland's association to Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives as soon as possible remains the Federal Council's declared goal.
- With the activation of the 2024 transitional arrangement, researchers in Switzerland are able to participate as 'beneficiaries' in the 2024 ERC Advanced Grants call. This transitional arrangement will apply to all Horizon Europe and Euratom calls for proposals for the 2025 programme year as soon as a corresponding agreement has been initialled between Switzerland and the EU.
- In the current status, project participants in Switzerland can still take part in the majority of collaborative projects. Funding is secured by SERI as part of the transitional measures (see chapter A) for positively evaluated projects. Participation in individual projects is not possible as a non-associated third country. These fellowships include the individual fellowships from the European Research Council (ERC), the Postdoctoral Fellowships from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and the Accelerator from the European Innovation Council (EIC). SERI has also introduced transitional measures here as a substitute for participation (see section A).

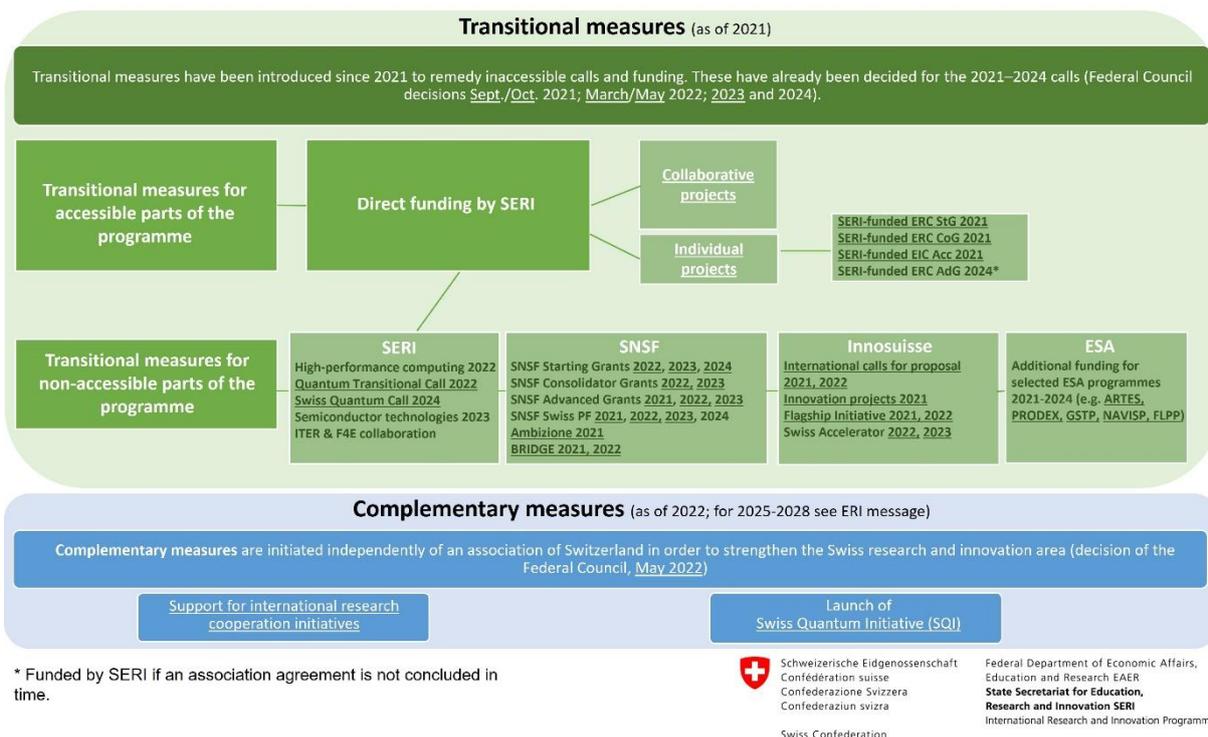
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A. Transitional measures

The graphic below provides an overview of the measures concerning Switzerland's participation as a non-associated third country in Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives (direct links to the specific measures can be found in the online version). In addition, an overview of the finances of Switzerland's transitional measures for Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives is accessible on the following website.

¹ Please note that according to the EU nomenclature, all non-EU states are referred to as third countries. Within Horizon Europe, a distinction is made between (i) associated countries and (ii) non-associated third countries. This nomenclature is also used in this document. Among the non-associated third countries, participants from high-income third countries do normally receive funding from the European Commission (EC), while a number of low- and middle-income third countries are automatically eligible for EC funding. Detailed information can be found here.



B. Guidelines for participants 2021–2024

Please note: To provide further information on specific issues, SERI has also published a document with the most “[frequently asked questions and answers on the Swiss participation in Horizon Europe \(as well as Horizon 2020\) and related programmes and initiatives](#)” on its [website](#).

B.1 Collaborative projects

- SERI recommends institutions based in Switzerland (including companies and notably SME) to participate in consortia responding to calls for proposals in Horizon Europe and in the Euratom programme. European project partners should be actively made aware that the inclusion of Swiss partners in a consortium has no negative influence on the evaluation of a project. The evaluation by independent experts follows clear guidelines and criteria and any discrimination would explicitly violate the evaluation rules.
- As participants from a non-associated third country, researchers and innovators in Switzerland need to explain at project submission how funding for their contribution will be secured. Corresponding financial guarantees for the calls 2021-2025 which can be shared with the consortium partners, are provided by SERI on its [website](#).
- Until further notice, applicants based in Switzerland must submit their project proposals on the [Funding & tenders portal](#) as participants from a non-associated third country (‘associated partner’). This applies to the calls with call identifier 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (meaning 2021, 2022, 2023 or 2024 is included in the call ID). Additionally, any proposal needs to fulfil the general eligibility criteria (minimum of 3 independent partners from 3 different EU member states or associated countries, of which at least one is based in an EU member state). Participants from non-associated third countries cannot coordinate projects. They can however lead work packages as any other participant.
- Researchers and innovators in collaborative projects at institutions in an EU member state or an associated country can accept a call to an institution based in Switzerland and will be funded directly by SERI, as long as Switzerland participates as a non-associated third country in Horizon Europe.
- The [Euresearch](#) network, which is funded and mandated by SERI for this purpose, will continue to advise researchers and innovators in Switzerland planning to participate in Horizon Europe projects. It is recommended to seek advice from Euresearch when submitting project proposals.

B.2 Mono-beneficiary projects

- Participation as researchers from non-associated third countries in mono-beneficiary instruments (namely ERC, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and EIC Accelerator) is no longer possible.
- Due to the partial activation of the transitional arrangement 2025, researchers in Switzerland can participate as 'beneficiaries' in the first three ERC calls 2025, namely ERC Starting Grant, ERC Synergy Grant and ERC Consolidator Grant. This means that researchers in Switzerland can apply directly to the EU for funding in these calls for proposals. [Further information: Q&A.](#)
- With the entry into force of the 2024 transitional arrangement, researchers in Switzerland are able to participate as 'beneficiaries' in the 2024 ERC Advanced Grants call. [Further information: Q&A.](#)
- ERC grantees (namely principal investigators having received an ERC StG, CoG, AdG, PoC) under Horizon Europe can accept a call to an institution based in Switzerland and will be funded directly by SERI, as long as Switzerland is a non-associated third country. Likewise, principal investigators whose ERC application (for ERC StG, CoG, AdG and PoC) has been selected for EU-funding can transfer their project to a Swiss institution (before the signature of the EU grant agreement) and receive direct funding from SERI in the form of a transfer grant.
- For all other ERC StG, CoG and AdG, as well as MSCA PF calls already closed for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, SERI has assigned the SNSF with the implementation of transitional measures and is funding them. The national instruments are tailored to those of the EC as far as possible, but have independent submission deadlines (see [section A](#)).
- The Federal Council also decided to initiate transitional measures for the 2022 and 2023 EIC Accelerator calls. These measures are implemented by Innosuisse through the Swiss Accelerator 2022 and 2023 (see [section A](#)).

C. Contact

- **For questions on the status of Switzerland and on federal funding of Swiss participation in EU projects:**
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