



## Status update: Swiss participation in the Horizon package 2021–2027

Information as of 10 April 2025

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

- ➔ **10 April 2025, Federal Council approved the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA):** At its meeting on 9 April 2025, the Federal Council approved the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA) along with the associated protocols on education, research, innovation and health. It also authorised Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin to sign the agreement. The signature of the EUPA will enable Swiss association in Horizon Europe, the Euratom programme and the Digital Europe Programme to be applied retroactively from 1 January 2025.
- ➔ **02 April 2025, Initialling of the EU Programmes Agreement (EUPA):** The chief negotiators from Switzerland and the European Union initialled the EU Programmes agreement. The agreement comes into force once the overall Switzerland-EU package has been ratified, but could already be applied provisionally after the signing, which is due to take place in November.
- ➔ **20 December 2024, material conclusion of negotiations:** Switzerland and the EU have materially concluded negotiations on the overall package. This also applies to negotiations on participation in EU programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe, Euratom Programme, Digital Europe Programme and ITER) that were carried out as part of the negotiations on the overall package.
- ➔ **20 December 2024, full activation of the transitional arrangement:** The European Commission has fully activated the transitional arrangement as of 1 January 2025, which enables researchers and innovators in Switzerland to participate as beneficiaries in almost all calls for proposals of Horizon Europe and the Euratom programme, from the programme year 2025 onwards. This means that they can submit project proposals in the role of coordinator. Switzerland's participation in calls for proposals in areas considered strategic by the EU (including quantum and space) will be the subject of technical discussions with the European Commission. More information: [Q&A: Questions and answers on Switzerland's participation in the Horizon package 2021–2027](#)
- ➔ **20 December 2024, participation in the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) from 2025 onwards:** Under the transitional arrangement, researchers and innovators in Switzerland also have the opportunity to participate in DEP calls for proposals as beneficiaries from the 2025 programme year onwards. This means that they can submit their project applications 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](mailto:digital-europe@sbfi.admin.ch).
- ➔ **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. 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, subject to budgetary decisions by Parliament. Against this background, SERI has provided the financial guarantee for Horizon Europe and Euratom programme calls 2025 on its [website](#).

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## A. Guidelines for participants from 2025 onwards

### A.1 Transitional arrangement

- The European Commission has fully activated the transitional arrangement as of 1 January 2025, which enables researchers and innovators in Switzerland to participate in almost all calls for proposals of **Horizon Europe and Euratom** as beneficiaries, starting in the 2025 programme year. This means that they can submit project proposals in the role of coordinator. Switzerland's participation in calls for proposals in areas considered strategic by the EU (including quantum and space) will be the subject of technical discussions with the European Commission.
- Under the transitional arrangement, researchers and innovators in Switzerland also have the opportunity to participate as beneficiaries in calls for proposals of the **Digital Europe Programme (DEP)**, starting in the 2025 programme year. This means that they can submit their project applications 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](mailto:digital-europe@sbfi.admin.ch).

### A.2 Budget planning from the 2025 programme year

- For all calls for proposals from the 2025 programme year onwards, participants in Switzerland must prepare their project proposals as beneficiaries and thus apply directly to the EU for funding.
- The budget of the Swiss partner must be included in the total grant amount that the consortium is requesting from the EU.
- Financial guarantee in the calls 2025

**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 and related programmes and initiatives on its website.

## B. Transitional measures for 2021–2024

In order to efficiently compensate for Switzerland's third-country status in the Horizon package 2021–2027, the Federal Council has decided on transitional measures for the 2021–2024 calls for proposals. The funds used for this purpose are those that Parliament had allocated to the Horizon package at the end of 2020. A similar level of funding would be paid out to project participants in Switzerland in the event of an association to the Horizon package. The transitional measures amount to over CHF 2.5 billion for 2021–2024. The implementation of all transitional measures is subject to the approval of Parliament within the Confederation's credit and budget process.

## C. 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 and related programmes and initiatives on its [website](#).

### C.1 Collaborative projects

- Applicants based in Switzerland submit their project applications for the 2021–2024 calls for proposals on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) as associated partners. This applies to the calls with call identifier 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (i.e. 2021, 2022, 2023 or 2024 is included in the call identifier). Additionally, all proposals need to fulfil the general eligibility criteria (minimum of three independent partners from three different EU member states or associated countries, of which at least one is based in an EU member state). The Swiss partner cannot coordinate a project. However, they can manage a work package.
- Researchers and innovators in collaborative projects from institutions in an EU member state or an associated country can accept a call to an institution based in Switzerland and are funded directly by SERI as long as Switzerland is not associated to Horizon Europe.
- The [Euresearch](#) information network, which is funded and mandated by SERI to support Swiss participation in the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation provides information and advice to researchers in Switzerland on submitting research proposals. It is recommended to seek advice from Euresearch when submitting project proposals.

### C.2 Mono-beneficiary projects

- 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 signing the EU grant agreement) and receive direct funding from SERI in the form of a transfer grant.
- For the ERC StG, CoG and AdG, as well as MSCA PF 2021–2024 (with the exception of the ERC AdG 2024), SERI has tasked the Swiss National Science Foundation 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.
- Innosuisse has implemented the Swiss Accelerator 2022 and 2023 as a transitional measure for the EIC Accelerator 2022 and 2023 calls.

## D. Contact

- **For questions about the status of Switzerland and the federal government's direct funding of Swiss participations in EU projects:**

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