

Swiss participation in Horizon 2020

(Situation on 26 February 2014)

As the negotiations on Switzerland's association to Horizon 2020 could not be completed, Switzerland has to be considered a non-associated country. This means that for the 2014 calls for proposals the participation of Swiss entities will be in accordance with Horizon 2020 provisions governing the participation of third country entities. The attached FAQ outlines in more detail what this means in practice. This information has also been uploaded in the Participants' Portal.

Should the situation evolve and negotiations restarted and leading to Switzerland's association, this information and the Participants' Portal will be updated immediately.

FAQ - Swiss participation in Horizon 2020

- *May Swiss entities participate in Horizon 2020?*

Yes, Swiss entities may participate in Horizon 2020 actions as entities from any industrialised third country not associated to Horizon 2020. This means that Swiss participants are not automatically eligible for funding and will not count towards the minimum number of participants required for a project (eligibility criteria). The same principle applies for the Euratom Research Programme.

- *What does this mean for Swiss participation in European Research Council (ERC) calls for proposals and other single-beneficiary schemes?*

Researchers, institutions and companies established in Switzerland will not be eligible to take part in the European Research Council's calls, the SME instrument, and other actions in which the condition for participation is a single-beneficiary established in the EU or in an Associated Country. However, since the ERC grants are open to researchers of any nationality, individual Swiss researchers will still be eligible to apply for and, if successful, awarded an ERC grant that is hosted by a legal entity located in an EU or associated country.

- *What about Marie Skłodowska Curie actions?*

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) are open to researchers of any nationality. Therefore, it will still be possible for individual Swiss researchers to receive Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships. As regards Swiss entities, they will not be automatically eligible for funding in MSCA host-driven actions like Innovative Training Networks (ITN) or Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges (RISE), even though they can participate as additional partners without EU funding.

- *Would it be possible for a Swiss entity to coordinate a project under Horizon 2020?*

Yes, Swiss entities may become project coordinators under Horizon 2020, since the place of establishment is irrelevant for a consortium's choice of a coordinator. However, the Swiss partner would not be automatically eligible for EU funding.

- *Will projects with a partner from Switzerland be treated differently than other projects during evaluation?*

Projects with Swiss partners that respect the eligibility criteria will be evaluated like any other project according to the call's respective evaluation criteria. There will be absolutely no discrimination of proposals including Swiss teams.

- *If a Swiss entity were a partner in an EU funded project under Horizon 2020, can they be financed by Switzerland?*

The legal basis for direct funding of Swiss project partners by the Swiss authorities (as was the case before 2004) is mentioned in the Swiss Federal Decree of 10 September 2013 on funding of Swiss participation in European framework programmes in the area of research and innovation for 2014-2020 by the Swiss Parliament, as follows:

Art. 2

Should the financial conditions of the future agreement between Switzerland and the European Union on Swiss participation in EU framework programmes in the area of research and innovation come into effect only after 1 January 2014, then the guarantee credit may be used to cover Swiss participation on a project-per-project basis for the period pending commencement of the agreement.

The Swiss authorities have yet to decide the modalities of this project-per-project funding. The Swiss authorities encourage Swiss project partners to submit their proposals and to seek further information at the websites of the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (www.sbfi.admin.ch) and Euresearch (www.euresearch.ch).

- *Will participation and funding of Swiss entities in FP7 projects be affected?*

No, the participation and funding of Swiss entities in FP7 projects is not affected.