



Swiss participation in Horizon 2020

(version June 2016)

Under the International Agreement associating Switzerland to parts of Horizon 2020, Switzerland participates from 15 September 2014 with an associated country status in actions under:

- the "Excellent Science" pillar (the 1st pillar), containing the European Research Council, Future and Emerging Technologies, Research Infrastructures and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions;
- actions under the specific objective "Spreading excellence and widening participation";
- the Euratom Programme; and
- the activities carried out by the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion for Energy for 2014-2020.

In all other parts of the Horizon 2020 programme, Switzerland remains a non-associated third country participant. For more information on funding for Swiss participants in such projects by the Swiss government, please see: <http://www.h2020.ch/>.

In relation to cooperation for fusion activities under the Euratom Programme the new agreement replaces the 1978 Fusion Cooperation Agreement.

The participation of Switzerland to the above mentioned parts of Horizon 2020 and to the Euratom Programme and to ITER is effective until 31 December 2016.

The FAQ below outline in more detail what this means in practice. Should the situation evolve, this information on the Participant Portal will be updated immediately.

FAQ - Swiss participation in Horizon 2020

1. For which Horizon 2020 priorities are the Swiss entities treated as entities from an associated country?

Swiss legal entities can participate with a status of entities from an associated country in actions under the 1st pillar of Horizon 2020, namely the European Research Council, future and emerging technologies, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and research infrastructures as well as in actions under the specific objective "Spreading excellence and widening participation" (see also question 8 for what will happen at the end of 2016). The same applies to calls under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (the Euratom Programme) complementing Horizon 2020.

2. What does it mean in practice?

The Swiss participants can participate as entities from an associated country in the parts of Horizon 2020 described above and for which the submission deadline is after or on 15 September 2014 (see also question 8 for what will happen at the end of 2016). In practical terms this means that for these calls the Swiss participants are automatically eligible for funding and count towards the minimum number of participants required for a project (eligibility criteria). The same principle applies for the Euratom Programme.

3. What about Swiss legal entities status in other priorities of Horizon 2020?

Swiss legal entities continue being eligible for participation in all actions under Horizon 2020, other than those covering the 1st pillar, as entities from any industrialised third country not associated to Horizon 2020. This means that in actions under the Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges pillars of Horizon 2020, Swiss participants are not automatically eligible for funding and will not count towards the minimum number of participants required for a project (eligibility criteria).

4. How are Swiss participants financed in successful projects falling under Horizon 2020 priorities in which Switzerland does not have an associated country status?

For more information on funding from the Swiss government for Swiss partners of successfully evaluated projects in those parts of Horizon where Switzerland is not associated please see <http://www.h2020.ch/>.

5. What about Switzerland's participation as a State in Art. 185 and Art. 187 initiatives under Horizon 2020?

Until the end of December 2016 Switzerland is treated as a third country in relation to participation in Art 185 and Art 187 initiatives (see also question 8 for what will happen at the end of 2016).

6. What about participation of Swiss entities in actions under Art. 185 and Art. 187 initiatives in Horizon 2020?

Swiss entities are treated as entities from any industrialised third country not associated to Horizon 2020. They are eligible for participation and funding in accordance with the conditions set out in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation in conjunction with the relevant basic acts (see also question 8 for what will happen at the end of 2016).

7. Are participation and funding of Swiss entities in FP7 projects affected?

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

8. What will happen at the end of 2016?

If Switzerland does not ratify the Protocol on the extension to Croatia of the Free Movement of Persons Agreement between the EU and Switzerland before 9 February 2017, the Agreement associating Switzerland to parts of Horizon 2020 will be terminated with a retroactive effect as of 31 December 2016. In this case, for grant agreements signed in 2017 (including grant agreements following 2016 calls), Swiss entities will be treated as entities from a non-associated country.

However, if Switzerland ratifies the Protocol by the above mentioned deadline, the association Agreement will continue to apply and will be expanded to cover the whole of Horizon 2020, Euratom Programme and activities carried out by Fusion for Energy from 1 January 2017. Regarding actions under Art. 185 and Art. 187 initiatives in Horizon 2020, Switzerland will be treated as an associated country and Swiss entities will be treated as entities from an associated country and they will be eligible for participation and funding in accordance with the conditions set out in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation in conjunction with the relevant basic acts.