

# Participation Opportunities for Companies in Horizon Europe and other European Programmes

## Overview

Participants from Switzerland are coming from a non-associated Third Country (TC). As a consequence, particular programmes such as EIC Accelerator are not currently accessible to Swiss SMEs and start-ups, but most collaborative projects in Horizon Europe and other European funding schemes are accessible.

## Horizon Europe – Collaborative Projects

- SMEs and start-ups from Switzerland can participate in any proposal unless a topic specifically excludes TC participation.
- They will be included in the project as an “[Associated Partner](#)” (AP). Such APs do not count toward the minimum or maximum number of participants in any type of action.
- If the proposal is successful, the Swiss participants contribution will be funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI; “[Financial Guarantee](#)”).
- The funding of SMEs and start-ups follows the rules and regulations of the FIPV Article 7 (available in DE, FR, IT)
- Details on how to add Associated Partners to a proposal on the [Funding and Tender Portal](#) as well as additional information for Associated Partners are provided by Euresearch.
- Official Information on Swiss participation and frequently asked questions are provided by SERI.

Contact [Euresearch](#) for eligibility check & all kind of support at the end or beginning of the proposal writing.

## EUROSTARS

Eurostars is a funding instrument that supports innovative SMEs (including start-ups) and project partners by finding international collaborative R&D and innovation projects. Swiss participants are eligible to participate and are funded through Innosuisse.

- The project consortium is led by an innovative SME.
- The project consortium is composed by at least two entities that are independent of one another.
- The budget of the SMEs from Switzerland is up to 50% of the total project costs.
- For more information about eligibility and funding information please refer to our factsheet “[Eurostars](#)”.

## Bilateral Cooperation

To strengthen the Swiss economy, Innosuisse funds and supports open-topic bilateral and multilateral cooperation. As such, it supports the active exchange of knowledge and ideas within the European Research Area and beyond.

[Different cooperations](#) exist with several countries.

## EEN – an International Network for SMEs and Start-ups

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) supports Swiss organisations in working with other businesses in Europe and countries outside of Europe, implementing innovation and research projects and entering new markets. The focus is on partnering activities.

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