

Frequently Asked Questions to the New Status of Switzerland as Associated Country in Horizon 2020

The status of Switzerland in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation **Horizon 2020** changes from Partial Association to Associated Country (AC) as of 01.01.2017. This document tackles questions particularly related to this change of association status of Switzerland to Horizon 2020. Also see the [official statement](#) of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI):

“[...] it is important that on the EC project submission form, participants from Switzerland provide their full attributable research budget (‘Budget for the proposal’ and ‘EC requested funding’ column) in order to receive funding from the EC budget. That includes calls for PPPs under Art. 187 TFEU as well as EDCTP and EMPIR calls (P2Ps under Art. 185 TFEU). [...]”

Questions are grouped according to the status of your proposal or project:

- I. Ongoing, financed projects
- II. Proposal submitted, evaluation and/or signature of Grant Agreement forthcoming
- III. Proposal to submit, deadline forthcoming

I. Ongoing, financed projects

General

1. We have to deal with a project transfer from our Swiss institution to another Swiss institution. The amendment will be signed in 2017. Who will finance the new Swiss partner?

In principle, it is an ongoing project, thus the funding source of the Swiss partner in the project remains the same.

2. I am a Swiss partner in a running H2020 project, receiving payment from SERI (submitted when Switzerland had Third Country status). Now that Switzerland is fully associated, do I need to take any measures?

No.

Pillar 1: ERC, MSCA, FET, Research Infrastructures

3. Will ERC grants from the 2014 (Advanced Grant), 2015 & 2016 Calls, (Grant Agreements signed with the EU) be transferable to Switzerland?

Yes. Whether an ERC grant is portable to a certain country or not depends on the country's status at the time of the respective call deadline. Since Switzerland was associated to pillar 1 of Horizon 2020 at the closing dates of above mentioned calls, those grants can be transferred to Swiss host institutions.

II. Proposal submitted, evaluation and/or signature of Grant Agreement forthcoming

General

4. For a collaborative project: What happens to the funding if at proposal submission stage I didn't claim EU funding and Switzerland now is an Associated Country at signature of the grant agreement? Will I get the funding from SERI or from the EC?

If your deadline was before 30 September 2016, SERI will fund your successful proposal. For the time after 30 September 2016 applicants from Switzerland were advised to submit and request funding as if from an AC country (see [SERI communication](#)). For further questions please contact SERI directly: europrogram@sbfi.admin.ch

5. What happens to the profile I am writing for the Enterprise Europe Network? Are Swiss partners still eligible?

Yes, the situation of Switzerland in the Enterprise Europe Network does not change.

Pillar 1: ERC, MSCA, FET, Research Infrastructures

6. Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships (IF): I submitted a proposal to the IF-2016 Call (deadline 14 September 2016). If my proposal is successfully evaluated by whom will my project be funded?

The European Commission will provide the funding.

7. Due to ethical issues, there is a delay in the signature of my ERC Grant Agreement, meaning it can't be signed anymore in 2016. Will the SERI or Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) provide the requested funding?

The European Commission will provide the funding.

8. I applied to the ERC Consolidator Grant (CoG-2016 call) and was notified in November 2016 about the successful evaluation. The Grant Agreement will not be signed before 1 January 2017. Who will fund my proposal?

The proposal will be funded by the European Commission.

9. Will grants of the ERC Consolidator Grant Call 2017 with deadline on 9 February 2017 submitted with a host institution outside Switzerland be portable to Switzerland now that Switzerland has become fully associated to Horizon 2020?

Yes, ERC-CoG-2017 grants will be portable to Switzerland.

Pillar 2: NMBP, Factories of the Future (FOF), Energy-efficient Buildings (EEB), Sustainable Process Industries (SPIRE), ICT, Innovation in SMEs, Space

10. I submitted a first stage proposal in October 2016 with the status of Switzerland as Associated Country. Do I need to change the status of Switzerland for the second stage deadline in May 2017?

No, there is no need to change anything.

III. Proposal to submit, deadline forthcoming

General

11. Under which scenario can Swiss participants coordinate projects?

Participants from Switzerland can coordinate collaborative projects irrespective of the status of Switzerland unless specified for a given call (see call conditions in the Work Programme).

12. What is the basis to calculate the SME budget in a collaborative project?

As an SME from an Associated Country: when claiming budget from the EC, the budget is calculated based on hourly rates on the basis of real salaries.

13. I'm a Swiss partner in a consortium submitting a proposal for the deadline after 1 January 2017. Under which status shall I submit?

The Swiss partner is considered from an Associated Country:

- a- claim full research budget from the EC (Part A, budget table, section 3 - 'Budget for the proposal', column K 'Requested EU Contribution' must be filled),
- b- for collaborative projects you should include at least 2 organisations from different EU Member States or Associated Countries in addition to the Swiss partner.

14. For a two-stage project: I submitted my project for the first stage in 2016 as a Third Country and requested funding from SERI. The submission deadline for the second stage is in 2017. What do I have to do?

Please contact SERI directly: europrogram@sbfi.admin.ch

Pillar 1: ERC, MSCA, FET, Research Infrastructures

15. I'm a Swiss applicant participating in a FET-Open research and innovation action proposal with deadline on 17 January 2017. Under which status shall I submit?

You should submit as participant from an Associated Country:

- a- Claim your full research budget from the EC (Part A, budget table, section 3 - 'Budget for the proposal', column K 'Requested EU Contribution' must be filled),
- b- For collaborative projects you should include at least 2 organisations from different EU Member States or Associated Countries in addition to the Swiss partner to fulfil the eligibility criteria for collaborative projects.

16. Should Swiss participants be included as 'Beneficiaries' in ITN consortia for the 2017-MSCA-ITN-2017 call with deadline on 10 January 2017?

Yes, Swiss participants are fully eligible to be 'Beneficiaries' in ITN projects of the 2017 call.

17. We are submitting a proposal to the 2017-MSCA-ITN call with the deadline of 10 January 2017 with CH as an Associated Country. Who will fund the Swiss participant?

As Switzerland is an Associated Country the European Commission will provide the funding.

18. Will grants of the ERC Consolidator Grant Call 2017 (ERC-2017-CoG) with deadline on 9 February 2017 submitted with a host institution outside Switzerland be portable to Switzerland?

Yes. Whether an ERC grant is portable to a certain country or not depends on the country's status at the time of the respective call deadline.

19. I am an ERC grant holder and I want to submit a proposal to the Proof of Concept call 2017 (ERC-2017-PoC). Am I eligible?

Yes, Switzerland is an Associated Country and thus eligible for participation and funding.

Pillar 2: NMBP, Factories of the Future (FOF), Energy-efficient Buildings (EEB), Sustainable Process Industries (SPIRE), ICT, Innovation in SMEs, Space

20. I am preparing a collaborative proposal for the deadline on 19 January 2017. With which status should I submit the Swiss partner?

The Swiss partner is considered as from an Associated Country:

a- claim full research budget from the EC (Part A, budget table, section 3 - 'Budget for the proposal', column K 'Requested EU Contribution' must be filled),

b- for collaborative projects you should include 2 organisations from different EU Member States or Associated Countries in addition to the Swiss partner.

21. I'm a Swiss SME preparing a proposal to the SME Instrument. Am I eligible to participate? Am I eligible for funding?

Yes. As Switzerland is an Associated Country you are eligible to participate and receive funding from the European Commission.

22. I plan to submit an SME instrument phase2 proposal cut-off date 18 January 2017. Can I proceed with my work?

Yes. As Switzerland is an Associated Country you are eligible to participate and receive funding from the European Commission.

23. I plan to submit an SME instrument phase1 proposal cut-off date 15 February 2017. Can I proceed with my work?

Yes. As Switzerland is an Associated Country you are eligible to participate and receive funding from the European Commission.

If questions remain please contact info@euresearch.ch