

FOCUS



Switzerland is back!

From 1 January 2017 onwards, Switzerland has regained the status of "Associated Country" for the entire EU Framework Programme "Horizon 2020". Horizon 2020 represents the second most important public funding source for science in Switzerland after the Swiss National Science Foundation.

With Switzerland's recent extension of the free movement of persons to Croatia, the latest EU Member State, equal treatment of all EU Member States is ensured and Switzerland thereby fulfils the condition for [full participation in Horizon 2020](#). The requirement for ratification was introduced in the aftermath of the adoption of the Swiss federal popular initiative "against mass immigration" that resulted in a comprehensive scrutiny of international agreements.

An [Associated Country](#) like Switzerland has the same rights as an EU Member State. Hence, this allows all researchers based in Switzerland, from the public as well as from the private sector, to initiate a project or to participate in any projects in all calls. New for Switzerland and of particular interest for SMEs based in Switzerland will be the possibility to participate in the "SME Instrument" that is part of the "[Innovation in SMEs](#)" objective. The funding scheme will not change for projects where the grant agreement was signed before 2017. In this case, national funding will continue, where applicable. From 2017 on, as a researcher from an Associated Country, you must make sure that you request EU funding.

On 14 March 2017, Euresearch is organising a large event in Bern in order to broadly inform about Switzerland's new status and about well-established as well as new opportunities. If you need any further information, we have offices all over Switzerland. Our services are free of charge.

Peter Erni, Euresearch Director