



Swiss participation in EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe)

Information update: 20 June 2019

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) provides regular updates on the state of Swiss participation in EU Research Framework Programmes (FPs; Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe):

- Switzerland has been a full-fledged participant in FP8 (Horizon 2020; 2014-2020) since early 2017.
- FP9 (Horizon Europe; 2021-2027) is currently in the preparatory phase. The relevant EU institutions are currently engaged in discussions to determine the budget, the legal basis and the concrete form of the Horizon Europe programme. As a non-EU member state, Switzerland is not involved in these consultations.
- Switzerland and the EU share long-standing and successful cooperation ties in research and innovation. Switzerland's participation in EU research framework programmes forms part of the first series of bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU that came into effect in 2002. It does not constitute a market access dossier and should therefore be viewed separately from the institutional agreement. Switzerland therefore expects to be able to continue participating in 'Horizon Europe' and is committed to this objective.

A. Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)

General information

The 8th generation of the EU research framework programme (Horizon 2020) lasts from 2014 to 2020.

Switzerland has been a full-fledged participant in Horizon 2020 since early 2017. A corresponding agreement covers the entire duration of the programme until the end of 2020. This agreement also covers Swiss full-fledged participation in the Euratom research and training programme and Swiss participation in ITER.

Swiss participation in Horizon 2020 projects that were directly funded by SERI during the period of limited Swiss participation (2014-2016) will continue to receive national funding until the end of their term.

Further information

- [Switzerland's status](#)
- [Facts and Figures: Report on Swiss participation in EU research framework programmes; SERI, 2018](#)

B. Horizon Europe (FP9) and further European R&I initiatives (2021-2027)

On 7 June 2018, the European Commission published its proposal for the next EU research framework programme 'Horizon Europe' and further European research and innovation initiatives (Digital Europe programme, Euratom programme, ITER). It is on that basis that the relevant EU institutions (European Commission, EU Council, European Parliament) are currently discussing the legal basis and the concrete form of the programmes. At the same time, negotiations are underway on the EU's multi-year financial framework, which also affects the budgets of the research and innovation initiatives. As a non-EU member state, Switzerland does not take part in these consultations, but closely monitors their progress.

The rules on the participation of associated states are not yet part of these discussions and will only be addressed at a later date. The exact conditions of Swiss participation will be the subject of negotiations between Switzerland and the EU. So far there has been initial contact of a technical nature, but no official negotiations have taken place. The EU must first complete its consultations on the financial framework and the legal basis for Horizon Europe.

Switzerland and the EU share long-standing and successful cooperation ties in the area of research and innovation. These ties date back to 1978 and are of mutual interest. Switzerland has always been an active and reliable partner for the EU in this area.

Swiss participation in EU research framework programmes is part of the first series of bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU that came into effect in 2002. It does not constitute a market access dossier and should therefore be viewed separately from the institutional agreement. Switzerland therefore expects to be able to continue participating in 'Horizon Europe' and is committed to this objective.

C. Impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on research and innovation cooperation

The EU research framework programmes will remain one of the world's most important research programmes even after the United Kingdom's possible withdrawal from the EU. Switzerland is therefore primarily committed to maintaining its participation in Horizon Europe.

At the same time, Switzerland will monitor how the United Kingdom will position itself in the future and explore the possibility of more intensive cooperation in due course.

D. Contact

For questions about submission of research applications:

Euresearch, Tel. +41 31 380 60 00 (9.00 am to 12.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm), info@euresearch.ch

For questions about direct federal funding of Swiss participation in EU projects:

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