



Swiss participation in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and other related programmes and initiatives

Q&A on Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, Partnerships, Digital Europe Programme, Euratom Programme and ITER

Information as of 4 August 2021

The Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) updates the answers of the Q&A according to developments in Switzerland and the European Union (EU) with regard to the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and other related programmes and initiatives.

Please note that according to the EU nomenclature, all non-EU states are referred to as third countries. Within Horizon Europe, a distinction is made between (i) associated countries and (ii) non-associated third countries. This nomenclature is also used in this document.

Among the non-associated third countries, participants from high-income third countries do normally not receive funding from the European Commission (EC), while a number of low- and middle-income third countries are automatically eligible for EC funding. Detailed information can be found [here](#).

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1 Horizon Europe

1.1 Generally applicable

1	Q	What is Switzerland's status in Horizon Europe?
	A	<i>Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country. This status will apply until further notice and concerns the calls for Horizon Europe and related initiatives and programmes of the year 2021.</i>
2	Q	Is an association to Horizon Europe still possible for Switzerland?
	A	<i>Yes, a future association to Horizon Europe is still possible and will be subject to negotiations between Switzerland and the European Union. A full association to Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives remains the declared goal of the Federal Council.</i>
3	Q	Can Swiss entities (including companies and SME) participate in Horizon Europe?
	A	<p><i>Yes, entities based in Switzerland can participate in Horizon Europe.</i></p> <p><i>Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic which may provide for limitations or restrictions in certain cases.</i></p> <p><i>However, as Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country, Swiss entities (including companies and SME) can apply only for those calls of Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives open to non-associated third country participation and must submit their proposals as participants from a non-associated third country.</i></p> <p><i>The participation in mono-beneficiary instruments (individual ERC grants, MSCA Post-doctoral Fellowships, MSCA COFUND and EIC Accelerator) is by principle not possible as a non-associated third country as project submissions are not evaluated by the European Commission and therefore cannot be funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).</i></p> <p><i>For parts of the programme, which are not open to non-associated third countries, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is currently drafting a mandate for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to implement suitable transitional solutions for the 2021 calls. The measure developed will be submitted to the Federal Council and Parliament as part of the credit and budget procedure. SERI will provide further information in due course.</i></p>
4	Q	Will Swiss entities (including companies and SME) be funded under Horizon Europe? And if so, who will fund them?
	A	<p><i>The Federal Decree on the Financing of the Horizon package 2021-2027 allows for funding of entities based in Switzerland, even if Switzerland is not or only partially associated to Horizon Europe. This applies in Switzerland's current status of a non-associated third country.</i></p> <p><i>Legal entities (including companies and SME) who take part in <u>collaborative projects open to non-associated third country participation</u>, will receive funding via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (in the same way as it was organised during 2014–2016). Note, however, that units of the central federal administration cannot be funded directly by SERI.</i></p>

		<i>Furthermore, SERI is not able to fund mono-beneficiary instruments (e.g. ERC, EIC Accelerator, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and COFUND), as these are not evaluated by the European Commission in the current non-associated third-country-mode. For parts of the programme, which are not open to non-associated third countries, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is currently drafting a mandate for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to implement suitable transition solutions for the 2021 calls. The measure developed will be submitted to the Federal Council and Parliament as part of the credit and budget procedure. SERI will provide further information in due course.</i>
5	Q	Which are the rules for the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) to approve the budget of participants based in Switzerland? Will the budget be evaluated or accepted the way it is presented in the proposal?
	A	<p><i>Financial guidelines for participants based in Switzerland (including companies and SME) are being prepared at SERI. Rules on funding and financial reporting that apply to beneficiaries (project partners from EU Member States or associated third countries) in principle also apply to participants based in Switzerland. Notably, the same overhead rates apply. In addition there are some specific rules according to the legal base for funding of Swiss participations in Horizon Europe projects.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the ordinance <u>FIPBV</u> (available in German, French & Italian) there are maximum salary rates for companies, including SME, as well as non-commercial research centres and institutions outside the university sector (Article 7). Funding can only be provided for costs that are incurred in Switzerland (Exceptions: (i) subcontracting costs for work that cannot be performed in Switzerland, (ii) costs that are incurred for use of research infrastructures that are not based in Switzerland (Article 11 paragraph 4).</i></p> <p><i>SERI reserves the right to impose funding cuts should the costs of the Swiss participant be disproportionately and unreasonably high. This includes the right to mandate an external expert panel to review the Swiss project part.</i></p>
6	Q	What happens to projects that have already been submitted?
	A	<p><i>This question is answered in the corresponding section of the Horizon Europe programme concerned:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>1.2 Collaborative Projects (question 15)</u></i> • <i><u>1.4 European Research Council (ERC) (question 30)</u></i> • <i><u>1.5 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) (question 37)</u></i> • <i><u>1.6 European Innovation Council (EIC) (question 42)</u></i> • <i><u>1.7 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (question 45)</u></i>
7	Q	With Switzerland being considered a non-associated third country, does the role of the National Contact Points (NCPs) change? Does the title 'NCP' still apply?
	A	<i>Not being associated to Horizon Europe does not affect the role of NCPs in Horizon Europe. In any case, a similar NCP system will remain in place for Horizon Europe. In Switzerland, <u>Euresearch</u> will continue to support applicants in the preparation of proposals, either individually or by offering courses and webinars. The NCP structure has been adapted to reflect the <u>new structure of the programme</u>.</i>
8	Q	Will the UK be associated to Horizon Europe?
	A	<i>As part of the agreement reached between the UK and the EU, the UK has announced its association to Horizon Europe (except to the EIC Fund, meaning that UK SME and start-ups can only apply for grant support in the EIC Accelerator), as well as the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2021-2025 and ITER.</i>

1.2 Collaborative Projects

Please also take note of section [1.1 Generally applicable](#).

9	Q	Can legal entities (including companies and SME) based in Switzerland participate in collaborative projects?
	A	<i>Legal entities (including companies and SME) based in Switzerland can still participate in collaborative projects open to non-associated third-country-participation and will receive funding via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (in the same way as it was organised during 2014–2016).</i>
10	Q	As Switzerland is currently considered a non-associated third country, can participants based in Switzerland sign the grant agreement?
	A	<i>No, the new generation of EU programmes for research and innovation does not foresee the legal status ‘beneficiaries not receiving EU funding’ anymore. Participants from non-associated third countries (not eligible for funding from the European Commission) are thus no longer classified as ‘beneficiaries not receiving EU funding’ and do therefore not sign the grant agreement.</i> <i>Nevertheless, legal entities (including companies and SME) from non-associated third countries participate in projects as ‘associated partners’ (which is not to be confused with the term ‘associated country’).</i> <i>This rule applies to all EU programmes (e.g. Euratom, DEP) and related initiatives (e.g. partnership instruments). For exceptions see question 14.</i>
11	Q	As Switzerland is currently considered a non-associated third country, are participants based in Switzerland able to coordinate projects?
	A	<i>No. In order to be coordinator of a project (or beneficiary), a legal entity must sign the grant agreement. Only entities eligible for funding can sign the grant agreement (which is not the case for ‘associated partners’, see question 10). Thus, Swiss entities could only become coordinators (or beneficiaries) in Horizon Europe actions in the two exceptional cases set out in Article 22(2) of the Horizon Europe Regulation:</i> <i>Either Switzerland is identified in the work programmes (call conditions) adopted by the Commission or the participation of a Swiss entity is considered essential for the execution of an action.</i>
12	Q	As Switzerland is currently considered a non-associated third country, are participants based in Switzerland able to lead a work package?
	A	<i>Yes, entities from non-associated third countries, participating as ‘associated partners’, are able to lead work packages.</i>
13	Q	As Switzerland is currently considered a non-associated third country, are participants based in Switzerland allowed to apply for Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)?
	A	<i>No, entities from non-associated third countries are not eligible to participate in CSA (with the notable exception of topics where this is explicitly foreseen in the eligibility criteria of the specific call as stated in the work programme).</i> <i>This follows the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021/695, article 22 (4). In addition, it is reflected in the General Annexes to the work programme 2021/2022.</i>
14	Q	Is there any possibility for an institution from a non-associated third country to participate as beneficiary in a project and therefore also being eligible for direct funding from the EU?

	A	<p><i>Legal entities established in a non-associated third country are not foreseen to participate as beneficiary in a project and therefore being eligible for direct funding from the EU. However, there are some exceptions. Legal entities established in a low to middle income non-associated third country are eligible for funding.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, exceptionally, other non-associated third countries, are eligible for funding in an action if:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) the non-associated third country is identified in the work programme adopted by the European Commission; or</i> <i>b) the European Commission or the relevant funding body considers that the participation of the legal entity concerned is essential for implementing the action.</i>
15	Q	<p>What happens to projects that have already been submitted as participant from an associated country?</p>
	A	<p><i>Projects that fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation will be evaluated.</i></p> <p><i>This means if the topic, for which the proposal was submitted, is open to non-associated third country participation and the consortium submitting includes at least one independent legal entity from a member and at least two other entities from a Member State or associated country in addition to participants from a non-associated third country, the proposal is eligible and will be evaluated.</i></p> <p><i>If the minimum number of Member State and or associated countries is not guaranteed in the consortium the project will be deemed ineligible.</i></p> <p><i>If an entity based in Switzerland was acting as coordinator when the proposal submitted, another entity within the consortium needs to take over this function. This can formally still be done during the grant preparation stage.</i></p> <p><i>Regarding CSA, entities based in Switzerland will have to withdraw from the consortium, unless the specific call text specifically allows for the participation of entities from non-associated third countries.</i></p>
16	Q	<p>In the case of funding provided at national level, will lump sum funding be implemented in exactly the same way as at EU level?</p>
	A	<p><i>National funding must be in line with the national legal basis. Therefore, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) cannot guarantee that the funding would be implemented in the same way as on EU level.</i></p>
17	Q	<p>What happens to partners based in Switzerland if the status changes from non-associated third country mode to Switzerland being an associated country after the project has already started?</p>
	A	<p><i>Project partners based in Switzerland who participate in a collaborative project as a participants from a non-associated third country (and therefore receive funding via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, SERI) remain in this status and receive funding from SERI for the entire duration of the project even if Switzerland becomes associated later on.</i></p>
18	Q	<p>How many partners are needed in a collaborative project of Horizon Europe and how should the Swiss partner be counted in as non-associated third country?</p>
	A	<p><i>In general, a consortium of a collaborative project requires at least three different independent legal entities (including companies and SME) of which:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) at least one independent legal entity must be established in a Member State; and</i>

		<p>b) <i>at least two other independent legal entities should each be established in different Member States or associated countries.</i></p> <p><i>As Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country, the rule of three has to be fulfilled independent of the Swiss partner.</i></p>
19	Q	Given that Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country, how should the Swiss partners prepare a budget request for the proposals?
	A	<p><i>In the new generation of EU Programmes for Research and Innovation, entities from non-associated third countries participate as ‘associated partners’ in the collaborative projects (see question 10).</i></p> <p><i>The budget of the associated partner is indicated in the project proposal, but not taken into account in the project budget. For more information, please contact Euresearch.</i></p>
20	Q	Based on Article 6 in the Grant Agreement, what type of costs will be eligible by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)? Are indirect cost to be included in the estimation of costs in the budget table of the proposal?
	A	<i>With regard to overhead costs, the same rule applies to Swiss ‘associated partners’ as for beneficiaries, thus an overhead rate of 25% is eligible. The details on how to include these indirect costs in the proposal should be revised with Euresearch.</i>
21	Q	Will there be an official letter confirming the financing of the Swiss partners by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)?
	A	<i>Yes. The letter can be found on SERI’s website.</i>
22	Q	Will the commercial exploitation of project results by Swiss companies be affected when Swiss partners participate in Horizon Europe projects as participants from a non-associated third country?
	A	<i>In general, the rules for exploitation of results do not differ greatly from those in Horizon 2020. However, legal entities that mainly target the exploitation of results primarily in non-associated third countries, shall explain how this is still in the interest of the European Union.</i>
23	Q	Can researchers and innovators at an institution based in an EU Member State or associated country who have been awarded a grant in response to a call in 2021 under Horizon Europe transfer it to Switzerland (either at the beginning of the grant or during its term) if the Grantee receives a call to a Swiss entity?
	A	<p><i>Yes, this is possible. If Switzerland is an associated country by the time the grant is transferred, then the funding by the European Commission (EC) continues.</i></p> <p><i>If Switzerland is a non-associated third country by the time the grant is transferred, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) would directly cover the remaining cost under the same conditions as for other collaborative projects (e.g. 25% overhead costs).</i></p>

1.3 Partnerships

Please also take note of section [1.1 Generally applicable.](#)

24	Q	What type of partnerships is Switzerland eligible for? Who will finance the Swiss participation?
	A	<p><i>In any case, legal entities (including companies and SME) will be able to participate in all calls open to non-associated third countries that are published in the Horizon Europe work programme financed either by the European Commission or the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), as laid out in question 4 (all calls for co-programmed partnerships will be published as part of the main work programme).</i></p> <p><i>For the co-funded partnerships, legal entities based in Switzerland can only participate if national co-funding is provided by a Swiss funding agency or federal office.</i></p> <p><i>This also applies to institutionalised partnerships that require national co-funding.</i></p> <p><i>For calls launched by institutionalised partnerships that do not require national co-funding (e.g. Clean Aviation & Europe's Rail), legal entities based in Switzerland are eligible and the (non-)association determines the mode of financing. As Switzerland is now considered a non-associated third country, participants will receive funding via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (in the same way as it was organised during 2014–2016). Note, however, that units of the central federal administration cannot be funded directly by SERI.</i></p>
25	Q	Will Switzerland's participation in Eurostars be negotiated independently of a participation in the third Pillar?
	A	<i>Eurostars will be integrated in the third pillar of Horizon Europe as a so-called co-funded partnership. An association agreement is not a pre-requisite for the participation in co-funded partnerships. If a Swiss funding agency or federal office provides national co-funding, Swiss entities can apply for calls of these partnerships.</i>
26	Q	Can the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) proactively inform on the developments regarding participation and funding of each specific partnership that will be linked to Pillar II?
	A	<i>The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation is actively following the discussion on European partnerships and will regularly update its website. Specific information on the Swiss participation and funding opportunities will be provided by the national bodies in charge of the respective partnerships, once the modalities for a Swiss participation have been clarified.</i>

1.4 European Research Council (ERC)

Please also take note of section [1.1 Generally applicable.](#)

27	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland participate in the ERC in a non-associated third country mode?
	A	<p><i>The participation in mono-beneficiary instruments of the ERC is by principle excluded as a non-associated third country.</i></p> <p><i>However, for the 2021 calls for the ERC Starting Grants (StG) and the ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG; both already closed calls) an exception applies: Project proposals from researchers (Principal Investigators) based at Swiss host institutions are evaluated by the EC and can receive direct funding from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) if they are successfully evaluated.</i></p> <p><i>The ERC Advanced Grants (AdG) Call of 2021 is no longer accessible for researchers from Switzerland. Proposals that have already been submitted will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated. The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is currently drafting a mandate for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to implement a suitable transition solution for the 2021 call for ERC Advanced Grants (AdG). This instrument will be aligned as closely as possible with the ERC, but with independent deadlines for submission. The measure developed will be submitted to the Federal Council and Parliament as part of the credit and budget procedure. SERI will provide further information in due course.</i></p>
28	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland still participate in the Synergy grant calls in a non-associated third country mode?
	A	<i>Yes, researchers based in Switzerland can participate as part of a group of Principal Investigators (PIs) in the calls for the Synergy grant. However, it should be taken into account that only one Principal Investigator per project can be hosted or engaged by an institution outside of the EU or associated third countries.</i>
29	Q	Will alternative measures with equal eligibility conditions as the ERC (e.g. with regard to research age and years of experience since completion of the PhD) be put in place?
	A	<i>The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is evaluating suitable alternative measures.</i>
30	Q	What happens to the ERC projects from researchers and innovators based in Switzerland that have already been submitted to the first calls (StG; CoG; AdG) under Horizon Europe?
	A	<p><i>The participation in the ERC calls is by principle excluded as a non-associated third country. However, exceptional rules apply to the 2021 calls of the ERC Starting Grants (StG) and the ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG), which have already been closed. As the host institution for these projects can be changed during the preparation phase of the Grant Agreement, proposals submitted by Principal Investigators based at a Swiss host institution will be evaluated. SERI will provide national funding on equal terms as the corresponding ERC Grant for researchers whose proposals for an ERC StG or CoG were positively evaluated.</i></p> <p><i>The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is currently drafting a mandate for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to implement a suitable transition solution for the 2021 call for ERC Advanced Grants (AdG). This instrument will be aligned as closely as possible with the ERC. The measure developed will be submitted to the Federal Council and Parliament as part of the credit and budget procedure. SERI will provide further information in due course.</i></p>

31	Q	Can an ERC Starting or Consolidator Grantee who has acquired the 2021 grant under Horizon Europe with a host institution based in an EU Member State or associated country transfer it to Switzerland (either at the beginning of the grant or during its term) if the Grantee receives a call to a Swiss university?
	A	<p>Yes, this is possible. If Switzerland is an associated country by the time the grant is transferred, then the funding by the European Commission continues.</p> <p>If Switzerland is a non-associated third country by the time the grant is transferred, then the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) would directly cover the remaining cost under the same conditions as the ERC (e.g. 25% overhead costs).</p>
32	Q	Will there be a backup scheme for ERC calls of the 2022 Work Programme?
	A	<p>Switzerland's association to Horizon Europe and related programmes and initiatives as soon as possible remains the Federal Council's declared goal. The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) will provide information on the 2022 calls for proposals in due time.</p> <p>This includes information on the all ERC calls of the 2022 work programme, which will open in fall 2021 but close only in 2022.</p>

1.5 Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Please also take note of section [1.1 Generally applicable](#).

33	Q	In which MSCA are entities based in Switzerland eligible for participation with Switzerland being considered a non-associated third country?																				
	A	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Actions</th> <th>As a non-associated third country</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Postdoctoral Fellowship</td> <td>Global Fellowship</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for participation (for outgoing phase at institution in Switzerland) Funded by Beneficiary (EC budget) </td> </tr> <tr> <td>European Fellowship</td> <td>Not eligible for participation, but Swiss replacement for incoming Fellows is being evaluated.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">MSCA COFUND</td> <td>Not eligible for participation</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Doctoral Networks</td> <td>Joint Doctorates</td> <td rowspan="2">Eligible for participation*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Industrial Doctorates</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Staff Exchanges</td> <td>Eligible for participation*</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">MSCA & citizens</td> <td>Not eligible for participation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Will be funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), instead of the European Commission.</p> <p>In general, the participation in mono-beneficiary projects (Postdoctoral Fellowships & MSCA COFUND) is restricted in the non-associated third country mode (see question 36).</p>	Actions		As a non-associated third country	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Global Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for participation (for outgoing phase at institution in Switzerland) Funded by Beneficiary (EC budget) 	European Fellowship	Not eligible for participation, but Swiss replacement for incoming Fellows is being evaluated.	MSCA COFUND		Not eligible for participation	Doctoral Networks	Joint Doctorates	Eligible for participation*	Industrial Doctorates	Staff Exchanges		Eligible for participation*	MSCA & citizens	
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34	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland participate in MSCA collaborative projects as 'associated partners' and as such not sign the grant agreement, although Switzerland is treated as a non-associated third country in Horizon Europe? If that is the case, will there still be national funding for them?																				
	A	Yes, organisations based in Switzerland can participate in MSCA Doctoral Networks (former ITN) and MSCA Staff Exchanges as ' associated partners ' and they will receive funding																				

		<i>via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), as it was already the case 2014–2016.</i>
35	Q	Can MSCA collaborative projects be coordinated by ‘associated partners’?
	A	<i>No, this is not possible. Only beneficiaries (who receive funding from the EU) can coordinate the collaborative projects MSCA Doctoral Networks (former ITN) and MSCA Staff Exchanges (see question 11).</i>
36	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland participate in MSCA mono-beneficiary projects?
	A	<i>No, this is not possible. Participation in MSCA mono-beneficiary projects such as Postdoctoral Fellowships, MSCA COFUND and MSCA & citizens is not open to non-associated third countries such as Switzerland. The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is currently drafting a mandate for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to implement a suitable transition solution for the 2021 call for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship. This instrument will be aligned as closely as possible with the MSCA but with independent deadlines for submission. The measure developed will be submitted to the Federal Council and Parliament as part of the credit and budget procedure. SERI will provide further information in due course.</i>
37	Q	What happens to MSCA projects that have already been submitted to the first call deadlines?
	A	Collaborative projects (Doctoral Networks & Staff Exchanges): <i>Proposals with partners based in Switzerland that have submitted as participants from an associated country will be evaluated as long as the proposal fulfils the general eligibility criteria (see question 18).</i> Mono-beneficiary projects (Postdoctoral Fellowships & COFUND): <i>Project proposals from organisations based in Switzerland are not being evaluated by the European Commission, as Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country. For these projects, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is currently drafting a mandate for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to implement a suitable transition solution for the 2021 call for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship. This instrument will be aligned as closely as possible with the MSCA but with independent deadlines for submission. The measure developed will be submitted to the Federal Council and Parliament as part of the credit and budget procedure. SERI will provide further information in due course.</i>
38	Q	What would happen to a MSCA Global Fellowship submitted from an EU Member State or associated country with an outgoing phase to Switzerland being a non-associated third country, if Switzerland would become associated retroactively? Would the positively evaluated Global Fellowship become ineligible?
	A	<i>For the time being, Switzerland is not covered by the transitional arrangements thus it would be treated as an industrialised third country and could therefore be the place of a host institution for global fellows. This fellowship should also continue if Switzerland becomes associated to Horizon Europe later on.</i>
39	Q	What happens to a MSCA European Fellowship to Switzerland if by the time the grant is approved and should be funded, Switzerland is still considered a non-associated third country? Will the proposal become ineligible?
	A	<i>Yes, in accordance with the transitional provisions, if the association is not effective at the time of grant agreement signature, and given that this is a mono-beneficiary action, the proposal becomes ineligible.</i>

1.6 European Innovation Council (EIC)

Please also take note of section [1.1 Generally applicable.](#)

40	Q	Can Swiss SME participate in the EIC Accelerator?
	A	<p><i>No, with Switzerland being considered a non-associated third country, Swiss companies cannot apply for the EIC Accelerator. Proposals will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated.</i></p> <p>However, for the proposals submitted for the first cut-off date of the 2021 EIC accelerator call, an exception applies: These project proposals from entities based in Switzerland have been evaluated. Those proposals that have successfully passed the two evaluation steps can receive direct funding from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).</p>
41	Q	As a non-associated third country, can Swiss entities participate as applicants in EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition (collaborative) projects?
	A	<p><i>The Federal Decree on the Financing of the Horizon package 2021-2027 allows for funding of researchers and innovators based in Switzerland, even if Switzerland is not or only partially associated. This applies in Switzerland's current status of non-associated third country.</i></p> <p><i>Researchers and innovators who take part in collaborative projects open to non-associated third country participation, will receive funding via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (in the same way as it was organised during 2014 -2016). This also applies to the EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition.</i></p> <p><i>However, the general eligibility criteria have to be fulfilled (see question 18).</i></p>
42	Q	What happens to EIC projects from researchers and innovators based in Switzerland that have already been submitted to the first call deadlines under Horizon Europe?
	A	<p><i>Projects (e.g. EIC Pathfinder & EIC Accelerator) that have been positively evaluated by the European Commission, but cannot be funded by the EU due to the absence of an association agreement, will be directly financed by the State Secretariat for Education, Research (SERI). SERI will provide further information in due course.</i></p> <p>IMPORTANT: The European Commission has started informing applicants for the EIC Accelerator who submitted their full proposal for the first cut-off by 16 June 2021 that their full evaluation results will be available as of Tuesday, 3 August 2021.</p> <p>Companies with a positive evaluation result should contact SERI at euoprogram@sbfi.admin.ch.</p>
43	Q	Can researchers and innovators at an institution based in an EU Member State or an associated country who have been awarded a grant in response to an EIC call in 2021 under Horizon Europe transfer it to Switzerland (either at the beginning of the grant or during its term) if the Grantee receives a call to a Swiss university?
	A	<p><i>Yes, this is possible. If Switzerland is an associated country by the time the grant is transferred, then the funding by the European Commission continues.</i></p> <p><i>If Switzerland is a non-associated third country by the time the grant is transferred, then the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) would cover the remaining cost under the same conditions as other EIC projects (e.g. 25% overhead costs).</i></p>

1.7 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Please also take note of section [1.1 Generally applicable.](#)

44	Q	Will Swiss partners (including companies and SME) participating in activities of the EIT and its KICs receive funding from the Swiss authorities under the status of Switzerland being treated as non-associated third country?
	A	<i>In general, the financial dispatch for Horizon Europe covers a participation as a non-associated third country for all pillars and instruments. As such, Swiss partners in projects of the EIT and its KICs are eligible for funding. As the financial dispatch as such foresees funding for research and innovation projects, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) cannot guarantee that all activities of the KICs will be eligible, notably if they lack the required research/innovation dimension.</i>
45	Q	What happens to EIT projects from researchers and innovators based in Switzerland that have already been submitted and will be implemented under Horizon Europe?
	A	<i>In general, EIT projects will continue to be evaluated. As Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country, no EIT funding will be disbursed to Swiss entities in 2021. For projects already positively evaluated, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation will provide direct funding. SERI will provide further information in due course.</i>
46	Q	Can Swiss entities coordinate projects, i.e. act as Activity Leader in projects of the EIT KICs?
	A	<i>The rules may vary between the different KICs. However, there is no general rule that Swiss participants cannot act as Activity Leader and thus coordinate projects.</i>
47	Q	Can Swiss entities join a consortium applying for the call for a new KIC in Cultural & Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI)?
	A	<i>Yes, the call will result in the selection and designation of a new KIC, which can include Swiss participants, even if Switzerland is not associated to Horizon Europe when the new KIC is established.</i>

2 Digital Europe Programme (DEP)

48	Q	Is Switzerland going to be associated to the Digital Europe Programme?
	A	<i>The Digital Europe Programme is a new EU funding programme that will run in parallel and in complement to Horizon Europe. The conditions for the participation of associated and non-associated third countries are not yet finalised. However, Switzerland has the intention to be fully associated to the programme and has initiated all steps on the Swiss side as part of the Horizon package, to start association negotiations.</i>
49	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland apply to the first calls of the Digital Europe Programme?
	A	<i>If Switzerland were associated to the Digital Europe Programme at the time of the call opening, entities based in Switzerland will be able to participate in most of the first calls. Please note that contrary to Horizon Europe, activities in the Digital Europe Programme are not by default open to non-associated third countries. The work programmes, which have not yet been published, will provide further details.</i>
50	Q	Are there restrictions for legal entities based in Switzerland, to participate in certain areas of the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)?
	A	<i>If Switzerland were associated to the DEP, legal entities based in Switzerland should be able to participate in most of the activities of the programme. However, certain restrictions may apply, notably with regard to activities in sensitive domains (e.g. construction and procurement of quantum computers or quantum communication infrastructure, such as cybersecurity).</i> Note: <i>The discussions on "open strategic autonomy" within the EU increasingly leads to the outcome that third countries associated to Horizon Europe and DEP could be excluded from sensitive technology domains.</i>
51	Q	Is there already an indication of funding rates regarding the participation in a project in the Digital Europe Programme?
	A	<i>Project funding under the Digital Europe programme will typically require national co-funding, which means that the costs for a project may not be fully covered by the Digital Europe Programme. Typically, a funding rate of 50% will apply for grants.</i>

3 Euratom & ITER

52	Q	Will researchers and innovators in Switzerland be able to participate in the next programme generation of the Euratom Programme for nuclear research and training?
	A	<p><i>Switzerland is currently not associated to Horizon Europe and Euratom's research and training programme and is thereafter considered a non-associated third country. General participation conditions for non-associated third countries described in section 1.1 and 1.2 such as specific participation conditions foreseen in the Euratom programme work programme will apply to entities and persons based in Switzerland until an association agreement between Switzerland and the EU has been concluded.</i></p> <p><i>Same as for Horizon Europe, researchers and innovators based in Switzerland can take part in Euratom's programme collaborative projects open to non-associated third country participation and will receive their funding directly via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (see question 4).</i></p>
53	Q	Does the Federal Council intend to seek full association to the Euratom Programme for nuclear research and training and to continue Switzerland's participation in ITER?
	A	<p><i>Yes, in connection with a full association to Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme, the Federal Council currently is still seeking full association to the Euratom Programme for nuclear research and training and aims to continue Switzerland's participation in ITER. In the meantime, the participation conditions for non-associated third countries apply to entities and persons based in Switzerland seeking to participate in the Euratom programme.</i></p> <p><i>As for what concerns the construction of ITER, the EU no longer considers Switzerland a participating state.</i></p>

4 European Defence Fund (EDF)

54	Q	Can Switzerland participate in the European Defence Fund programme?
	A	<i>No, the European Defence Fund is open for association only to members of the European Economic Area.</i>

5 Horizon 2020

55	Q	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, what would happen to the Swiss partner(s) in the ongoing Horizon 2020 projects?
	A	<i>Not being associated to Horizon Europe has no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of its participation mode in Horizon Europe.</i>
56	Q	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, could a Swiss partner join an ongoing Horizon 2020 project (e.g. to replace a missing partner) and get EU funding? Would the Swiss partner in this case be considered as an entity from an «associated country»?
	A	<i>Yes and yes. Switzerland pays its contribution to the EU budget upfront, i.e. to the very budget, from which the European Commission funds projects in Horizon 2020. Switzerland has thus paid its entire contribution to a call at the time any Horizon 2020 project is funded and Swiss participants are therefore eligible for funding in all Horizon 2020 projects. Not being associated to Horizon Europe has no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of its participation mode in Horizon Europe.</i>
57	Q	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, could Swiss entities participate and get funding from Financial Support to third parties calls from Horizon 2020 projects?
	A	<i>Yes. Not being associated to Horizon Europe has no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of its participation mode in Horizon Europe.</i>
58	Q	Does Brexit affect the current Horizon 2020 projects with UK partners / coordinators?
	A	<i>UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in, bid for and lead projects in Horizon 2020. The UK is considered as if it were a Member State under Horizon 2020.</i>
59	Q	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I of Horizon Europe, is there any risk that running projects under Horizon 2020 with Principal Investigators (PIs) from Switzerland will have to be terminated or modified (PI converted to team member, projects that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria)?
	A	<i>No, there is no risk. Switzerland is associated to Horizon 2020 and the conditions for projects running under the Horizon 2020 rules will remain the same until the end of the projects, even after 2020.</i>
60	Q	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I of Horizon Europe, is there a risk that running projects under Horizon 2020 (grant agreements signed before 1.1.2021) will be terminated?
	A	<i>No, as for the FP7 projects after 2014, the Horizon 2020 projects will continue to run under the Horizon 2020 rules until the projects end (even after 2020). This is also independent of the signature date of the grant agreement.</i>
61	Q	If Switzerland were not associated to Pillar I of Horizon Europe, would a researcher holding a Horizon 2020 ERC grant be allowed to move this ERC project to an institution based in Switzerland?

	A	<i>Yes, all ERC grants that were submitted when Switzerland was associated to Horizon 2020 at the time of the respective call deadline, can be moved. Not being associated to Horizon Europe has no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, even after 2020.</i>
62	Q	If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, how would this affect the eligibility of Swiss-based researchers and innovators to participate in Horizon 2020 ERA-NET calls (including calls for proposals)?
	A	<i>Participants of Horizon 2020 ERA-NETs are not affected. Switzerland remains associated to Horizon 2020, independently of the participation mode in Horizon Europe. As for Horizon Europe, ERA-NETs will be integrated into the partnership landscape (see section 1.3).</i>