



Swiss participation in Horizon 2020

(Situation on 12 September 2014)

Subject to signature and conclusion of an Agreement associating Switzerland to parts of Horizon 2020, Switzerland will participate from 15 September 2014 with an associated country status in actions under:

- the "Excellent Science" pillar (the 1st pillar), containing the European Research Council, Future and Emerging Technologies, Research Infrastructures and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions;
- actions under the specific objective "Spreading excellence and widening participation";
- the Euratom Programme; and
- the activities carried out by the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion for Energy for 2014-2020.

The participation of Switzerland to the above mentioned parts of Horizon 2020 and to Euratom Programme and to ITER should be effective from 15 September 2014 until 31 December 2016. This means that for calls under the above mentioned priorities and programmes and which have a deadline for submission on 15 September 2014 or after, the participation of Swiss entities will be in accordance with Horizon 2020 provisions governing the participation of entities from associated countries. In all other parts of the Horizon 2020 programme, Switzerland will remain a third country participant. For more information on funding for Swiss participants in such projects by the Swiss government, please see: <http://www.h2020.ch/>.

In relation to cooperation for fusion activities under the Euratom Programme the new agreement will replace the 1978 Fusion Cooperation Agreement, currently still in force.

The International Agreement associating Switzerland to parts of Horizon 2020 is expected to become provisionally applicable retroactively as from 15 September 2014 upon its signature which is expected in December 2014.

The FAQ below outline in more detail what this means in practice. Should the situation evolve, this information on the Participant Portal will be updated immediately.

FAQ - Swiss participation in Horizon 2020

- **For which Horizon 2020 priorities will the Swiss entities be treated as entities from an associated country?**

Swiss legal entities can participate with a status of entities from an associated country in actions under the 1st pillar of Horizon 2020, namely the European Research Council, future and emerging technologies, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and research infrastructures as well as in actions under the specific objective “Spreading excellence and widening participation” for which the call deadlines are on or after 15 September 2014. The same applies to calls under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (the Euratom Programme) complementing Horizon 2020.

- **What does it mean in practice?**

The Swiss participants would participate as entities from an associated country in the parts of Horizon 2020 described above and for which the submission deadline is after or on 15 September 2014. In practical terms this means that for these calls the Swiss participants would automatically be eligible for funding and would count towards the minimum number of participants required for a project (eligibility criteria). The same principle applies for the Euratom Programme.

- **When and how this new status would become effective in practice?**

Following the completion of internal procedures by the EU/Euratom and Switzerland the new agreement will be signed and provisionally and retroactively applied from 15 September 2014 upon its signature. The signature is expected in December 2014.

- **Will the status of Swiss entities change in projects from Horizon 2020 calls closed before 15 of September (once the association agreement is provisionally applicable)?**

For all calls under Horizon 2020 with a closing date before 15 September 2014, the Swiss legal entities will continue to be treated as entities from an industrialised third country not associated to Horizon 2020. The same applies to calls with a closing date before 15 September under the Research and Training Programme of Euratom.

- **What about Swiss legal entities status in other priorities of Horizon 2020?**

Swiss legal entities will continue being eligible for participation in all actions under Horizon 2020, other than those covering the 1st pillar, as entities from any industrialised third country not associated to Horizon 2020. This means that in actions under the Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges pillars of Horizon 2020, Swiss participants are not automatically eligible for funding and will not count towards the minimum number of participants required for a project (eligibility criteria).

- **How will Swiss participants be financed in successful projects falling under Horizon 2020 priorities in which Switzerland does not have an associated country status?**

For more information on funding from the Swiss government for Swiss partners of successfully evaluated projects in those parts of Horizon where Switzerland is not associated please see <http://www.h2020.ch/>.

- **What about Switzerland's participation as a State in Art. 185 and Art. 187 initiatives under Horizon 2020?**

Until the end of December 2016 Switzerland will be treated as a third country in relation to participation in Art 185 and Art 187 initiatives.

- **What about participation of Swiss entities in actions under Art. 185 and Art. 187 initiatives in Horizon 2020?**

Swiss entities will be treated as entities from any industrialised third country not associated to Horizon 2020. They will be eligible for participation and funding in accordance with the conditions set out in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation in conjunction with the relevant basic acts.

- **Will participation and funding of Swiss entities in FP7 projects be affected?**

No, the participation and funding of Swiss entities in FP7 projects will not be affected.

- **What will happen at the end of 2016?**

If Switzerland does not ratify the Protocol on the extension to Croatia of the Free Movement of Persons Agreement between the EU and Switzerland before 9 February 2017, the Agreement associating Switzerland to parts of Horizon 2020 will be terminated with a retroactive effect as of 31 December 2016. However, if Switzerland ratifies the Protocol, the association Agreement will continue to apply and will be expanded to cover the whole of Horizon 2020, Euratom Programme and activities carried out by Fusion for Energy from 1 January 2017.