



## 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 13 July 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 member 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 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><b><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></b></p> <p><b><i>The participation in mono-beneficiary instruments (individual ERC grants, MSCA Postdoctoral 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). <u>SERI is evaluating suitable alternative measures. Exceptions apply only to the closed calls of the ERC Starting and Consolidator grants (See section 1.4 European Research Council)</u></i></b></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. <b>This applies in Switzerland's current status of a non-associated third country.</b></i></p> <p><i>Legal entities (including companies and SME) who take part in <b>collaborative projects open to non-associated third country participation</b>, will receive funding via the State Secretariat of Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (in the same way as it was organised during 2014–2016).</i></p> <p><i>However, SERI is not able to fund <b>mono-beneficiary instruments (e.g. ERC, EIC Accelerator, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and COFUND)</b>, as these are not evaluated by the European Commission in non-associated third-country-mode. For such parts of the programme, which are not open to non-associated third countries <b>SERI is evaluating suitable alternative measures and will inform accordingly.</b></i></p>

		<b><u>For the ERC special conditions apply.</u></b> (See section <b><u>1.4 European Research Council</u></b> )
<b>5</b>	<b>Q</b>	What happens to projects that have already been submitted?
	<b>A</b>	<p><i>This question is answered in the corresponding section of the Horizon Europe programme concerned:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>1.2 Collaborative Projects (question 13)</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>1.4 European Research Council (ERC) (question 26)</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>1.5 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) (question 31)</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>1.6 European Innovation Council (EIC) (question 36)</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>1.7 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (question 38)</u></b></li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Q</b>	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?
	<b>A</b>	<p><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, <b><u>Euresearch</u></b> will continue to support applicants in the preparation of proposals, either individually or by offering courses and webinars.</i></p> <p><i>The NCP structure has been adapted to reflect the <b><u>new structure of the programme.</u></b></i></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Q</b>	Will the UK be associated to Horizon Europe?
	<b>A</b>	<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.](#)

8	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 of Education, Research and Innovation (in the same way as it was organised during 2014–2016).</i>
9	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 <a href="#">question 12</a>.</i>
10	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 a coordinator of a project (or be a 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 <a href="#">question 9</a>). 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: 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>
11	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>
12	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	<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>  <i>In addition, exceptionally, other non-associated third countries, are eligible for funding in an action if:</i>  <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>
<b>13</b>	<b>Q</b>	What happens to projects that have already been submitted as participant from an associated country?
	<b>A</b>	<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 CSAs, entities based in Switzerland will have to withdraw from the consortium, unless the specific calls text specifically allows for the participation of entities from non-associated third countries.</i></p>
<b>14</b>	<b>Q</b>	In the case of funding provided at national level, will lump sum funding be implemented in exactly the same way as at EU level?
	<b>A</b>	<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>
<b>15</b>	<b>Q</b>	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?
	<b>A</b>	<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>
<b>16</b>	<b>Q</b>	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?
	<b>A</b>	<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> <p><i>a) at least one independent legal entity must be established in a member state; and</i></p> <p><i>b) 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>
<b>17</b>	<b>Q</b>	Given that Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country, how should the Swiss partners prepare a budget request for the proposals?



	<b>A</b>	<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 <a href="#">question 9</a>).</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. Considering the budget requested from the European Commission, Swiss partners should leave it blank respectively put a 0 € for the amount.</i></p> <p><i>For more information on this issue, please contact <a href="#">Euresearch</a>.</i></p>
<b>18</b>	<b>Q</b>	Will there be an official letter confirming the financing of the Swiss partners by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)?
	<b>A</b>	<i>Yes. The letter can be found on <a href="#">SERI’s website</a>.</i>
<b>19</b>	<b>Q</b>	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?
	<b>A</b>	<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>

### 1.3 Partnerships

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

20	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 <a href="#">question 4</a> (all calls for co-programmed partnerships will be published as part of the main work programme).</i></p> <p><i>For the <b>co-funded partnerships</b>, 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 <b>institutionalised partnerships</b> that require national co-funding.</i></p> <p><i>For calls launched by institutionalised partnerships that do not require national funding, 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 of Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (in the same way as it was organised during 2014–2016).</i></p>
21	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>
22	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 <a href="#">website</a>. 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.](#)

23	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 SERI if they are successfully evaluated.</i></p> <p><i>The ERC Advanced Grants 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. SERI prepares proposals for suitable measures in view of the Confederation's credit and budget process.</i></p>
24	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland still participate in the Synergy grant calls in a non-associated third country mode?
	A	<p><i>Yes, researchers based in Switzerland can participate as part of a consortium in the calls for the Synergy grant. However, it should be take into account that only one Principal Investigator per project can be hosted or engaged by an institution outside of the EU or Associated Countries.</i></p>
25	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	<p><i>The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is evaluating suitable alternative measures.</i></p>
26	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>However, the ERC Advanced Grants 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. SERI prepares proposals for suitable measures in view of the Confederation's credit and budget process.</i></p>

## 1.5 Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

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

27	Q	In which MSCA are entities based in Switzerland eligible for participation with Switzerland being considered a non-associated third country?		
	A	<b>Actions</b>		
		Postdoctoral Fellowship	<i>Global Fellowship</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible for participation (for outgoing phase at institution in Switzerland)</li> <li>Funded by Beneficiary (EC budget)</li> </ul>
			<i>European Fellowship</i>	Not eligible for participation, but Swiss replacement for incoming Fellows is being evaluated.
		MSCA COFUND		Not eligible for participation
		Doctoral Networks	<i>Joint Doctorates</i>	Eligible for participation*
			<i>Industrial Doctorates</i>	
		Staff Exchanges		Eligible for participation*
MSCA & citizens		Not eligible for participation		
* Will be funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), instead of the European Commission.				
28	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland participate in MSCA collaborative projects as ' <b>associated partners</b> ' 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 ' <b>associated partners</b> ' and they will receive funding via the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), as it was already the case 2014–2016.		
29	Q	Can MSCA collaborative projects be coordinated by 'associated partners'?		
	A	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 <a href="#">question 10</a> ).		
30	Q	Can entities based in Switzerland participate in MSCA mono-beneficiary projects?		
	A	<p>No, this is not possible. Participation in MSCA mono-beneficiary projects such as Postdoctoral Fellowships, MSCA COFUND and MSCA and citizens is not open to non-associated third countries as Switzerland.</p> <p><b><u>SERI is evaluating suitable alternative measures and will inform accordingly.</u></b></p>		
31	Q	What happens to MSCA projects that have already been submitted to the first call deadlines?		
	A	<p><b>Collaborative projects (Doctoral Networks &amp; Staff Exchanges):</b> 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 <a href="#">question 13</a>).</p>		

		<b><i>Mono-beneficiary projects (Postdoctoral Fellowships &amp; COFUND):</i></b> Project proposals from organisations based in Switzerland are not being evaluated by the European Commission, as Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country. <b><u>SERI is evaluating suitable alternative measures and will inform accordingly.</u></b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Q</b>	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?
	<b>A</b>	<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>
<b>33</b>	<b>Q</b>	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?
	<b>A</b>	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.

## 1.6 European Innovation Council (EIC)

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

34	Q	Can Swiss SMEs participate in the EIC Accelerator?
	A	<i>No, with Switzerland being considered a non-associated third country, Swiss companies cannot apply in the EIC Accelerator. Proposals will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated.</i>
35	Q	As a non-associated third country, can Swiss entities participate as applicants in EIC pathfinder (collaborative) projects?
	A	<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. <b>This applies in Switzerland's current status of a non-associated third country.</b></i> <i>Researchers and innovators who take part in <b>collaborative projects open to non-associated third country</b> participation, will receive funding via the State Secretariat of Education, Research and Innovation (in the same way as it was organised during 2014 -2016). This also applies to the EIC pathfinder.</i> <i>However, the general eligibility criteria have to be fulfilled (see <a href="#">question 16</a>).</i>
36	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	<i>For projects already positively evaluated but not funded by the European Commission due to the absence of an association agreement, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation will provide direct funding.</i> <i>However, please note that proposals for the EIC Accelerator will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated by the European Commission.</i>

## 1.7 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

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

37	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.</i> <i>As the financial dispatch as such foresees funding for research and innovation projects, the Stat 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>

38	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.</i>

## 2 Digital Europe Programme (DEP)

39	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>
40	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>
41	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>  <b>Note:</b> <i>The discussions on "open strategic autonomy" within the EU increasingly leads to the outcome that non EU member states associated to Horizon Europe and DEP could be excluded from sensitive technology domains.</i>
42	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

43	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 of Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (see <a href="#">question 4</a>).</i></p>
44	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)

45	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

46	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>
47	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>
48	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>
49	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 a member state under Horizon 2020.</i>
50	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>
51	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>
52	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?

	<b>A</b>	<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>
<b>53</b>	<b>Q</b>	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)?
	<b>A</b>	<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 <a href="#">1.3</a>).</i>