



European Plant Science Organisation
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Horizon Europe third countries participation

Brussels, 13.7.2021

The European Commission has published the third countries participation anticipated for Horizon Europe on 17 June 2021, including e.g. Israel, Norway, Serbia, Ukraine and UK. Swiss project partners will not be funded by the EC but by the SERI.

18 countries with which association negotiations are being processed, or where association is imminent: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and UK.

The EC aims for ratification of the association agreements on Horizon Europe association giving third countries access to the research programme by the end 2021.

Today, the **Swiss** State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, SERI, confirms that Switzerland will not be considered as an associated country but treated as a non-associated third country. Swiss scientists can participate in Horizon Europe proposals (ca. 2/3 of Horizon Europe is accessible) and will be funded separately by the SERI until new agreements are found.

Some points from the official Status Update of SERI:

- Switzerland will be treated as a non-associated third country in Horizon Europe, the Euratom programme and the Digital Europe Programme. Furthermore, the EU no longer considers Switzerland a state contributing to the construction of ITER.
- The Federal Council remains committed to its goal of a full association to Horizon Europe and other related programmes and initiatives as soon as possible.
- Applicants based in Switzerland must submit their project proposals for the corresponding calls in the year 2021 as participants from a non-associated third country as of now.
- With this status, project participants in Switzerland can still participate in approximately 2/3 of Horizon Europe and notably in most collaborative projects.
- The Swiss project partner will not be funded by the EC but by the SERI

We will work on an update EPSO Brief in the coming weeks and we will upload this on the Members only website too.

More details will be forthcoming on our EPSO news page.

Links:

- **EC list of third countries participating in Horizon Europe**, 17.6.2021:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon- Euratom_en.pdf
- **Swiss** State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, SERI, Fact sheet on Horizon Europe, 13.7.2021 - attached 21_07_13_CH_Fact sheet_Horizon Europe.pdf

EPSO published previously:

- EPSO Brief on the Draft Work Programme which was published on the members only website 5.5.2021, can further advance your proposals (on [pages 39-43 the cluster topics relevant for plant scientists](#) – this will help you to find the full call text in the EC published WP without having to read it in full).
 - Most relevant Horizon Europe Work programmes for plant scientists:
 - **ERC** - [European Research Council Work Programme 2021](#)
 - **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**
 - **Cluster 6 "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment"**
 - **EIC**- [European Innovation Council Work Programme 2021](#)
- Full list of HE Work Programmes 2021-22 in [EPSO news item of 17.6.2021](#).
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Contacts

Karin.metzlaff@epsomail.org

roland.peter@agroscope.admin.ch – questions on Swiss participation

Useful links

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About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 32 countries, mainly from Europe, and 2.700 individuals Personal Members, representing over 26 000 people working in plant science. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe, to provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science including science advice to policy, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science. <https://epsoweb.org> | EU Transparency Register Number 38511867304-09