



## Swiss participation in the Horizon package 2021–2027

# Q&A on Horizon Europe, Digital Europe Programme, Euratom programme and ITER

Information as of 20 June 2025

**Main changes have been made in Q&A [12](#), [28](#), [30](#), [31](#), [35](#) and [40](#).**

The Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) updates this Q&A according to developments in Switzerland and the European Union (EU) with regard to the Horizon package.

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# 1 Horizon Europe (from 2025 programme year onwards)

## 1.1 Generally applicable

1	Q	Is the transitional arrangement activated and what does it contain?
	A	<p>Yes, the transitional arrangement is fully activated (see <a href="#">website of the European Commission</a>). This allows researchers and innovators in Switzerland to participate as 'beneficiaries' in <b>Horizon Europe and Euratom programme</b> calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards (including mono-beneficiary calls). This means that researchers and innovators in Switzerland can submit project proposals in the role of the coordinator (see <a href="#">question 6</a>). For Switzerland's participation in calls in areas considered strategic by the EU (e.g. quantum and space) see <a href="#">question 2</a>.</p> <p>Under the transitional arrangement, researchers and innovators in Switzerland now also have the opportunity to participate as 'beneficiaries' in calls for proposals of the <b>Digital Europe Programme</b>, from the 2025 programme year onwards. This means that they can submit their project applications in the role of coordinator (see <a href="#">question 7</a>). Specific Objectives 3 (Cybersecurity) and 6 (Semiconductors) are exceptions to this; they are only accessible to EU member states and, to a limited extent, to countries in the European Economic Area (EEA). For questions about the Digital Europe Programme: <a href="mailto:digital-europe@sbfi.admin.ch">digital-europe@sbfi.admin.ch</a> and see <a href="#">chapter 2</a>.</p>
2	Q	Can Swiss organisations participate in restricted calls for proposals in strategic areas in Horizon Europe?
	A	The European Commission has completed its assessment and concludes that in the Horizon Europe 2025 work programmes (e.g. Cluster 4), Switzerland receives full access to calls for proposals in strategic areas (artificial intelligence, quantum, communication and network technologies, and space sensitive research topics). Access to certain calls for proposals in the field of space within Horizon Europe is currently still being clarified. These calls for proposals were not subject to this validation process.
3	Q	How will the positively evaluated projects of the transitional arrangement be funded?
	A	<p>Swiss participants <b>prepare their project proposals as 'beneficiaries' and apply for funding from the EU</b>. This means that their budget must be included in the total grant amount requested by the consortium from the EU.</p> <p>If, at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission (EC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>an association agreement is applied</b>, funding for the participation of the Swiss project partners is provided by the EU (status of 'beneficiary' remains).</li> <li>▪ <b>no association agreement is in place</b>, funding is provided by SERI (status changes from 'beneficiary' to 'associated partner') within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament. The contribution requested in the project proposal will be relevant for the funding. It is in the responsibility of the consortium to make sure that the project remains eligible in this case.</li> </ul> <p>A corresponding '<a href="#">Financial guarantee Horizon Europe and Euratom programme calls 2025</a>' can be found on the <a href="#">SERI website</a>. It is also applicable for the mono-beneficiary calls, e.g. ERC, MSCA and EIC.</p>

4	Q	How should project participants in Switzerland prepare their budgets for future calls for proposals?
	A	For calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards, Swiss participants prepare their project proposals respectively their budgets on the assumption that they will apply for funding directly from the EU (i.e. preparation and project submission as 'beneficiary'). <b>This means that the budget of the Swiss partner must be included in the total amount of project funding requested by the consortium from the EU</b> (see <a href="#">question 3</a> ).
5	Q	Who can support me as a researcher or innovator in my application for research and innovation funding in Horizon Europe?
	A	The <a href="#">Euresearch</a> network, which is mandated by SERI, supports applicants in the preparation of proposals, either individually or by offering courses and webinars, for free. For University or ETH domain participants, please refer to your Euresearch <a href="#">Regional Office</a> and/or your institution's research office. For participants from other institutions or companies, please refer directly to the Euresearch <a href="#">Network Office</a> .

## 1.2 Collaborative projects (from 2025 programme year onwards)

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

6	Q	What happens with the eligibility and funding of a small consortium of 3 (including Switzerland) if no association agreement is in place at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission?
	A	In this case, the consortium would most probably not be funded, unless the European Commission would allow to replace the Swiss partner by a member state or associated country. To ensure that the eligibility criteria are met in any case, at least 3 member states or associated countries should be included in a consortium. It is in the responsibility of the consortium to make sure that the project remains eligible in this case.
7	Q	Are participants based in Switzerland allowed to submit a project proposal as coordinator under the transitional arrangement for calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards?
	A	Yes. However, they will only be able to fulfil this coordinating role if the association agreement is applied at the time of the signature of the grant agreement. If this is not the case, they will lose their coordinating role and become 'associated partners'. This means that an existing or new partner must take over the role of coordinator. The Swiss partner's budget must be adjusted as all funds associated with the coordination function will be deducted.
8	Q	Can Swiss entities participate as beneficiaries in the calls of the Institutionalised Partnerships under Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)?
	A	Yes, under the transitional arrangement, researchers and innovators in Switzerland can participate as 'beneficiaries' in the calls of Institutionalised Partnerships under Horizon Europe, except for PRIMA. For Institutionalised Partnerships under DEP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in EuroHPC JU calls is open to Swiss entities as 'beneficiaries'.</li> <li>• Participation in the Chips JU is not possible for calls funded through DEP. However, Swiss entities can participate as beneficiaries in Chips JU calls funded through Horizon Europe.</li> </ul>

9	Q	Does SERI continue to fund the participation of Swiss institutions in cascade funding projects in calls for proposals from 2025 onwards (including EIT KIC calls)?
	A	<p>With regard to cascade funding calls for proposals opening in 2025 or later, in which Swiss institutions are not eligible for funding by the consortium, <b>SERI will not provide direct funding</b>. Please check the call documents accordingly.</p> <p>For cascade funding calls opened in 2024, but with a cutoff in 2025, direct funding remains available under the same conditions as previously (see <a href="#">question 37</a>).</p> <p>Financial support for third parties in EIT projects will be funded directly by SERI until August 2025. Following the signing of the EUPA, the EIT will take over funding for Swiss partners, who will then reimburse SERI for the original payments.</p>
10	Q	Does SERI provide financial contributions to Swiss project coordinators?
	A	In the past SERI has granted CHF 10,000 towards Swiss project coordinations. However, in view of the federal government's strained financial outlook, these contributions are discontinued from 2025. The payments helped to compensate for a coordinator's additional work in preparing a funding application, but did not cover all costs.
11	Q	Can Swiss organisations participating as affiliated entities in calls for proposals 2025 be funded by SERI if no association agreement is in place at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission?
	A	In this case affiliated entities can only be funded by SERI, if their status changes to associated partner in the grant agreement. Note that based on EC-rules this is only possible for independent legal entities.
12	Q	What happens to project participation of calls for proposals with call identifiers 2025, but with budget allocated from call years 2021-2024?
	A	For all calls for proposals from the 2025 programme year onwards, participants in Switzerland must prepare their project proposals as beneficiaries and thus apply for EU funding. With the signing of the EU Programme Agreement (anticipated for November 2025), project participations by Swiss actors will be funded by the EU through Switzerland's mandatory contribution. Hence no SERI funding is available for such projects. This also applies should participants in Switzerland exceptionally not be eligible for EU funding.

### 1.3 European Research Council (ERC) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

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

13	Q	Do researchers in Switzerland have access to the ERC calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards?
	A	<p>Yes, researchers in Switzerland can participate in the ERC calls for proposals from the programme year 2025 onwards. Thus, proposals of researchers who apply to these calls with a host institution located in Switzerland will be evaluated by the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) and interviews will take place. Furthermore, these researchers will be informed about the Step 2 evaluation results.</p> <p>Please also see the <a href="#">news of the ERC</a>.</p>

<b>14</b>	<b>Q</b>	How will these ERC grants 2025 and onwards be funded?
	<b>A</b>	<p>If recommended for funding after step 2 (or step 3 for SyG respectively) of the evaluation process and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an <b>association agreement is applied</b>, Principal Investigators from a host institution located in Switzerland will be funded by the EU.</li> <li>• an <b>association agreement is not in place</b>, Principal Investigators from a host institution located in Switzerland will be granted the possibility to maintain the eligibility of their proposal by transferring it to a new, eligible entity.</li> </ul> <p>SERI will directly fund Principal Investigators with positively evaluated 2025 and onwards ERC StG, SyG, CoG and PoC proposals, within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament, if these Principal Investigators decide to stay at a Swiss host institution.</p> <p>This possibility applies to proposals that are recommended for funding by the ERCEA after the evaluation process; the funding amount will correspond to the amount requested from the ERC, also in terms of overhead costs.</p> <p>The <u>'Financial guarantee Horizon Europe and Euratom programme calls 2025'</u> published on the <a href="#">SERI website</a> also applies to these ERC calls.</p> <p><b>Specific to the ERC SyG call in the absence of an association agreement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Swiss Principal Investigator is the only Principal Investigator from a non-associated third country, the Swiss Principal Investigator will be funded by the EU.</li> <li>• If, in addition to the Swiss Principal Investigator, there is another Principal Investigator from a non-associated third country, the Swiss Principal Investigator will be funded by SERI.</li> <li>• In both cases described above, it is a prerequisite that at least 1 of the Principal Investigators is placed at a host institution in the EU or an associated country.</li> </ul>

#### 1.4 Marie-Sklódowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

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

<b>15</b>	<b>Q</b>	How would Swiss project partners applying as beneficiary in MSCA COFUND projects be funded if an association agreement is not in place at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission?
	<b>A</b>	<p>In this case funding is provided by SERI within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament. The status of the Swiss partner would change from 'beneficiary' or 'implementing partner' to 'associated partner'.</p> <p>Please note that based on Art. 11 para. 6 <a href="#">FIPBV</a>, non-Swiss 'implementing partners' of the project cannot be funded by SERI, as contributions for project-based participation can only be granted if the actual project costs are incurred in Switzerland.</p>
<b>16</b>	<b>Q</b>	How would Global Fellowships with a Swiss return host be funded if an association agreement is not in place at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission?
	<b>A</b>	<p>In this case and provided that the postdoctoral fellow is employed by the Swiss organisation throughout the whole fellowship (including the full outgoing phase), funding is provided by SERI within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament.</p>

17	Q	Can Swiss citizens apply for the Global Fellowships?
	A	Yes, this is possible. However, if an association agreement is not in place at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission, the Swiss citizen becomes ineligible, unless the applicant is a long-term resident in a member state or associated country (meaning 5 years of consecutive residence).

## 1.5 European Innovation Council (EIC) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

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

18	Q	Can Swiss start-ups and SMEs apply to the EIC Accelerator 2025?
	A	Yes, Swiss start-ups and SMEs can submit short applications for the EIC Accelerator call 2025 (Step 1).  Due to the activation of the transitional arrangement, admission to Step 2, which involves the submission of a full proposal until 12 March 2025, is possible.
19	Q	How will positively evaluated proposals of Swiss start-ups and SMEs be funded?
	A	If, at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>an association agreement is applied:</b> funding for the participation of the Swiss project partners is provided by the EU (status of 'beneficiary' remains).</li> <li>• <b>no association agreement is in place:</b> funding for the grant portion of the award (not the equity award) is provided by SERI within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament <b>The contribution requested in the project proposal will be relevant for the funding.</b></li> </ul> <p>The '<a href="#">Financial guarantee Horizon Europe and Euratom programme calls 2025</a>' published on the <a href="#">SERI website</a> also applies to the EIC Accelerator.</p>
20	Q	Can Swiss candidates apply as single applicants for the EIC Pathfinder Challenges and EIC Transition 2025? What will happen to their eligibility and funding if the association is not finalized when the grant agreement is signed?
	A	Yes, as the transitional arrangement has been activated, Swiss candidates can apply as single applicants for EIC Pathfinder Challenges and EIC Transition calls 2025. If no association agreement is signed at the time of grant agreement signature, the Swiss participant will receive direct funding from SERI. However, this may impact their eligibility for added services (such as business acceleration services, and eligibility for follow-on funding).
21	Q	Are Swiss entities able to apply for the EIC Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Scale Up Call?
	A	Yes, Swiss companies are eligible to participate in relevant calls for proposals for STEP equity investments under the same eligibility conditions as if Switzerland were an associated country.  Note that no company will be able to finalize any equity agreement with the EIC Fund before the association agreement is signed. SERI will not be able to guarantee national funding for the equity portion of the EIC award in case of non-association.  Furthermore, as with other parts of the Horizon Europe work programme, some STEP calls may restrict eligibility conditions in order to safeguard the EU's strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security and accordingly Swiss companies may be excluded.

22	Q	Can a BRIDGE project serve as a "previous project" for EIC Transition 2025?
	A	No, EIC Transition is restricted to proposals based on results generated by Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 projects, such as e.g. EIC Pathfinder or ERC Proof of Concept projects.

## 2 Digital Europe Programme (DEP) (from 2025 programme year onwards)

23	Q	Can Swiss institutions participate in the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)?
	A	<p>Yes, the transitional arrangement is fully activated (see <a href="#">question 1</a>). This allows researchers and innovators in Switzerland to participate as 'beneficiaries' in the calls for proposals of the DEP, from the 2025 programme year onwards. This means that they can submit their project applications in the role of coordinator (see <a href="#">question 8</a>). Specific Objectives 3 (Cybersecurity) and 6 (Semiconductors) are exceptions to this; they are only accessible to EU member states and, to a limited extent, to countries in the European Economic Area (EEA). For questions about the Digital Europe Programme please visit the <a href="#">Digital Europe Programme</a> website. Please also see the <a href="#">FAQ of the European Commission</a>.</p> <p>Swiss participants prepare their project proposals as '<b>beneficiaries</b>' and apply for funding from the EU, up to the amount defined by the funding rate in the specific call. <b>This means that their budget must be included in the total grant amount requested by the consortium from the EU.</b></p> <p>If, at the time of signing the grant agreement with the European Commission (EC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>an association agreement is applied</b>, funding for the participation of the Swiss project partners is provided by the EU (status of 'beneficiary' remains).</li> <li>▪ <b>no association agreement is in place</b>, funding is provided by SERI (status changes from 'beneficiary' to 'associated partner') within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament. <b>The contribution requested in the project proposal will be relevant for the funding.</b></li> </ul>
24	Q	Can Swiss entities participate as beneficiaries in the calls of the Institutionalised Partnerships under Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)?
	A	Please see <a href="#">question 8</a> .
25	Q	Can Swiss organisations participate in restricted calls for proposals in strategic areas in the Digital Europe Programme?
	A	<p>On 31 March 2025, the European Commission informed Switzerland that its application to participate in the restricted calls for proposals in strategic areas under Article 12(6) of the <a href="#">regulation establishing the Digital Europe Programme</a> have been positively evaluated. <b>This means that Swiss organisations are eligible to apply for all calls for proposals in Specific Objectives (SO) 1 (including EuroHPC JU), 2, 4 and 5 in 2025–2027, provided that they meet the conditions set out in the 2025–2027 work programme.</b></p> <p>For SO3 and SO6 please see <a href="#">question 23</a>.</p>

### 3 Euratom programme & ITER (from 2025 programme year onwards)

26	Q	Can researchers and innovators in Switzerland participate in the current generation of the Euratom Research and Training Programme?
	A	Yes, the transitional arrangement is fully activated. This allows researchers and innovators in Switzerland to participate as 'beneficiary' in the calls for proposals of the Euratom programme from the 2025 programme year onwards (see questions <a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">2</a> and <a href="#">3</a> ).
27	Q	Can Swiss entities answer to calls for tenders of Fusion for Energy (F4E) and ITER Organisation?
	A	<p>A transitional solution for 2025 has proved to be unsuitable for ITER. Switzerland will therefore resume its participation in the construction of ITER as a member of F4E from 2026 onwards, under the same conditions that applied to Switzerland until 2020.</p> <p>This means that from 2026 onwards Swiss entities will have the same conditions as entities in the EU with regards to access to ITER opportunities (see <a href="#">SERI website</a>).</p>

### 4 Horizon Europe (programme years 2021–2024)

#### 4.1 Generally applicable

28	Q	Calls 2021–2024: What are the rules of SERI to approve the budget of participants based in Switzerland?
	A	<p>The 'Guidelines for financial reporting' for participants based in Switzerland (including companies and SME) are accessible on the <a href="#">SERI website</a>.</p> <p>Rules on funding and financial reporting that apply to beneficiaries (project partners from EU member states or associated countries) in principle also apply to participants based in Switzerland. However, there are some specific rules according to the legal base for funding of Swiss participations in Horizon Europe projects.</p> <p>Based on the ordinance <a href="#">FIPBV</a> (available in German, French &amp; 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). Also, funding can generally only be provided for costs that are incurred in Switzerland (exceptions laid out in Article 11 paragraph 6).</p> <p>SERI reserves the right to impose funding cuts should the costs of the Swiss participant be disproportionately high. This includes the right to mandate an external expert panel to review the Swiss project part.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> The volume of already submitted and still anticipated funding requests is very high and is expected to exceed the available funds for direct financing. For this reason, SERI applies measures based on an order of priority to all pending funding requests in relation to 2021–2024 calls for proposals, in accordance with the relevant ordinance (<a href="#">Ordinance on the measures for Switzerland's participation in EU programmes, FIPBV, SR 420.126</a>). The order of priority and detailed information on the measures and their implementation can be found on the <a href="#">SERI website</a>.</p> <p>For information regarding submission deadlines for funding requests for projects of the 2021-2024 calls for proposal please see <a href="#">question 31</a>.</p>

29	Q	What happens to projects of the 2021–2024 calls for proposals in view of the full activation of the transitional arrangement?
	A	<p>SERI will fund these projects for their entire duration, regardless of Switzerland's status and subject to parliamentary budget decisions (see <a href="#">question 34</a>).</p> <p>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. Swiss partners in projects, which have been positively evaluated by the European Commission (EC), but are not financed by the EC, can receive funding from SERI within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament. (For units of the central federal administration special conditions apply.)</p> <p>Corresponding financial guarantees for the 2021–2024 calls for proposal can be found on the <a href="#">SERI website</a>. To submit your funding request for a collaborative project, please check the <a href="#">SERI website on transitional measures and direct funding</a>. All the necessary information and steps for preparing and submitting a funding application and the corresponding financial reports to SERI are provided there.</p> <p>Special conditions applying to <a href="#">units of the central federal administration</a> are also indicated on the website, as well as instruction on how to apply for funding for certain <a href="#">mono-beneficiary projects</a> 2021.</p>
30	Q	Calls 2021–2024: How can researchers and innovators, whose projects were positively evaluated by the European Commission, submit their funding request to SERI?
	A	<p>To submit your funding request, please check the <a href="#">SERI website on transitional measures and direct funding</a>. All the necessary information and steps for preparing and submitting a funding application and the corresponding financial reports to SERI are provided there.</p> <p>Special conditions applying to <a href="#">units of the central federal administration</a>.</p> <p>For information regarding submission deadlines for funding requests for collaborative projects of the 2021-2024 calls for proposal please see <a href="#">question 31</a>.</p>

## 4.2 Collaborative projects (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of section [4.1 Generally applicable](#).

31	Q	Calls 2021–2024: Is there a deadline for the submission of my funding request to SERI?
	A	<p>Yes, as of 1 August 2025, requests for funding for collaborative projects must be submitted to SERI within six months of signing the grant agreement. If the project coordinator and the European Commission signed the grant on different dates, the later date shall apply. This measure is part of an order of priority. Detailed information can be found on the <a href="#">SERI website &gt; Order of Priority</a>.</p> <p>For example, if the grant agreement was signed on 1 May 2025, the funding request must be submitted to SERI by 31 October 2025 at the latest. Any submissions received after this date will not be eligible for funding and will be automatically rejected.</p>

32	Q	Calls 2021–2024: Can Swiss entities participate in Horizon Europe collaborative projects funded according to the lump sum mechanism?
	A	<p>Yes, organisations based in Switzerland can participate in lump sum projects and receive direct funding by SERI.</p> <p>However, note that SERI does not use the lump-sum funding model and will only cover the actual eligible and reported project costs. Funding (i.e. payment tranches of 50%, 30% and 20%) and reporting (in accordance with <a href="#">SERI Guidelines for financial reporting</a>) will therefore be carried out in the same way as for other collaborative projects. For further information please refer to the website of <a href="#">Euresearch</a>.</p>
33	Q	Calls 2021–2024: Can participants based in Switzerland sign the grant agreement?
	A	No, ‘associated partners’ do not sign the grant agreement. The former legal status ‘beneficiaries not receiving EU funding’ does not exist anymore in the <a href="#">Model Grant Agreement</a> . 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’, but as ‘associated partners’.
34	Q	What happens to partners based in Switzerland in projects of the 2021–2024 calls for proposals if the status changes from non-associated third country mode to Switzerland being an associated country?
	A	Project partners based in Switzerland who participate in a collaborative projects with call identifiers 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (meaning 2021, 2022, 2023 or 2024 is included in the call ID on the <a href="#">Funding &amp; Tenders Portal</a> !) will continue to receive funding from SERI for the entire duration of the project within the limits of the budget allocated by the Federal Council and Parliament. Even in the event of a retroactive provisional application of the Association Agreement, funding of projects with these call identifiers will be carried out directly by SERI (see <a href="#">question 28</a> ).
35	Q	What happens if a Swiss project partner wants to join a project of the 2021–2024 calls for proposals?
	A	<p>Swiss participants can join ongoing projects as long as the general eligibility criteria are fulfilled. This requires an invitation by the consortium and is subject to approval of the granting authority. The same applies for redistributing tasks among the consortium members. If tasks are transferred to a Swiss ‘associated partner’ (AP), the costs to perform these tasks (as defined in the grant agreement) can be considered for direct funding by SERI. This applies to both Swiss partners who are already part of the consortium or who join it. The tasks transferred to the Swiss AP must be evaluated and their costs must be defined either in the grant agreement or in a corresponding amendment issued by the European Commission.</p> <p>Importantly, as of 20 June 2025 only the transfer of task between Swiss partners is possible, provided that it is cost-neutral within the existing commitments of SERI and the Swiss partners. Costs incurred from taking over tasks from project partners outside Switzerland are not eligible for direct funding. This measure is part of an order of priority applied to not yet approved funding requests. <b>Please see <a href="#">question 28</a>.</b></p>
36	Q	Can researchers and innovators based in Switzerland participate in COST Actions?
	A	Yes, Switzerland continues to be a COST Member and participation in COST Actions is open to researchers and innovators based in Switzerland. For further information please refer to the website of the <a href="#">Swiss National Science Foundation</a> .

<b>37</b>	<b>Q</b>	Does SERI provide financial support for Swiss participation in collaborative projects funded by cascade funding from Horizon Europe project consortia?
	<b>A</b>	<p>SERI can provide financial support for Swiss participation in <b>collaborative projects</b> funded by cascade funding from Horizon Europe project consortia if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cascade funding call opened in 2024 or earlier (see <a href="#">question 9</a> for 2025),</li> <li>• the call for proposals and the evaluation of the projects have been carried out according to criteria of the European Commission,</li> <li>• the Swiss participation is excluded from funding and</li> <li>• the applicant is listed as an associated partner or as a project partner in the sub-grant agreement between the sub-grantees and the funding body of the activity mandated by the European Commission. If a Swiss project partner has already applied for third-party funding in the main project (i.e. the project implementing the cascade funding programme), the Swiss participations must be financed through this budget.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerning the budget the following point is important:</b> The budget of the Swiss partner should be in line with the other partners as defined in the cascade funding call document or the grant agreement of the main project.</p> <p>If successful and once the sub-grant agreement has been signed, the funding request has to be submitted through the general portal for <a href="#">funding requests for collaborative projects to SERI</a>. Before submitting the request, applicants have to get in contact with SERI in order to receive an internal project number. In addition, a confirmation from the main project coordinator must be submitted stating that the call for proposals and the evaluation of the proposals have been carried out in accordance with the criteria of the European Commission.</p>

### 4.3 European Research Council (ERC) (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of section [4.1 Generally applicable](#).

<b>38</b>	<b>Q</b>	What is the evaluation and funding process for the ERC Advanced Grants 2024 under the transitional arrangement 2024?
	<b>A</b>	<p>Proposals of researchers who applied to the ERC Advanced Grants 2024 with a host institution located in Switzerland are evaluated by the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) and interviews will take place. If recommended for funding by the ERCEA after step 2 of the evaluation process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SERI will directly fund the Principal Investigators with positively evaluated proposals of the ERC Advanced Grants 2024, provided they decide to remain at a Swiss host institution. A corresponding financial guarantee can be found on the <a href="#">SERI website</a>.</li> <li>• Principal Investigators from a host institution located in Switzerland will be granted the possibility to maintain the eligibility of their proposal by transferring it to a new, eligible entity. This treatment is linked to the portability of these grants: The host institution for these projects can be changed at the moment when the grant agreement is established (granting stage).</li> </ul>
<b>39</b>	<b>Q</b>	Will applications that are positively evaluated under the ERC Advanced Grants 2024 be funded by SERI according to the lump sum principle?
	<b>A</b>	<p>No. A first payment instalment of 50% of the grant will be paid readily after contract signature. The next tranche of 30% after approval of the interim financial report and the last one (remaining costs up to 20%) after approval of the final financial report. The 'beneficiary' has to issue an invoice to SERI for each payment.</p>

<b>40</b>	<b>Q</b>	Calls 2021–2024: What happens if researchers and innovators at an institution based in an EU member state or associated country who have been awarded an ERC grant in response to a 2021–2024 call for proposals transfer it to Switzerland (as the Grantee is appointed to a Swiss institution)?
	<b>A</b>	For ERC Transfer Grants, only funds from ongoing decommitments will be available from 1 January 2026. Direct funding will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis to the extent of the available budget. This measure is part of an order of priority applied to not yet approved funding requests. <b>Please see <a href="#">question 28</a>.</b>

#### 4.4 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of sections [4.1 Generally applicable](#) and [4.2 Collaborative projects](#).

<b>41</b>	<b>Q</b>	Calls 2021–2024: How are the MSCA fellows who complement an MSCA action and are funded by SERI officially called?
	<b>A</b>	<p>Doctoral or postdoctoral fellows in MSCA COFUND or Doctoral Networks based at Swiss institutions and not funded by the European Commission but by SERI can call themselves ‘SERI-funded MSCA DN Grantees’ or ‘SERI-funded MSCA COFUND Grantees’. They have acquired a ‘SERI-funded MSCA DN Grant’ or ‘SERI-funded MSCA COFUND Grant’ and should be employed with the same conditions and rights as the official MSCA fellows.</p> <p>The doctoral and postdoctoral candidates employed at Swiss institutions are not official MSCA fellows but can benefit from the training and research opportunities of the Doctoral Network and COFUND programmes.</p>
<b>42</b>	<b>Q</b>	Calls 2021–2024: What happens to MSCA collaborative projects if Switzerland’s status changes from non-associated third country mode to Switzerland being an associated country?
	<b>A</b>	Please see questions <a href="#">28</a> & <a href="#">34</a> .
<b>43</b>	<b>Q</b>	Calls 2021–2024: 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?
	<b>A</b>	In the 2021–2024 calls for proposals Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country and can therefore be the place of a host institution for MSCA Global Fellows. This fellowship also continues if Switzerland becomes associated to Horizon Europe.

#### 4.5 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (programme years 2021–2024)

Please also take note of sections [4.1 Generally applicable](#) and [4.2 Collaborative projects](#).

<b>44</b>	<b>Q</b>	Calls 2021–2024: What further information on the budget does SERI need from the Swiss partner upon submission of an EIT project for direct funding? How will the funding rate be determined?
	<b>A</b>	Upon submitting a funding request for EIT projects, SERI requires confirmation on which part of the costs would have been covered by EIT funding, if Switzerland were associated. Ideally, this should be confirmed directly by the KIC. SERI will then apply the same funding rate.