



Launch of eighth European research framework programme "Horizon 2020" – Press kit

EU research framework programmes

Research framework programmes (FPs) are the main means used by the EU to implement its common science and innovation policy. The eighth programme generation, "Horizon 2020 – European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation", began on 1 January 2014. Horizon 2020 will run through the end of 2020 and has a total budget of nearly EUR 80 billion. Switzerland intends to once again contribute CHF 4.4 billion to maintain its associated member status.

1) Importance of EU research framework programmes

The multi-year Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (EU research framework programme) began in 1984 as the EU's main instrument to encourage research and development. Substantial funding is allocated to this programme.

The eighth programme generation is called "Horizon 2020 – European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation". Horizon 2020 started on 1 January 2014 and will run through the end of 2020. Covering fundamental research, applied research, technological development and demonstration projects, it encompasses nearly the entire value chain. Horizon 2020 will place greater emphasis on improving innovation capacities and encouraging cooperation between researchers and industry. In addition, over half of the budget will be devoted to projects relating to sustainable development.

2) Swiss participation

Switzerland as an associated country

Swiss researchers began taking part in FP projects in 1987, initially at their own expense. Later, in 1992, participation in FP projects was mostly paid for by the Swiss Confederation. In 2004, Switzerland became an associated country to EU research framework programmes, which meant that henceforth Swiss researchers would receive their funding directly from the EU, with all of the rights and obligations that came with the newly acquired associated member status. In exchange, the Swiss Confederation contributed funding to the EU to cover a portion of the FP budget (this proportion is determined on the basis of a comparison of Swiss and EU GDP).

As was the case with FP6 and FP7, an agreement is currently being negotiated with the EU for Swiss participation in Horizon 2020. This agreement is expected to be signed over the course of 2014 and retroactively come into effect on 1 January 2014. This will ensure that there is no interruption in Switzerland's associated member status. Although the agreement has not yet been signed, researchers in Switzerland are already fully entitled to take part in Horizon 2020 projects and submit corresponding project proposals.

Positive effects for Switzerland

Cooperation with the EU has been positive for Switzerland since 2004, when it became an associated country: Switzerland is among the best-positioned countries in terms of the number of projects that Swiss researchers have taken part in or coordinated as well as in terms of the amount of grant funding secured:¹

- *High level of participation in FP projects:* Each year, there are around 600 new Swiss participations in FP-funded research projects.
- *Second largest source of grant funding:* Swiss project participants managed to secure over CHF 1.56 billion in grant funding from FP7 alone (2007-2013). After the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), EU research framework programmes are the second largest source of public grant funding for Swiss researchers.
- *Competitive Swiss research activities:* Since it became an associated country in 2004, Switzerland has derived a positive net return from its participation in EU research framework programmes. Switzerland's success in securing grant funding is mainly due to the quality of project proposals submitted by Swiss researchers. As a result, the amount of FP project funding secured by Swiss researchers exceeds the financial contribution that the Confederation has paid the EU. At the same time, the EU and its member states benefit from the existence of a strong research area in Europe; this is important given the enormous pressures created by global competition.
- *Economic impact:* Since 2007, Swiss participation in FPs has led to the creation of around 8,000 jobs and 240 companies. Participation in "Horizon 2020" should have similar effects.

Main participants

The Federal Institutes of Technology Domain (which includes the EPF in Lausanne, the ETH in Zurich and their associated research institutes) was the main recipient of FP7 grant funding (40% of FP7 grant funding awarded to Switzerland), followed by cantonal universities (28%) and companies (20%). A significant portion of FP7 grant funding also went to non-profit organisations (7%), universities of applied sciences (3%) and public institutions (2%).

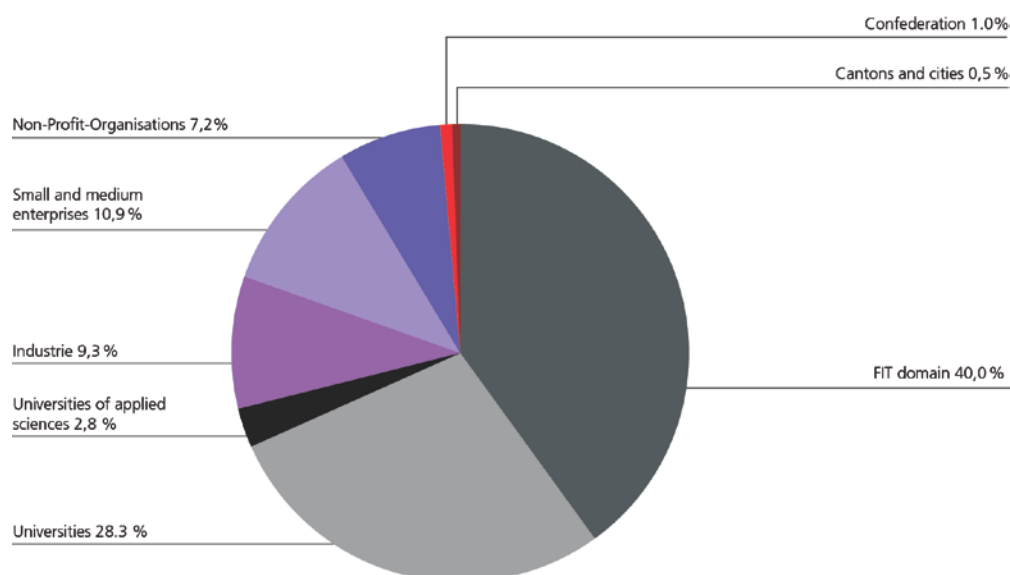


Figure 1: FP7 grant funding secured by Swiss researchers by participant category (source: Swiss Participation in the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme, Interim Report 2007-2012, SERI 2013)

¹ A detailed presentation of this can be found in the SERI publication entitled, "Swiss Participation in the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme, Interim Report 2007-2012", SERI 2013.

Research fields

In June 2012, there were around 2,700 Swiss participations in FP7 research projects (2007-2013). Swiss researchers have been particularly active in the following research themes or programmes: ICTs (552 participations or 20.6% of all Swiss participations), Mobility of Researchers under the FP7 "People" programme (489 participations or 18.3%), Health (308 participations or 11.5%), and Nanotechnologies (279 participations or 10.4%).

3) Funding

In September 2013, the Swiss Parliament approved the total budget for Swiss participation in Horizon 2020 and various support measures. Switzerland has set aside a total of CHF 4.4 billion to cover the seven-year period (Horizon 2020 including Euratom Programme 2014-2018 and its extension for the period running from 2019-2020). This is CHF 1.8 billion more than what was allocated for FP7 (2007-2013). This is because "Horizon 2020" is a broader programme. The corresponding funds were already requested under the ERI Dispatch for 2013-16.

The total budget is comprised of the following funding commitments:

	in CHF million
<i>Funding commitment for Swiss participation in Horizon 2020 for the period 2014-2020.</i> This also includes Swiss contributions to the Euratom Programme 2014-2018 and the Interim Euratom Programme 2019-2020 as well as to the international project ITER (development of a new nuclear fusion reactor).	3 955.3
<i>Contribution for national support measures</i> This contribution will ensure broad-based participation of Swiss Researchers in EU research framework programmes and a suitable "return on investment". Information and advice to Swiss participants will continue to be provided by an information network comprised of various actors.	109
<i>Reserve</i> (To cover exchange rate fluctuations, among other things).	325
<i>Total</i>	4 389.3

Figure 2: Taken from the Federal Decree of 10 September 2013 on Allocation of the Total Budget to Funding Commitments as per the Federal Decree on Funding of Swiss Participation in EU Framework Programmes in Research and Innovation for 2014-2020.

4) Contact and additional information

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Additional information

SERI: www.sbf.admin.ch (Topics > International cooperation in research and technology)
Euresearch information network: www.euresearch.ch
Conference website: www.launch-H2020.ch