



Stick to Science

Put science collaboration before politics



The case for UK & Swiss Association to Horizon Europe

1 UK and Swiss association to Horizon Europe is a win-win for science, health, and business.

Collaboration is the lifeblood of scientific research and an important lever for advancing European innovation. Through Horizon Europe, the EU's research funding programmes pool resources and bring together scientists from the EU and beyond.

HORIZON 2020* BY NUMBERS

*(Horizon Europe's predecessor)

67.6 B/€ total spend¹

35,381 Projects²



23%
of project were
classified as human
health related³



32%
of projects contributed
to climate action⁴

149 countries represented
amongst participants⁵

100k + peer reviewed
publications⁶

2,500 patent applications
and trademarks⁸

1 B/€ directed towards
COVID-19 research
since 2019⁹

To best serve science and health, Horizon Europe needs to stay open and collaborative. Fragmenting collaboration between the EU and its key partners sharing the same values and principles will impact the bloc's ability to tackle the big challenges we face, such as climate change and cancer.



2 Science is at the heart of Europe's position in the world. A strong, collaborative Horizon Europe will bolster Europe's geopolitical standing.

The financial contribution of associated countries covers the running costs of the programme and funds their respective participation. The UK and Switzerland will make the Horizon Europe budget larger and more globally competitive by increasing the pot of €95 billion by over 18%.



4.5 B/€
Anticipated
Swiss Contribution¹⁰



17.6 B/€
Anticipated
UK Contribution¹¹

The invasion of Ukraine demonstrates the need for both more solidarity within Europe and a stronger, united Europe on the world stage.

Ongoing research collaboration between European member states through Horizon Europe will ensure stability and continuity in Europe's research sector at a time of broader political discord.



European research organisations are UK universities' most collaborated with countries, with **13 of the top 21 countries** being in the EU.¹⁵

3 Across Europe, there is wide support for UK and Swiss researchers to participate in Horizon Europe.

For Europe's research and innovation sector, Horizon Europe association for Switzerland and the UK is not a contentious issue and stakeholders are calling for progress in both negotiation processes.

The campaign has received widespread support across Europe with over:

5,500

signatories

270

supporting organisations

This includes major European R&I institutions and high-profile leaders in the science and research community¹², such as:

Didier Queloz Nobel Prize in Physics, 2019

Paul Nurse Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 2001

Andre Geim Nobel Prize in Physics, 2010

Jacques Dubochet Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017

Giorgio Parisi Nobel Prize in Physics 2021

Cédric Villani Fields Medal 2010, Member of the French Parliament

The "G6" group, which represents six major European multidisciplinary research organisations (CNR, CNRS, CSIC, Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association and Max Planck Society) and over 135,000 staff, reaffirmed its support for UK and Swiss association to Horizon Europe saying that "they are essential partners in cutting-edge research in Europe."¹³

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation has identified UK association as a "win-win" for the EU and UK. With one of the strongest science bases of all European countries, a positive cooperation model based on mutual investment should be established to ensure the UK remains part of the European Research Area.¹⁴

Association agreements for both the UK and Switzerland have been held back by broader political discussions that have nothing to do with science. Europe's research community is asking that broader politics be put aside, to enable research collaboration to continue.

"European scientists have not only impressively demonstrated the potential of their cooperation but also created powerful research institutions and networks with the highest international visibility. To ensure high performance in science and research in Europe in the future, cooperation with the United Kingdom and Switzerland as partners in Horizon Europe is essential."¹⁶

- Prof. Martin Stratmann,
President Max Planck Society

4 UK and Swiss Association to Horizon Europe needs to happen now, and time is running out. Delays and uncertainty are already hurting science.

Time is running out for an agreement

There are no quick and cheap ways to replace Horizon Europe, which has a world-renowned reputation for excellence which cannot be replicated quickly. Implementing new multilateral or bilateral programmes at short notice will likely mean compromising on ambition, efficiency and scale. This will impact science across Europe badly, duplicate effort, cost millions and put-up barriers to some of the world's best researchers collaborating with each other.

If not associated to EU programmes, the UK and Switzerland will have to redirect their international collaborations with other parts of the world.

■ The UK Government have suggested establishing a domestic alternative to Horizon Europe using the **€17.6 billion** set aside for the UK contribution to the programme.

■ The Swiss government is exploring the option of using the **€4.5 billion** reserved for association at the national level, complemented by complementary and replacement measures, including collaboration with the rest of the world. **€1.15 billion** has already been redirected to the national level for the years 2021 and 2022.¹⁷

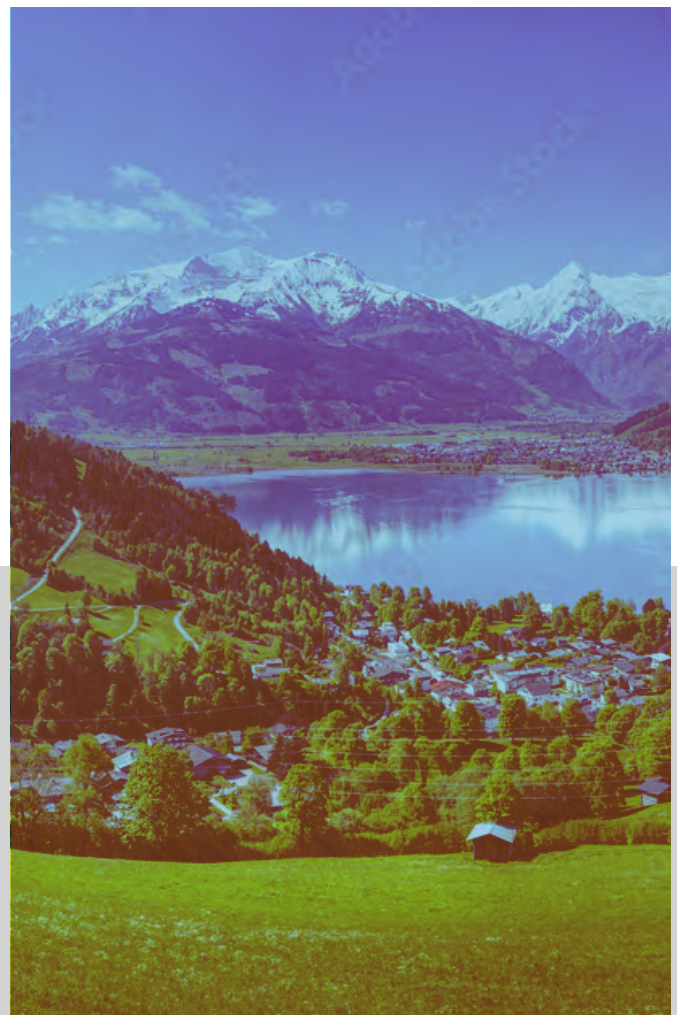
With Horizon Europe well underway, uncertainties surrounding association is disrupting projects, with a negative impact on researchers across Europe. This threatens the viability of projects and ultimately the ambition and potential of the programme overall.

Researchers are already feeling the impact of missing out on Horizon Europe.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has recently been made aware that despite a successful €8 million application to Horizon Europe's call, legal entities in the United Kingdom are not eligible to receive funding and cannot be beneficiaries due to the fact the country has not formally associated to Horizon Europe. They are therefore unable to continue in their role as coordinator on this important programme of work and will not receive any of the funding for which they applied.¹⁸

Critical research has stalled.

The continuation of research into earthquakes cannot be continued under the competences of Prof. Domenico Giardini, a leading researcher in this field at ETH Zurich. Having led seven past EU projects, Prof. Giardini cannot maintain his role of coordinator without an agreement. This will impact earthquake risk assessments and preparedness in Europe.¹⁹



Delays in association are limiting Europe's talent pool.

ITER, the global fusion research project funded by Euratom currently under construction in France will, at present, exclude both Swiss and British researchers, thereby denying key scientific talent from participation.

Research exchange is being restricted.

After Brexit, three UK centres treating childhood cancer were excluded from the European Research Network dedicated to paediatric cancer, PaedCan. Despite the EU's focus on tackling childhood cancers, collaboration on research to progress life-saving treatments for patients was not protected.²⁰

Science can't wait for political disputes between the EU and the UK, Switzerland to be resolved. Research is fuelled by predictability and stability – collaboration is too important and too mutually beneficial to be held up by political disagreements unrelated to scientific progress.

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