



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER

**State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI**

The State Secretary

Bern, 20 July 2021

## **Funding of Swiss Participants in the ERC 2021 Starting and Consolidator Grants of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon Europe'**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Due to the current status of Switzerland as a non-associated third country in Horizon Europe, researchers from Switzerland are not eligible for participation in mono-beneficiary instruments, including the individual grants of the European Research Council (ERC). However, exceptional rules apply to the 2021 calls of the [ERC Starting Grants \(StG\)](#) and the [ERC Consolidator Grants \(CoG\)](#), whose calls have closed at a moment where Switzerland was not yet considered as a non-associated third country and where Principal Investigators (PI) could thus submit their ERC proposals with Swiss Host Institutions.

The ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) informed researchers who applied to ERC 2021 StG or CoG Grants with a host institution located in Switzerland that their proposals will be evaluated and that the interviews will take place. Furthermore, these researchers will be informed of the Step 2 evaluation results.

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). If recommended for funding after step 2 of the evaluation process, PI's will therefore be granted the possibility to maintain the eligibility of their proposal by transferring it to a new, eligible entity.

This is to state that based on Article 2 Paragraph b. of the [Federal Decree](#) on the financing of Swiss participation in European Union activities in the field of research and innovation in the years 2021-2027, as well as on Article 11(4) Paragraph a. of the Ordinance of 20 January 2021 on the measures for Switzerland's participation in European Union programmes in the field of research and innovation ([FIPBV](#)), the **State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI will directly fund Principle Investigators with positively evaluated ERC 2021 Starting and Consolidator Grant proposals if these PI decide to stay at a Swiss host institution**.

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. The [EU Framework Programmes Section at SERI](#) is available for questions and will publish further details on how to proceed in due time.

Yours faithfully,

State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI

Martina Hirayama  
State Secretary

### **Enquiries:**

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