



## Countries eligible for the EIT Digital Challenge 2023

### **European Union member states (EU27):**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

### **Countries associated with Horizon Europe (see full details below)**

## List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe

### Third countries associated to Horizon Europe

Association to Horizon Europe is governed by the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021/695<sup>1</sup>. Legal entities from associated countries can participate under equivalent conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States, unless specific limitations or conditions are laid down in the work programme and/or call/topic text. Such measures could include the limitation of participation in certain actions to legal entities established in the EU alone, or in the EU and specified non-EU countries, in order to safeguard the EU's strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security. Limitations or conditions may also be attached to the participation of legal entities established in an eligible country but which are controlled directly or indirectly by an ineligible country<sup>2</sup>. The eligibility will be clearly defined in the work programme. There could also be criteria on the place of establishment of the legal entity to take into account specific policy requirements or the nature and objectives of the action<sup>3</sup>.

All sixteen non-EU countries associated to the previous programme, Horizon 2020, have also expressed interest to become associated to Horizon Europe. Other third countries have also expressed an interest in association.

The association agreements with the following countries have now started to produce legal effects (either through provisional application or their entry into force) (*listed in alphabetical order*):

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Faroe Islands
5. Georgia
6. Iceland
7. Israel
8. Kosovo<sup>4</sup>
9. Moldova
10. Montenegro
11. North Macedonia
12. Norway
13. Serbia
14. Tunisia
15. Turkey

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) [2021/695](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ 12.5.2021 L 170/1).

<sup>2</sup> Based on Horizon Europe Regulation article 22(5).

<sup>3</sup> Based on Horizon Europe Regulation article 22(6)

<sup>4</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## 16. Ukraine

Until association agreements start producing legal effects either through provisional application or their entry into force, transitional arrangements may apply if provided for in the particular Horizon Europe Work Programme. The transitional arrangements apply with regard to the following countries and legal entities established in these countries, with which association negotiations are being processed or where association is imminent (*listed in the alphabetical order*):

1. Morocco (applicable for the entire Programme)
2. New-Zealand (applicable for Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' as from the Work Programmes 2023 onwards, including for the institutionalised European partnerships)
3. United Kingdom (applicable for the entire Programme<sup>5</sup>)

Legal entities established in Switzerland are currently not covered by the transitional arrangement.

Liechtenstein does not intend to associate to Horizon Europe.

This list will be updated to reflect the status of the negotiations for association.

### **Third countries associated to Euratom Research and Training Programme**

For the Euratom Research and Training Programme (Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765), the association agreement with Ukraine has now started to produce legal effects.

The United Kingdom is expected to become associated. The transitional arrangement described above applies to legal entities established in this country.

### **Other third countries**

Most Horizon Europe calls are also open to participants from non-associated countries and international organisations, unless specific limitations or conditions are laid down in the work programme and/or the call/topic text, such as those highlighted for associated countries above.

Moreover, some Horizon Europe calls are particularly relevant for international cooperation, encouraging or even requiring the participation of legal entities from non-associated non-EU countries in the funded actions.

Participants from non-associated non-EU countries can take part in Horizon Europe actions — but not always with funding.

Participants from the following low- to middle-income countries are **automatically eligible** for funding:

- Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi
- Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba

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<sup>5</sup> The UK will participate in all parts of the Horizon Europe programme with the only exception of the EIC Fund (which is part of the EIC Accelerator of Horizon Europe that provides investment through equity or other repayable form).

- Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic
- Ecuador, Egypt (Arab Republic), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana
- Haiti, Honduras
- Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq
- Jamaica, Jordan
- Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic
- Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya
- Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar
- Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria
- Pakistan, Palestine<sup>6</sup>, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines
- Rwanda
- Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu
- Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam
- Yemen Republic
- Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Participants from other countries (i.e. countries that are neither EU Member States nor countries associated to Horizon Europe, nor countries listed above) are not automatically eligible for funding and therefore usually have to participate at their own cost. They can however receive **exceptional funding**, if:

- their country is explicitly identified in the work programme and call for proposals as being eligible for funding
- the granting authority considers that their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project, for example in view of their:
  - outstanding competence/expertise
  - access to particular research infrastructures
  - access to particular geographical environments
  - access to particular data).

In addition, a number of non-EU/non-associated countries that are not automatically eligible for funding have made specific provisions for national co-financing mechanisms for their participants in Horizon Europe projects. For more information, see [Horizon Europe Complementary funding mechanisms in third countries](#).

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<sup>6</sup> This designation is not to be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue



Please note that entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>7</sup> and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)<sup>8</sup> are NOT eligible to participate in any capacity (including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties, if any).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
<a href="#">1.0</a>	17.06.2021	Initial version (new MFF).
<a href="#">1.1</a>	19.07.2021	Updated section 'Other third countries': Added of Mauritius and Panama to list of low to middle income countries.
<a href="#">1.2</a>	04.10.2021	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Moved Iceland and Norway to list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects.
<a href="#">1.3</a>	22.11.2021	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Moved Moldova and Turkey to list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects. Specified that list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects is in alphabetical order.
<a href="#">1.4</a>	17.12.2021	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Moved Georgia, Israel, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia to list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects.
<a href="#">1.5</a>	01.02.2022	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Moved Bosnia and Herzegovina to list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects. Updated section 'Other third countries': Added Morocco, Tunisia and Ukraine to list of low to middle income countries.
<a href="#">2.0</a>	15.04.2022	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Moved Armenia and Kosovo to list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects. Added reference to Guidance document Complementary funding mechanisms in third countries. Created section 'Third countries associated to Euratom Research and Training Programme'
<a href="#">2.1</a>	01.06.2022	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Moved Faroe Islands to list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects.
<a href="#">2.2</a>	01.07.2022	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Moved Albania, Tunisia and Ukraine to list of countries with which association agreements have started to produce legal effects. Updated section 'Third countries associated to Euratom Research and Training Programme': Specified that association agreement with Ukraine has started to produce legal effects.
<a href="#">2.3</a>	15.09.2022	Updated section 'Other third countries': Removed Panama from list of low- to middle-income countries
<a href="#">2.4</a>	15.01.2023	Updated section 'Third countries associated to Horizon Europe': Removed reference to the General Annexes of Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021/2022 regarding the transitional arrangement. Specified that transitional arrangements may apply if provided for in the particular Horizon Europe Work Programme. Added scope of application of transitional arrangements to Morocco and the United

<sup>7</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

<sup>8</sup> Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

		Kingdom. Added New-Zealand to list of countries to which transitionnal arrangements may apply.
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