



Horizon Europe, Grant Agreement 2021/2022

Update: Third Countries and the Horizon Europe Programme

This update is relevant for community members located in Third Countries and KAVA consortium members working with organisations based in those countries that have not yet associated to the Horizon Europe programme. EIT has conveyed recent developments that are highly relevant to these organisations, particularly with respect to those that are in position to submit performance and financial reports for the 2021 Reporting cycle.

Overview:

A fundamental condition to be eligible for Horizon Europe funding is that, for Third Countries, the country in which the community member is based has associated to the programme. In principle, the countries must associate no later than December 31, 2021. To date, many countries have either associated or have completed the negotiation process clearing the way, we understand, for a timely association by the end of the year.

The list below was provided to EIT Climate-KIC by EIT on December 1, 2021: additional background information can be found in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide: [Link](#)

Confirmed to associate:	Norway, Iceland, Turkey, Moldova
Accession procedures are imminent:	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia, Israel, Tunisia, Morocco, Faroe Islands
Unlikely or will not associate:	Switzerland*, Liechtenstein
To associate by means of a Protocol:	United Kingdom*: the association process is being undertaken via a Protocol to the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). If the association procedure is completed in 2022, the retroactive eligibility of costs is foreseen to be ensured as of 1 January 2021.

*See below for additional information

Over the past months, the association process undertaken by each Third Country has been fluid given the negotiation is done on a country-by-country basis. Recent developments with Switzerland and the United Kingdom are summarised below. For other countries of interest, please consult the EU Commission website or information at the country-level. EIT Climate-KIC will continue to provide relevant updates as they become available.

Switzerland:

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) will directly fund researchers and innovators in Switzerland whose participation in approved collaborative and individual projects under Horizon Europe. SERI will align itself with the funding and calculation principles that have established by the European Commission, which are fully explained in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement.

The Swiss direct funding programme has a number of requirements, including an application process and eligibility parameters. We recommend that community members take time to review the documentation that is provided on the SERI website: [Link](#). A separate message will be issued to Swiss-based organisations regarding reporting and how the national funding is being represented as co-funding in the business plan, for the purposes of the 2021 reporting cycle.

United Kingdom (UK):

The UK has not yet associated at the time of writing. However, EIT Climate-KIC has been made aware of the following developments:

- December 31st, 2021 deadline has been extended: if the UK does not associate in 2021, the window has been extended into 2022. This means that if the UK associates in 2022 partners can claim their 2021 reimbursable costs retroactively from January 1, 2021. If the association occurs on timely basis, there is the potential that 2021 reporting cycle can be utilised.
- On November 29th UK government's Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy and UK Research and Innovation announced the "Financial Safety Net for Horizon Europe Applicants" initiative. Please review the announcement here: [LINK](#)). Programme details were not released on how to participate or eligibility requirements, including whether projects in 2022 will be eligible. We – and other KICs - are in discussion with UK government (BEIS / UKRI) regarding eligibility and it is clear that the UK government is trying to ensure KIC partners are eligible. Additional information from UK government will be released shortly. Community members are encouraged to monitor the initiative and apprise themselves, accordingly.

Reporting 2021 Cycle:

The rate of association, along with those Third Countries that are on target to complete the process by the end of 2021, is positive news. Similarly, initiatives to underwrite EIT funding is

welcome and a strong signal of confidence about the work that is happening across Europe and in our community. We recommend that community members who have been active under the 2021 business plan (Grant Agreement 2021) engage in the current reporting cycle, which offers the opportunity to be reimbursed for eligible costs reported in the current reporting cycle once evaluation has taken place, in 2022. The next reporting cycle will start towards the end of 2022, with submission due in March 2023 and reimbursement in the summer of 2023.

If you have not had a chance to attend the Reporting 2021 webinars or review the Partner Handbook, you can find the recording and document on the Partner Information page and on Plaza, our grant management system.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Desk (communitydesk@climate-kic.org) or reach out to your EIT Climate-KIC contact.

