Association to Horizon Europe

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PANEL ON RESEARCH & INNOVATION, 8th meeting, 10.12.2020, online event

Ruta ZARNAUSKAITE, Head of Unit, unit 05 “Association to Horizon Europe”, DG R&I, European Commission
Our vision

• A sustainable, fair and **prosperous** future for **people** and **planet** based on European values.

• Tackling **climate change** (35 % budgetary target)

• Helping to achieve **Sustainable Development Goals**

• Boosting the Union's **competitiveness and growth**
Tackling together the global societal challenges; access to the world’s best talents, expertise and resources; enhanced supply and demand of innovative solutions

Extended openness to association

- Third countries with good capacity in science, technology and innovation
- Taking into account objective of driving economic growth in Europe through innovation

- General opening for international participation
- Intensified targeted actions (flagship initiatives, joint calls, etc.)
Benefits of International Cooperation

- Promoting excellence
- Critical mass to address global challenges
- Transnational mobility, collaboration and exchange networks
- Pooling investments and sharing costs of big science
- Strengthened European R&I landscape
- Creating new market opportunities
- Attracting best talents
- Visibility for leading research and innovation
1. Access to knowledge, networks (business and academia), technologies and expertise

2. Sharing of infrastructures

3. Increase of turnover and scale up of businesses

4. Closer integration between the innovation ecosystems with subsequent benefits on access to markets, standardisation etc

5. Contributing to the objective of driving economic growth in the Union through innovation

6. Promotion of sharing values and common principles for the conduct of research
16 countries associated to **Horizon 2020**

- **Enlargement countries (acceding/candidate/potential candidate countries):** Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey

- **EFTA members:** Norway, Iceland, Switzerland

- **European Neighbourhood Policy countries** (fulfilling conditions related to STI capacity/participation in EU R&I programmes/IPR protection):
  - **Eastern partnership:** Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
  - **Southern neighbourhood:** Israel, Tunisia

- **Countries or territories previously associated to framework programme FP7:** Faroe Islands
Article 12 of the Horizon Europe draft regulation sets 4 categories of associated countries:

a) EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, without Switzerland), and EEA Countries (EU + EFTA without Switzerland)

b) Acceding countries (last one was Croatia), candidate countries (Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) and potential candidates (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo).

c) Countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (MENA Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and EaP Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine).

d) Third countries, including Switzerland, Faroe Islands, and possibly UK in case of orderly Brexit.
Conditionality for association:

- **EU interests**: Driving economic growth in the Union through innovation
- **Partial-association**: Part of the programme can be excluded from association agreement of a specific country (partial association)
- **Reciprocity**: Association agreement shall provide for the participation (where appropriate) of legal entities established in the Union in equivalent programmes of associated countries
- **Pay as you go**: Automatic correction of any significant imbalance between financial contribution and benefits from the Programme
‘Other’ third countries must fulfil a set of criteria (‘like-minded’ countries with strong STI base)

- Good science, technology and innovation capacity
- Rules-based open market economy (protection of IPR and democratic institutions)
- Promotion of policies for economic and social wellbeing of citizens

‘Other’ third countries must conclude with the Union a specific agreement (Chapeau Agreement) covering the participation to ‘any Union programme’
Horizon Europe Association

**Association**

- **Possibility of partial association**
- **Reciprocity:** Provision to open for the participation, as far as possible, equivalent programmes of Associated Countries to EU entities
- **Contemplated dynamic system for financial contribution**
  Ensuring an automatic correction of significant imbalance between financial contributions and amounts received by entities from an Associated Country
- **Coherence with other negotiations with a potentially Associated Country**

**Other key elements**
1. Expression of interest by the third country
2. Exploratory talks
3. Formal negotiations – after the adoption of the regulation
4. Signature and start of provisional application of the Association Agreement(s)
5. Entry into force of Association Agreement(s)
Horizon Europe Association – state of play of association negotiations

- Expression of interest letters sent to the European Commission by Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine;

- Technical exchanges meetings with Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine took place in November 2020;

- Second round of technical exchanges meetings to be planned for January 2021;

- **Exploratory talks** can start only once the text of Art.12 is stabilised;

- **Formal negotiations** – only after the adoption of the HE Regulation by the EU co-legislators
Thank you

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