



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Swiss Confederation

**Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency**



## Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking KDT JU

The mission of the Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking (KDT JU) is the funding of projects for assuring world-class expertise in key enabling technologies, which are essential for Europe's competitive leadership in the era of the digital economy. KDT JU builds directly on the ECSEL JU programme.

Its specific objectives are to:

- Reinforce strategic autonomy in electronic components and systems in Europe;
- Establish scientific excellence and innovation leadership in emerging components and systems technologies;
- Ensure that components and systems technologies address Europe's societal and environmental challenges;
- Support research and development for establishing design and production capabilities in Europe for strategic application areas;
- Launch a balanced portfolio of large and small projects supporting the fast transfer of technologies from the research to the industrial environment;
- Foster a dynamic ecosystem based on digital value-chains with simplified access to newcomers;
- Support research and development for enhancing component technologies that guarantee security, trust and energy-efficiency for critical infrastructures and sectors in Europe.

### 1 Participation of Swiss Companies and Research Institutions in KDT Call 2023

Switzerland is considered a non-associated third country in Horizon Europe (HE). However, researchers and innovators, including large companies and SMEs, from Switzerland can participate in the calls of KDT JU and receive funding from SERI and Innosuisse under the following conditions:

- The proposal fulfils the general eligibility criteria (see chapters 3-5).
- The application has been positively evaluated by the KDT JU for funding.

European project partners can be assured that the inclusion of a Swiss partner in the consortium will not negatively affect the evaluation of the project. The evaluation by independent experts follows clear guidelines and criteria and any discrimination would explicitly violate the evaluation rules. When submitting the proposal, Swiss companies and research institutions must outline how funding for their contribution will be secured. This document can be shared with consortium partners or the KDT JU to demonstrate the availability of funding.

### 2 Application and evaluation procedure

The KDT JU has launched new calls for which Swiss based entities are eligible for participation. The deadlines for submitting a project outline and a full project proposal can be found on the KDT Website. The KDT JU manages the application procedure and the evaluation centrally.

All relevant information and documents are available on <https://www.kdt-ju.europa.eu/current-call>. Swiss partners participate in KDT proposals as “associated partners” (not to be confused with the term ‘associated country’). KDT will communicate the evaluation results and funding decisions within five months after the call deadline. The beneficiaries sign the KDT Grant Agreements within maximum three months. Associated partners do not sign the Grant Agreement, but their contribution is an integral part of the project. If sufficient funds are available, projects above the evaluation threshold will receive funding according to the classification in the ranking list.

Swiss entities participating as associated partners do not sign the KDT Grant Agreement because they do not receive funding from the EU. Swiss entities submit two funding requests, one to [Innosuisse](#) and a second to SERI (via the SERI’s [platform](#)).

Following documents and information should be included in the funding request to Innosuisse and SERI:

- project proposal submitted to KDT JU: part A and part B
- evaluation summary report (ESR),
- KDT Grant Agreement GA signed by European Commission,
- consortium agreement CA (if one exists) or associated partner agreement
- a part C to the project proposal specifying the costs of Swiss partners related to their specific work in the project (required only by Innosuisse)

The eligibility of costs and funding contributions from SERI and Innosuisse differ due to the differences in the legal basis<sup>1</sup>. They are specified in the following chapters.

Swiss participants will receive two contracts. One from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) that covers the part that would otherwise be covered by the EU contribution. And a second one from Innosuisse for the funding that would normally account for the national co-funding. SERI and Innosuisse will request financial reports from the Swiss project partners. Any amendment to the contract must be approved by the KDT JU, but also by Innosuisse and SERI.

### 3 Formal eligibility criteria

Projects submitted under a KDT JU call must fulfil following formal criteria:

- Any consortium needs a minimum of three independent partners from three different EU Member States or associated countries, of which at least one is based in an EU Member State. Participants from Switzerland are not considered one of these three.
- Participants from Switzerland cannot coordinate projects. They can however lead work packages as any other participant.
- Swiss participants need to submit a national annex to the proposal, ‘Annex C’, outlining the project costs related to their contribution to the work packages and requested funds from Innosuisse. The form can be downloaded on the [Innosuisse Website](#) and filled out per partner or for all the Swiss partners per project.

Swiss participants, with a positively evaluated project, must meet the following additional requirements to be eligible for funding by SERI and Innosuisse:

- At least one of the Swiss participants in a consortium must be a for-profit company from Switzerland.
- The share of the total eligible costs of the Swiss for-profit partner/s must be higher than the share of the Swiss academic partner/s.

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<sup>1</sup> specified in the Ordinance on Measures for Swiss Participation in the European Union Programmes for Research and Innovation (SR 420.126, in German)

## 4 Funding Conditions for Swiss KDT participants

Innosuisse and SERI reimburse eligible costs depending on the KDT JU call types *Innovation Action IA* or *Research and Innovation Actions RIA* with the following funding rates:

	Companies with >250 employees	Companies with ≤250 employees	University/other (not for profit)
<b>Type IA</b>			
SERI-grant for Swiss partner	20%	30%	35%
Innosuisse-grant for Swiss partner	10%	30%	35%
In-kind contribution of Swiss partner	70%	40%	30%
<b>Type RIA</b>			
SERI-grant for Swiss partner	25%	35%	35%
Innosuisse-grant for Swiss partner	10%	35%	35%
In-kind contribution of Swiss partner	65%	30%	30%

## 5 Eligible costs

### 5.1 Eligibility of costs for SERI

Unless otherwise stipulated in national legislation, SERI will align itself with the funding and calculation principles established by the European Commission, which are fully explained in the [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#) and in the [Horizon Europe Guidelines](#) for financial reporting on SERI financed participation of Swiss partners in Horizon Europe.

### 5.2 Eligibility of costs for Innosuisse

Only costs necessary for the execution of the project are eligible. They are defined in the Ordinance of 20 January 2021 on the measures for the participation of Switzerland in the Programmes of the European Union in the field of research and innovation (SR 420.126, in German) and in the present document. Only costs documented by employment contracts of Swiss project partners or invoices to Swiss project partners will be reimbursed.

#### 5.2.1 Salaries

For universities pursuant to Article 4 letter c RIPA<sup>2</sup>, the institution's usual salary rates apply. Only effective wage costs will be co-financed.

For companies as well as non-commercial research institutions and institutions outside the higher education sector, effective wage costs are eligible up to the following maximum amounts<sup>3</sup>:

Employee category	Gross hourly rate	Gross annual salary
<b>Project coordinator, deputy project coordinator, experienced researcher</b>	max. CHF 119/h	max. CHF 220'500
<b>Research assistant, scientific collaborator</b>	max. CHF 68/h	max. CHF 126'000
<b>Technician, Programmer</b>	max. CHF 61/h	max. CHF 113'400
<b>Postgraduate, Assistant</b>	max. CHF 46/h	max. CHF 85'100

The gross hourly rates correspond to an annual full-time equivalent of 2100 hours including 13.5% holiday and public holiday compensation. On top of the gross salary rates, the effective social costs are eligible.

Only salaries of personnel with a Swiss employment contract of a partner registered in Switzerland are eligible. Employees working at a foreign subsidiary count as subcontractors.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA, SR 420.1)

<sup>3</sup> The same rates also apply for SERI (s. references under Chapter 5.1)

### 5.2.2 Fixed assets

Depreciation of fixed assets necessary for the execution of the project are eligible costs, unless the asset in question is fully depreciated or procured using third-party funds specifically earmarked for this purpose. The depreciation rates for equipment are determined in accordance with the internal accounting rules. If the equipment is not used exclusively for the project, the respective actual share of use in the project may be taken into account. The proportion of use of the equipment must be verifiable (e.g. by means of laboratory records) and auditable. Companies without a specific internal accounting rule, depreciate as follows:

$$\text{fixed asset depreciation cost} = \frac{\text{purchase price}}{\text{lifetime}} * \text{time fixed asset is reserved for project}$$

### 5.2.3 Consumables

Consumables (fully depreciated on the project), which are necessary for the execution of the project are eligible costs.

### 5.2.4 Travel costs

Innosuisse does not reimburse travel costs within Switzerland<sup>4</sup>. However, international travel costs, necessary for the execution of the project, are eligible. Travel costs for conferences abroad are only eligible for funding, if participation is linked directly to the project and the partner makes an active contribution to the conference (presentation, poster, paper, booth). Expenses for meals abroad are reimbursed at the following flat rates: CHF 14.- for breakfast and CHF 27.50 for lunch or dinner. Effective costs for hotels are eligible up to CHF 300.- per night. All expenses must be specified and documented in detail.

### 5.2.5 Subcontracting

Subcontracting costs are eligible for funding, but not amongst project partners. Their necessity for the execution of the project must be duly justified and complement the participants' own contribution to the project in a suitable way.

### 5.2.6 Overhead costs

Indirect or overhead costs are applied to all eligible cost categories except subcontracting. Overheads correspond to the Innosuisse rate of 15% except for research institutions with a separate agreement with Innosuisse<sup>5</sup>.

### 5.2.7 Exchange rate

The monthly average exchange rate CHF - EUR of the submission month of the corresponding KDT Call applies and can be found on the [SNB Website](#).

### 5.2.8 Non-eligible costs

Costs, which are not essential for the execution of the project and are not listed in the KDT proposal (Part A and B) are not eligible for funding.

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<sup>4</sup> However they are eligible for SERI funding (s. references under Chapter 5.1)

<sup>5</sup> The SERI rate for overhead costs is max. 25% (s. references under Chapter 5.1)

## **6 Payment of the funding contribution**

Innosuisse and SERI: the upfront payment after the signature of the contracts will cover 50%, the mid-term payment 30% and the final payment 20% of the total funding contribution. The final payment is reconciled with the actual expenditures incurred.

## **7 Contact**

For advice and questions on submitting funding requests to Innosuisse:  
Ms Larissa Beutler, Scientific collaborator Thematic EU Partnerships  
Phone: +41 58 467 16 05; [larissa.beutler@innosuisse.ch](mailto:larissa.beutler@innosuisse.ch)

For questions on submitting funding requests to SERI and general enquiries concerning Horizon Europe: SERI, EU Framework Programmes  
Hotline +41 58 463 50 50; [europrogram@sbfi.admin.ch](mailto:europrogram@sbfi.admin.ch)