

Associated Partners

A way of participating in Horizon Europe projects

Associated partners are legal entities that participate in Horizon Europe projects, but without receiving an EU contribution to their project-related costs. This means that they implement project tasks, but they cannot claim costs to the EU or send invoices to the project consortium. Associated partners can be established in countries that are not eligible for Horizon Europe funding, the so-called third countries.

Associated partners collaborate with the main participants of the project consortium, the so-called beneficiaries, and their affiliated entities. They are mentioned explicitly in the description of the project work. They will also be named specifically in both the Grant Agreement (Art. 9.1) and its Annex 1, but they cannot sign the Grant Agreement itself.

Therefore, they cannot be the coordinator of a Horizon Europe project or submit proposals. Their participation will always be through the collaboration with at least one of the beneficiaries.

During proposal writing, legal entities wanting to participate as associated partners have to provide a so-called Participant Identification Code (PIC). (Existing PIC Codes remain valid.) Also, the proposal includes an estimate of their costs, even though they do not get funded by the project.

Associated partners will typically be part of the consortium agreement describing, amongst others, the decision-making processes within the project consortium and the handling of intellectual property rights.

Since they participate actively in the project work, some of the articles of the Grant Agreement also apply to them, amongst others those on ethics and proper implementation. Article 9 of the Horizon Europe Grant Agreement provides a full list. The beneficiaries must ensure that the associated partner adheres to these provisions. Therefore, a collaboration agreement between one of the beneficiaries and the associated partner might be considered.

Further Details/ Contact

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