

Input via online form:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Horizon2020HorizonEuropeStrategicPlan2025-2027>

# swissuniversities

**Board of swissuniversities**

3001 Bern, 23 February 2023

**Dr Luciana Vaccaro**

President

T +41 31 335 07 40

luciana.vaccaro@

swissuniversities.ch

## **Public consultation on the past, present and future of the European Research & Innovation Framework programmes 2014-2027: swissuniversities' statement**

**swissuniversities**

Effingerstrasse 15, P.O. Box

3001 Bern

www.swissuniversities.ch

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation "on the past, present and future of the European Research & Innovation Framework programmes 2014-2027".

swissuniversities is the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss higher education institutions and promotes cooperation and coordination between the universities and the various types of universities (universities, universities of applied sciences and arts, universities of teacher education). As an umbrella organisation, swissuniversities does not itself participate in European research programmes. For this reason, swissuniversities will not respond specifically to the concrete questions in the questionnaire. The members of swissuniversities, *i.e.* the Swiss higher education institutions, will answer the questions according to their own ideas and assessments. swissuniversities makes some fundamental statements here that we believe should be taken into account in the design of future programmes.

### **Excellence**

Excellence as a seal of quality from basic research to applied research and product development must remain the central driver of Horizon Europe. High-quality and excellent research generates a wide range of benefits for society as a whole. In this sense, the goal of Horizon Europe, "to develop, promote and advance scientific excellence", must also be pursued and strengthened.

### **Collaborative research**

swissuniversities is convinced that international collaboration in research at all levels of the value chain is crucial for Europe to be at the forefront of research and innovation and to bring about economic and societal change. The complexity and enormous dimensions of today's societal challenges require combined and interdisciplinary short-term as well as long-term solutions.

swissuniversities

**Cultural, Social Sciences and Humanities**

swissuniversities strongly supports a good integration of research in the social sciences, humanities and cultural studies in Horizon Europe, as well as research in the field of education. This research generates important new insights that are fundamental to broader societal issues, for example in the areas of international conflict, linguistic diversity, the education of children and immigrants or the vision of a sustainable future, which are key challenges for Europe.

**Open Science**

Open Science represents a cultural change in science and bundles various aspects that enable open access to research. swissuniversities is convinced that the change needs the appropriate commitment of all stakeholders and adequate funding: Horizon Europe should e.g. continue investing in infrastructure to move Open Data forward. It is important to understand driving factors (for higher education institutions, researchers and innovators) to incentivize compliance and how to raise awareness of the benefits of Open Science.

**Equal opportunities and diversity**

The results of efforts in the area of equal opportunities and diversity should be reviewed regularly. Moreover, in times of globalisation, it is important to consider and make use of all kinds of diversity. For example, the current criteria for evaluating and promoting researchers' careers should be further critically reflected upon, as they can hinder equity and inclusion.

**Sustainable societies, solutions for the benefit of all**

In order to successfully address and overcome today's immense global challenges and to create sustainable societies, collective efforts and scientific excellence at the highest level are needed. Horizon Europe should not only promote international research and innovation, but also competition and cooperation across political borders, so that this research can generate new knowledge and innovations for the benefit of society as a whole.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely



Dr Luciana Vaccaro  
President of swissuniversities