

BREXIT and Continued UK Participation in EU Programmes for Research, Innovation and Higher Education

UKRO maintains this factsheet to provide the latest information on the current UK situation in relation to Horizon 2020 and other EU funding schemes. You are invited to disseminate this factsheet within your institutions and to your European and international partners.

UK participation in Horizon 2020

The Withdrawal Agreement means that the UK can continue to participate in EU programmes, including Horizon 2020, that are financed by the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) until their closure (i.e. for the lifetime of grants).

UK participants will continue to receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual Horizon 2020 projects, including projects finishing after the transition period ends at the end of 2020.

UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in and lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding.

The vast majority of Horizon 2020 projects will be able to continue as before during the transition period and beyond. This includes ERC, MSCA, and the EIC Accelerator grant element.

A very limited number of UK Horizon 2020 projects, which involve access to security-related sensitive information restricted for EU Member States, may be unable to continue after EU Exit in their current form. The government expects the European Commission to inform participants if this is the case. Any affected UK grant holders should contact UKRI at EUGrantsFunding@ukri.org

What does the European Commission say?

- **Evaluation** - The Commission provides a **briefing for evaluators**, which states the following: "... Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before."
- **Funding & Tenders Portal** – This is currently being updated to fully reflect the Withdrawal Agreement and the Commission has recently provided the following statement on the main page:

"General notice for UK applicants: In conformity with the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement, the UK and persons or entities established in the UK continue to be eligible to receive Union funds under actions carried out in direct, indirect or shared management, which implement Union programmes and activities committed under the MFF 2014-2020 until the closure of those Union programmes and activities. Restrictions may, however, apply for security-related reasons or concerning financial instruments. When such restrictions apply, these will be clearly specified in the call for proposals."*

The eligibility of UK organisations for Horizon 2020 funding has also been confirmed in an FAQ related to a **recent Horizon 2020 call** and, in addition to this, the **official website** of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) includes the following information:

"The Withdrawal Agreement foresees that the UK will continue to participate in the current 2014-2020 EU programmes, including Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, as if the UK was an EU Member State until the closure of the programmes."

This means that UK beneficiaries can continue to take part in grants awarded under the current Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) until their end date, even if it is after 2020.

The possible participation of the UK in future programmes after 2020 will depend on the outcome of the overall negotiations on the future relationship between the two parties."

Where can I find official resources?

- The **website** of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) provides latest information on UK participation in Horizon 2020.
- UK Government guidance on **EU-funded programmes** under the Withdrawal Agreement and on **Horizon 2020**.
- The European Commission also provides **updates** on the transition period.

What about UK participation in other EU programmes?

The Withdrawal Agreement means that the UK can continue to participate in EU programmes that are financed by the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) until their closure (i.e. for the lifetime of grants).

The UK National Agency for Erasmus+ provides the latest information about UK participation in the programme on its **website**, while the **Creative Europe Desk UK** does the same for Creative Europe. Furthermore, the UK National Contact Point (NCP) for EU LIFE funding provides an **update** on the LIFE programme, while the COST Association has updated its **page** to provide the latest advice for UK participants in COST actions.

Negotiations on UK participation in future EU programmes

At the end of February, the Council of the EU **adopted a decision authorising the opening of negotiations** for a new partnership with the UK and formally nominated the Commission as EU negotiator. The Council also **adopted the negotiating directives**, which will serve as the mandate to the Commission for the negotiations. Shortly afterwards, the UK Government **published a document**, which outlines its approach to negotiations on the future relationship with the EU.

UK participation in Union programmes is mentioned in documents published by both sides and will form part of the broader negotiations on the future relationship, which commenced in early March.

On 1 July, the UK Government published its **Research and Development Roadmap**, which sets out the UK's vision and ambition for science, research and innovation. The Roadmap restates the UK's ambition to fully associate to Horizon Europe and Euratom, subject to agreeing a fair and balanced deal. In this scenario, if there were any gap before the UK becomes formally associated, the Government would implement short-term alternative funding arrangements through proven, attractive UK schemes. It would also provide funding to UK partners who are successful in bidding to programmes open to third country participation.

In the event the UK does not formally associate to Horizon Europe or Euratom, the Government will implement ambitious alternatives as quickly as possible from January 2021 to address the funding gap.

Under all scenarios, it is the Government's aim that UK organisations and entities continue to participate in Horizon Europe collaborative projects open to third countries, as well as in wider international collaborations.

What else can UKRO do for you?

- **We keep you informed** - this Brexit factsheet is updated on a regular basis with the aim of providing up-to-date factual information and clarifications, and to signpost you to official resources.
- **We welcome your questions and comments** - UKRO ensures these are fed back (as appropriate) and considered in relevant processes. We are already in regular contact with subscribers, and more widely with relevant stakeholders to ensure no questions, comments or potential issues are missed.
- **We can provide updates during your events** - UKRO can provide an update on the UK situation at your event. If you are interested in arranging for an UKRO staff member to speak to your group, please contact **ukro@ukro.ac.uk** with details of the event you are planning.