

The UK Research Office (UKRO) is the European office of the UK Research Councils.

It delivers a subscription-based advisory service for research organisations (in the main UK HEIs) and provides National Contact Point services on behalf of the UK Government. UKRO's mission is to maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research, innovation and higher education activities by:

UKRO's mission is to maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research, innovation and higher education activities by:	Enabling sponsors and subscribers to participate confidently in EU programmes and fully exploit the opportunities available to them;
	Supporting UK input into European research, innovation and higher education policy development by informing, advising and liaising with the appropriate bodies both in the UK and the EU;
	Delivering a set of unique, specialised services that are tailored to meet the evolving needs of sponsors and subscribers.

Vision for 2015-2020

During the period 2015-2020, UKRO aims to maintain its position as the leading provider of information and impartial support with respect to the EU's research, innovation and higher education programming and policy, for the research and higher education sector both in the UK and beyond. The strategic objectives set out in this document will enable the office to build on the past 30 years of successful operation, while also allowing UKRO to adapt and respond to a rapidly changing landscape.

Objectives

To continue to provide a tailored suite of services for UKRO's subscribers and sponsors, ensuring that experts at stakeholder organisations are kept up to date with the latest funding calls, policy developments and implementation issues.
To maintain UKRO's excellent reputation in Brussels and in the UK as a disseminator of advice and information with respect to the EU's research, innovation and higher education programming and policy, and as a leading facilitator of dialogue between the UK research funding and performing community, the UK Government, the EU institutions and Brussels-based stakeholder organisations.
To maintain and strengthen the Office's policy-monitoring role, collaborating closely with international teams across Research Councils UK (RCUK) to agree priorities, facilitate dialogue and ensure a rapid and effective response to emerging policy issues.
To maintain robust, flexible and effective management procedures.
To add value to UKRO activities through delivery of additional services beyond those described in the sponsorship / subscriber agreement, including the delivery of selected National Contact Point services on behalf of the UK Government.

Delivery Plan 2015 - 2020

Objective	Supporting Activities
To continue to provide a tailored suite of services for UKRO's subscribers and sponsors, ensuring that experts at stakeholder organisations are kept up to date with the latest funding calls, policy developments and implementation issues and by responding to queries in a timely and thorough manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide query service with each subscriber having an individual point of contact within the office. • Publish articles on UKRO Portal daily, ensuring that subscribers are kept fully up to date with relevant developments relating to EU funding and providing analysis / explanation where necessary. • Provide tailored annual briefing visits to subscribers, helping a broad range of researchers to engage with the EU programmes. • Develop a new streamlined portal that will focus on signposting information and raising the profile of the Office. • Offer Brussels-based facilities including a meeting room and hot-desking opportunities for subscribing organisations.
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To maintain and strengthen the Office's policy-monitoring role, collaborating closely with international teams across RCUK to agree priorities, facilitate dialogue and ensure a rapid and effective response to emerging policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly review requirements of RCUK sponsors. • Foster strong relationships with new EU and UK stakeholders, including the Innovate UK Brussels Office and the European Enterprise Network (UK). • Participate in foresight activities and start early work in planning for and influencing research and innovation programmes post-2020.
To maintain robust, flexible and effective management procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review services in the light of available budget, and be open to adding value within any financial constraint.
To add value to UKRO activities through delivery of additional services beyond those described in the Sponsorship / Subscriber agreement, including the delivery of selected National Contact Point services on behalf of the UK Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver high-quality UK National Contact Point services for the European Research Council and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions on behalf of UK Government. • Deliver a limited range of training events both in the UK and Brussels tailored to meet the evolving needs of UKRO's stakeholders.