

The UK's Exit from the European Union – UKRO FAQs on UK Participation in EU Funding for Research, Innovation and Higher Education

The information below is provided by the UK Research Office and reflects our current understanding of the UK situation with regards to Horizon 2020 and other funding programmes in research, innovation and higher education.

Universities UK also provides [FAQs](#) on a wide range of post-referendum issues and information for students coming to the UK.

Please contact UKRO (ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk) with questions relating to the post-referendum situation. We will endeavour, where possible, to provide answers or to signpost to appropriate contacts.

Research Councils UK released a [statement on international collaboration post the outcome of the EU referendum on 6 July 2016](#). It states that *“While the UK remains a full member of the European Union we encourage researchers to continue to engage with partners in the EU and with European funding schemes as normal. The Research Councils recognise that there is uncertainty about the future of the UK’s relationship with the EU in general and specifically affecting aspects of the research system. We are working with Government to ensure that the concerns and needs of UK researchers are represented and are considered in the negotiation of a future relationship with the EU.”*

What has changed for UK participation since the referendum and the triggering of Article 50?

Key message: No immediate changes to UK participation in Horizon 2020 – [read more](#)

What happens to proposals and projects involving UK participants when the UK leaves the EU?

The UK Government will underwrite funding for EU projects beyond the date the UK leaves the EU – [read more](#)

What is the advice from the European Commission on UK participation in Horizon 2020?

The Commission has confirmed that the status of UK participants in EU funding programmes remains unchanged until the UK leaves the EU – [read more](#)

Not from the UK and have concerns over including UK partners?

The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy created a special inbox for queries and to report issues – [read more](#)

Coming to Brussels with a group and looking for an update for your researchers/research managers?

UKRO can provide an update on the UK situation at your Brussels event – [read more](#)

Where can I find UK Government resources? – [read more](#)

What has changed for UK participation since the referendum and the triggering of Article 50?

No immediate changes to UK participation in Horizon 2020

An important message for researchers, university administrators and research organisations more broadly is that the UK's status in the EU has not changed yet.

This means that:

- The UK is still an EU Member State until it leaves the EU at the end of the negotiation process.
- The UK has the same rights and obligations as all other 27 Member States, including the participation in EU funding programmes.
- Details on how the UK can participate after an exit need to be determined during the negotiations between the UK and the EU.

What happens to proposals and projects involving UK participants when the UK leaves the EU?

The UK Government will underwrite funding for EU projects

The UK Treasury guarantees EU Funding for UK researchers beyond the date the UK leaves the EU.

HM Treasury has issued a **statement** on 13 August 2016 to confirm this:

- *"Where UK organisations bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis for EU funding projects while we are still a member of the EU, for example universities participating in Horizon 2020, the Treasury will underwrite the payments of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU".*
- UKRO understands that eligibility for the guarantee will extend to all successful applications submitted before the exit date, and not just to grants signed.
- British universities and research organisations should therefore continue to apply for EU funding through mechanisms such as Horizon 2020 while the UK is a member of the EU.
- Universities and research organisations from other EU Member States or countries associated to EU funding programmes are encouraged to and should feel reassured to continue to include UK partners.
- The statement applies to competitive funding schemes, which, in addition to Horizon 2020, also includes other centrally managed programmes.
- Separate arrangements were made or are being discussed for decentralised funding schemes (EU funding directly administered by the individual Member States, not centrally by the European Commission).
- Information on Erasmus+ is available on the website of the National Agency (www.erasmusplus.org.uk/article-50-update-0).

What is the advice from the European Commission on UK participation in Horizon 2020?

The Commission has confirmed that the status of UK participants in EU funding programmes remains unchanged until the UK leaves the EU.

The European Commission issued a statement in July to confirm that there is no immediate change to the UK's status regarding Horizon 2020.

- In July 2016, the Commission issued a statement concerning Horizon 2020:
"Until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, both when it comes to rights and obligations. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions."
- The Commission also explicitly briefs proposal evaluators in their guidance:
"Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before."
(ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/expert/h2020_expert-briefing_en.pdf)
- The status of UK partners in Horizon 2020 proposals has also been clarified on the European Commission's Participant Portal:
*"Should project coordinators of Horizon 2020 proposals dedicate a part of their proposal to addressing the potential risks as a consequence of the UK Referendum?
No. At this stage, any speculation on the consequences for the Horizon 2020 action of a withdrawal of the UK from the EU will not be taken into account in the evaluation."*

Not from the UK and have concerns over including UK partners?

Are you from another EU Member State or associated country and your organisation or researchers you work with are concerned over including UK partners, for example in Horizon 2020 proposals? The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy created a special inbox (research@beis.gov.uk) for queries and to report issues concerning Horizon 2020 partnering and projects. Researchers and research organisations from outside the UK can contact the inbox in the same way UK entities can.

Coming to Brussels with a group and looking for an update for your researchers/research managers?

Are you planning to visit Brussels with a group of researchers, your university management or research administrators? You can contact UKRO if you would like to receive an update on the UK status concerning EU funding in research, innovation and higher education during your visit. If you are interested in arranging for an UKRO staff member to speak to your group, please contact ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk with details on the event you are planning.

Where can I find UK Government resources on Brexit related to research and innovation?

UK Government statements and speeches by the Prime Minister relating to the UK exit of the EU are published on the website of the **Department for Exiting the EU (DexEU)**. In her **speech on 17 January 2017**, the Prime Minister laid out the Government's plan for exiting the EU. This speech includes 12 priorities, one of which is on research and innovation. Further detail is available in **the Government's white paper on exiting the EU**, in particular in chapter 10 covering research and innovation.

The European Commission also maintains a **website on the Taskforce on Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom**.