

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

UKRO maintains this factsheet to provide the latest information on UK participation in EU funding schemes in research, innovation and higher education. It provides an overview of the opportunities and signpost stakeholders – both UK organisations and our partners in Europe, to relevant official documentation. You are invited to disseminate this factsheet within your institutions and to your European and international partners.

UK participation in Horizon Europe and other EU programmes

As part of the [Trade and Cooperation Agreement reached between the UK and the EU](#), the UK announced that it will associate to Horizon Europe subject to ratification of the overall deal and finalisation of the relevant EU regulations. Association will give UK scientists, researchers and businesses access to funding under the programme on equivalent terms as organisations in EU countries.

Both sides have now formally adopted the full text of the agreement, with the European Parliament voting in favour of the TCA on 28 April 2021. The agreement has entered into force and Horizon Europe's legal basis is in place. Now, Protocol I will need to be ratified by one of the specialised committees created under the TCA.

All countries, including the UK, previously associated to Horizon 2020 (except for Switzerland) will be associated to Horizon Europe from its beginning under a special transitional arrangement before the relevant association agreements/protocols enter into force. The [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) contains information on this transitional arrangement for the candidate Associated Countries

The main Horizon Europe Work Programme for 2023-2024 was [adopted](#) on 6 December 2022. UK entities can be included in consortia **as beneficiaries**, as if the UK were already associated to the programme, in accordance with the [Commission's guidance](#).

The UK also reached an agreement with the EU to associate to the Euratom Research & Training (R&T) Programme, ITER and Copernicus.

The [Turing scheme](#) replaced the UK's participation in Erasmus+. The programme provides similar opportunities for students to study and work abroad as the Erasmus+ programme and will include countries across the world.

UK-based researchers and innovators remain fully eligible to participate in and lead [European Cooperation in Science and Technology \(COST\)](#) Actions. A COST Action is a bottom-up, interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for four years. The United Kingdom is a [Full Member of COST](#) and its eligibility is independent of affiliation to Horizon Europe.

UK entities are already eligible to participate in Horizon Europe

The European Commission has published a [Q&A document](#) confirming that UK entities are already eligible to apply for Horizon Europe calls as beneficiaries:

“...UK applicants are treated as if the UK is an associated country throughout the process, from admissibility and eligibility to evaluation, up until the preparation of grant agreements. However, grant agreements can only be signed if the association has come into force. The same treatment is also granted to any applicants from other associated countries currently engaged with the European Commission in an active process of association.”

Funding support available during the delay to the association

As the delay to the UK association continues, the UK Government **has confirmed** that successful Horizon Europe applicants will receive guaranteed funding from UKRI regardless of the outcome of the UK's efforts to associate to Horizon Europe.

The UK Government extended the Guarantee several times, **most recently on 6 March 2023**.

The guarantee will now be in place to cover **all Horizon Europe calls that close on or before 30 June 2023**.

Furthermore, the earlier extensions included the 2023 costs for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology Knowledge and Innovation Community (EIT KICs) activities delivered by UK participants.

UKRI **has published guidance and instructions on how to apply**.

Please note that UK applicants must apply for funding from the EU as beneficiaries and not as Associated Partners in order to be eligible for the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee.

Support is available if the UK is not able to associate

In July 2022, the Government set out a **new package of transitional measures** to ensure the stability and continuity of funding for researchers and businesses, which will come into force if the UK is not able to associate to Horizon Europe.

These measures include the following: the UK Guarantee scheme already in operation; funding for successful, in-flight UK-based applicants to Horizon; uplifts to existing UK talent schemes; uplifts to innovation funding and support for businesses, in particular SMEs; uplifts to international innovation schemes to support international business collaborations; funding for research institutions most affected by the loss of Horizon Europe's talent funding; and continued Third Country Participation in Horizon Europe.

The document also sets out the vision for Copernicus and Euratom UK alternatives, with further details expected in due course.

Furthermore, in November 2022, the Government **announced** nearly half a billion pounds in immediate research funding to support the UK R&D sector, in response to the ongoing delay to finalise the UK's association to EU programmes. These investments provide targeted support for staff retention and local talent strategies at eligible universities and research organisations, as well as make sure the UK labs remain world-class and at the cutting edge of R&D.

UK involvement in other EU programmes

The UK will be considered a third country for all other EU programmes. UK organisations may participate in calls for proposals under these programmes only if the relevant programme's legal basis allows for this. The relevant call documents will normally list the countries, which are eligible to participate in projects and to receive funding.

In most cases, organisations from third countries can participate in EU projects, but without receiving EU funding, which means they would need to cover their own costs. Furthermore, it is also normally possible for such organisations to participate as third parties such as subcontractors, subject to the standard rules of the programme.

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 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.

Where can I find official resources?

- **UKRO**, a UKRI office based in Brussels, provides **additional services and information** to subscribers to ensure they can best engage with EU funding
- The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) **website** provides latest information on UK participation in EU-funded projects.
- The network of **UK National Contact Points (NCPs)** provides guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in European Framework Programmes including Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. UKRO delivers the **European Research Council** (ERC) and **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** (MSCA) UK National Contact Points.
- UK Government guidance on **EU-funded programmes** under the Withdrawal Agreement and on **Horizon 2020**.
- The official statements on the EU-UK relationship are available on a **dedicated European Commission website** and the **UK Government page**.
- UK Government provides information on **EU Funded Programmes under the Withdrawal Agreement**.
- The **Winsdor Framework** was agreed in principle on 27 February 2023

What else can UKRO do for you?

- **We keep you informed** - this 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.

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