

UKRO Services Update: Supporting participation in Horizon Europe in 2025-26

This communication updates UKRO Subscribers on the support UKRO will provide to facilitate UK participation in Horizon Europe in 2025/26.

In view of the importance of boosting UK participation in Horizon Europe, and because we are making some changes to our support, **effective from 1 April 2025 we will no longer charge a subscription fee to access UKRO resources and services***.

We are also changing some of the ways in which we deliver our support:

- We are moving away from having a dedicated European Advisor for each organisation. Instead, the team will be able to respond to enquiries via the UKRO mailbox ukro@ukro.ac.uk.
- We will continue in-person engagement through regional visits to groups of stakeholders, rather than personalised annual site visits.
- Our team will be based in the UK with regular engagement with stakeholders in Brussels.

These changes have informed our refreshed mission and objectives.

**Please note, no fee was charged for 24/25 and all subscribers and finance offices were notified.*

UKRO Mission

Our overarching mission is to maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research and innovation funding programmes to the UK academic community and key partners, in order. We do this by:

1. Boosting UK participation in Horizon Europe through National Contact Point services on behalf of UK Government; namely European Research Council (ERC), Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA), COST, Widening Participation and New European Bauhaus (NEB).
2. Providing our users with news, policy insights and expert advice enabling them to navigate and make informed decisions about participating in EU programmes.
3. Monitoring policy developments in European research and innovation programmes, and liaising with key stakeholders, to support UK-EU collaboration and UK engagement in Horizon Europe.

UKRO Objectives

1. **Provide National Contact Point services** – we will deliver ERC and MSCA, Widening, COST and NEB National Contact Point (NCP) services for the UK research community, on behalf of the UK Government.
2. **Provide high quality resources and advice on European research programmes**– through the UKRO online portal and via a central enquiry service, we will provide UKRO users with information and advice on EU's research and innovation policy to inform their engagement.
3. **Provide effective support for European Liaison Officers (ELOs) and Research Managers** – to enable them to champion EU funding within their organisations, drive efficiency and achieve positive outcomes.

4. **Monitor European research and innovation policy and provide policy insights** - keep up to date with relevant EU policies, translating policy changes and priorities into accessible information to support R&I communities participating in Horizon Europe.
5. **Be an advocate and informal interlocutor supporting diverse stakeholder interactions in Brussels and the UK, from a UK base** – to work across related organisations, ensuring gathering and sharing of intel to support the UK's engagement in Horizon Europe as an Associated Country.

UKRO Service Provision – how we will support you from 25/26 onwards

1. **National Contact Points services** – we will provide NCP support for ERC, MSCA, Widening, COST and New European Bauhaus via the dedicated inboxes, ensuring rapid responses to enquiries received. We will provide detailed factsheets on schemes and timely online webinars, ensuring UK communities are well informed available on opportunities including calls, eligibility requirements, networks and other information that supports the application and implementation of EU funding through these schemes.
2. **UKRO Portal** – all NCP resources, UKRO Factsheets, funding opportunities, events and news articles will be accessible without a login. Users will also be able to sign up for regular newsletters. In addition, we will maintain a dedicated area with additional in-depth resources for ELOs, for which a login will still be required.
3. **Enquiry function** – moving away from a named point of contact for each individual institution, we will manage enquiries via the ukro@ukro.ac.uk mailbox. European Advisors will be able to respond to enquiries on any area of Horizon Europe or related research, innovation and policy enquiries in the pre- and post-award space.
4. **In-person events** – we will no longer visit individual organisations on a yearly basis to hold a bespoke UKRO visit, and instead hold regional visits once a year. We will take into consideration the numbers of institutions using UKRO services and participating in Horizon Europe and endeavour to hold events in a suitable location to cater for the region. Prior to visits taking place ELOs at institutions within a region will be able to share their priority topics to feed into the planning, and we will cover as many requested topics as is feasible. We intend to have at least two UKRO staff at each visit in order to hold a limited number of 1-1 surgeries, and the events will facilitate cross-institution networking and sharing best practice.
5. **Online events** – in order to provide regular support to as many UKRO users as possible, we will hold regular webinars and quarterly ELO catch ups. The ELO catch up quarterly schedule will commence from May 2025 and start with a session on the changes to UKRO and how we will support ELOs and research managers from now on. We will liaise with the ELO community prior to catch ups to ensure we are aware of the most pertinent or timely issues.
6. **Policy monitoring** – through regular Brussels engagement with key networks and through events, we will continue to monitor policy developments in European R&I.

Next Steps:

- We will hold a webinar at 2p.m UK time, Monday 12 May to update UKRO subscribers and provide a forum for discussion and feedback. [Please register for the Teams meeting via this link.](#)
- Any urgent enquiries or feedback can be sent to the UKRO mailbox ukro@ukro.ac.uk.

FAQs:

Can I still contact a named European Advisor?

Any member of the community may write to UKRO at ukro@ukro.ac.uk with enquiries on European research programmes. If an enquiry concerns any of the areas which we provide NCP services for, it should be directed to that mailbox:

UK European Research Council - erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

UK Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

UK Widening Participation - widera-uk@ukro.ac.uk

UK New European Bauhaus - NCP-bauhaus@ukro.ac.uk

When will the changes to the UKRO portal come into effect?

During May and June 2025, we are working with our IT team to remove user accounts and migrate content to publicly accessible pages. The earliest these changes will come into effect on the UKRO Portal are likely to be late May/early June.

We will update people via the portal when the changes take place, and after this point UKRO users will no longer need to sign in to access UKRO factsheets, news articles, and information on funding opportunities and events.

Please note, except for ELOs, user accounts will be deleted.

Will European Liaison Officers (ELOs) still be able to access training material on the UKRO portal?

There will be a protected area maintained on the UKRO Portal www.ukro.ac.uk for ELOs. ELOs will need to have an account and sign in to access.

How regular will online sessions be?

Online sessions open to all will be held every 1-2 months, with an additional quarterly ELO catch up to support research managers.

How regular will regional visits be?

Annual. The schedule for visits will be confirmed in due course, with the first visit likely to take place from September 2025. We will endeavour to consult with organisations within a region on suitable timings, and will work closely with a host organisation to plan the event.

Will the annual UKRO conference be reinstated?

At present there are no plans to reinstate the UKRO conference, however the regional visits and online sessions will provide cross-sector convening opportunities when participants can share best practice.

Can I invite an UKRO staff member to speak at an event my organisation is planning?

We recognise the value that a guest speaker from UKRO can add to your events, and any visit requests will be carefully considered according to what team resource we have available at that time.

Additional resources

- The Commission provides answers to FAQs on UK participation in Horizon Europe on its [website](#) and on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- UKRI maintains a [dedicated web page](#) with information on how it supports Horizon Europe applicants and [another one](#) with dedicated guidance on UK association and the Horizon Guarantee.
- The UK Government provides guidance on [EU-funded programmes](#) under the Withdrawal Agreement and more specifically on [Horizon 2020](#) on its websites.
- The network of [UK National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#) provides guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in European R&I Framework Programmes, including Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. UKRO delivers the [European Research Council](#) (ERC), [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) (MSCA), [COST](#), [Widening Participation](#) and [New European Bauhaus](#) UK National Contact Points.

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