



UK Research
and Innovation

Update on UKRO services – supporting participation in Horizon Europe 25/26

UKRO team and UKRI International
Teams Webinar Monday 12 May 14:00-15:00

Key changes to UKRO 25/26

Points to note:

These changes have informed our refreshed mission and objectives.

We have not charged a subscription fee for 24/25

No longer charging a subscription fee for services in support of boosting UK participation in Horizon Europe

Our team will be based in the UK with regular engagement with stakeholders in Brussels

No longer provide meeting room space in Brussels

Enquiry services via the UKRO mailbox ukro@ukro.ac.uk –
No dedicated European Advisor for each organisation

In-person engagement through regional visits to groups of stakeholders

No personalised annual site visits

UKRO Mission

Our overarching mission is to **maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research and innovation funding programmes**, supporting the UK academic community and key partners. 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



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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How UKRO will support UK participation in Horizon Europe

1. National Contact Points services

- NCP support for ERC, MSCA, Widening, COST and New European Bauhaus via the dedicated inboxes
- Detailed factsheets
- 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**.
- Removal of user accounts – except ELO
 - Dedicated area with additional in-depth resources for ELOs, for which a login will still be required.
- Newsletters continue to be sent – new users can sign up for regular newsletters.

How UKRO will support UK participation in Horizon Europe

3. Enquiry function

- Central management of 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

- Regional visits once a year to groups of participating organisations
- Held at a suitable location, in partnership with a host organisation
- ELOs can share priority topics during planning, and we will cover as many requested topics as is feasible.
- Several UKRO staff members, with additional support from IUK NCPs, UKRI staff and other – enriched agenda and still with scope for 1-1 surgeries
- No more annual UKRO conference – however these events will facilitate cross-institution networking and sharing best practice.

How UKRO will support UK participation in Horizon Europe

5. Online events

- Regular online events to reach as many UKRO users as possible
- Regular webinars of timely topics (including NCP)
- Quarterly ELO catch ups - 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

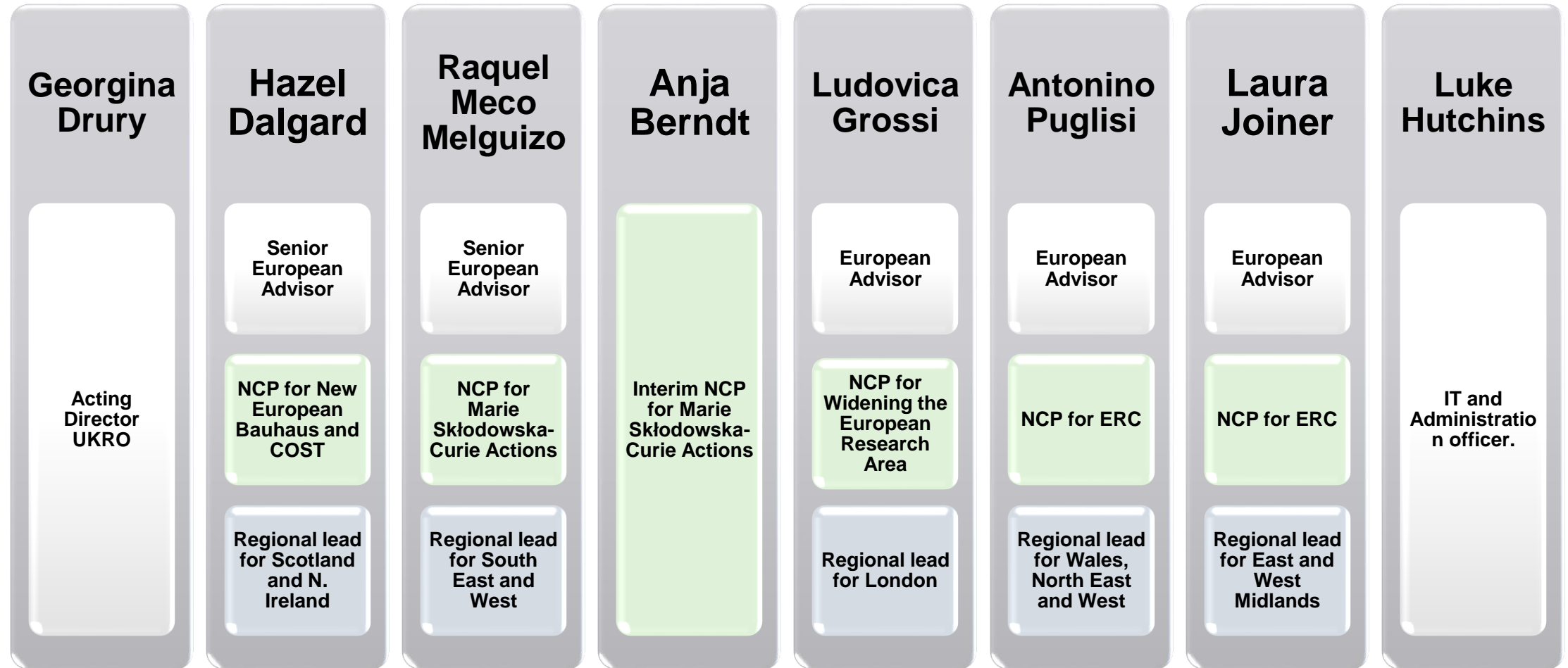
- Through regular Brussels engagement with key networks and through events, we will continue to monitor policy developments in European R&I.

Regional Approach

- Moving from bespoke individual approach to a “one to many”
- Benefits include being able to reach a wider audience
- Potential drawback – lose personalised aspects



The UKRO Team

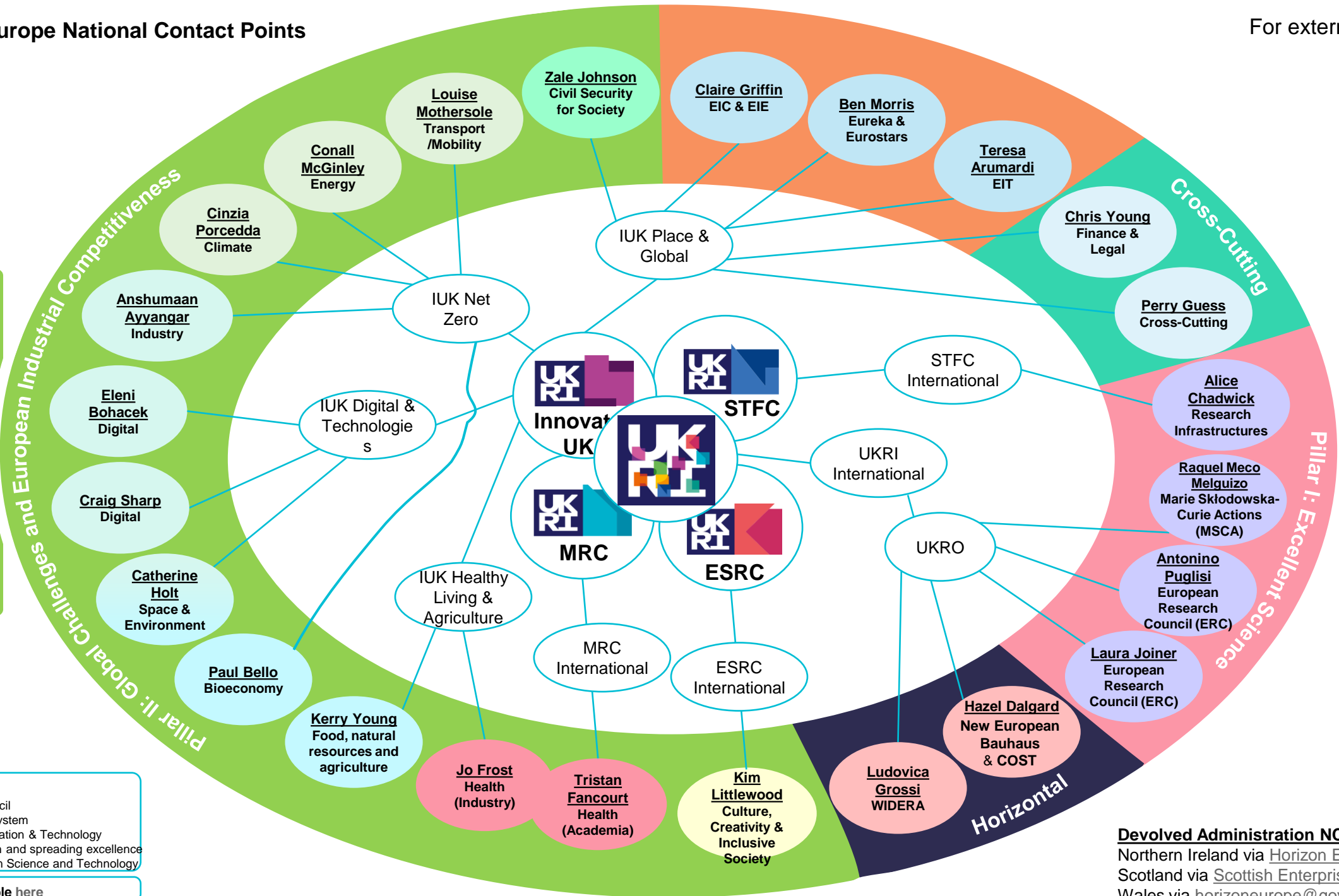


UKRI Horizon Europe National Contact Points

For external use

Horizon Europe Pillar II Cluster Key:

Cluster 1: Health
Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
Cluster 3: Civil Security For Society
Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
Cluster 6: Food security, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment



Glossary
 EIC: European Innovation Council
 EIE: European Innovation Ecosystem
 ETI: European Institute of Innovation & Technology
 WIDERA: Widening participation and spreading excellence
 COST: European Cooperation in Science and Technology

NCP contact details available [here](#)

Devolved Administration NCPs
 Northern Ireland via [Horizon Europe NI](#)
 Scotland via [Scottish Enterprise](#)
 Wales via horizoneurope@gov.wales

UKRO Events – indicative plan

Regional, in-person events

- ERC Grant Management – 24/25 June, University of Southampton
 - For PIs and research support staff – places still available, register until 25 May
- UKRO Regional visits
 - *London – Sept-25*
 - *Wales – Oct-25*
 - *Scotland – Nov-25*

Online support

Date	Event	Event type
Jun-25	ERC Advanced Grant Webinar.	NCP Webinar
Jun-25	MSCA Staff Exchanges Information Webinar.	NCP Webinar
Jun-25	NEB Information Webinar	NCP Webinar
Jun-25	Widening Information Webinar	NCP Webinar
Jun-25	Open Science in Horizon Europe	UKRO Information Webinar
Jul-25	MSCA Doctoral Networks Information Webinar.	NCP Webinar
Sep-25	ELO catch up	UKRO ELO catch up

Discussion – Q&A



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Thank you

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