

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

UKRO maintains this factsheet to provide the latest information on UK participation in EU funding schemes for research, innovation and earth observation. It provides an overview of the opportunities and signposts stakeholders – both UK organisations and our partners in Europe and beyond – to relevant official documentation.

You are invited to disseminate this factsheet within your institutions and to your European and international partners.

UK association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus

As of 1 January 2024, the UK has associated to the Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes.

UK organisations are able to participate in Horizon Europe calls for proposals on the same terms as institutions from other Associated Countries, including leading consortia and receiving EU funding, from the 2024 Work Programme onwards.

Participation in [Copernicus](#), the EU Earth Observation programme, allows the UK to access state-of-the-art services and products to monitor the Earth, as well as providing the UK research community with access to unique data, which is often required on Horizon Europe projects.

The UK Government has published a helpful [explainer document on UK association to Horizon](#), which includes clarifications on many issues related to the UK association to both programmes.

Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025

Work Programmes set out funding opportunities under Horizon Europe, and detail everything potential applicants need to know on the scheme in question, including objectives, priorities, funding available, and eligibility requirements; there are separate [Work Programmes for the different funding instruments](#) within in Pillar 1, Pillar 2, Pillar 3 and Widening and Strengthening the European Research Area.

Throughout Horizon Europe, annual updates to Work Programmes reflect the changing priorities and needs of the EU and its member states. [The 2025 Work Programme](#) was pre-published on 28 April this year and formally adopted on 14 May 2025.

Every Horizon call for proposals has a call identification (ID) number, which sets out which programme year it belongs to. This number is set out clearly for each call in the Work Programme and on the EU's [Funding and Tenders Portal](#). If the call ID includes '2025', the call will be part of the 2025 Work Programme.

The following table contains information about the opening dates and deadlines for calls within the 2025 Work Programme. These are provided in chronological order and are only intended to give applicants a general overview of 2025 deadlines. Applicants are encouraged to read the Work Programme carefully and check each call's opening date and deadline early on.

Call / opportunity	Call opening	Call deadlines
Research Infrastructures	6 May	18 September
Cluster 1 - Health	13 May, 22 May	Single-stage: 16 September, 03 June
		Two-stage: 16 September 2025 (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage)

Cluster 2 - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society	15 May	Single-stage: 16 September
		Two-stage: 16 September 2025 (First Stage), 17 March 2026 (Second Stage)
Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society	12 June	Single-stage: 12 November
Cluster 4 - Digital, Industry and Space	22 May, 10 June, 14 October	Single-stage: 23 September, 25 September, 02 October, 10 February 2026
		Two-stage: 23 September 2025 (First Stage), 14 April 2026 (Second Stage)
Cluster 5 - Climate, Energy and Mobility	6 May, 16 September	Single-stage: 02 September, 04 September, 24 September, 20 January 2026, 17 February 2026
		Two-stage: 02 Sep 2025 (First Stage), 31 Mar 2026 (Second Stage) & 04 Sep 2025 (First Stage), 31 Mar 2026 (Second Stage) & 04 Sep 2025 (First Stage), 14 Apr 2026 (Second Stage)
Cluster 6 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment:	6 May	Single-stage: 16 September 2025, 17 September 2025, 24 September 2025
		Two-stage: 04 September 2025 (First Stage), 18 February 2026 (Second Stage)
European Innovation Ecosystems	6 May, 14 May, 10 September	19 June, 15 October, 20 January 2026
Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area	6 May, 8 May, 14 May, 15 May	04 September, 16 September, 18 September, 15 October, 18 November, 20 November
EU Missions	6 May, 7 May, 9 December	Single-stage: 04 September, 16 September, 24 September, 30 September, 20 January 2026, 31 March 2026
		Two-stage: 04 Sep 2025 (First Stage), 18 Feb 2026 (Second Stage)
New European Bauhaus	6 May	Single-stage: 12 November

The final Work Programme of Horizon Europe will be published in 2026 and will cover both 2026 and 2027.

Transitional arrangements for ongoing projects and applications made prior to Horizon Europe association

UK applicants to calls in 2021, 2022, and 2023 Work Programmes were fully eligible for evaluation by the EU and, if successful, to receive funding from the UK Government through the [UK Horizon Europe Guarantee Scheme](#).

During the period of non-association, UK applicants were not eligible to lead consortia or count towards the minimum number of countries required to meet eligibility rules for applications for transnational projects.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has published [guidance](#) on UK participation in the 2021, 2022 and 2023 calls, together with [detailed instructions](#) on how to apply for the Guarantee funding.

Key points for applying to the UK Horizon Europe Guarantee Scheme

In order to be eligible for the UK Guarantee, UK applicants must continue to apply for funding from the EU as Beneficiaries and not as Associated Partners

UK participants who have received a UKRI grant under the Horizon Guarantee will remain on it for the lifetime of the project, subject to UKRI's bespoke terms and conditions.

UK participation in other EU programmes

The UK will be considered a [non-associated third country](#) for all other EU programmes, including [Erasmus+](#) and Euratom. 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 as Associated Partners without receiving EU funding, which means they 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.

In line with the preferences of the UK fusion sector, the UK has decided to pursue a domestic fusion energy strategy instead of associating to the EU's [Euratom programme](#). This will involve close international collaboration, including with European partners, and a new, cutting-edge alternative programme, backed by up to £650m to 2027.

UK Participation in COST Actions

COST is an intergovernmental framework consisting of more than 40 countries. Although it is separate from the Horizon Europe programme, it is operationally funded by it.

As the UK is a [Full Member of COST](#), UK-based researchers and innovators are fully eligible to apply to and participate in COST Actions, which fund **interdisciplinary research networks** that coalesce researchers and innovators together on topic for 4 years.

More information on COST can be found on the [COST website](#) and in the [dedicated UKRO factsheet](#).

Article 22.5 and Exclusions

The UK Government's agreement with the EU means that UK researchers and businesses can participate in all areas of Horizon with very limited exceptions: the EIC Fund, which provides equity

finance support to EIC Accelerator projects, and a small part of the programme focused on some emerging technologies where the Commission has restricted participation since 2021. This has previously included calls from quantum and space, and for the 2025 Work Programme, AI, high performance computing (HPC) and telecommunications were also brought into scope for potential restrictions.

Following an assessment of UK eligibility, we have now received official confirmation from the European Commission that **UK researchers and businesses are eligible to apply to the vast majority of sensitive calls in the 2025 Work Programme.**

Some blanket restrictions still apply to all non-EU/EEA countries for a small number of Horizon Europe space technology projects focussed on In-Space Operations & Services and EEE components for EU non-dependence. These calls represent a very small proportion of the overall programme and no other non-EU/EEA countries currently have access to these calls. All other space calls are open to the UK including those focussed on access to European spaceports and space transportation systems, and those that help to further exploit Copernicus data.

The **full list of excluded calls** can be accessed in the [UKRO Cluster 4 factsheet](#).

Background information on association and the Withdrawal Agreement:

- UK association came after formal adoption of an agreement on 4 December 2023 in the form of a protocol to the [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#), by the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Participation in EU Programmes.
- The European Commission and the UK Government published a [joint statement](#) on UK association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus as of 1 January 2024.
- While more and more calls will reach the end of their lifecycle and new calls will be covered by Association, the UK Government continues to provide guidance on [EU-funded programmes](#) under the Withdrawal Agreement and more specifically on [Horizon 2020](#) on its websites.

Resources for supporting UK participation in Horizon Europe

- 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 webpage on [working on EU-funded projects](#) with information on how it supports Horizon Europe applicants.
- 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.

What else can UKRO do for you?

[UKRO](#) is a team within UKRI international with a mission to act as a trusted interlocutor distilling and relaying key policy and funding intelligence on an overarching mission is to maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research and innovation funding programmes to the UK academic community and key partners. We do this by:

- **Boosting UK participation in Horizon Europe** through the delivery of National Contact Point services on behalf of UK Government; the [European Research Council](#) (ERC), [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) (MSCA), [COST](#), [New European Bauhaus](#) and [Widening Participation](#) UK National Contact Points.
- Providing our users with **news, policy insights and expert advice** enabling them to navigate and make informed decisions about participating in EU programmes.

- **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.
- **Holding regular online and in-person events** – check the UKRO portal for the latest events. If you are interested in arranging for an UKRO staff member to speak at an event, please contact ukro@ukro.ac.uk with details of the event you are planning.

We aim to keep our users 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 feedback so if you have any questions or comments, please get in touch via ukro@ukro.ac.uk.

Useful links

- [Horizon Europe website](#)
- UK Government [explainer document](#) for UK applicants to Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe's legal basis and Strategic Plans:

- [Regulation establishing Horizon Europe](#)
- [Decision establishing the Specific Programme of Horizon Europe](#)
- [First Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe \(2021-2024\)](#)
- [Second Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe \(2025-2027\)](#)

UKRO

- [UKRO Portal](#)
- [UKRO on LinkedIn](#) - Follow us for regular updates

Other websites and resources

- [Innovate UK Horizon Europe Hub](#)
- [UK National Contact Point \(NCP\) support services](#)
- [NCP newsletter](#)