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 agreement reached between the UK and the EU, the UK has announced that it will associate to Horizon Europe subject to ratification of the overall deal and finalisation of the regulations. Association will give UK scientists, researchers and businesses access to funding under the programme on equivalent terms as organisations in EU countries. The next step is for both sides to formally adopt the full text of the agreement taking into account the finalised EU Programme Regulations.

The timeline for UK association is to be confirmed but draft text in the EU-UK Declarations sets out an ambition for the UK to associate to Horizon Europe in time to participate from the beginning of the programmes.

"It is the Parties’ firm intention that the Specialised Committee on Participation in Union Programmes will adopt the Protocols at the earliest opportunity to allow their implementation as soon as possible, in particular with the ambition that United Kingdom entities would be able to participate from the beginning of the programmes and activities identified, ensuring relevant arrangements and agreements are in place, insofar as possible and in accordance with Union legislation."

The UK also reached agreement with the EU and Euratom to associate to the next Euratom Research & Training (R&T) Programme 2021-2025 subject to ratification of the overall deal and finalisation of the regulations.

A new Turing scheme starting in September 2021 will replace the UK’s participation in Erasmus+. The programme will provide similar opportunities for students to study and work abroad as the Erasmus+ programme and will include countries across the world.

Confirmed: UK entities are already eligible

The European Commission has published a question-and-answer document confirming that UK entities are already eligible to apply for Horizon Europe calls.

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.

UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in and lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding, including the Horizon 2020 Green Deal Call with a deadline of 27 January 2021.
Where can I find official resources?

- The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) website provides latest information on UK participation in Horizon 2020.
- UKRO, UKRI’s European office, is based in Brussels, provides additional services and information to subscribers to ensure they can best engage with EU funding.
- 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.
- 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.

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.