

# 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 has 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.

The main Horizon Europe Work Programme for 2021-2022 was [adopted](#) on 16 June. UK entities can be included in consortia, as if the UK were already associated to the programme, in accordance with the [Commission's guidance](#).

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.

The [Turing scheme](#) replaces 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.

## 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.

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

## In the event of a delay to association

If the delay to 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. This applies to the first wave of calls where the delay to UK association to the programme may prevent them from signing grant agreements. UKRI will provide further details about eligibility and how to apply in due course.

The UK government's aim is that this guarantee will provide reassurance for the UK research and innovation community and to European partners. The UK government stated it is ready to formalise association to EU programmes at the earliest opportunity and that is its preferred outcome.

## 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](#).

## 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](mailto:ukro@ukro.ac.uk) with details of the event you are planning.

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