

## UK Update on Horizon Europe

**“The UK will associate to Horizon Europe. Association will give UK organisations 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.”**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/horizon-2020-what-it-is-and-how-to-apply-for-funding#overview>

The UK and EU have concluded negotiations on a [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) (TCA), following UK exit from the European Union. *The agreement caters for UK Association to Horizon Europe, the EU’s flagship research and innovation programme.* This represents valuable collaboration on science and research to tackle global challenges.

***We strongly encourage UK and EU researchers and businesses to proactively form collaborative partnerships and prepare to bid into Horizon Europe funding calls in the coming months.***

What does ‘Association’ mean?

Association to Horizon Europe means that participation conditions for UK legal entities will be the same as those for legal entities from EU Member States: *funding is drawn directly from the European Commission and legal entities count towards those required in standard eligibility conditions.* There is a strong precedent for association in EU R&I programmes. A list of countries with association agreements to Horizon 2020, the current framework programme, is available [here](#).

What is in scope?

UK entities will be able to participate to all of Horizon Europe, including the Partnerships and the Missions, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), European Research Council (ERC), European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) and European Innovation Council (EIC), *with the sole exception of the EIC Fund* (financial instruments as opposed to grants). The UK will also be associated to the Euratom Research and Training programme.

When does UK participation begin?

The draft text in the EU-UK Declarations sets out an ambition for the *UK to be able to participate from the beginning of the programmes.* Before the UK can associate, the Horizon Europe regulation needs to be ratified and the protocol on UK association finalised. We anticipate the first calls under Horizon Europe will open from Spring 2021. For UK organisations to be fully eligible for EC funding UK association needs to be in place by the time the first grant agreements are being prepared.

Does this affect ongoing Horizon 2020 calls and projects?

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 will continue to receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual Horizon 2020 projects, including projects finishing after the end

of the transition period at the end of 2020. UK organisations will continue to be eligible for open calls operating under [Financial Support to Third Parties](#).

Are there any changes to the rules in Horizon Europe?

Draft documents made available to us from the European Commission indicate that the rules for participation for Horizon Europe will be very similar to Horizon 2020. Types of action and funding rates will be broadly the same, page limits on proposals may be shortened and some basic eligibility criteria may be tweaked. However, significant changes are not expected.

What about broader issues impacting EU projects such as travel and personal data protection?

There is no expectation of other practical barriers to working on EU projects. Guidance on travel to the EU can be accessed on the UK Government website [here](#). Regarding data protection, bridging arrangements are in place for the first 6 months of 2021 whilst an adequacy decision is made on 'UK GDPR' and no long term barriers are foreseen with respect to the transfer of personal data.

What about UK involvement in projects deemed strategic/sensitive by the EU?

In Horizon Europe mechanisms will exist that allow the EU to restrict participation in certain projects related to Union strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security. The TCA agreed between the EU and the UK mandates the EU to highlight any restrictions to UK participation before calls open.

What are the next steps?

Consortia are already developing for the first round of Horizon Europe calls and we *strongly encourage work on consortia and project development to start now*. Future Horizon Europe funding calls will be published on the [funding and tenders portal](#) when they are announced.

We also encourage UK organisations to become actively engaged in EU networks and associations, in particular those related to the new Horizon Europe [Partnerships](#). To find out information on those relevant to you, contact your National Contact Point (details below).

Where can I find out more about Horizon Europe?

Information is available from a variety of sources and is being continually updated:

- Horizon Europe dedicated website: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en)
- UKRI website: <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/collaborating-internationally/working-on-eu-funded-projects/>
- EC Press release: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_2345](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2345)

The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020. Contacts details for UK NCPs are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk#find-your-uk-national-contact-point-for-advice>.

The NCP for space is Catherine Holt, [NCP-Space@innovateuk.ukri.org](mailto:NCP-Space@innovateuk.ukri.org), 07468 715507.