

BREXIT and Continued UK Participation in EU Programmes for Research, Innovation and Higher Education

UKRO maintains this factsheet to provide the latest information on the current UK situation in relation to Horizon 2020 and other EU funding schemes. You are invited to disseminate this factsheet within your institutions and to your European and international partners.

UK participation in Horizon 2020

The UK and the EU have agreed a flexible extension to the of the Article 50 period for six months to 31 October 2019. During the extension period the UK will remain a member of the EU with all the relevant rights and obligations. This means that UK organisations can continue to participate in Horizon 2020 as a Member State, and remain eligible to apply for Horizon 2020 funding. This includes requesting the relevant part of the project's budget as an EU contribution. A ratified deal, based on the provisions set out in the **Withdrawal Agreement**, would ensure continued UK participation in Horizon 2020 until the end of the programme and for the lifetime of projects. If the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by the UK Parliament before 31 October, the extension would be terminated, and the UK would withdraw from the EU on the first day of the following month. The government's no deal guarantees remain in place to ensure continuity of funding in a no-deal scenario.

Withdrawal Agreement

A ratified deal, based on the provisions set out in the **Withdrawal Agreement**, would ensure continued UK participation in Horizon 2020 until the end of the programme and for the lifetime of projects.

If an agreement is reached, projects approved during this period will be able to continue with an uninterrupted flow of EU funding.

Guarantees to ensure continuity of funding in a no-deal scenario

Submitted Before UK Exit

The UK government has **committed to guarantee competitive UK bids to EU funding submitted before exit**, even if they are notified of their success after exit, for the lifetime of the projects.

This will cover the funding for UK participants in Horizon 2020 projects in no-deal scenario.

Submitted After UK Exit

The UK government **Post EU Exit Guarantee Extension** would cover funding for successful UK bids to EU calls open to third country participants from the date of exit until end of 2020.

The guarantee would cover the lifetime of their projects, even if these last beyond 2020.

The government is seeking discussions with the European Commission to agree the details of the UK's continued participation as a third country.

The UK government provides official information about UK participation in Horizon 2020 in a technical notice '**Horizon 2020 funding if there's no Brexit deal**' and a dedicated **Q&A document**.

Following the updated **Government guidance** on Horizon 2020 funding after Brexit, **UKRI said** that it will step in and manage the assessment of proposals submitted before EU exit to the mono-beneficiary ERC, MSCA and SME Instrument schemes, if the European Commission stops evaluating them.

What has been done to prepare for no-deal Brexit in Horizon 2020?

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has been appointed to manage the UK government's guarantee and post-EU exit extension. UK beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 funding should continue to log details of their on-going grants on the **UKRI Portal**. UKRI will keep these details on file and would contact UK beneficiaries in the event that the guarantee would need to come into effect.

What does the European Commission say?

Evaluation - The Commission provides a **briefing for evaluators**, which states the following: “... Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before.”

Addressing Brexit risk in applications - The Commission also provides **guidance to coordinators** of Horizon 2020 proposals with regards to addressing the risks associated with Brexit in future proposals.

Eligibility of UK applicants – The Commission included a notice in the **introduction to the 2018-2020 Work Programme** of Horizon 2020 regarding the eligibility of UK organisations.

No-deal Contingency Action Plan - The Commission maintains a **website** with details of its own no-deal contingency planning, which includes dedicated Brexit preparedness notices for specific sectors, legislative initiatives and other relevant acts.

Do you have concerns over including UK partners in Horizon 2020?

The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) maintains a special inbox (**research@beis.gov.uk**) for queries and to report issues. Researchers and research organisations from outside the UK can contact the inbox in the same way that UK entities can.

What about UK participation in other EU programmes?

The government maintains a **list of technical notices** with official information on how to prepare for no-deal Brexit when participating in Erasmus+, LIFE and other EU programmes. The list also provides contact details of relevant government departments in charge of implementing the guarantee for specific programmes. In March 2019, the government published an **overview of the UK’s relationship with the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel** (RFCS), together with a set of dedicated FAQs.

What else can UKRO do for you?

We keep you informed - this Brexit 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@bbsrc.ac.uk** with details of the event you are planning.

Where can I find official resources?

- The UK government provides an **overview of the UK’s relationship with Horizon 2020**, which is followed by a set of FAQs.
- **UKRI announcement** on assessing proposals submitted before EU exit to the mono-beneficiary schemes, if the European Commission stops evaluating them.
- The **Joint Report** from the UK government and the EU negotiators was published on 8 December 2017. Paragraph 71 refers to the UK’s participation in EU programmes. Following the extension of Article 50 in April, an updated **Withdrawal Agreement** was published on 11 April 2019 (Articles 137 and 138 refer to EU programmes).
- The **UK position paper on FP9**, UK presentation on a “**Framework for the UK-EU partnership: Science, research and innovation**” and participation in **Erasmus+ and its successor programme**.
- **The UK government’s white paper on exiting the EU** and the White Paper on **The Future Relationship Between the UK and the EU**.
- The UK government paper on future science and innovation – “**Collaboration on science and innovation – a future partnership paper**”.
- The European Commission maintains a **website on the Taskforce on Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom**.