

# UKRO Annual Visit University of Bristol

15 March 2019

UKRO European Advisor

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# Content

## 10:00-10:45

- **UKRO** – make most of our services
- **Brexit** – implications on the UK participation in Horizon 2020 and future EU R&I Programme

## 10:45-11:45

- **Horizon 2020** – remaining opportunities in 2019-20
- **Horizon Europe** developments

## 11:45-12:00

- **Bristol Office in Brussels** - Paul Davis

## PM session

**12:30-13:00** – Finances in H2020 - Session for Finance Services (Garden Room, Royal Fort House)

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# UK Research Office

Make most of our services

# The Team

14 staff in Brussels, including 8 European Advisors



## Mission

- To maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research, innovation and higher education activities

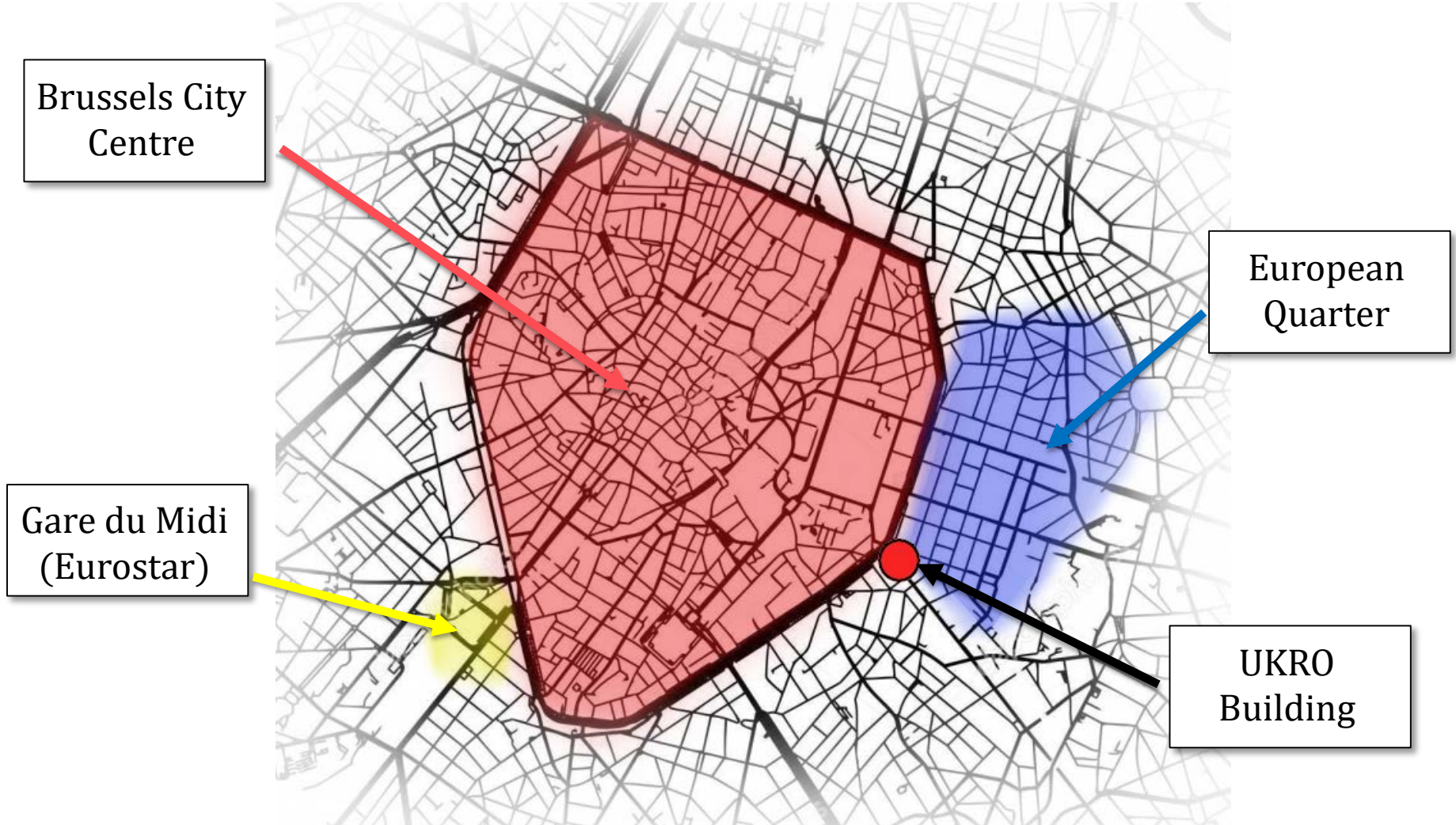
## Our office

- Based in Brussels
- European office of the UK Research Councils
- Delivers subscription-based advisory services for around 150 research organisations in the UK and beyond
- Also provides ERC and MSCA National Contact Point services on behalf of the UK Government

# Our suite of services

- **UKRO Portal:** up to date with the latest in EU funding and policy
- **Enquiry service and you dedicated European Advisor:** individual support and advice, all year round
- **Annual visit:** a tailored event for your institution
- **Meeting room:** a venue in Brussels – free of charge
- **Specialist training courses, focus groups and information events:** providing in-depth insight into EU programmes
- **Annual conference for European officers:** the latest information on programmes and policies presented by European Commission staff, and other speakers
- **UK National Contact Points for the Marie Curie Actions and the European Research Council** (events; enquiry inbox, Twitter)

# Where We Are



# UKRO Portal – sign up today at [www.ukro.ac.uk](http://www.ukro.ac.uk)

Whether you are a researcher, European liaison officer or a research manager/administrator, you can sign up for free to stay up-to-date with the latest news, opportunities and insights into European funding

- Tailored news **articles** on EU funding and policy
- UKRO **Factsheets** on Horizon 2020 and other funding streams
- **Email alert** function and **search engine** with refiners and tags
- Daily or weekly alerts - personalise your account to best meet your needs!

The screenshot displays the UKRO portal interface. At the top right, there is a 'Search Articles By Tags' section with a list of tags including: Widening Participation, Research Infrastructures, Science and Society, Public-Private Partnerships, Risk Finance, International Co-operation, LIFE, Euratom, LEIT, Transport, R&I Policy, Energy, MSCE, 2020, Non-FP, UKRO, SICT, SME Instrument, and Space. Below this, the main content area shows a factsheet titled 'UKRO Horizon 2020 Condensed Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)'. The factsheet includes the UKRO logo and the following text:

**What is FET?**  
Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) will support frontier research: alternative ideas, concepts or paradigms of a risky or non-conventional nature. FET will form one of the four components of the Excellent Science Pillar and will comprise FET Open, FET Proactive (including the implementation of part of the High Performance Computing (HPC) strategy) and FET Flagships. Through the inclusion of FET in Excellent Science, the European Commission is hoping to foster innovative and ambitious ideas, and to speed up technology.

**What will be funded?**  
While FET in FP7 was part of ICT, the scheme will be rolled out to all scientific areas under Horizon 2020.

FET Open	FET Proactive	FET Flagships
• fostering early, novel ideas • bottom-up; non-topical and non-disciplinary	• emerging themes and communities • towards exascale high performance computing	• common research agendas • large scale initiatives • tackling grand interdisciplinary S&T challenges • 'Gamechangers' • 'Human Brain Project'

**FET Open**  
- will fund early-stage joint science and technology projects.  
FET Open will operate on a bottom-up basis with regular deadlines for collecting proposals. Projects are likely to be characterised by long term vision, novelty, high-risk, and interdisciplinarity, and target scientifically ambitious and foundational breakthroughs.

Version: May 2015 - This factsheet reflects information available at the time issued. UKRO factsheets are prepared for the benefit of staff in UKRO sponsor and subscriber institutions only. 1

UKRO > UKROArticleResults

owstaxIdHashTag:"L&F Questions"

Everything Articles Pages Documents Factsheets & Guidance

Search Results:

## Registration Still Open for UKRO Webinar on MSCA Special...

01 Mar 2019 - Event, ELO

Registration for a forthcoming UKRO webinar on the MSCA Special Needs Lump Sum is still open and those interested in participating can still do so via the dedicated event page ...

[www.ukro.ac.uk/subscribers/articles/event/](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscribers/articles/event/)

## Are Recruitment Costs Eligible in Horizon 2020?

28 Feb 2019 - H2020 News, Researcher

Beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 projects often need to recruit new staff to work on the action and thus face additional costs related to recruitment, including visa fees in some ...

[www.ukro.ac.uk/subscribers/articles/h2020-news/](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscribers/articles/h2020-news/)

- Horizon 2020 Factsheets
- Other Factsheets
- Horizon 2020 Engagement
- Future EU Programmes
- 2018-20 Work Programme
- Legal & Finance Q&A
- Brexit
- Links

## Overview of Lump Sum Grant Agreements in Horizon 2020

22 January 2019 - H2020 News, Researcher

Print

As part of its simplification agenda for Horizon 2020, and with plans for a potential wider use of lump sums in Horizon Europe, the European Commission has recently published a number of new grant agreements, which will apply to lump sum-based schemes in Horizon 2020.

In addition to the **SME Instrument Phase 1 Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement (MGA)** and the general **Horizon 2020 Lump Sum MGA** (intended mainly for Coordination and Support Actions), which have been available from the beginning of Horizon 2020, there are now specific grant agreements for the recently introduced **Lump Sum Pilot** (applying only to selected topics in the 2018-2020 Work Programme), the **European Research Council (ERC) Proof of**

## Summary of Changes in the Latest Version of the Annotated MGA

07 January 2019 - H2020 News, Researcher

Print

As previously reported by UKRO, the European Commission published the updated **Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AMGA)** in December, adding useful annotations to a number of articles in the different versions of the Horizon 2020 Grant Agreements.

Below is a summary of the most important changes:

### General Model Grant Agreement

- New explanations added about the differences between cost eligibility and beneficiary/action eligibility – The AMGA now explicitly states that the loss of a beneficiary's eligibility during an ongoing grant will automatically lead to its costs becoming ineligible from the date of loss of eligibility.
- Further clarifications added for a specific case when a third party has the authorisation to administer payments on behalf of the coordinator. The AMGA

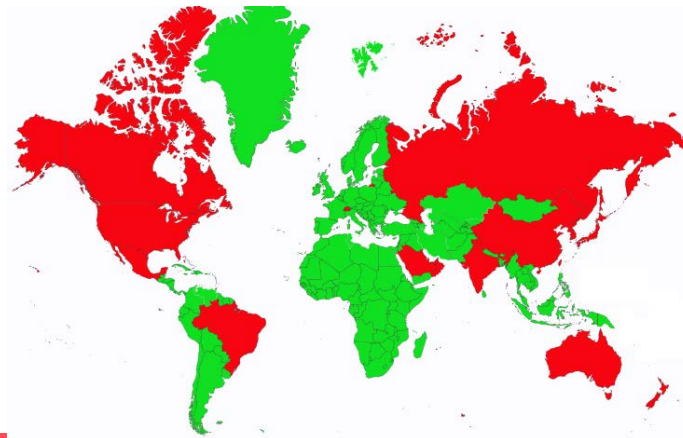
Tags: [Legal & Finance](#), [L&F Questions](#)

# Continued UK engagement in Horizon 2020

## Brexit Update

# Who Can Participate in Horizon 2020? Who gets funded?

- **All 28 Member states and their Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)**
  - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
- **16 Associated Counties**
  - Norway, Iceland, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine Tunisia, Armenia and Georgia
- **Third Countries**
  - Only countries mentioned in **Annex A** to the WP are eligible to automatically receive Horizon 2020 funding
  - Developed and developing economies, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, BRIC, Mexico, etc. do automatically qualify for EU funding



# Third Countries with National funding programmes for involvement in EU R&I Funding – a reminder

- Countries with jointly agreed co-funding mechanism covering most or all thematic areas: [China](#), [Hong Kong & Macao](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [Mexico](#), [Russia](#), [Taiwan](#), [Brazil](#)
- Countries with jointly agreed co-funding mechanism covering selected thematic areas: [Australia](#), [India](#), [Japan](#)
- Countries with co-funding by a region: [Canada](#)
- Countries without jointly agreed co-funding mechanism: [New Zealand](#), [USA](#)

# Note in the 2018-20 Work Programme

- Stresses UK legal entities' eligibility to fully participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020
- States that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant
- In a no deal scenario, the Underwrite Guarantee has been put in place to ensure continued funding for UK beneficiaries.
- UK participants would continue be eligible to take part in calls open to third country participation.

# Key facts: UK's Exit from the EU

- The referendum on the UK's membership of the EU took place on 23 June 2016
- Article 50 invoked on 29 March 2017, negotiation period 2 years
- **The UK is still an EU Member State and continues to be until the end of the negotiations and the formal exit**
- This means it has the **same rights and obligations as all other 27 Member States, including the participation in EU funding programmes**
- The exact details on how the UK can participate after the UK exits the EU will be determined through the **on-going negotiations**
- **The priority of the UK Government is to successfully conclude a withdrawal agreement**

- UK-based individuals and organisations remain eligible to bid for funding, participate in and lead consortia while the UK remains a Member State.
- 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
- Negotiations between the UK and EU are on-going **'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed'**

# Exit negotiations

UK participation in EU programmes if a deal is reached

# Update on negotiations

## Joint Report

(December 2017)

- Sets out political agreement
- Financial settlement + participation in Horizon 2020 and other EU programmes
- UK participants eligible to bid for Horizon 2020 calls and uninterrupted flow of funding for lifetime of projects.

## Deal reached on the Draft Withdrawal Agreement

(14 November 2018 – ratification pending, including in UK)

- Based on the Joint Report from December 2017
- Covers all elements of the UK's withdrawal from the EU: citizens' rights, the financial settlement, a transition period, etc. including participation in Union Programmes in 2019-2020

## European Council

(25 November 2018)

- Endorsed the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political declaration on the future relationship

# Implementation and Post implementation period

Withdrawal Agreement

Science and innovation accord

## Implementation period

Covers the UK's withdrawal from the EU

Includes the UK's involvement in activities under the EU Budget 2014-2020 and therefore **Horizon 2020** for the remainder of the programme.

## Post implementation period

Would form part of the UK's future partnership with the EU. **The UK wishes to explore association in research and innovation programmes, including Horizon Europe and the Euratom Research and Training Programme.**

- Joint Report EU negotiators/UK Government (8 December 2017) – financial settlement.

*“Following withdrawal from the Union, the UK will continue to participate in the Union programmes financed by the MFF 2014-2020 until their closure.”*

- This means that UK entities should have continued eligibility to participate in Horizon 2020 as one of the programmes financed by the MFF (EU Budget).
- Technical details to be established during the negotiation.
- Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

# Draft Withdrawal Agreement

- On 14 November, the European Commission and the UK reached a deal on the terms of the Article 50 [Withdrawal Agreement](#), based on the Joint Report from December 2017.
- It covers all elements of the UK's withdrawal from the EU: citizens' rights, the financial settlement, a transition period, etc. including participation in Union Programmes in 2019-2020

## *“ARTICLE 137*

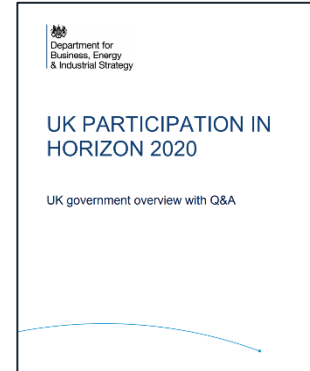
*The United Kingdom's participation in the implementation of the Union programmes and activities in 2019 and 2020*

*1. In accordance with Part Four, the Union programmes and activities committed under the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 ("MFF 2014-2020") or previous financial perspectives shall be implemented in 2019 and 2020 with regard to the United Kingdom on the basis of the applicable Union law.”*

- The European Council endorsed the documents on 25 November – the UK has not ratified (meaningful vote 15 January 2019).

# UK Government key messages and Q&A

- Government Horizon 2020 Q&A published in March 2018, update in December 2018
- UKRO works closely with BEIS – many queries from the community included.
- Key messages:



Until the date when the UK leaves the EU, it remains a Member State, with all the rights and obligations that entails. This means that UK entities are eligible to participate in all aspects of the Horizon 2020 programme while we remain a member of the EU.

**The Government's priority remains ensuring the draft Withdrawal Agreement is finalised. This would mean that UK Horizon 2020 participants and projects would be unaffected by EU exit.**

The Government's Underwrite Guarantee and the Post EU Exit Guarantee Extension remain in place in the event that commitments made in the Joint Report are not met.

# Other scenarios

UK Government guarantees

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

## HMT Underwrite Guarantee August 2016

- Only in a **no-deal scenario**
- The UK Government has committed to underwrite 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.**

## Post EU Exit Guarantee Extension July 2018

- Only in a **no-deal scenario**
- 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 our continued participation as a third country,

# UK Government Underwrite Guarantee

UK Government Statement 13 August 2016

- **Guarantees EU Funding for UK researchers beyond the date the UK leaves the EU:** *"where UK organisations bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis for EU funding projects while we are still a member of the EU, for example universities participating in Horizon 2020, the Treasury will underwrite the payments of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU"*

- Applies to **proposals submitted** before the UK formally exits.
- This remains valid until a formal deal has been reached.

# Underwrite Guarantee

Guarantees funding for all successful UK bids submitted before exit

Who is eligible?

- UK participants that receive Horizon 2020 funding, or have submitted a bid and are notified of their success after exit, for the lifetime of their projects.
- Continued participation of UK entities in Horizon 2020 projects after exit in a no deal scenario would depend on details of third country participation.

Does it cover all types of projects?

- The guarantee covers any Horizon 2020 funding which was awarded to a UK participant after a successful competitive bid.

How about two-stage processes?

- Yes, provided the first stage is submitted prior to the UK's exit.

Eligibility?

- More clarification is needed and questions are being fed back to BEIS.
- UK entities would in any case still be eligible as third country participants.
- UK Government is considering further measures that could be taken to support UK research and innovation in a no deal scenario.

# Post EU Exit Guarantee Extension

UK government extended the guarantee to cover all successful collaborative bids to Horizon 2020 involving UK entities up until the end of the programme.

How can I reassure EU partners?

- [Statement laid](#) in Parliament in July 2018
- Represents a commitment by UK Government to fund UK portion of bids in case of a successful application to Horizon 2020
- Funding for the lifetime of projects, even if these last beyond 2020.

What is the difference between the Underwrite Guarantee and the Extension?

- **Extends beyond proposals submitted before UK EU exit until the end of Horizon 2020.**

What parts of the programme would UK applicants have access to?

- In no deal scenario UK applicants would be able to apply to and participate in all Horizon 2020 calls open to third country participation from the date of exit.
- Currently, third country participants participate in and lead consortia in Horizon 2020 projects.

# Horizon 2020 Rules: what do we know about Third Country Participation?

## Collaborative Projects

- Once minimum eligibility criteria is met
- **Third Country (TC) beneficiaries can coordinate projects**, they would be required to sign the GA and subject to the financial check.
- TC coordinators would carry out all coordination tasks in exactly the same way as a coordinator from MS or AC

## European Research Council

- Open to any nationality
- PI to be hosted by an institution in MS/AC
- 50% total working time in MS/AC
- Synergy Grant – 1 PI in TC

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- European Fellowships – hosted in MS/AC
- Global Fellowships – 12-24 months at partner organisation in third country, 12 month return to host in MS/AC
- ITN – mandatory usual practice TC would be partner organisations (not EU funding, not signing the GA) Technically the rules do not prevent participating as a beneficiary or coordination if sign GA.
- RISE – scheme open to TC – TC act always as partner organisations, cannot co-ordinate a RISE project

# UKRO factsheet on Third Country participation

- Provides an overview of participation options for organisations based in non-eligible third countries.
- Includes examples of projects coordinated by third countries.
- Explains the legal and financial rules for third country coordinators and beneficiaries not receiving EU funding.

[https://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscriber/Factsheets/factsheet\\_third\\_country\\_lf.pdf](https://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscriber/Factsheets/factsheet_third_country_lf.pdf)

**UKRO**  
UK RESEARCH OFFICE

## Third Country Participants Not Eligible for EU Funding - Legal and Financial Considerations

**Introduction**

EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development have traditionally been open to non-EU countries, although the rules concerning their eligibility for EU funding has varied across the consecutive programmes. With its 'Open to the World' approach, Horizon 2020 continues the tradition of allowing the participation of legal entities from the so-called 'non-associated third countries' in projects, making a distinction between those that can automatically receive EU funding (listed in **Annex A** to the Work Programme) and those that cannot. The non-eligible third countries include industrialised countries such as the USA, Canada or Japan, as well as emerging economies, such as the BRIC countries and Mexico.

This guidance document aims to provide subscribers with an easy overview of the legal and financial aspects of third country participation in EU-funded research and innovation projects.

**This factsheet focuses specifically on the participation of non-eligible third countries (not included in Annex A to the Work Programme)**

**How can organisations/researchers from third countries be involved in Horizon 2020 actions?**

**Collaborative Projects**

**Research and Innovation Actions, Innovation Actions and Coordination and Support Actions**

Organisations from a third country can fully participate in those parts of Horizon 2020 that are open to third country participants, provided the minimum eligibility criteria are met (e.g. at least three legal entities from three different EU Member States or Associated Countries). Such collaborative opportunities can be found in all pillars of Horizon 2020 (e.g. FET Open in Pillar 1, LEIT in Pillar 2 and all Societal Challenges in Pillar 3), as well as in some cross-cutting priorities (e.g. Science with and for society).

Beneficiaries from third countries can **coordinate collaborative projects** where third country participation is allowed. They would be required to sign the grant agreement, be subject to a mandatory financial check (if applicable) to ensure they had the capacity to manage EU funds. The third country coordinator would carry out all coordination tasks in exactly the same way as a coordinator from a Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC).

This does not, however, apply to the Fast Track to Innovation or SME Instrument projects, which by default are not open to organisations from third countries. Furthermore, there are also specific rules for European Research Council (ERC) grants and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).

Prior to 1 January 2017, when Switzerland was considered a non-eligible third country in Pillars 2 and 3 of Horizon 2020, Swiss based institutes **coordinated** a number of Horizon 2020 projects. In these cases, the Swiss institutions did not receive EU funding themselves, but were still responsible for transferring the EU contribution to other partners in the consortium.

Other Horizon 2020 projects are **coordinated** by organisations in Chile and Uruguay.

Version: January 2019 - This factsheet reflects information available on the date issued. UKRO factsheets are produced for the benefit of staff in UKRO sponsor and subscriber institutions only.

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# Outstanding issues/queries/questions

UKRO continues to update BEIS on questions/comments received by the community. Not all can be fully answered, in particular where it comes to no deal scenarios, but it is important questions are logged so they can be taken into account.

- Eligibility/mono-beneficiary grants in a no deal scenario?
- Evaluation/assessment of bids under the Post EU Exit Guarantee Extension?
- **Your questions and concerns?**

- Issued by the UK Government in August/December 2018
- Detailing the considerations and contingencies that have been prepared in the event of the UK leaving the European Union without a final Withdrawal deal being agreed.
- [Technical notice on Horizon 2020](#)
  - Complements the Government Q&A
  - Provides information on the Horizon 2020 underwrite guarantee, the extension to the guarantee and how the UK Government's plans to support UK research and innovation will work in practice.
- Other notices are available on [EU funded programmes](#), [Nuclear Research](#), [Third Health Programme](#), [Erasmus+](#) and a range of other subjects.

# Actions for businesses and other stakeholders

- UKRI will be developing systems to ensure payments to UK beneficiaries can be made if it comes to a “no deal” scenario.
- Portal to collect information for this purpose will be opened in due course.
- The portal will remain open after the UK leaves the EU so that UK applicants can continue to register as and when they are informed that their bid has been successful.
- UKRI provides further information on their [website](#).
- **Organisations in member states who are part of a consortium with UK participants do not need to register on the portal. These measures are intended to deliver continuity for both UK participants, and their research partners in the EU.**

## New UKRI system needs community input on Horizon 2020 grants

A new system is being rolled out today (27 September 2018) as a first step towards supporting the continuity of funding for UK organisations which have been awarded grants from the European Union's flagship programme for science and innovation, Horizon 2020. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is asking recipients of Horizon 2020 grants to input basic information about their awards into a bespoke portal. This will ensure that UKRI can keep UK researchers and businesses informed of the next steps if the government needs to underwrite Horizon 2020 payments.

The UK and the EU's intention is that UK researchers and businesses will continue to be eligible to participate in Horizon 2020 for the remaining duration of the programme.

This is set out in the Financial Provisions of the draft Withdrawal Agreement, which has been agreed by both UK and Commission negotiators, and was welcomed by the other 27 EU countries at March European Council.

As a responsible government, however, the UK Government is planning for all eventualities to ensure that cross-border collaboration in science and innovation can continue after EU exit.

Science Minister Sam Gyimah said:

"It is imperative that we support our world-class researchers, businesses and scientists to continue to collaborate with EU partners after exit.

"While we do not want nor expect no deal, it is right that we plan for every eventuality. The launch of the new UKRI portal today is the next step in our commitment to the recipients of Horizon 2020 funding that we will guarantee funding for the duration of the programme."

The UK government announced two years ago that it would underwrite UK funds for all EU-funded projects successfully bid for while the [UK is a still a member of the EU](#).

In July of this year an extension to that guarantee said that funding for UK participants successfully bid for from exit day until the end of 2020 would also be [guaranteed by the UK government](#), in a no deal scenario.

Last month the UK government announced that if the underwrite needs to come into effect, [UKRI is the partner of choice to deliver it](#).

To ensure UKRI is ready for that eventuality, specialist teams have developed a bespoke portal designed to capture basic information about recipients' grants and identify a relevant contact at the participating organisation for the project, likely to be the LEAR (Legal Entity Appointed Representative), so that they can be informed of the next steps in the process.

Those in receipt of Horizon 2020 grants need to input their information into the system as soon as possible.

UK Research and Innovation Chief Executive, Professor Sir Mark Walport, said:

"It is extremely important that, if required, the underwrite guarantee for Horizon 2020 funding is administered effectively and UKRI is committed to putting in place the mechanisms that will support this. I urge our partners in research and business to work with us to capture the information we need via this portal."



The screenshot shows a news article on the UKRO website. The article title is "Template and Guide for Organisations with Multiple Grants". The date is 01 November 2018. The article text states: "UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has produced a guide for UK organisations to submit data on multiple grants in case the government needs to go ahead with its guarantee to underwrite Horizon 2020 payments. Following the initial call for data in September this year, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has produced a template, which can be used to submit the relevant information to UKRI and a guidance document with instructions on how to extract the relevant data from the Funding & Tenders Portal. Both documents are available in the 'UKRI Portal Submission' tab of the 'ELO Area' on the UKRO Portal. The template, can be used by organisations with a large number of grants to speed the process of uploading data up, while organisations with a low number of grants can still enter their details into the UKRI portal manually. Who can extract the project data necessary for the submission and where from? Only the Legal Entity Appointed Representatives (LEAR) or Account Administrators at organisations participating in Horizon 2020 actions can download the relevant list of projects from the new Funding & Tenders Portal. It is important to use the new version of the Portal to collect this data, as information provided in the old version of the Participant Portal is incomplete. Once downloaded, the information included in the spreadsheet can be transferred into the UKRI template."

[www.ukro.ac.uk/subscribers/articles/general-news/%7Bebd90bcf-4949-48f7-86d5-057148dfe685%7D/1574](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscribers/articles/general-news/%7Bebd90bcf-4949-48f7-86d5-057148dfe685%7D/1574)

# UKRO ELOs exchange with BEIS and UKRI

## 19 February 2019, Cambridge

### UKRO ELO Catch-up Summary

📅 27 February 2019 - General News, ELO



UKRO organised the third European Liaison Officer (ELO) catch-up on 19 February in Cambridge. The event featured an update from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on their engagement for UK R&I, a session with UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) on planning for the delivery of the Government's Underwrite Guarantee should it be needed, as well as a summary of action points defined by ELOs for their own planning.

The [event summary](#) is for UKRO subscribers only and is provided to keep all UKRO ELOs - including those who could not join the event - up to date on latest developments and thinking.

#### Selected action list points suggested by the ELOs

- Prepare now, ensure grants are up-to-date for finances, timesheets, technical and financial reporting, audit requirements. Complete documentation to show eligibility of costs but also have PDF copies of the latest Grant Agreement/Description of Work on file, etc.
- Understand the numbers (how many grants are live post 29 March, how many are in evaluation or at grant preparation stage, how many have ongoing amendment processes, etc.).
- ELOs/teams might need to familiarise themselves with the Je-S system in order to input their grant details.
- Get the best possible understanding of implications of IP arrangements on grants and what the Consortium Agreement specifies. Possibly engage with contracts teams/colleagues.
- HR requirements (e.g. are there contracts that need changing for MSCA IFs, might visa requirements change for any fellows).
- Know which grants have Third Party contracts.
- Examine whether cash-flow planning is needed or needs to be amended in case of a move to periodic payments.
- Ensure good communication plans are in place (internally within and between departments and researchers, and externally with project partners). Consider best communication channels and methods (could range from email to workshops and face to face briefings).
- Ensure institutions are tracking Government technical notices – not just specific ones on

### 3<sup>rd</sup> UKRO European Liaison Officer Catch-Up

UKRO organised the third edition of the European Liaison Officer (ELO) Catch-Up in Cambridge on 19 February 2019.

As in previous years, the event brought together around 70 ELOs who used the day to update each other and to discuss a range of issues surrounding Brexit and its impact on their work.



#### Update from BEIS

The morning session featured a contribution from BEIS, giving a general overview, a clarification on their work on current engagement for UK R&I, and an update on Horizon Europe and the future relationship with the EU. BEIS stressed that their work covers all scenarios, from preparing for implementation-period issues in case of a deal on the withdrawal agreement, to preparing for the implementation of the Underwrite Guarantee and Post-EU-Exit Extension in case of no-deal. Future engagement with Horizon Europe is currently being developed and planned for under a variety of possible scenarios. It was stressed that there is no direct correlation between a no-deal situation and association to Horizon Europe (which is a common misconception). The audience was also given the opportunity to provide feedback on some Government lines.

#### Government Underwrite Guarantee and Extension: UKRI delivery plans

UKRI provided an update on preparations for the delivery of the guarantees for Horizon 2020, with a focus on the UKRI Portal. In August 2018 the UK government announced UKRI as the partner of choice to deliver the underwrite, should it need to come into effect. In late 2018, UKRI launched a Portal where UK beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 funding have been asked to log some initial data and contact information regarding their grants. 100% of beneficiaries from UK HEIs have now submitted their grants and efforts are being made to increase awareness of the Portal with SMEs and businesses. In terms of next steps for those who have logged their grants, detailed guidance will be provided in due course. The overall aim for setting up the delivery mechanism is to make it as simple

# What the European Commission has said...

Guidance and statements relating to Horizon 2020 and UK participation



# European Commission Guidance relating to Brexit and Horizon 2020

## Horizon 2020 Evaluation

Commission [Guidance](#):  
“Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before.”

### [FAQ on Risk Management](#)

“Speculation will not be taken into account during evaluation”

## Eligibility 2018-2020 Work Programme

“until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, when it comes to rights and obligations; **this includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to fully participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions** such as those called for in this work programme.

Please be aware however that the **eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant.**”

# Commission guidance for evaluators

The Commission explicitly covers the outcome of the UK referendum in the guidance for evaluators:

**Outcome of the UK referendum and  
Horizon 2020: State of Play**

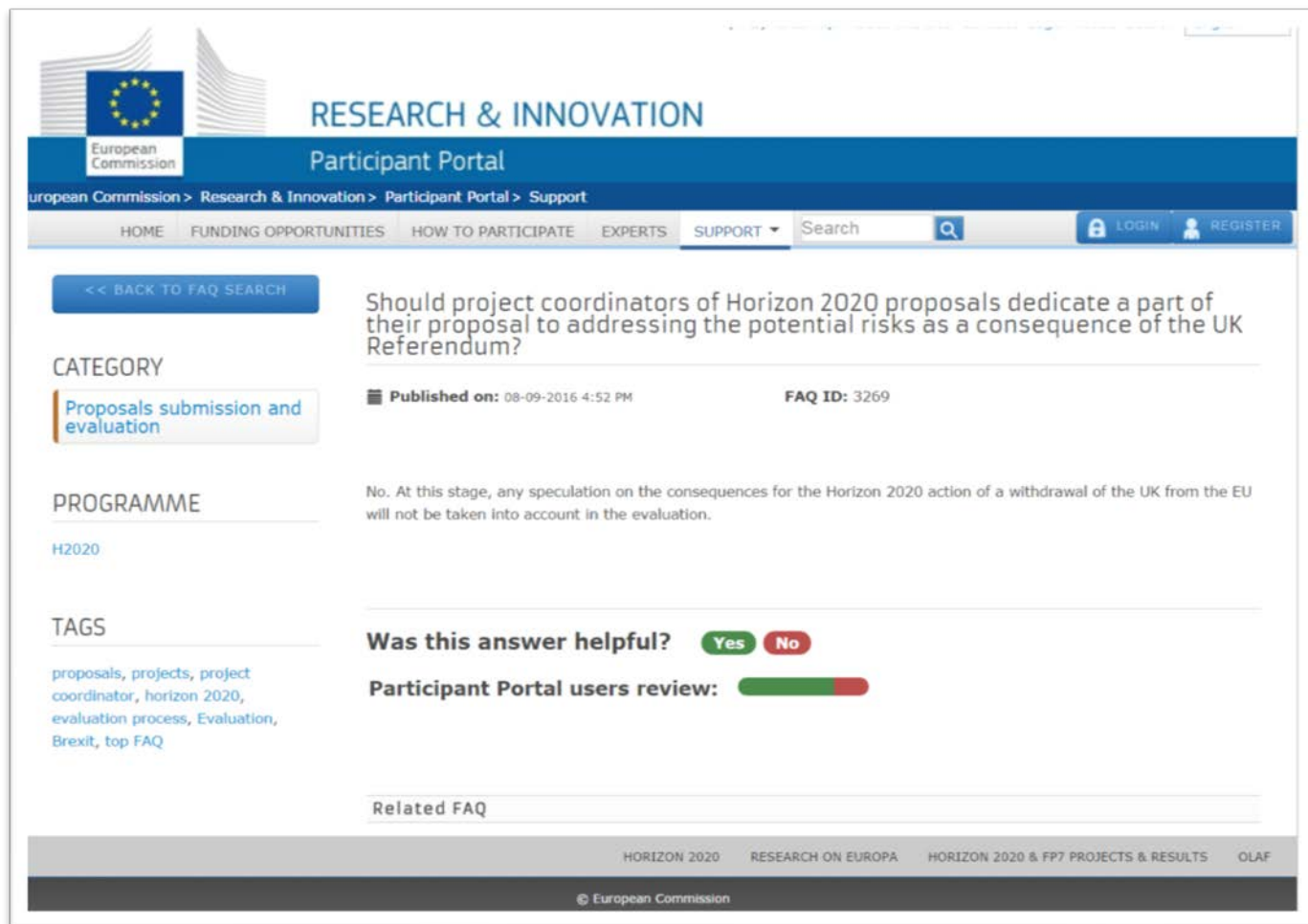
Until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, both when it comes to rights and obligations. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions. Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before.

*[Should project coordinators of Horizon 2020 proposals dedicate a part of their proposal to addressing the potential risks as a consequence of the UK Referendum?](#)*

HORIZON 2020  European Commission

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/expert/h2020\\_expert-briefing\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/expert/h2020_expert-briefing_en.pdf)

# Commission guidance for coordinators

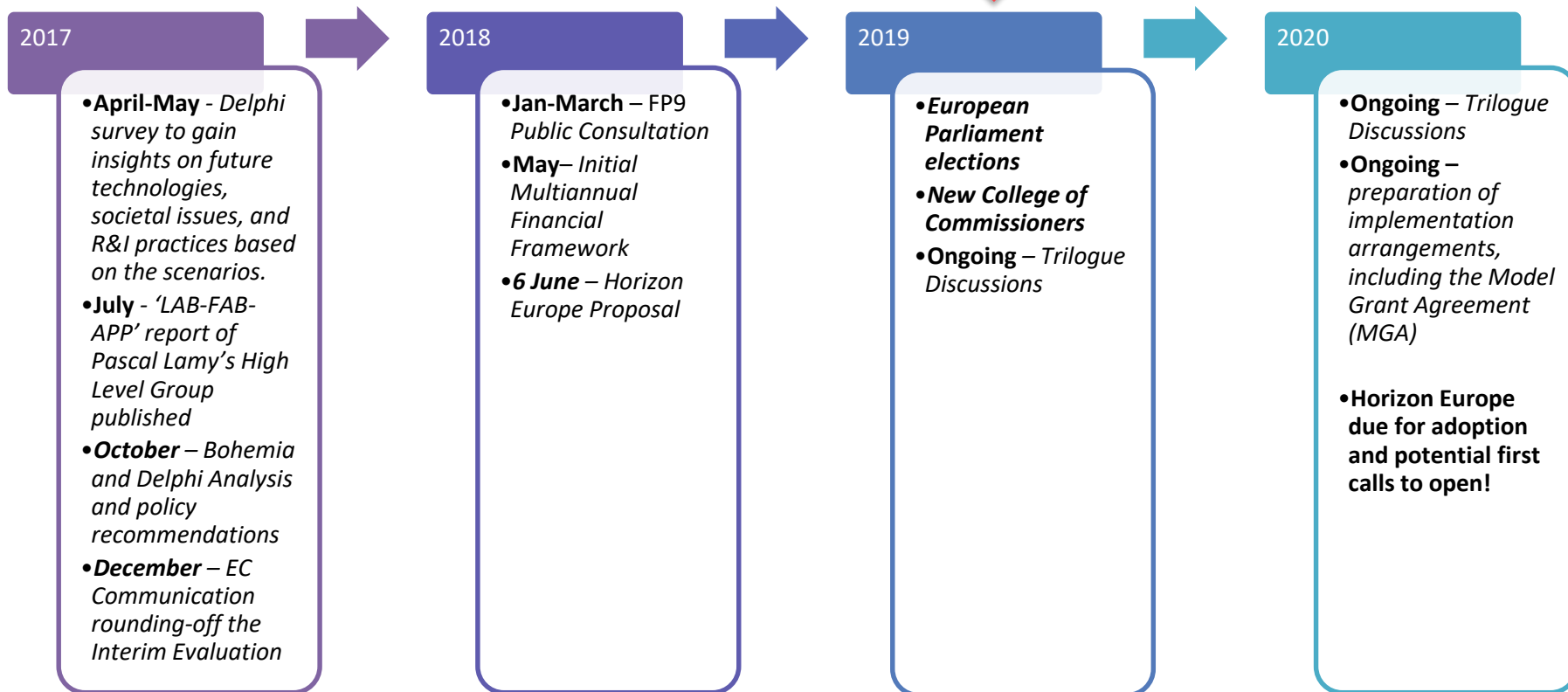


The screenshot shows the 'RESEARCH & INNOVATION Participant Portal' with a navigation menu including 'HOME', 'FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES', 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE', 'EXPERTS', and 'SUPPORT'. The main content area features a question: 'Should project coordinators of Horizon 2020 proposals dedicate a part of their proposal to addressing the potential risks as a consequence of the UK Referendum?'. The answer states: 'No. At this stage, any speculation on the consequences for the Horizon 2020 action of a withdrawal of the UK from the EU will not be taken into account in the evaluation.' The page also includes a 'Was this answer helpful?' section with 'Yes' and 'No' buttons, a 'Participant Portal users review' progress bar, and a 'Related FAQ' section.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/faqs/faq-3269.html>

# **International Cooperation and Third Country Status in Horizon Europe (post 2020)**

# Horizon Europe Timeline



National, regional, organisational and other stakeholder position papers published

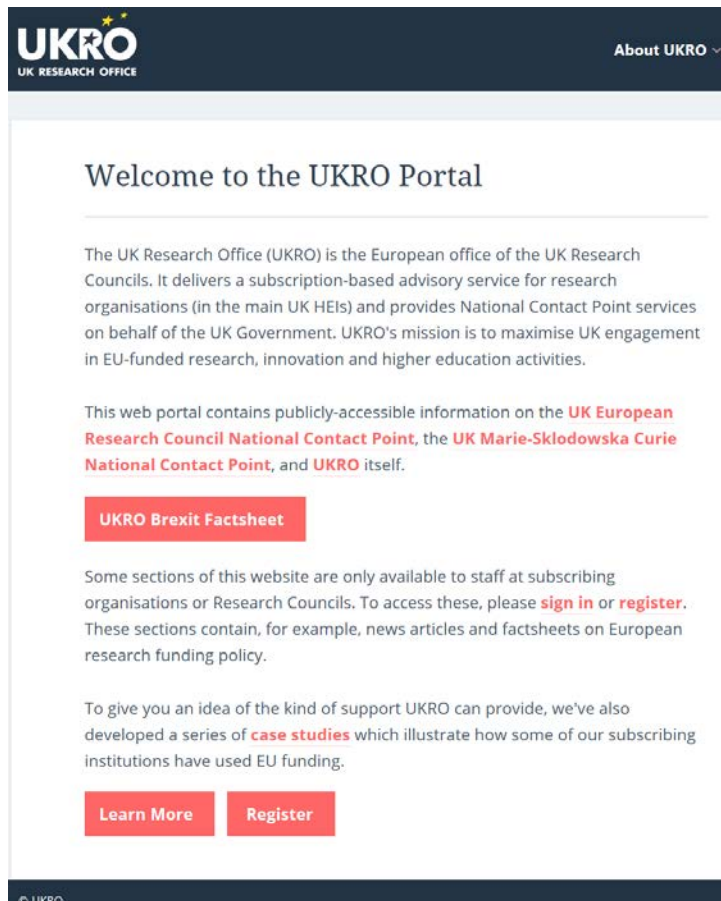
# International Cooperation in Horizon Europe

- International Cooperation helps achieve greater impact in solving global challenges by aligning actions with other nations and regions of the world and by inviting partners from across the world to join EU action
- General opening for international participation
- Intensified targeted actions (flagship initiatives, joint calls, etc.)
- Extended openness to association (Category D)
  - Third countries with good capacity in science, technology and innovation
  - A commitment to a rules-based open market economy, including fair and equitable dealing with intellectual property rights, backed by democratic institutions; and active promotion of policies to improve the economic and social wellbeing of citizens.

# Future relationship

- The UK Government has stated that the UK remains committed to ongoing collaboration with the EU.
- Plan for future relationship was set out in a white paper, which proposes a cooperative accord with the EU on science and innovation.
- [Political Declaration](#) on future relationship between the UK and the EU was agreed in November 2018
- **UK has stated that it wishes to explore association to research and innovation programmes, including Horizon Europe, Euratom, JET and ITER.**

# Follow UKRO for Brexit Updates



The screenshot shows the UKRO Portal homepage. At the top left is the UKRO logo with three stars and the text 'UK RESEARCH OFFICE'. To its right is a dark navigation bar with 'About UKRO' and a dropdown arrow. The main heading is 'Welcome to the UKRO Portal'. Below this is a paragraph describing the UK Research Office (UKRO) as the European office of the UK Research Councils, providing advisory services and National Contact Point services. A second paragraph states that the web portal contains publicly-accessible information on the UK European Research Council National Contact Point, the UK Marie-Sklodowska Curie National Contact Point, and UKRO itself. There are two red buttons: 'UKRO Brexit Factsheet' and 'Learn More'. A third red button 'Register' is partially visible. At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice '© UKRO'.

## BREXIT and continued UK Participation in EU Funding for Research, Innovation and Higher Education

UKRO maintains this factsheet to provide factual answers to the most common Brexit-related questions, both with a UK and international audience in mind. It provides the latest understanding and facts on the current UK situation in relation to Horizon 2020 and other EU funding schemes. You are invited to disseminate this factsheet widely, within your institutions and to your European and international partners.

### Key Messages

- The **Joint Report** from the UK Government and the negotiators of the European Union (8 December 2017) outlines the agreement in principle made between the EU and the UK. The key commitment regarding EU programmes is that:

**"Following withdrawal from the Union, the UK will continue to participate in the Union programmes financed by the MFF 2014-2020 until their closure** (excluding participation in financial operations which give rise to a contingent liability for which the UK is not liable as from the date of withdrawal). Entities located in the UK will be entitled to participate in such programmes. Participation in Union programmes will require the UK and UK beneficiaries to respect all relevant Union legal provisions including co-financing. Accordingly, the eligibility to apply to participate in Union programmes and Union funding for UK participants and projects will be unaffected by the UK's withdrawal from the Union for the entire lifetime of such projects."

Both sides are currently working on finalising the **Withdrawal Agreement**, which will translate the Joint Report into legal text. **This foresees EU programme participation continuing as it currently does for the UK until the end of 2020 and for the lifetime of individual projects.**

- The UK Government maintains the Underwrite Guarantee and has announced a **Post EU Exit Guarantee Extension** to cover the entire current EU budget period until the end of 2020. This would only be required in the event that commitments made in the Joint Report are not met, or in a no-deal scenario.

More detailed information is available in the UK Government's **[overview on the UK's relationship with Horizon 2020 and a Q&A](#)**.

UKRO works closely with the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to ensure that the queries and comments UKRO receives are reflected in the official Q&A. The latest update was published on **23 August 2018** alongside a **Technical Notice on the Horizon 2020 underwrite**.

- The **key UK Government messages** included in this document are:

- Until the date when the UK leaves the EU, it remains a Member State, with all the rights and obligations that entails. This means that UK entities are eligible to participate in all aspects of the Horizon 2020 programme while we remain a member of the EU.
- **The Government's priority remains ensuring the draft Withdrawal Agreement is finalised. This would mean that UK Horizon 2020 participants and projects would be unaffected by EU exit.**
- The Government's Underwrite Guarantee and the Post EU Exit Guarantee Extension remain in place in the event that commitments made in the Joint Report are not met.



[www.ukro.ac.uk/Documents/factsheet\\_brexit.pdf?pubdate=20180843](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/Documents/factsheet_brexit.pdf?pubdate=20180843)

UKRO Portal – sign up today at  
[www.ukro.ac.uk](http://www.ukro.ac.uk)



Whether you are a researcher, European liaison officer or a research manager/administrator, you can sign up for free to stay up-to-date with the latest news, opportunities and insights into European funding

- Tailored news articles on EU funding and policy
- UKRO Factsheets on Horizon 2020 and other funding streams
- Email alert function and search engine with refiners and tags
- Daily or weekly alerts - personalise your account to best meet your needs!

The screenshot shows the UKRO website's registration page. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with the UKRO logo and several menu items: 'About UKRO', 'ERC NCP', 'MSCA NCP', 'News', 'Resources', 'ELO Area', and 'Research Council Area'. A 'Sign Out' button is visible on the right. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'UKRO > About UKRO > New Subscribers'. The main content area is titled 'Create Profile' and contains an 'Email:' label followed by a text input field with the placeholder text 'Enter your email address'. Below the input field is a red button labeled 'Next'.

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<https://www.ukro.ac.uk/aboutukro/Pages/register.aspx>

# Do not hesitate to contact me!

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