



UK Participation in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

The EU and UK agreed the [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) (Brexit Deal) on 24th December 2020. This document has set out the new relationship between the UK and the EU, including a section on Participation in the Union Programmes & their governance. This details how the UK will continue to participate in virtually the whole of Horizon Europe.

UK Association to Horizon Europe

The agreement gives **full access to Horizon Europe** for UK researchers and institutions **both as Coordinator and Partner** with only two minor exceptions:

- The EIC fund (SME equity under the Accelerator scheme) – though the UK can access all other parts of Pillar 3.
- Selected calls – mainly expected to be Security calls – where non-Member State inclusion is not appropriate. This will be detailed in call topic texts.

This means that the University of Leeds can:

- Host ERC and MSCA Fellowships
- Participate in and coordinate collaborations under:
 - ✚ Pillar 1 (MSCA ITNs, Researcher Exchange scheme and ERC Synergy grants – where UK Investigators will not count as a non-EU PI)
 - ✚ Pillar 2 (Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness), including Missions
 - ✚ Pillar 3 (e.g. EIC Pathfinder)
 - ✚ Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA
 - ✚ COST

How does Brexit affect Horizon 2020 projects?

By signing the withdrawal Agreement with the EU in March 2020, the UK agreed to pay into the remainder of Horizon 2020.

As a result, participation in all H2020 projects, along with their funding from the European Commission, has been guaranteed for their full duration. Discontinued UK participation is therefore **no risk to any H2020 project**.

Will there be other effects?

The UK Higher Education sector is working on advice and solutions to several issues, including:

- Transfer of personal and non-personal data
- Immigration to the UK
- Transfer of materials and samples.

Solutions are expected to be in effect by the time the first Horizon Europe Grant Agreements are signed with minimal disruption to projects.

Is there a risk that the UK fails to associate to Horizon Europe?

The delay in the UK signing is linked to (unrelated) political aspects of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This is understandably causing concern both for UK academics and their collaborators based across the rest of Europe.

The UK Government's primary intention is still to Associate to Horizon Europe as previously agreed with the EU. As with all Associated Countries, association is only required at the point of Grant Agreement signature, so there is no effect on applications. However, as we are close to the first Horizon Europe Grant Agreements being signed, the [UK Government has agreed to underwrite UK participation](#) in any awarded Horizon Europe grants. This will protect collaborations and compensate for any potential delay in UK association.

The UK is therefore still an eligible Coordinator or Beneficiary for Horizon Europe proposals.

Where can I find out more information?

Contact the University of Leeds EU Team at eufunding@leeds.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!