



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 DNs, Staff 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?

In addition to eligibility of proposals, there are certain features of many projects that also need to be considered within a post-Brexit context:

- Transfer of personal and non-personal data
- Immigration and research visits to and from the UK
- Transfer of materials and samples (export control)

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

Both the UK Government and the EC have expressed a preference to sign the Association Agreement. The delay in the UK signing is linked to (unrelated) political aspects of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, where Horizon Europe is being used as leverage in negotiations. This is understandably causing concern both for UK academics and their collaborators across the rest of Europe. The recent [Windsor Framework has reopened Association talks](#) but despite the terms being agreed in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, there will still be negotiations over finances as the figures were based on Association being completed in 2021.

Non-association is only a problem at the Grant Agreement (GA) signature stage, so for awarded projects the [UK Government has agreed to underwrite UK participation](#) in Horizon Europe grants. The current guidance covers calls with a deadline before the end of June 2023, but the UK Government Plan B has announced that [this will be extended to cover any pending applications at the time of any official non-association](#).

“We will support UK entities with eligible in-flight applications to Horizon Europe (to calls that have closed or are open at the point of non-association, where such applications are not being evaluated by the EC), by assessing such eligible applications domestically, to ensure the best get funded should the EC no longer carry out the evaluation.”

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!