

# 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.

## UK participation in other EU programmes

The Joint Report refers to “Union programmes financed by the MFF 2014-2020”, which covers programmes outside of Horizon 2020.

A series of **Technical Notices** have been published by the UK Government on “**How to prepare if the UK leaves the EU with no deal**” including on the **guarantee fund for EU funding**, **Erasmus+** and **nuclear research**. The **National Agency for Erasmus+**, the **Creative Europe Desk UK**, the **LIFE UK National Contact Point**, **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)** and **COST** maintain update pages regarding Brexit and UK Participation. The **NHS European Office** has dedicated resources looking at Brexit and the NHS.

## UK White Paper on future relationship between the UK and the EU

The UK has published its white paper on a suggested future relationship with the EU post-Brexit. The most relevant section on EU research programmes is under ‘Cooperative accords’, where a list of areas for future collaboration is headed up by science and innovation.

## Are you based outside the UK and have concerns over including UK partners in Horizon 2020?

The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy created a special inbox for queries and to report issues. This inbox ([research@beis.gov.uk](mailto:research@beis.gov.uk)) can be used for queries and to report issues concerning Horizon 2020 partnering and projects. Researchers and research organisations from outside the UK can contact the inbox in the same way that UK entities can.

## Are you coming to Brussels with a group and looking for an update for your researchers/research managers?

UKRO can provide an update on the UK situation at your Brussels event. If you are interested in arranging for an UKRO staff member to speak to your group, please contact [ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk) with details on 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 Q&A**.
- The **Joint Report** from the UK Government and the negotiators of the European Union was published on 8 December 2017. Paragraph 71 refers to the UK’s participation in EU programmes. A **draft for the Article 50 Withdrawal Agreement** (Articles 130 and 131 refer to EU programmes) was published by the European Commission on 28 February 2018.
- 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**
- The UK Government paper on future science and innovation - **“Collaboration on science and innovation – a future partnership paper”**
- The European Commission also maintains a **website on the Taskforce on Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom**
- The UK White Paper on **The Future Relationship Between the UK and the EU**