

UK Participation in EU Programmes for Research, Innovation, Earth Observation and Higher Education

UKRO maintains this factsheet to provide the latest information on UK participation in EU funding schemes for research, innovation and earth observation. It provides an overview of the opportunities and signpost stakeholders – both UK organisations and our partners in Europe and beyond - to relevant official documentation. You are invited to disseminate this factsheet within your institutions and to your European and international partners.

UK association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus

On 7 September 2023, the European Commission and the UK Government **announced that they have reached an agreement** on the association of the UK to Horizon Europe and Copernicus from 1 January 2024.

UK organisations will be able to participate in Horizon Europe calls for proposals on the same terms as institutions from other Associated Countries, **including leading consortia and receiving EU funding, from the 2024 Work Programme and onwards. This includes any 2024 calls opening this year.**

Participation in **Copernicus**, the EU Earth Observation programme, will enable the UK's access to a state-of-the-art capacity to monitor the Earth and to its services, as well as provide the UK research community with access to unique data, which is often required on Horizon Europe projects.

The UK Government has published a helpful **explainer document**, which includes clarifications on many issues related to the UK association to both programmes.

On 4 December 2023, the agreement was formally adopted in the form of a protocol to the **Trade and Cooperation Agreement** by the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Participation in EU Programmes.

Transitional arrangements for ongoing projects and applications to 2023 Horizon Europe calls for proposals

UK applicants to calls in 2021, 2022, and 2023 Work Programmes remain fully eligible for evaluation by the EU and, if successful, for funding through the **UK Horizon Guarantee**.

UK participants who have received a UKRI grant under the Horizon Guarantee will remain on it for the lifetime of the project, subject to UKRI's bespoke terms and conditions.

Applicants for remaining 2023 Work Programme calls should continue to apply to the EU directly as beneficiaries and, if successful, will receive funding from the UK Government through the Guarantee.

These applicants will not be able to lead consortia or count towards the minimum number of countries required to meet eligibility rules for applications for transnational projects.

The Guarantee has been extended to cover all remaining Horizon Europe grant calls that are funded under Work Programme 2023 irrespective of the call closing or grant signature date.

Work Programme 2023 calls which do not close until next year will still be covered by the Guarantee.

In order to be eligible for the UK Guarantee, UK applicants must continue to apply for funding from the EU as beneficiaries and not as Associated Partners

United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) has published **useful guidance** on UK participation in the 2021, 2022 and 2023 calls, together with **detailed instructions** on how to apply for the Guarantee funding.

Identifying which Work Programme a call belongs to

Every Horizon call for proposals has a call identification (ID) number, which sets out which programme year it belongs to. This number is set out clearly for each call in the Work Programme and on the EU's [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

If the call ID includes '2023,' the call is part of the 2023 Work Programme and will be covered by the UK Horizon Guarantee. If the call ID includes '2024,' the call will be part of the 2024 Work Programme.

UK participation in other EU programmes

The UK will be considered a non-associated third country for all other EU programmes, including Erasmus+ and Euratom. UK organisations may participate in calls for proposals under these programmes only if the relevant programme's legal basis allows for this. The relevant call documents will normally list the countries, which are eligible to participate in projects and to receive funding.

In most cases, organisations from third countries can participate in EU projects as Associated Partners without receiving EU funding, which means they need to cover their own costs. Furthermore, it is also normally possible for such organisations to participate as third parties such as subcontractors, subject to the standard rules of the programme.

In line with the preferences of the UK fusion sector, the UK has decided to pursue a domestic fusion energy strategy instead of associating to the EU's [Euratom programme](#). This will involve close international collaboration, including with European partners, and a new, cutting-edge alternative programme, backed by up to £650m to 2027.

UK Participation in COST Actions

COST - an intergovernmental framework consisting of more than 40 countries - is separate from the Horizon Europe programme, although it is partly funded by it. As the UK is a [Full Member of COST](#), UK-based researchers and innovators are fully eligible to apply to and participate in COST Actions, regardless of the UK's status in Horizon Europe.

UK participation in Horizon 2020

The [Withdrawal Agreement](#) means that the UK can continue to participate in EU programmes, including Horizon 2020, that are financed by the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) until their closure (i.e. for the lifetime of grants).

UK participants continue to receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual Horizon 2020 projects, including those finishing after 2020.

Where can I find official resources?

- The European Commission and the UK Government have published a [joint statement](#) on UK association - in principle - to Horizon Europe and Copernicus as of 1 January 2024.
- The Commission provides answers to FAQs on UK participation in Horizon Europe on its [website](#) and on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#), while the UK Government has published an [explainer document](#) with detailed guidance for UK applicants to upcoming Horizon Europe calls.
- The UK Government provides guidance on [EU-funded programmes](#) under the Withdrawal Agreement and more specifically on [Horizon 2020](#) on its websites.
- UKRI maintains a [dedicated web page](#) with information on how it supports Horizon Europe applicants and [another one](#) with dedicated guidance on UK association and the Horizon Guarantee.

- **UKRO**, the Brussels office of UKRI, provides additional services and information to subscribers to ensure they can best engage with EU funding.
- The network of **UK National Contact Points (NCPs)** provides guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in European R&I Framework Programmes, including Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. UKRO delivers the **European Research Council (ERC)**, **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**, **COST** and **Widening Participation** UK National Contact Points.

What else can UKRO do for you?

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

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