EU Referendum and Implications

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EU referendum and implications

• Currently, the UK is still an EU Member State

• This means it has the same rights and obligations as all other 27 Member States, including the participation in EU funding programmes

• The UK continues to be a full member state during the negotiation process, with all the rights and obligations

• Details on how the UK can participate after an exit need to be determined during the negotiations following the triggering of Article 50
"The referendum result has no immediate effect on those applying to or participating in Horizon 2020. UK participants can continue to apply to the programme in the usual way. The future of UK access to European science funding will be a matter for future discussions. Government is determined to ensure that the UK continues to play a leading role in European and international research."

• BEIS invites anyone who is experiencing problems when engaging with EU funding following the EU referendum to report issues to research@beis.gov.uk.
• "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."

• The Commission explicitly briefs evaluators in their guidance: “Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before.”

(https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/exper
t/h2020_expert-briefing_en.pdf)
“While the UK remains a full member of the European Union we encourage researchers to continue to engage with partners in the EU and with European funding schemes as normal. The Research Councils recognise that there is uncertainty about the future of the UK’s relationship with the EU in general and specifically affecting aspects of the research system. We are working with Government to ensure that the concerns and needs of UK researchers are represented and are considered in the negotiation of a future relationship with the EU.”
UK Treasury 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".
• UKRO understand that eligibility for the guarantee will extend to all application submitted before the exit date, and not just to grants signed.

• British universities and research organisations should therefore continue to apply for EU funding through mechanisms such as Horizon 2020 while the UK remains a member of the EU.

• The statement also covers structural and investment funds and the LIFE programme

Q: “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?"

A: 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 future status of the UK in Horizon 2020 depends on the wider Art.50 negotiations.

**EU Member States**
- Full rights in Horizon 2020
- All parts of the programme

**Associated Countries**
- Non-EU countries paying into the Programme’s budget to be treated equally to Member States (full rights)
- All parts of the programme

**Third countries**
- Default status (no specific requirements to be met)
- Can participate in many parts of the programme (excl. SME Instrument, FTI, etc.)
- Eligibility for funding depends on GPD
- Only countries in Annex A can receive funding automatically
Enabling funding managers to make informed decisions about applying for funding and engaging in policy dialogue

Tackling uncertainty: Provision of clear, consistent information in a transparent way

UKRO Annual Conference 30 June, 1 July

Gathering questions (and feedback) on behalf of UK Government

Disseminating key messages, official statements and providing a platform for subscribers, wider research community and stakeholder organisations

Continued liaison and engagement activities

Facilitation role
EU Referendum – other points of interest

• House of Commons Select Committee Session on 'Leaving the EU: Implications and opportunities for science and research’ (UKRO article [here](#) and [here](#))

• The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee held a [follow-up evidence session](#) on EU membership and UK science on 19 July

• [Summary](#) of HoC and HoL sessions in October

• We have written a briefing on the different ways countries are [associated to H2020](#) and a [factsheet](#)
House of Commons Science and Technology Committee’s ‘Report into the Implications of Leaving the EU for UK Science and Research’ now published

Accompanied by a set of conclusions and recommendations, including:

- That the Government should develop a comprehensive strategy to communicate messages of ongoing support for the science and research community in the context of its Brexit plans;
- That the Government should be mindful of the need to clarify future immigration rules so that the UK continues to attract top quality researchers;
- That an immediate commitment should be made to EU researchers currently working in the UK, to exempt them from any potential outfall arising from Brexit negotiations;
- That the interim Chair of UKRI should be formally appointed to act as a ‘bridge’ between the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department for Exiting the European Union (DexEU); and
- That DexEU should appoint a Chief Scientific Advisor as a matter of priority.

Makes a very strong statement on the messages that the Government needs to give both nationally and to stakeholders abroad: “The Government must send a clear message now that it intends to protect the UK’s strength in science. To help allay the uncertainty arising from the Referendum result, it should set out its objectives for addressing the priority areas of concern for the science community – funding, people, collaboration, regulation and facilities. It should use the opportunity of the Autumn Statement…to commit, as we have previously recommended, to raising the UK’s expenditure on science R&D to 3% of GDP. This would demonstrate a determination not only to negotiating a post-Brexit relationship with the EU that is good for science but also to secure opportunities for science collaboration with markets beyond Europe.”
EU Referendum – Other Statements

• LERU statement,
  – LERU calls "upon all its European partners, in particular universities, to continue to work with UK universities, respecting the ongoing full membership of the UK and the firm belief that the post-exit relationship must support academic cooperation." LERU further calls "upon those who review funding applications to see the engagement of UK partners as a desirable feature of projects, rather than a risk or compromise“

• University leaders from more than 20 European countries have signed a joint statement, which stresses the importance of continued European university collaboration after the UK's vote to leave the European Union. The full text of the statement is available on Universities UK website.

• The national academies have published a joint statement on research and innovation following the EU referendum.
EU Referendum – other statements

• COST released a statement
  – “The UK referendum and a potential future Brexit will have no direct impact on the COST programme. The COST programme is run by an independent, intergovernmental organisation, of which the UK has been a full member since the programme was created in 1971. And this status is independent from European Union membership.”