

UK Participation in Horizon 2020 from 1st February 2020

What does the transition period mean for Horizon 2020 participation?

- UK participants will **continue to receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual Horizon 2020 projects**, including projects finishing after the transition period ends at the end of 2020.
- UK scientists, researchers and businesses **can continue to participate in and lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding**.
- **The vast majority of Horizon 2020 projects will be able to continue as before during the transition period and beyond**. This includes ERC, MSCA, and EIC accelerator grant element. Note that:
 1. 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).
 2. A very limited number of UK entities could be restricted from participating in some specific project elements if security concerns exist (e.g. are raised in the security scrutiny process of the European Commission's Horizon 2020 evaluation in line with existing process for associated and third countries). We expect the European Commission to indicate if this is the case.
 3. Horizon 2020 applicants also have the option of seeking non-grant finance (e.g. equity or loans) under some programmes. Where grant agreements have already been agreed with the Commission, such arrangements will continue after exit. However, while UK SMEs can continue to apply for the grant-only funding route for EIC Accelerator projects, access to new blended finance (i.e. equity alongside grant) may not be possible. UK organisations might also not be able to bid for the 'InnovFin' product range, which consists of a suite of tailored financial instruments. We are seeking clarification from the European Commission and will provide more information as further details become available.

What does the transition period mean for submitting new bids to Horizon 2020 calls?

- We encourage UK organisations to continue to bid into calls for new Horizon 2020 grant funding for the lifetime of the Horizon 2020 programme and, if successful, funding will be provided by the Commission.
- This includes any Horizon 2020 calls under the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) even if they extend into 2021, after the transition period has ended.
- The National Contact Points (NCPs) can advise Horizon 2020 applicants throughout the application process. More information about the NCPs can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk>
- While UK SMEs can apply for the grant-only funding route for EIC Accelerator projects, access to new blended finance (i.e. equity alongside grant) may not be possible. UK organisations might also not be able to bid for the 'InnovFin' product range, which consists of a suite of tailored financial instruments. We are seeking clarification from the European Commission. As set out above, existing projects are unaffected.
- A very limited number of UK entities could be restricted from participating in some specific project elements if security concerns exist (e.g. are raised in the security scrutiny process of the European Commission's Horizon 2020 evaluation in line with existing processes for all participating countries including associated and third countries). We expect the European Commission to inform beneficiaries if this is the case.

This table provides a summary of how UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in and lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding.

	Will operate as before	Possible restrictions
Existing Horizon 2020 projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All projects which do not involve UK access to security-related sensitive information restricted to EU Member States or countries with security agreements with the EU. This includes projects with non-grant financing (equity, loans, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some projects where UK entities may have access to security sensitive information – this will be based on activity within the project.
Applications to new Horizon 2020 calls (which are all funded by the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All grant calls, including MSCA, ERC, and the EIC accelerator grant element. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calls that offer non-grant financial instruments (e.g. equity or loans), notably the blended finance option in EIC accelerator, InnovFin. - Activities within projects that involve access to security-related sensitive information.

What has happened to the Government’s No Deal Funding Guarantee?

- The Government’s No Deal Funding Guarantee was a commitment to fund UK participation in Horizon 2020 if the UK left the EU at the end of January without a deal.
- Under the agreed deal, UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in and lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding until the end of the transition period.
- Given this, there is no need to continue registering your Horizon 2020 participations on the UKRI portal.

What is the security-related guarantee?

- A very limited number of UK entities could be restricted from participating in some specific project elements if security concerns exist (e.g. are raised in the security scrutiny process of the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 evaluation in line with existing process for associated and third countries).
- We expect the Commission to inform participants directly where this is the case.
- Grants terminated by the European Commission on security-related grounds will be eligible to enter BEIS and UKRI’s ‘Continuation Process’. This process provides funding for the UK beneficiaries to continue research independently from Horizon 2020 where feasible. If the project cannot continue there is provision for UK beneficiaries to be reimbursed for their committed costs. In either case, the value of funding UK beneficiaries can receive will be capped at the remaining value of their original Horizon 2020 grant award. Any affected UK grant holders should contact UKRI at EUGrantsFunding@ukri.org.

What does this mean for Horizon Europe?

- The Horizon Europe programme is separate to the Horizon 2020 programme.
- The Political Declaration agreed with the EU in October 2019 demonstrates a shared intent between UK and EU leaders to agree a framework that supports collaboration in science and innovation.
- The shape and content of EU Programmes post-2020, including Horizon Europe, are currently being negotiated in the EU Institutions and have not yet been finalised.
- The UK is ready to consider participation in certain EU programmes, once the EU has agreed the baseline in its 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, and taking into account the overall value to the UK of doing so.

Additional background and potential questions

Is there any scenario where Horizon 2020 projects could become UK administrated?

- We expect the EU to continue to administer Horizon 2020 grant funding to UK beneficiaries for the lifetime of individual projects, as agreed in the Withdrawal Agreement.

Will UK participation be impacted by minimum number of Member State eligibility requirements?

- No. UK scientists, researchers and businesses **can continue to participate in and lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding** as before.

What about participation in European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Actions?

- The Withdrawal Agreement means that the UK continues to participate in EU programmes financed by the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. COST Actions are one of these EU Programmes. Therefore, UK scientists, researchers and business will be able to participate in COST actions funded under the current MFF in the same way as before. This means that you should continue follow COST's rules for travel and use the COST travel and reimbursement process when making your claims.

Will we still be allowed to coordinate projects?

- Yes. UK scientists, researchers and businesses **can continue to lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grant funding**. These arrangements will continue until the end of the current Horizon 2020 programme.

Can we still participate in ERC and MSCA grants?

- Yes. UK scientists, researchers and businesses **can continue to participate in and lead Horizon 2020 projects and apply for Horizon 2020 grants, including ERC and MCSA**. UK participants will **continue to receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual Horizon 2020 projects**, including projects finishing after the transition period ends at the end of 2020. These arrangements will continue until the end of the current Horizon 2020 programme.

What will happen to EU researchers who want to move to the UK after 31 December 2020?

- The Government wants to send a global signal that the UK welcomes scientists and researchers. We want to do all we can to facilitate access for this specialist and skilled cohort of individuals, who will significantly enhance the intellectual and knowledge base of the UK and make critical contributions to scientific and medical research in the 21st Century.
- On 27 January, the Government announced the Global Talent Visa, a new fast-track visa system to attract the world's top scientists, researchers, mathematicians, and their teams to the UK. The bespoke Global Talent route will have no cap on the number of people able to come to the UK, demonstrating the government's commitment to support top talent. More information can be found at: <https://www.ukri.org/research/international/global-talent-visa/>

Where can I find more information on UK participation in EU funded programmes?

- The HM Treasury guidance on UK participation in EU funded programme can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/continued-uk-participation-in-eu-programmes/eu-funded-programmes-under-the-withdrawal-agreement>