



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Horizon Europe and UK Situation

Chris Young

Horizon Europe UK Legal and Financial National Contact Point

christopher.young@iuk.ukri.org

Catherine Holt

Horizon Europe UK Space and Environment National Contact Point

catherine.holt@iuk.ukri.org

Louise Mothersole

Horizon Europe UK Mobility National Contact Point

louise.mothersole@iuk.ukri.org

HORIZON EUROPE

THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME 2021–2027



Points Discussed

- Official UK status with regards to Horizon Europe
- How UK applicants should be represented in proposals
- What happens post-evaluation
- UK Government Horizon Europe Guarantee
- Practical matters including:
 - The Consortium Agreement
 - How UK partners are funded
- Questions and Answers

UK Government continues to seek Association to Horizon Europe

- In reference to Horizon Europe, Copernicus and Euratom: "We never wanted to leave those programmes and we still don't. We're still pushing for that association to be formalised"

11th January 2023



Why European collaboration is important

- Solve global grand challenges through collaborative R&I
- Collaborate with world leading organisations to learn from the best
- Access cutting edge technologies, infrastructure, talent & markets
- Contribute to the dialogue on standards, regulations and research policies
- Ensure that technology development aligns with global market place
- Collaborative relationships frequently become transactional ones – developing system solutions in supply chain partnerships
- **Creating jobs, growth and stronger supply chains**



UK is a ‘third country negotiating association to the programme’ (1)

- [List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#) states:

“Until association agreements start producing legal effects either through provisional application or their entry into force, the transitional arrangement set out in the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 is applicable (for the entire Programme, including ERC, EIC, EIT and the institutionalised European partnerships)”

UK is a ‘third country negotiating association to the programme’ (2)

- [General Annexes](#) states:

“In addition, other third countries can also become associated to Horizon Europe during the programme. For the purposes of the eligibility conditions, applicants established in Horizon 2020 Associated Countries or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe will be treated as entities established in an Associated Country, if the Horizon Europe association agreement with the third country concerned applies at the time of signature of the grant agreement.”

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UK is a candidate Associate Country:

- UK organisations **are** fully eligible to apply to Horizon Europe and **must** request funding from the EU as a potential Beneficiary
- UK organisations **are** eligible to coordinate proposals
- UK organisations **are** classed as one of the minimum three different legal entities from three different eligible countries as long as at least one consortium member is also from a Member State for proposal eligibility

However, if the UK's association to Horizon Europe has not completed by the time the consortium reaches Grant Agreement signature:

- UK organisations are **not** eligible to receive funding from the EU, but UK organisations can still take part!
- UK organisations **cannot** coordinate projects
- UK organisations **are not** classed as one of the minimum three different legal entities from three different eligible countries and so another country needs to be included for project eligibility
- UK Horizon Europe Guarantee funds UK partners



Your cat seems to have thought outside the box
Dr Schrödinger

In Practice for Proposals

- UK organisations must be included as potential beneficiaries and request funding from the EU
- UK organisations must complete the budget tables in full (Part A and Part B)
- Note any Topic Specific points: almost all Topics are open to UK participation, any exceptions will include this information in the Topic Description
- Organisations from Associate Countries, including the UK, and Third Countries can be Work Package Leads – see [FAQ 18452](#)

Post-Evaluation if proposal successful

- Once the celebrations are over, all entities, including those from UK, sign the Declaration of Honour
- Preparation for Grant Agreement signature proceeds with no change to UK partner status until signature becomes imminent
 - Hope is that UK association will complete first
- UK partner status is then changed to that of Associated Partner (standard letter issued by EC prompts this change)
- UK partner applies for UK Horizon Europe Guarantee

Clarification of 'Associate' definitions

- Organisations from Associate Countries participate in projects as Beneficiaries and receive funding from the EU
- Organisations that do not receive funding from the EU are called Associate Partners:
 - Do implement action tasks
 - Do not sign the Grant Agreement but are full members of the consortium
 - Grant Agreement mentions them and defines their responsibilities in the project
 - Do sign the Consortium Agreement with some clauses from the Grant Agreement included

Standard European Commission text following successful evaluation

1. If Consortium ineligible due to too few eligible partners: identify and add new eligible participant
2. Change UK partner to Associated Partner
or
2. Redistribute tasks to existing beneficiaries and/or new participant and UK partner removed

Accordingly, your proposal will be declared ineligible and the Grant preparation terminated, unless you consider the steps suggested below.

To address the ineligibility of your proposal, I am inviting you to take the following possible actions so the Grant preparation of your proposal can continue:

Step1. Identification of new participant

Identify a new participant(s) established in a Member State or an Associated Country not present in the original proposal to make sure that the proposal complies with the minimum eligibility conditions for participation. This new participant must take over some of the tasks (possibly including the tasks of the UK participants).

The redistribution of the budget and tasks will be accepted as non-substantial change unless these changes would put into question the results of the evaluation.

Step2. Change of status of the participant from beneficiary to associated partner

Provided that the legal entities established in the United Kingdom are able to fund their tasks, their status may change from a beneficiary into an associated partner within the meaning of Article 9.1 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. The total EU funding to the project will be reduced accordingly, except for tasks taken over by the new or existing eligible beneficiaries.

A redistribution of the remaining budget and tasks may be requested and should be accepted as non-substantial change unless it would put into question the results of the evaluation.

The entity may be later re-established as a beneficiary through a grant amendment if the association agreement with the United Kingdom becomes applicable and if requested by the consortium. If the association agreement provides for retroactive application prior to the start of the action and if the status changes to beneficiary, such conditions will apply.

Alternative step 2: Withdrawal of the legal entities from participation in the proposal

The tasks of the legal entities established in the United Kingdom are taken over either by the remaining other beneficiaries of the proposal, subject to the fulfilment of the minimum eligibility conditions for participation of the proposal, or by one or more additional new beneficiaries established in a Member State or an Associated country. The legal entity established in the United Kingdom is withdrawn from the project. The total EU funding to the project may remain unchanged.

The Consortium Agreement

- UK participants change from potential Beneficiaries to Associated Partners, note access rights on portal, no right to Grant Agreement
- No direct right of EC to enforce - Consortium is responsible for the implementation of the actions tasks by the Associated Partner
- Provisions from the Grant Agreement inserted in the Consortium Agreement – Many teams use [DESCA](#) (Associate Partner version available)
 - Grant Agreement - Article 9.1
- Associated Partners sign the Consortium Agreement – director or equivalent
- Belgium law applies (insurance)

The UK Horizon Europe Guarantee

- Implemented by [UKRI](#) – over £750m committed already by end January 2023
- Funds successful UK partners to deliver their tasks within the existing team
- Funds at same rate using very similar rules (only exception is no pre-financing, always quarterly in arrears on proof of costs incurred)
- There is a publicly available webinar [Grant Preparation for Projects with UK Organisations](#) produced by UKRO, UKRI's team in Brussels

Latest statistics for the Horizon Europe guarantee

Number of applications and grant offers made through the Horizon Europe guarantee up to 31 January 2023.

Guarantee Grant Type	Applications submitted and verified	Value of grants requested in verified applications	Grant offer letters issued	Value of grant offers issued
Collaborative Horizon Europe Guarantee Grants (on Innovation Funding Service)	1247	£529.1 million	1019	£390.9 million
European Research Council Guarantee Grants	205	£294.8 million	193	£282.2 million
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Guarantee Grants	359	£81.9 million	336	£77.7 million
TOTAL	1811	£905.8 million	1548	£750.8 million

Note: figures to the nearest £0.1 million.

If UK Association is finalised, agreed, approved

- UK contributes funding to the EU (approx. 15% addition to existing to Horizon Europe budget)
 - EU decides where to allocate UK government contribution (paragraph 50 of [Regulation establishing Horizon Europe](#)) “When allocating associated countries' financial contributions to the Programme, the Commission should take into account the level of participation of legal entities of those third countries in the different parts of the Programme.”
- Except in *very* few Topics that are restricted to Member States only:
 - UK organisations **are** fully eligible to coordinate proposals **and** projects
 - UK organisations **are** classed as one of the minimum three different legal entities from three different eligible countries, as long as at least one consortium member is also from a Member State, for proposal **and** project eligibility
 - UK organisations **would** be funded by EU as project participants/beneficiaries

If UK does not Associate to the Programme

- UK organisations **can** continue to participate in those parts of the programme open to Third Countries
 - Cannot (usually) coordinate proposals or projects
 - Do not count as one of the three different organisations for consortium eligibility
 - Would not be funded by EU (except in exceptional circumstances)*

[UK Government Policy Paper published July 2022](#): **Supporting UK R&D and collaborative research beyond European programmes**

“...the government will fund all eligible UK entities participating in any such consortia signing grant agreements before 31 March 2025. The government will consider our approach to funding for Third Country Participation beyond this date and make an announcement by October 2024...”

International Cooperation in Horizon Europe

- International cooperation in Horizon Europe
 - Horizon Europe, the research and innovation funding programme 2021-2027 is one of the main tools to implement Europe's strategy for international cooperation: [the global approach to research and innovation](#).
 - The programme is open to researchers and innovators from around the globe who are encouraged to team up with EU partners in preparing proposals.
 - Over 22% of the Topics in the 2023/2024 Work Programme explicitly encourage International Cooperation



Global approach to research & innovation

*Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world**

Supplementary Frequently Asked Questions about UK participation

- Horizon Europe [FAQ 18452](#) “Associated partners can become work package leaders in collaborative projects.”
- [GDPR](#): “Commission concludes that the United Kingdom ensures an adequate level of protection for personal data transferred within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 from the European Union to the United Kingdom.”
- [EU/UK Security Agreement](#) “Against this background, the EU and the UK have concluded a Security of Information Agreement. The Agreement will allow the EU and the UK to exchange classified information, applying strong guarantees as to the handling and protection of the exchanged information.”



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Questions?

