Horizon Europe Insight Day

Wednesday 13 March 2024
11.30 – 16.30
Welcome Address

Professor Adam Tickell

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Birmingham
Keynote

Adam Jackson – Director International Research and Innovation, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Session 1: What does Association mean for the UK private and university sector?

Chair: Robin Mason - Vice Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham

Eugenia Migliori - Head of Technology and Innovation, CBI

Stephanie Smith – Deputy Director of Policy, Russell Group

Prof Sudhesh Kumar - President, Association for Innovation, Research and Technology Organisations

Adam Jackson - Director International Research and Innovation, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Robin Mason
Vice Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham
Eugenia Migliori

Head of Technology and Innovation, CBI
Stephanie Smith
Deputy Director of Policy, Russell Group
Global collaboration, prestigious grants, deeper networks

- Horizon Europe provides unrivalled access to ready-made routes making it easier to work with multiple countries
- ERC grants bring enormous prestige, based on peer review across the EU and eligible associated countries
- most of the UK’s largest-scale research partners are in the rest of Europe, and many of our other partners are signing up to Horizon
Horizon association: an opportunity to seize

Universities want and need to make the most of Horizon

• Your university may be organising workshops and events (like this one!)
• Universities are providing targeted support to upskill potential applicants
• Many universities are providing drop-in sessions – UCL has an open session for UCL colleagues and external collaborators every Friday: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research-innovation-services/award-services/european-research-innovation-office
Early progress, but more to do

Participation seems to be recovering

- UK-based researchers’ application rates have gone up a lot for the 2024 calls compared to last year
- ERC applications have returned to 2022 levels, which is a big jump
- The best way to show the UK should join in FP10 – the successor to Horizon Europe – is to prove association is a success now

Early progress, but more to do
Professor Sudhesh Kumar

President, Association for Innovation, Research and Technology Organisations
What is the Innovation Research and Technology Sector?
Expertise in:

- Applied research
- Translational research
- Innovation
- Technology
- Demonstration/test-beds
- Commercialisation
- Scale up
- Testing and accreditation
- Regulation
- Compliance
- Asset management
- Business support
Contribution to our Sector

The impact of the innovation, research and technology sector on the UK economy

November 2014

Turnover has tripled since 2000 to £6.9Bn per annum

>57,000 highly skilled people employed: equals total academic staff at Russell Group universities (significantly more than Germany’s Fraunhofer)

Activities generate contributions of:

- £32Bn to UK GDP (>2.3% of the total)
- £13Bn to UK tax revenue

Productivity is 45% higher than the national average

Consumes just 0.3% of Government spend
New raspberry varieties developed grown commercially from 2018 for UK supermarkets

Advancing robotic arc welding for manufacturing plants
Our membership:
Innovation, Research & Technology sector organisations span the UK
Growth powered by innovation

- **Achieve immediate short-term growth** through targeted R&D by maintaining current funding for public funding of research, development and innovation.
- **Ensure long-term investment in R&D** grows: By 2030> 3% for GERD (% GDP), in the top quartile of OECD nations.
- **Prioritise ‘closer-to-market innovation’** infrastructure (e.g., demonstrators) for key sectors and industries, to help reduce the cost and time to translate technologies to market.
- **Build on world-leading RDI infrastructure**: Invest in the innovation ecosystem support recapitalisation of non-profit distributing IRT organisations
- **Instil confidence** for industry in the UK’s resilience and consistency to boost private R&D investment e.g., bolstering commitments on Net Zero
- **Prioritise people and skills**: Develop a comprehensive ‘workforce plan’ for RDI in the UK, encompassing education and skills, and involving the key players from industry, the IRT sector, and academia.
21GRD04 isoMET
Improving atmospheric observations to verify greenhouse gas emissions to inform climate change mitigation policy.
12 partners, including NPL (and several universities) (funded from the EMPIR programme and from the Horizon)

IWM PRAISE
Development and adoption of integrated weed management approaches.
37 partners including NIAB

PROTEUS
EU Hydraulab+ project to improve design of scour protection around offshore wind turbine monopiles and future-proof them against the impacts of climate change.
7 partners including HR Wallingford

LEE-BED
Developing a nanomaterial and composite test bed for the development and production of lightweight embedded electronics (LEE) in manufacturing.
17 partners including CPI/HVM Catapult

CHEQUERS
Portable, multiband MIR-sensor platform for safety and security (Hand-held hazardous scanner for rapid stand-off detection of explosive, toxic or otherwise hazardous materials)
6 partners including Fraunhofer Centre for Applied Photonics CAP, UK
Opportunities to work together

• Supporting the case for ‘growth powered by innovation’ and implementation of Innovation Strategy
• Fostering best practice in, and thought leadership for, innovation
• Striving to inform and shape an optimised policy climate for innovation by gathering evidence of ‘what works’
• Serving the UK government by acting as convenor and driver for advancing key national missions e.g., on the innovation aspects of Net Zero
• **Boosting UK participation in Horizon Europe**
AIRTO Team

Andrew Jamieson
AIRTO Chair;
CEO, Offshore Renewable
Energy Catapult

Sudhesh Kumar OBE
President

Dr Jane Gate
Executive Director

CONTACT US: enquiries@airto.co.uk
Session 1: What does Association mean for the UK private and university sector?

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Stephanie Smith – Deputy Director of Policy, Russell Group

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Adam Jackson - Director International Research and Innovation, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Session 2: Experiences of Participating in Horizon Europe [Part One]

Chair: Professor Robin Mason – Vice Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham

Tiffany Jedrecka - Senior R&D Scientist to R&D Lead, Naturemetrics

Professor Alicia El Haj - Interdisciplinary Chair of Cell Engineering, Director of the Institute of Translational Medicine, School of Chemical Engineering, University of Birmingham
Robin Mason

Vice Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham
Dr Tiffany Jedrecka

Senior R&D Scientist to R&D Lead, Naturemetrics
Our involvement in the Horizon Europe program

BCOMING’s main objective will be to reduce the risk of infectious disease emergence in three biodiversity hotspots by developing a standardised data collection and analysis framework to support the co-construction, with all stakeholders, of innovative biodiversity conservation strategies and zoonotic disease surveillance systems.

https://bcoming.eu/

The BioMonitor4CAP project will develop, evaluate and test affordable and reliable systems for monitoring biodiversity … it will combine classical biodiversity indicator systems with new technological approaches, including acoustic, optical and molecular systems.

https://biomonitor4cap.eu/
Benefits of participating

• Ambitious scope of projects with large budgets
• Capacity building within NatureMetrics
• Building collaborations with leading academics from world-leading institutes
• Access to other scientific data and expertise that would otherwise be challenging or expensive to access
• Increased visibility in new markets
• Can contribute to shaping EU policies, leading to positive changes on a large scale
Challenges we’ve faced

• The varying emphasis on long-term fundamental research versus short-term practical application between academia and business.
• Managing projects where we are dependent on other partners to deliver
• Ensuring diverse voices are represented
• Administrative burden of projects
My advice to applicants

• Don’t be deterred as an SME – flexibility and agile working can happen within grants
• Be honest about what your capacity is, and what you are prepared to commit to
• Consider IP from day one
• A balanced proposal is key - try and get some experienced applicants on board
• Strong proposals take a long time to write!
• An experienced project manager will make your life a lot easier
Alicia El Haj

Interdisciplinary Chair of Cell Engineering, Director of the Institute of Translational Medicine, School of Chemical Engineering, University of Birmingham
## Funding through the Framework Programmes

**Motivation**

**Benefits**

**Challenges**

**Best Practices**

**Evaluations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Framework Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997 - 2000</td>
<td>£82,759</td>
<td>EU Biomed 2, with 5 European PIs for research in neuroengineering in spinal repair (NESTING)</td>
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<td>1996 - 1998</td>
<td>£428,571</td>
<td>EU Biomed 2, with 6 European PIs (Project coordinator ’97 - ’98) for research in Bioartificial organs</td>
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<td><strong>EU V FRAMEWORK</strong></td>
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<td>2001 - 2004</td>
<td>£165,145</td>
<td>European Partnership for Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (EUROCELL), with 8 PIs with Prof James Richardson (Keele)</td>
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<td>2000 - 2002</td>
<td>£254,706 of £2,104,999 total</td>
<td>Biomedical interactions in tissue engineering and tissue engineering in surgical repair (BITES). 9 PIs - Project Co-ordinator</td>
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<td><strong>EU VI FRAMEWORK</strong></td>
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<td>2007 - 2010</td>
<td>£650,000</td>
<td>NEST project – MYJOINT. Lead by Keele Germany and Keele UK with 6 partners</td>
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<td>2005 - 2007</td>
<td>€346,436</td>
<td>ALEA JACTA EST Marie Curie Multicentre Training Grant</td>
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<td>2003 - 2004</td>
<td>£376,000</td>
<td>EXPERTTISSUES, Network of Excellence. Total budget €7 million. Lead WP8/Member Steering Committee</td>
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<td><strong>EU VII FRAMEWORK</strong></td>
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<td>2013 - 2017</td>
<td>£450,000</td>
<td>Magnetic Fun – Marie Curie Training Award - 6 partners - MICA Biosystems</td>
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<td>2011 - 2015</td>
<td>£460,000</td>
<td>BIODESIGN – Co-ordinated by Upsalla University with 15 partners</td>
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<td>2009 - 2011</td>
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<td>HYANJI IRSES People Network. EU Partnership with China; a collaborative programme, co-ordinated by Keele, Pisa, Chengdu and Shanghai, China</td>
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<td><strong>EU FRAMEWORK 2020</strong></td>
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<td>2015 - 2020</td>
<td>£760,000</td>
<td>MAGNEURON - OPEN FET programme, with 6 partners</td>
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<td>2021-2025</td>
<td>£220,000</td>
<td>SHIFT – IRSES MRSCA Network with Portugal, Trento, S Korea, Australia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Mongolia</td>
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Challenges

Hijacking cell signalling pathways with magnetic nanoactuators for remote-controlled stem cell therapies of neurodegenerative disorders

January 2016 - January 2020
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<th>WP Code</th>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>WP2</td>
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INNOVATIVE SCIENCE

Magneuron project selected by the EC as flagship in its “Success Story” initiative

EVALUATIONS – Project meetings

INNOVATIVE SCIENCE

Network of Excellence – 15 partners – longlasting collaborations
Networking Break
Keynote

Ruta Zarnauskaite - Head of Unit, Horizon Europe Association
James Reynolds

School of Psychology, Aston University, ERC Grant Starter Holder (Maximising public support for health policies)
My ERC Starter Grant

- How do we get effective health policies implemented?
- One key factor: Public support or Opposition
- 4 years working as a postdoc
- My ERC Starter Grant: Maximising public support for health policies

**WP1**
- Improve Methodology

**WP2**
- Investigate interventions for increasing support

**WP3**
- Identify characteristics of popular policies

**WP4**
- Develop guidelines
- Develop theory
Progress and outcomes so far

Year 1 of 5

- Created a team: 2 postdocs, 1 PhD student + recruiting 1 more
- Created a collaboration with the WHO
- Started multiple major research projects
- Started planning the next one
Advice

• Start early
• Go big
• Get feedback
• Demonstrate you can do it
• Defend your position
Session 2: Experiences of Participating in Horizon Europe [Part Two]

Chair: Professor Robin Mason – Vice Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham

Dr James Reynolds - School of Psychology, Aston University, ERC Grant Starter Holder (Maximising public support for health policies)
Session 3: How to Get Help to Participate in Horizon Europe

Chair: Cathy Alexander - Deputy Director (International Research & Innovation), Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Ewa Bloch - Head of Europe and European Programmes, Innovate UK

Minna Jalili – Research and Innovation attaché, European Commission

Pierre Purseigle - Reader in Modern European History, Department of History, Warwick University
Cathy Alexander

Deputy Director (International Research & Innovation), Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Ewa Bloch

Head of Europe and European Programmes, Innovate UK
Horizon Europe – Call to action

Visit the UK Horizon Europe hub

Horizon Europe Pump Priming Programme

Find your NCP

Sign up for UK NCP newsletters
EU resources and support

1. Horizon Europe portal
2. European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
3. Information days and trainings
4. Annual Research & Innovation days
Horizon Europe portal

• New look and feel of the portal from **Monday 18 March**
• FAQs
• Partner search function
• Work Programmes
European Institute of Innovation and Technology

• UK hub launched on 12 March
• https://eit.europa.eu/
Information days and trainings

Next information days:

• 22 April on WIDERERA Work Programme 2023-2025
• 25-26 April on EU missions
• https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/horizon-europe-info-days_en

Next (indicative) Horizon Europe implementation days:

• September, October, November 2024
• 2023 recordings available here: https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/news/horizon-implementation-days
Pierre Purseigle

Reader in Modern European History, Department of History, Warwick University
Becoming an evaluator

Experience
• Evaluating since 2017 – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
  • Involved in EU programmes since 2010 (FP7 Infrastructure; MSCA Supervisor & Fellow)
  • COST Actions evaluator
• National experience: UKRI (AHRC/ESRC); Wellcome Trust; Carnegie Trust
• International: Belgium, Canada, France, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland

Rationale
• Professional service – peer review
• State-of-the-art and cutting-edge research within and across disciplines
• Best way to learn about the programmes and to prepare funding applications
• It pays!
Evaluating proposals

Process

• Training and documentation (evaluation criteria and process)
  • Prepare for off-line work and long hours
• Administrative sections (Participants & Infrastructures)
• Case for support
  • Read with evaluation criteria in mind
• Prepare for discussion with evaluators, vice-chair, project officer, etc.

Strengths

• Clarity and precision
• Systematic and exhaustive approach to criteria
• Feasibility (and honesty)
Challenges & lessons learned

Challenges
• Time pressure
  • Workload and hard deadlines
• Collaborative and iterative process
  • Interdisciplinarity
  • Compound criticism
  • Consensus report

Advice to my past – and present! – evaluator self
• Do it as soon as you can– great experience and learning opportunity
• Demand compensation from UK funders
• Engage with REA and the Commission
Tips and hints for applicants

Preparation
• Look beyond national borders and scientific boundaries
• Keep an eye on opportunities and plan ahead (months and years)
• Read the documentation in full
• Seek and follow advice (colleagues, research support services)

Writing
• Give yourself weeks if not months
• Do not neglect ANY criterion – everything matters!
• Use peer review
• Proofread and edit
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Chair: Cathy Alexander - Deputy Director (International Research & Innovation), Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Ewa Bloch - Head of Europe and European Programmes, Innovate UK

Minna Jalili - European Commission

Pierre Purseigle - Reader in Modern European History, Department of History, Warwick University
Closing Remarks

Cathy Alexander - Deputy Director (International Research & Innovation), Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Networking Reception