

Addressing the implications of the UK vote to leave the European Union

**Continued UK engagement in Horizon
2020**

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UK Research Office

- **UKRO's Mission**

“To maximise UK engagement in EU research, innovation and higher education activities”

Leading provider of information and impartial support for the research and higher education sector



- **UKRO**

- European Office of the UK Research Councils
- Based in Brussels, established in 1984
- Delivers a subscription based advisory service for research organisations; comprehensive support for research managers/organisations
- Provides Horizon 2020 NCP services on behalf of UK Government

Facts and Points of Uncertainty

Post-referendum on the UK's membership of the EU

- 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
- UK Government has a dedicated inbox for specific concerns
Research@beis.gsi.gov.uk and UKRO can advise on latest developments
UKRO@bbsrc.ac.uk

Summary of Key Statements

BEIS statement 28 June 2016

- "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."

RCUK Statement 6 July 2016

- "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."

European Commission Statement 4 July 2016

- Statement 4 July 2016: "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."
(http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/expert/h2020_expert-briefing_en.pdf)

Funding Questions

UK Treasury statement 13 August 2016

- 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"*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-philip-hammond-guarantees-eu-funding-beyond-date-uk-leaves-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.