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## Post-Referendum Statements on EU Funding Programmes

Following the UK referendum on EU membership, the UK Government, EU institutions, programme secretariats and managing authorities have released statements on the impact on several EU funding programmes, and financing sources.

The over-arching message is that there is no immediate change, and UK beneficiaries remain eligible for the programmes.

We have outlined the statements released so far below. We will continue to update our members as new information becomes available.

- **Horizon 2020**

[UK Government Statement](#) – 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.

[European Commission Statement on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions](#) – According to the Treaties which the United Kingdom has ratified, EU law continues to apply to the full to and in the United Kingdom until it is no longer a Member. This therefore also applies to the projects financed through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee is to hold an [inquiry into the implications of leaving the EU](#) for science and research. Hearings will begin on 5 July and will last throughout the month. The inquiry will focus on finding the most appropriate relationship between the UK and the EU if research work is not to be hindered. The Chair of the Committee has also written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight issues for science and research in the UK that should be addressed during negotiations with the EU.

- **Erasmus+**

[UK Government Statement](#) – The referendum result does not affect students studying in the EU, beneficiaries of Erasmus+ or those considering applying in 2017. The UK's future access to the Erasmus+ programme will be determined as a part of wider discussions with the EU. More broadly, existing UK students studying in the EU, and those looking to start in the next academic year, will continue to be subject to current arrangements.

- **Creative Europe**

[European Commission Statement](#) – EU law continues to apply to the full to and in the United Kingdom until it is no longer a Member. This therefore also applies to the projects financed through the Creative Europe programme.

- **LIFE**

The holding information received from DEFRA is along the same lines as for other programmes – no immediate change and the UK currently being a Member State with the rights and obligations derived from it. We can expect further updates from DEFRA and JNCC hopefully this week.

- **Interreg VA (cross-border – Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland)**

The SEUPB, having received guidance from the Northern Ireland Finance Minister on the implications of the recent referendum decision in which a majority in the North voted to Remain, will continue to implement the delivery of PEACE IV and INTERREG VA in its role as Managing Authority for the Programmes.

It is anticipated that all EU Programmes, including PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, will form part of the discussions that are to take place between the devolved administrations, the UK government and the European Union during the upcoming negotiations.

The Irish Government and the NI Executive remain committed to the successful implementation of the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

- **Interreg Europe**

[Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat Statement](#) –The next steps are uncertain until the UK and the EU have negotiated a position which will then be discussed within the Interreg Europe monitoring committee. This process will take some time and current Interreg Europe project partners from the UK should continue implementing their activities.

- **Interreg North Sea Region**

[Interreg North Sea Region Joint Secretariat Statement](#)

- The UK is still a full member of the European Union with all the associated rights and obligations this entails.
- All project contracts are still valid for UK beneficiaries as well as for all other beneficiaries.
- The approved fact sheets and procedures are all still in place and will remain in place until a new decision is made – a process, which may take years to complete.
- The next meeting in the Steering Committee where new projects will be decided on will take place as planned. Decision making at the meeting will be in line with the same criteria and rules as before.

The UK referendum will obviously eventually have an impact on our programme, but at this stage it is impossible to say precisely what the impact will be. Following the referendum, a political process has started and all we know for now is that it is likely to take quite a long time until firm conclusions can be drawn from this process. Until this happens, this programme will continue within the current framework and will deliver the programme along the lines agreed in the Cooperation Programme.

- **Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic**

[Interreg NPA Joint Secretariat Statement](#) – The exact consequences of this [referendum] outcome for the Programme are unclear, probably for some time to come.

We understand that projects and applicants with UK partners (Scotland and Northern Ireland) have many questions.

What we can say so far is the following:

- For now, the UK continues to be an EU Member State with all the associated rights and obligations, and we continue to apply fully the applicable programme rules.
- Approved projects with UK partners should continue as planned. Your Grant Letters are still valid.
- We will extend the Fourth Call deadline by two months, until 30th November 2016.

In September, the Monitoring Committee will decide if there is a need to further extend the Fourth Call deadline, and whether more detailed instructions need to be given for the involvement of UK partners.

■ **Interreg North-West Europe**

[Interreg NWE Joint Secretariat Statement](#) – Until further notice, the Interreg NWE Programme will continue running as usual, on the following basis:

- The UK is still a full member of the European Union with all the associated rights and obligations this entails.
- All project contracts are still valid for UK beneficiaries as well as for all other beneficiaries.
- The Programme Manual and procedures are all still in place and will remain in place until a new decision is made – a process, which may take years to complete.
- The next Monitoring Committee where Call 3 projects will be decided on will take place as planned.

The UK's eventual exit from the EU will most probably have an impact on our programme, but at this point in time it is impossible to know precisely what that will be.

■ **European Investment Bank (EIB – the EU's bank, providing a range of financial products)**

[EIB Statement](#) – The UK has a 16.11% shareholding in the EIB, is one of the four main shareholders of the Bank and nominates a member of the EIB Management Committee.

At present the UK shareholding in the EIB remains and the EIB's engagement in the UK is unchanged. Any change to the EIB's shareholder structure or lending activity is a decision for the Member States.

We expect that the EIB's shareholders, the 28 EU Member States, will discuss the EIB's engagement in the UK as part of broader discussions to define the future relationship of the UK with Europe and European bodies. At present, the EIB's shareholders have not requested the Bank to change its approach to operations in the UK.

It is premature to speculate on the impact of the referendum result on the EIB, including the Bank's future relationship with the UK government and its future engagement to support long-term investment in the UK without clarity on the timing, circumstances and conditions of a withdrawal settlement.

■ **European Investment Fund (EIF – the EU provider of risk finance. Scottish Enterprise is a shareholder)**

[EIF Statement](#) – As a subsidiary of the European Investment Bank (EIB), with the European Union and 30 financial institutions as additional shareholders, its shareholding structure remains unaffected by the recent events.

EIF will actively engage with the EIB and relevant European institutions to define the EIF's activity in the UK as part of the broader discussions to determine the future relationship of the UK with Europe and European bodies.

At present, EIF will continue to act within its current statutory remit and will not change its approach to operations in the UK.