

EU Referendum: Practical Questions and Concerns

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UKRO is collecting queries and messages concerning the potential effects of the outcome of the EU referendum on future and existing Horizon 2020 grants. We are aware that European Liaison Officers are under pressure and receiving questions from researchers, and that researchers are in turn under pressure to respond to queries from Horizon 2020 project or proposal partners. We would like to share a list of common queries below.

As subscribers will be aware, there are currently few answers available. What is certain is that the UK currently is a EU Member State, which means that there are no changes to the UK's status in Horizon 2020 or any other EU funding programmes. Concerning the impact of future developments on EU grants for research, innovation and higher education, UKRO will continue to work with relevant actors to facilitate communication, and identify answers and key messages for the community over the coming period.

Your input in this process is invaluable, and your UKRO European Advisors are there to listen to your questions and feedback. We will provide regular updates on the UKRO Portal as and when answers become available and will continue to share questions and experiences. UKRO will also provide fora for exchange between European Liaison Officers. In order to best fit your needs, we would welcome feedback on what European Liaison Officers would consider most useful at this point.

Questions received to date

Existing grants

- What is the impact of the result of the EU referendum on existing Horizon 2020 grants for UK beneficiaries?
- How would existing grants be affected if the UK ceases to be an EU Member State?
- If or when the UK ceases to be an EU Member State, would this mean that the UK changes to third country status? Would this have immediate funding implications for existing UK beneficiaries?

- What are the implications for institutions employing citizens from other EU Member States on Horizon 2020 grants (MSCA, ERC but also collaborative projects etc.)?
- Is there a danger that payments to grants (pre-financing, interim payments) could be delayed or not made at this stage (also with a view to implications for the negotiation of future Annual Budgets of the EU)?

Grants currently in preparation stage

- Will grant preparations of awarded Horizon 2020 projects go ahead as planned?
- Can UK beneficiaries assume that projects they sign grant agreements for at the moment will be funded for the duration they sign for, even if the UK ceases to be a EU Member State?

Open and future calls for proposals

- What are the risks associated with applying for currently open calls for proposals for Horizon 2020 for UK institutions?
- What reassurance can be provided to UK institutions with regards to currently open and future Horizon 2020 calls for proposals?
- How will the current situation impact on the evaluation of Horizon 2020 proposals with UK involvement?
- What can be done to limit potentially damaging effects on the UK's participation in Horizon 2020?