



Global  
Alliance

# Horizon Europe

## Frequently Asked Questions

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**Author:** Viola Hay

## Questions and Answers

### Will the UK be allowed to fully participate in Horizon Europe? Is the UK eligible to participate in ALL Horizon Europe programmes?

In Summary:

- **Participation**
  - UK entities will be able to compete for funding on equivalent terms to those of Member States. This means that the vast majority of UK applicants would have a very similar user experience as they had in relation to previous Framework Programmes such as Horizon 2020.
- **Access**
  - UK entities will be able to access funding from all parts of the Programme, including ERC, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and the majority of EIC (not EIC equity fund).
  - Work programme level exclusions only in exceptional and justifiable cases.
- **Governance**
  - As an associate country, the UK will play an active role in the ongoing governance and development of the Horizon programme:
  - UK representatives & experts will take part in the relevant programme committees, expert groups etc. UK reps will have speaking rights, access to information and documentation etc. As with other associate countries, the UK will not have voting rights at these committees.
  - UK nationals will not be excluded from being experts or evaluators within the Programme
  - UK will participate as observers on the Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre
  - UK will remain part of the European Research Area Committee

### Is it true that associated countries will be excluded from certain space and quantum related calls in cluster 4?

The UK has asked to associate to the entirety of Horizon Europe - excluding the European Innovation Council Fund - and understands that in duly justified cases the EU may exclude participants from associated countries. We understand that there are ongoing discussions within the Commission, and any draft work programmes that have been shared with the UK community are subject to further debate and scrutiny. Any exclusions need to be for duly justified reasons, and we will work to understand the eligibility of UK entities to participate in calls.

### Are UK SMEs eligible for the EIC Accelerator programme (former SME Instrument)?

The SME instrument is now known as the EIC Accelerator. UK entities can apply for grant only funding under the Accelerator. However, UK entities cannot apply for grant with investment or 'blended finance' as it is known.

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**As there is a correlation between the money the UK will put into the programme and what it will receive from funded projects, will there be any internal (UK) limits to the number of proposals that can go in?**

*No, there are no restrictions whatsoever in terms of the funding the UK can secure be it overall or within parts of the programme.*

**Will the Horizon Europe cover 100% of the expenses of the projects?**

*Funding rates are generally between 70-100% depending on the project type.*

**Main Types of Actions**

- **RIA** – Research and Innovation Actions – up to **100%** funding rate
- **IA** – Innovation Actions – up to **70%** funding rate (except non-profit, 100% applies)
- **CSA** – Coordination and Support Actions – up to **100%** funding rate

**What does PCP mean?**

*European Union developed two procurement vehicles that can be used to drive innovation within the public sector. PPI, which stands for Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI) and PCP, which stands for Pre-Commercial Procurement.*

**How does State Aid and de minimis criteria affect participation? Does the "undertakings in distress" test still apply?**

*State Aid rules only apply to 'State resources' whereas resources centrally managed by EU institutions do not constitute State resources. Centrally managed programmes by the European Commission or its Agencies, such as Horizon Europe funding, are not therefore subject to state aid rules. Further the EU does not undertake an 'Undertakings in Difficulty' test – there is a financial viability check applied to the coordinator of a project only.*

**Does the minimum of 3 entities required for a consortium have to come from 3 different countries?**

*Yes, a consortium has to have a minimum of three partners from three different Member States or Associate Countries. Further, the consortium should include at least one legal entity from a Member State. Note: For some CSAs a single entity can be eligible – check specific call requirements carefully.*

**When will the first Horizon Europe calls open?**

*Some calls are anticipated to open as early as April 15th this year. The ERC has already opened some calls <https://erc.europa.eu/>. We also expect the European Innovation Council Accelerator scheme to launch on 18 March.*

*You can ask your UK national contact point if they know about timing for future calls. Their details are here <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk#find-your-uk-national-contact-point-for-advice>*

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**Will Horizon Europe calls allow collaborations from international countries e.g. USA, Australia, Brazil etc?**

*Horizon Europe is open to global collaboration. Some topics are specifically targeted for international collaboration and these will be specified in the call documentation as appropriate. Overall, Horizon Europe is open to international collaboration, but they are not always eligible for funding. As with Associated Countries, and the case under Horizon 2020, the EU may exclude participants from outside Member States and Associated Countries where it sees fit.*

**If my company was registered in Horizon 2020, will that registration roll over automatically into Horizon Europe?**

*Yes, if you have a Participant Identification Code (PIC) number and your company is registered on the EC Funding and Tenders Portal, that will still be valid.*

**Are international organisations eligible for ERC grants?**

*For the main ERC schemes (Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grants) the Principal Investigator (PI) must be based in a legal entity based in an EU Member States or one of the Associated Countries.*

*So, all ERC grants can be led by PIs based in the UK. It possible to have one or more team members located in a non-European country.*

*Contact your ERC national contact point to discuss and for advice. If you are from the UK, the ERC NCP is UKRO - their contact details are here <https://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc>  
For more info see the ERC website - <https://erc.europa.eu/funding>*

**The European Commission has restructured the partnerships. There are now legally 3 partnership types: co-programmed; co-funded and institutionalised. Is the UK part of any of these types of partnerships? If they are still being negotiated does the UK government intend to be part of any of these partnerships?**

*UK entities will be able to participate and take leading roles in Horizon Europe Partnerships in the same way as EU Member States:*

- *subject to the terms and conditions of the individual partnerships and*
- *subject to any eligibility criteria in individual Programmes.*

*Where the EU has already put out calls for membership for certain partnerships under the Programme, including Institutionalised Partnerships, UK organisations are encouraged to engage with these calls where they have an interest.*

*Co-funded partnerships are subject to additional UK funding required (like in H2020).*

**Different types of partnerships:**

**Co-programmed European Partnerships**

*These are partnerships between the Commission and private and/or public partners. They are based on memoranda of understanding and/or contractual arrangements.*

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**Co-funded European Partnerships using a programme co-fund action**

Partnerships involving EU countries, with research funders and other public authorities at the core of the consortium.

**Institutionalised European Partnerships**

These are partnerships where the EU participates in research and innovation funding programmes that are undertaken by EU countries.

These partnerships require legislative proposals from the Commission and are based on a Council Regulation (Article 187) or a Decision by the European Parliament and Council (Article 185). They are implemented by dedicated structures created for that purpose.

Institutionalised partnerships will only be implemented where other parts of the Horizon Europe programme, including other types of partnership, would not achieve the desired objectives or expected impacts.

EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) are also institutionalised partnerships. EIT KICs aim to address skills shortages and are already established under Horizon 2020. Key partners in EIT KICs are higher education institutions, research organisations, companies and other stakeholders.



Figure 1: Development of partnerships from H2020 to Horizon Europe

Please can you identify the local point of contact for Horizon Europe in England and provide their contact information. Please also elaborate on the services they can provide for SMEs.

- Team of sector specific advisors to support UK entities successfully participate in EU Framework Programmes.
- Support available for each areas of Horizon Europe

- Informing, awareness raising** – on Horizon Europe and other EU programmes
- Assisting, advising and training** – to improve the quality of Horizon Europe proposals
- Signposting and cooperation** – direct to relevant support and work with each other to support consortium development



- Full [list of UK National Contact Points](#).

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### Can the NCPs in the UK be contacted from another country?

Applicants from outside the UK should contact the relevant NCPs in their own country. You can find a list of all NCPs for Europe and the rest of the world here: *NCPs for [Europe and the rest of the world](#)*.

### Will there be events where potential collaborators can get together and form consortia?

Yes. In close collaboration with the NCP team, KTN is expecting to run consortia brokerage activities for the first Horizon Europe calls in May / June. Keep an eye on KTN's events' listing here: <https://ktn-uk.org/knowledge-centre/events/>.

### UK (Switzerland and Israel) currently excluded from quantum and space research projects that have previously been open to associated countries. Is this position likely to change? Do you have any further details in relation to this?

There are ongoing discussions within the Commission, and any draft work programmes that have been shared with the UK community are subject to further debate and scrutiny. Please check the final and published work programme for the full list of topics open to the UK.

### If the innovation is provided by an UK organisation and an agreement is made in the consortium that IP rights stay in UK will the EU view this unfavourably?

Fundamentally projects are expected to exploit outcomes for the wider benefit of the EU. This doesn't exclude IP being developed in the UK and in-part being exploited in the UK. However, if the impact and exploitation plans in the proposal are heavily focused on the UK then the evaluators may consider that the project to be too UK-centric with insufficient impacts in the EU, which is likely to be marked down.

### Why are some calls single stage and others two stage? Is there a rationale to this?

Mainly to manage demand and spare applicants the effort in to develop a full proposal if their idea does not fit into the call topic. Some topics, mainly Innovation Actions, require quicker call timeline, these are usually one-stage. There is always a mix of calls in the Work Programme.

### How many calls can you enter in to at any one time?

There are no restrictions on the number of calls that you apply to. However, applicants need to ensure that they have the necessary resource to deliver these projects should you be successful.

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