

UK TO ASSOCIATE TO HORIZON EUROPE



UK to join Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes through a bespoke new agreement with the EU.

The UK agreed a deal to associate to Horizon Europe on 7 September 2023.

UK researchers can now apply for Horizon Europe funding, certain that all successful UK applicants will be covered through the UK's association (or through the guarantee) for the remainder of the programme. Programme 2024 will be covered by association, and the UK guarantee scheme will be extended to cover all calls under Work Programme 2023.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said after the Agreement, "With a wealth of expertise and experience to bring to the global stage, we have delivered a deal that enables UK scientists to confidently take part in the world's largest research collaboration programme – Horizon Europe."

"The EU and UK are key strategic partners and allies, and today's agreement proves that point," said Commission president Ursula von der Leyen in a statement. "We will continue to be at the forefront of global science and research."

This month's political agreement must now be approved by EU Member States before being formally adopted in the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Participation in Union Programmes.

The UK has decided not to pursue its association to Euratom and Fusion4Energy / ITER. This decision is guided by the UK's assessment that its industry's long absence from Euratom and F4E/ITER programmes cannot be reversed.

The UK also made a decision back in 2020 that it would not join the Erasmus + Programme.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Horizon Europe Explainer
- What does Association mean for Northern Ireland?
- Applying for Horizon Europe Funding
- Support available for Horizon Europe applicants
- Useful links and Resources

HORIZON EUROPE EXPLAINER

Explainer for applicants and grant holders. UK Association to Horizon Europe from Work Programme 24, Horizon Europe UK Guarantee extension, UK participation in Copernicus.

1. APPLYING FOR HORIZON EUROPE FUNDING

UK applicants are eligible to apply to Horizon Europe calls, now and in the future.

The agreement with the EU means that UK researchers and businesses, and their international partners can now be certain that all successful UK applicants will be funded through either the UK’s association, or through the UK government’s existing guarantee for Horizon Europe grants, for the rest of the programme.

As set out in the [EU/UK Joint Statement](#) of 7 September, all calls within Horizon Europe work programme 2024 and beyond will be funded by the UK’s association to Horizon Europe. The UK and EU have agreed that this includes any Work Programme 2024 calls opening this year for which successful applicants will receive their funding directly from the EU. The UK government Horizon Europe guarantee has been extended to cover all remaining Horizon Europe grant calls that are funded under Work Programme 2023 irrespective of the call closing or grant signature date.



Work Programme 2023 grant calls which do not close until next year will still be covered by the guarantee.

Successful applicant to 2021, 2022 or 2023 Work Programme grant calls	Successful applicant to 2024 (or later) Work Programme
Project will be funded by the UK guarantee	Project will be funded by the European Commission

2. IDENTIFYING WHICH WORK PROGRAMME YOUR CALL YOUR BELONGS TO

Every Horizon funding call has a call identification (ID) number, which sets out which programme year it belongs to. This number is set out clearly for each call in the Work Programme and on the EU’s Funding and Tenders portal website. If the call ID includes ‘2023,’ the call is part of the 2023 Work Programme and be covered by the UK government guarantee. If the call ID includes ‘2024,’ the call will be part of the 2024 Work Programme.

3. WHAT ASSOCIATED COUNTRY STATUS MEANS FOR UK ENTITIES

UK entities will be eligible for funding at the same rates and under the same conditions as European participants, with very limited exceptions (see below). They will be able to lead project consortia and will count towards the minimum number of countries required to meet eligibility rules for applications for transnational projects.

UK Applicants to calls in the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Work Programmes remain fully eligible for evaluation by the EU and, if successful, will receive their funding through the UK guarantee in line with existing eligibility rules. These applicants will not be able to lead consortia or count towards the minimum number of countries required to meet eligibility rules for applications for transnational projects.

HORIZON EUROPE EXPLAINER

Explainer for applicants and grant holders. UK Association to Horizon Europe from Work Programme 24, Horizon Europe UK Guarantee extension, UK participation in Copernicus.

3. THE FUTURE OF THE UK HORIZON GUARANTEE SCHEME

The UK government Horizon Europe guarantee remains active and has been extended to cover all Horizon Europe grant calls that are funded under Work Programme 2023 irrespective of the call closing or grant signature date.

For these, UK applicants should continue to apply directly to the EU as beneficiaries, and successful UK applicants will be funded under the UK guarantee scheme. Existing eligibility rules for the guarantee will continue to apply.



4. PROJECTS ALREADY FUNDED BY THE GUARANTEE

The guarantee will also continue to support grant projects under Work Programmes 2021 and 2022.

5. UK ELIGIBILITY TO LEAD HORIZON EUROPE CONSORTIA



Projects that are already being funded through the UKRI Horizon Europe guarantee, will continue to be funded by the guarantee for the duration of the project.

UK applicants to Work Programme 2024 onwards will be funded as beneficiaries. This means that they will be able to lead project consortia and will count towards the minimum number of countries required in applications for transnational projects.

UK Applicants to grant calls in the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Work Programmes remain fully eligible for evaluation by the EU and, if successful, for funding through the UK guarantee. Applicants for remaining 2023 Work Programme grant calls should continue to apply to the EU directly as beneficiaries and will receive funding from the UK government through the guarantee if successful.

These applicants will not be able to lead consortia or count towards the minimum number of countries required to meet eligibility rules for applications for transnational projects.

6. WHERE WORK PROGRAMME 2024 FUNDING CALLS CLOSE BEFORE 1 JANUARY 2024

The EU has made clear that UK researchers will be able to fully participate in all Work Programme 2024 calls on the same terms as researchers from other associated countries and lead consortia – including any 2024 calls opening this year.

HORIZON EUROPE EXPLAINER

Explainer for applicants and grant holders. UK Association to Horizon Europe from Work Programme 24, Horizon Europe UK Guarantee extension, UK participation in Copernicus.

7. AREAS OF HORIZON EUROPE THAT THE UK CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN

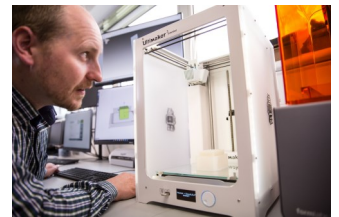
UK applicants will be able to participate in the full Horizon Europe programme. The only exceptions to this are:

1. the European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund – which provides equity finance support to EIC Accelerator projects.
2. limited exceptional cases where the eligibility for individual funding calls is limited to member states or certain other countries under current Work Programmes. Going forward the EU will assess UK participants' access to these parts of the Horizon Europe programme on equal terms with other associated countries.

8. WHAT PARTICIPATING IN COPERNICUS MEANS FOR UK ENTITIES

The UK will now be a third-country participant in the Copernicus component. This means that UK entities will have the same rights as EU entities to bid for EU Copernicus contracts and join consortia bids with some limited exceptions.

We will be working closely with the European Commission and the European Space Agency to set out clearly how UK entities can access the many new opportunities available as a result of our participation.



9. FORMING CONSORTIA TO BID FOR COPERNICUS CONTRACTS NOW

UK companies can start to speak to their European counterparts now about forming consortia. More information on contract eligibility will follow shortly as our discussions with the European Commission proceed.

10. WILL THE UK ALSO PARTICIPATE IN ERASMUS+ AND OTHER SUCH PROGRAMMES?

The Erasmus+ programme is open to the participation of third countries under the conditions set out in the basic act establishing the programme. Among these, third countries that become associated to Erasmus+ have to participate in the programme in full, to ensure the synergies between the different areas in the programme. However, the UK decided in 2020 that it will not participate in Erasmus+.

11. WILL THE UK JOIN EURATOM OR F4E (FUSION4ENERGY) / ITER PROGRAMMES?

The UK has decided not to pursue its association to Euratom and Fusion4Energy / ITER. This decision is guided by the UK's assessment that its industry's long absence from Euratom and F4E/ITER programmes cannot be reversed.

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE Q&A ON UK ASSOCIATION PLEASE GO TO:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_23_4373



Updates on Horizon Europe from the Northern Ireland Contact Point Network

WHAT DOES UK ASSOCIATION MEAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND?

The UK agreed a deal to associate to Horizon Europe on 7 September 2023. Northern Ireland researchers can now apply for Horizon Europe funding, certain that all successful UK applicants will be covered through the UK's association (or through the guarantee) for the remainder of the programme.

Horizon Europe funding is available for:

- Excellent research in any field
- Researcher mobility
- Research infrastructure
- Global challenges and industrial competitiveness including:
 - * Health
 - * Culture, creativity and inclusive society
 - * Civil security for society
 - * Digital, industry and space
 - * Climate, energy and mobility
 - * Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment
- Innovation
- The development of the European research and innovation systems



Northern Ireland organisations can now confidently:

- Apply as a Beneficiary to the Horizon Europe programme: Pillars 1, 2 and 3 (with the exception of the loans and blended finance opportunity under the EIC Accelerator in Pillar 3)
- Take on the Coordinator role as well as Work Package leadership (2024 calls and subsequent calls in 2025-2027)
- Sign the EC Grant Agreement and draw down funding directly from the EC (2024 calls and subsequent calls in 2025-2027)
- Host ERC and MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Northern Ireland Contact Point Network

If you'd like additional information on UK Association to Horizon Europe or require assistance with any aspect of the programme please contact one of the NICPs below. The NICP offers guidance and help for Northern Irish applicants across different sectors e.g. academia, business, public bodies etc. Each network member has expert knowledge in a specific area of funding.

- **Mary Harte:** Engineering (Cluster 4 & 5): m.harte@qub.ac.uk
- **Ryan Gabel:** ICT (Cluster 3 & 4): r.gabel@qub.ac.uk
- **Patricia McCrory:** Health (Cluster 1): p.mccrory@qub.ac.uk
- **Patrick Cullen:** Digital Health (Cluster 1): p.cullen1@ulster.ac.uk
- **Laura Fitzmaurice:** Energy (Cluster 5): l.fitzmaurice@ulster.ac.uk
- **Elaine Groom:** Agri-Food, Bioeconomy & Environment (Cluster 6): elaine.groom@afbini.gov.uk



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
Click here to visit our website for further information

Applying for Horizon Europe Funding

Northern Ireland and UK researchers can now apply for Horizon Europe funding, certain that all successful UK applicants will be covered through the UK's association (or through the guarantee) for the remainder of the programme.

All calls in Work Programme 2024 will be covered by association, and the UK guarantee scheme will be extended to cover all calls under Work Programme 2023.

If you applied to Horizon Europe while the EU was in the process of formalising the UK's association to the programme, or during the Work Programme 2021, 2022 or 2023, see [Horizon Europe guarantee funding](#).

[Search Horizon Europe calls \(European Commission\)](#).

Find out [how to search for calls \(European Commission\)](#).

Most Horizon Europe opportunities are open to transnational collaborations. Find out [how to find partners and collaborators](#).

- **Where to apply**

You apply for Horizon Europe funding through the European Commission's funding and tenders portal, where you found the funding call.

- **Organisation registration**

Before you can begin an application, your organisation must be registered in the portal.

[Check if your organisation is registered \(European Commission\)](#).

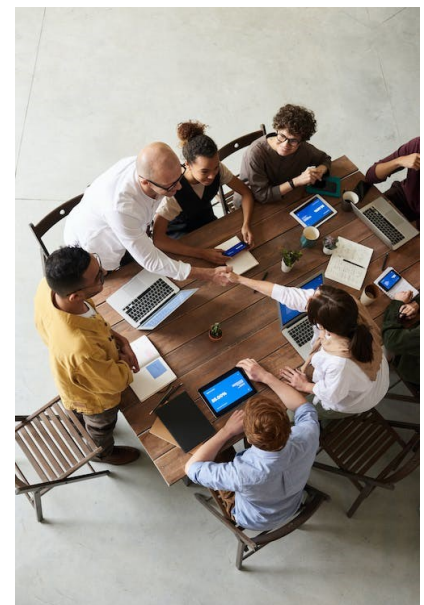
[Register your organisation \(European Commission\)](#).

- **Submitting a proposal using the portal**

Find out [how to submit a proposal using the portal \(European Commission\)](#).

- **Get help applying**

As a UK applicant, support is available to help you apply for Horizon Europe funding. Find out [where to get guidance and help](#).



HORIZON EUROPE : USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

UK joins Horizon Europe under a new bespoke deal (Press Release—UK Government)

www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-joins-horizon-europe-under-a-new-bespoke-deal

Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes: 2023 UK-EU agreement explainer – UK Government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/horizon-europe-and-copernicus-programmes-2023-uk-eu-agreement-explainer/horizon-europe-and-copernicus-programmes-2023-uk-eu-agreement-explainer>

Association to Horizon Europe - Information Webinar and Slides from Innovate UK

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/events/association-to-horizon-europe-information-webinar/>

Apply for Horizon Europe guarantee funding – UKRI

<https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/apply-for-horizon-europe-guarantee-funding/?ga=2.112293636.1457593039.1695635587-657669513.1693994877>

Travel Support available for UK-based R&D SMEs to attend European events – Innovate UK

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/news/travel-support-now-available/>

FAQs on the UK's participation in Horizon Europe – Universities UK

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/universities-uk-international/explore-uuki/international-research-collaboration/faqs-uks-participation-horizon-europe>

Questions and Answers on the UK's association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus – European Commission

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_23_4373

Summary document on 2023 / 2024 Calls – Innovate UK

[Summary document with approach for 2023 and 2024 funding calls](#)

