Edinburgh Research Office

Growing your idea together
Brexit, EU Funding (& Discovery Fund) January 2021

Dr Áine Ryan, International Research Funding Manager
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ERO Research Funding Team: EU & International Portfolio

Áine Ryan - International Research Funding Manager
• Natasha Curley - Senior Research Funding Specialist (EU & Intl)
  • Caroline Barbour - Research Funding Specialist (EU & Intl)
  • Vacant - Research Funding Specialist (EU & Intl)
• Boz Czarnecki - Proposal Development Executive (EU & Intl)
• Vacant - Proposal Development Executive (EU & Intl)
  (Eirini Theofanidou on secondment to UK Portfolio until May 2021)
• Laura Jimenez - ‘Una.Resin’ Project, Partnership and Communications Manager
Brexit - impact on EU Funding

- Horizon 2020 (+ FP7) safe
  - continue as normal - protected by Withdrawal Agreement
  - eligible to apply for Green Deal call - 26 Jan 2021 deadline

- Horizon Europe
  - UK will associate - likely to happen in time for first calls
  - Participation equivalent to Member State
  - Exceptions
    - Small number not open to non-member states e.g. security related calls
    - Parts of the European Innovation Council (EIC) - mainly equity fund aspects (Accelerator)
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Horizon Europe - timeline

- EU to ratify the Horizon Europe Regulation
  - Likely to take place Jan/Feb 2021

- UK and EU finalise Protocol I (via Specialised Committee)
  - This step cannot be completed until the Regulation has been agreed

- UK formally associated to the Programme
  - Once Protocol has been finalised, the UK will be formally associated to the Programme
Horizon Europe - association full details

Detailed analysis from UUKi policy experts

All Brexit issues relevant to Unis
https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/brexit/Pages/uk-eu-agreement.aspx

Horizon Europe association
Horizon Europe: 2021 - 2027

Pillar 1
Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness
- 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
- Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe
- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area
- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system
Horizon Europe - UoE focus areas Pillar 1

- **ERC individual**
  - maintain and increase current successes; convert existing ERC-StG to ERC-CoG etc
- **ERC Synergy**
  - no UoE success so far; proactive approach to identifying strong applicants
- **MSCA-IF**
  - more proactive approach to attract excellent researchers to Edinburgh
- **MSCA-ITN**
  - clearer guidance on PhD fees (mobility rule means all will be ‘international’)
- **MSCA both**
  - clarity on relevant immigration / visa matters etc
Horizon Europe - Pillar II

• Cluster 1: Health
• Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
• Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
• Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
• Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
• Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
Horizon Europe - UoE focus areas Pillar II

Pillar II = collaborative projects

• Rebuild internal confidence + build skills
• Rebuild confidence with EU partners - we are available & willing to collaborate
• Increase UoE participation in collaborative projects
  • Brexit dip in participation => many mid career with no prior experience of EU collaboration
• Encourage UoE coordination of collaborative projects
Horizon Europe - leveraging partnerships

**Una Europa**

- Freie Universität Berlin (Berlin, Germany)
- Università di Bologna (Bologna, Italy)
- Helsingin Yliopisto (Helsinki, Finland)
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie (Krakow, Poland)
- KU Leuven (Leuven / Brussels, Belgium)
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Madrid, Spain)
- Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris, France)

**Strategic European Partners**

- University of Amsterdam
- University of Copenhagen
- University College Dublin
- University of Helsinki*
- Leiden University
- KU Leuven*
- [Freie Universität Berlin* - potential]
Discovery Fund - postponed / ‘on-hold’

- Proposed alternative fund if no association to Horizon Europe
  - ‘sizeable, long-term grants to fund discovery-led, ground breaking research’
  - ‘ERC-like’

- UK will associate to Horizon Europe
  - Discovery fund now ‘on-hold’
  - Maybe implemented at smaller scale in future
Further information & useful links

- aine.ryan@ed.ac.uk
- www.ed.ac.uk/research-office
- https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/research-office/
- ERO Twitter: @GrowingYourIdea
- ERO page on Horizon Europe: https://uoe.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchSupportOfficeIntelligence/SitePages/Funders/International/EU/EUFunding.aspx
- UUKi Brexit briefings: https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/brexit/Pages/uk-eu-agreement.aspx
- The University & Europe: https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu