

CBI RESPONSE TO THE HORIZON EUROPE STRATEGIC PLAN INQUIRY

The CBI is the UK's leading business organisation, speaking for some 190,000 businesses that together employ around a third of the UK's private sector workforce. Our membership is made up of businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions, including universities. This response outlines member priorities for the next EU framework programme for research and innovation – Horizon Europe.

International cooperation underpins the strength, competitiveness and success of the EU's framework programmes

1. Research is an area that needs collaboration in order to thrive. International collaboration gives organisations access to a broader range of expertise, knowledge and assets than could be accessed in a single country alone. And studies show that international collaboration drives up the quality, impact and influence of research outputs¹. The openness of the EU FPs has fostered international scientific cooperation and helped strengthen the reputation, success and competitiveness of EU research and innovation.
2. Cross border working is also increasingly essential in order to bring together capabilities in areas such as medicine, cyber-security, robotics and climate change. Challenges addressed through programmes like Clean Sky and Shift2Rail necessitate large scale systems approaches that are gained through collaboration between multinational consortia and through the mobilisation of international capability and resource. These types of large-scale international collaborations will be increasingly important in order to meet the societal challenges of the 21st Century.

Horizon Europe should remain open to the world ensuring fair access for fair contribution

3. The CBI welcome the Commission's proposal for Horizon Europe and fully support the fundamental principles on which this has been established; scientific research excellence, openness to the world, and added value. CBI members believe that maintaining a positive model for cooperation on research and innovation after Brexit is in the mutual interests of both the UK and EU. That is why the CBI has been calling on the UK government to seek the closest possible association to Horizon Europe.
4. While a provisional agreement has been reached between EU legislators on Horizon Europe, provisions on international association agreements remain subject to further discussions. The EU should maintain commitments to openness and international cooperation by ensuring that the legislation for Horizon Europe promotes the participation of non-EU countries.
5. Terms for association should be based on fair access for fair contribution. In exchange for an appropriate budgetary contribution, participants from Associated Countries should be treated in a similar manner to participants from Member States in the programme.
6. Provisions should further ensure that third countries are able to lead and coordinate projects. A continued focus should therefore be placed on excellence as the only basis for funding research. Research excellence and international collaboration on science and innovation are essential to ensure Horizon Europe's success.

The UK is a major contributor to the strength and success of EU research and innovation

7. The UK is a leading world player in research and innovation. The country ranks second globally for the quality of its scientific research institutions, possesses four of the world's top ten universities² and despite representing just 4.1% of the world's researchers the UK accounts for 15.9% of the world's most highly cited articles³. The UK also has a long history of collaboration with EU countries on research and

¹ Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020. Staff Working Document. SWD(2017)220. (European Commission: 2017)

² QS World University Rankings 2016/2017 – Global Press Release (QS Top Universities: 2016)

³ Tera Allas, Insights from International Benchmarking of the UK Science and Innovation System (Department for Business Innovation and Skills: 2014)

innovation. UK organisations have been heavily involved in Horizon 2020, participating in over 10,000 projects – second only to Germany⁴.

8. As a research and innovation powerhouse the UK makes important contributions to EU research and innovation. For instance, research points to the particularly important contributions the UK makes to EU research and innovation in medical research and rare diseases⁵. As well as providing European organisations access to UK based expertise, the UK helps train early-career researchers from across the EU, hosts unique large-scale infrastructure and contributes to advisory bodies across EU Member States.
9. Any limitations on the ability of businesses and researchers to work together would damage well-established links, diminishing the influence and impact of research in both the UK and EU. European researchers would be unable to benefit from the expertise of UK institutions and universities and the UK would be unable to benefit from EU27 expertise.
10. The UK and EU's innovation capabilities complement each other in terms of assets and infrastructure. The alternative to deep UK participation would therefore be duplication and unnecessary investment. The UK would need to duplicate EU assets and the EU would need to duplicate UK assets.

EU innovation matters to UK business and the UK science base

11. UK participation in Horizon 2020 and previous EU Framework Programmes (FPs) has been hugely beneficial to British businesses and the UK's research community. The FPs are an important source of long-term funding and enable UK organisations to have a voice shaping the international research agenda. Since the Horizon 2020 programme began UK organisations have received over €5,101 million of funding⁶.
12. The benefits of engagement with EU science and innovation programmes go beyond purely monetary benefits. They help UK businesses to attract talent, access specialist expertise and form valuable long-term collaborative working relationships.
13. CBI members want these links to remain after the UK leaves the EU and believe that the EU Framework Programmes offer the best means to support the long-term strength and growth of the UK's innovation ecosystem.

As an associate country the UK can help provide a more global outlook for FP9

14. The UK is embedded in global research and innovation networks. Over half of published UK research is the result of collaborations with global partners⁷. Alongside participation in EU FPs the UK is involved in a range of bilateral research and innovation partnerships across the world⁸.
15. Using its strength as a science and innovation powerhouse the UK can exploit links with global partners to open more channels for international collaboration and help deliver the EU's mission to make FP9 more open to the world.

Recommendations

International cooperation underpins the strength and success of EU research and innovation. The next framework programme, Horizon Europe, should remain open to the world ensuring fair access for fair contribution.

- EU institutions should ensure that Horizon Europe includes provisions for third country participation.
- Terms for association should be based on fair access for fair contribution with associate countries paying into Horizon Europe's budget on similar terms to other participating nations.
- Provisions should ensure the ability of third countries to lead and coordinate projects.

⁴ UK participation in Horizon 2020: (BEIS: September 2018)

⁵ Report of the Independent High Level Group on Maximising the Impact of EU Research and Innovation Programmes (EU Commission: 2017)

⁶ UK participation in Horizon 2020: (BEIS: September 2018)

⁷ The implications of International Research Collaboration for UK Universities (Digital research reports: 2016)

⁸ International Research and Innovation Strategy (BEIS: 2019)