

Briefing



participants any differently than before' is not being followed in practice. ~~More~~ Recently, in discussions on

With the ongoing uncertainty over UK association, it is likely that UK researchers will continue to work closely with EU colleagues to develop consortia proposals where possible, as researchers want to maintain these valuable relationships. In addition, the UK government has encouraged UK researchers to do this throughout the transition period. However, if UK researchers cannot coordinate, there will not only be a loss of credit to the UK in the proposals submitted, but also losses to UK researchers' individual career development and international profile.

Time and talent lost

The European Institute of Technology (EIT) established EIT Food as a knowledge innovation community (KIC) that aims to build a better food system across Europe, covering all elements of the food space from farming to food production and distribution. It will continue as a KIC under Horizon Europe. The programme includes a professional education element that supports knowledge exchange amongst partners in the KIC including universities, research institutes and businesses (PepsiCo and John Deere). This enables the development of mechanisms that nurture future entrepreneurs and employees across the international food system.

A UK partner coordinated the professional education element during H2020. However, due to the uncertainty around the ability of the UK to associate to Horizon Europe, business cases for future project funding under Horizon Europe have needed to build in mechanisms to transfer the coordination of the project to an EU partner from the UK, as a contingency.

The UK research and innovation sector has received

with

However, the ongoing uncertainty so close to the start of the Horizon Europe programme means that more time is being devoted to the transfer plans now, reducing time available for research and knowledge exchange.

Alongside this, researchers employed in UK institutes using funding from this programme are now reaching the stage where they can no longer wait to see what the status of their employment will be. Current contracts expire with the end of the H2020 programme on 31st December. With no firm confirmation of UK association, which would enable the extension of their contracts into the Horizon Europe programme, they are seeking employment in other institutions, in some cases outside the UK, contributing to loss of R&D talent.

Contact

The Royal Society of Chemistry would be happy to discuss any of the issues raised in our briefing in more detail. Any questions should be directed to policy@rsc.org

About us

With around 50,000 members in over 120 countries and a knowledge business that spans the globe, the Royal Society of Chemistry is the UK's professional body for chemical scientists, supporting and representing our members and bringing together chemical scientists from all over the world. Our members include those working in large multinational companies and small to medium enterprises, researchers and students in universities, teachers and regulators.