

# Horizon Europe – what does the association agreement mean

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UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN)

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021





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- **UK Science and Innovation Network**
- Science policy news from the UK
- Horizon Europe and the UK's association
- Practical tips for building partnerships





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# UK Science and Innovation

## What is the Science and Innovation Network (SIN)?

SIN is a network of specialist officers based overseas whose primary purpose is to **build international partnerships, facilitate greater collaboration and promote the UK's strength in science on the global stage.**

With 109 officers active in 45 countries and territories, the network is a truly global and powerful resource.

## Why is SIN important?

We do our best science when we work together on an international scale. SIN builds the partnerships and networks to facilitate this work.

International collaboration is essential to

- a) tackling global science and innovation challenges and
- b) creating excellence in research, business and global growth.



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# UK Science and Innovation

- **How does SIN work?**
  - SIN officers build strong networks in their host country across academia, policy-makers and industry. They focus on the core priorities set out below, seeking out and encouraging opportunities for collaboration and co-operation.
  - The network align both the UK and other countries' S&I priorities through horizon scanning, and through the analysis and reporting of international S&I policies.
- 
- ***SIN...your doorway to UK Science and Innovation***



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# SIN Priorities

- Our network is primarily focused on the following four objectives:



**Bilateral S&I Relationship  
& Horizon Europe**



**Sustainable world,  
cleantech and COP26**



**Covid-19 Science  
Response**



**The Industrial Strategy  
and Grand Challenges**

- **AI and data**
- **Ageing society**
- **Clean growth**
- **Future mobility**



**Research Culture**





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# Science is a priority of the United Kingdom

- In July 2020, British government approved UK R&D Roadmap, a strategic document, which describes the plan how to develop British science. By 2027, the UK plans to invest 2,4% GDP into science and government science and research expenses should be increased up to 22 billion pounds in 2024/25. This should be the highest increase of British investment into science in the past 20 years.
- **The UK is an associated country to European Research programme Horizon Europe. The UK also remains a member in Euratom R&T, Copernicus a ITER. British researchers have equal rights in Horizon Europe like researchers from European member states. They can joni calls including ERC, MCSA and majority of EIC with the exception of Equity fund. British researchers can also apply for funding from Joint Research Centre, partnerships according to article 185/187 and projects of EIT. British institutions can be project coordinators and British researchers can evaluate research projects.**



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HM Government

# UK Research and Development Roadmap

July 2020

our plan for growth

# Build Back Better



HM Treasury





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On 16 March 2021, British Government published its long-term international strategy and science plays a key role in the future of the United Kingdom.

Keeping the UK's place at the leading edge of science and technology will be essential to our prosperity and competitiveness in the digital age. Our aim is to have secured our status as a **Science and Tech Superpower** by 2030, by redoubling our commitment to research and development, bolstering our global network of innovation partnerships, and improving our national skills – including by attracting the world's best and brightest to the UK through our new Global Talent Visa. We will lay the foundations for long-term prosperity, **establishing the UK as a global services, digital and data hub** by drawing on our nation's great strengths in digital technologies, and attracting inward investment.



HM Government

## Global Britain in a competitive age

The Integrated Review of Security,  
Defence, Development and Foreign Policy





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# ARIA

Emerging technologies will be funded by £200m annually via newly established grant agency ARIA (Advance Research & Innovation Agency). The agency should be in operation in 2022.

- UK government will launch the Advanced Research & Invention Agency (ARIA), a new independent research body to fund high-risk, high-reward scientific research
- ARIA will be led by prominent, world-leading scientists who will be given the freedom to identify and fund transformational science and technology at speed
- the new agency will help to cement the UK's position as a global science superpower, while shaping the country's efforts to build back better through innovation

The new agency will be independent of government and led by some of the world's most visionary researchers who will be empowered to use their knowledge and expertise to identify and back the most ambitious, cutting-edge areas of research and technology - helping to create highly skilled jobs across the country. It will be able to do so with flexibility and speed by looking at how to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy and experimenting with different funding models.

ARIA will be based on models that have proved successful in other countries, in particular the influential US Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) model. This was instrumental in creating transformational technologies such as the internet and GPS, changing the way people live and work, while increasing productivity and growth. More recently, ARPA's successor, DARPA, was a vital pre-pandemic funder of mRNA vaccines and antibody therapies, leading to critical COVID therapies.



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# What does association mean?

- ✓ Equivalent terms for participation for UK and EU entities
- ✓ UK organisations can have continued access to collaborative R&I funding, infrastructure and markets via the Horizon Programme
- ✓ UK organisations can lead and influence key collaborative projects
- ✓ UK experts can take part in evaluations
- ✓ UK Government participates in Programme Committees and helps define the strategic direction of the Programme
- ✓ Helps to achieve UK ambitions of becoming a global science superpower



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WHAT IS IN TRADE  
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WHAT DOES IT ALL  
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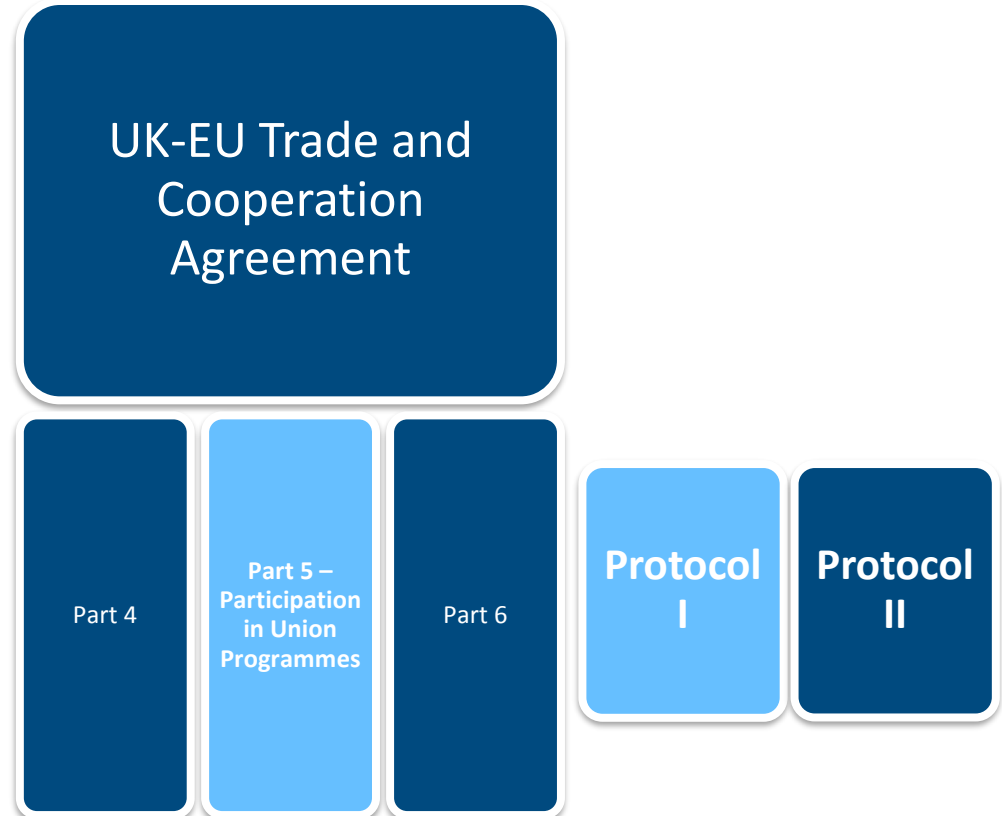
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

# Structure of the agreement

**Participation in Union Programmes** is one Part within the broader UK-EU agreement (the TCA).

This Part (Part 5) sets out the arrangements for the UK's future participation in Union Programmes. The terms of the UK's participation in individual programmes are included in a **protocol** to the agreement (published separately under 'declarations').

**Protocol I** sets out terms of participation in Horizon Europe (and other programmes)





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# Part 5 (TCA) and Protocol I

- **Part 5 (TCA) Agreement**

- Terms for participation in Union Programmes open to non-EU countries, such as the UK's financial contribution, fair treatment of UK participants, appropriate governance arrangements, sound financial management of programme funds
- Agreement is not timebound – applies to any Programmes beyond current Multiannual Financial Framework

- **Protocol I**

- Time-limited agreement
- Covers Horizon Europe, Euratom R&T, ITER and Copernicus
- Specifies:
  - UK Participation as an associated country in all areas of Horizon Europe, except equity elements of EIC fund
  - Terms and conditions of participation
  - Confirms participation in JRC, Art 185, 187s, EIT, ERAC
  - Mechanics of financial rebalancing mechanism
  - Duration of participation



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# What does it all mean?

- **Participation**
  - UK entities will have equivalent rights to those entities from Member States
- **Access**
  - UK entities will be able to access funding from all parts of the Programme, including ERC, MSCA and the majority of EIC (not EIC equity fund)
  - Work programme level exclusions only in exceptional and justifiable cases
- **Governance**
  - UK will have attendance and speaking rights on programme governance structures, e.g. programme committees





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# Participation & access

- 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. **There will be no role for UK Government/UKRI in the application or grant management process.**
- UK entities will be able to participate in all areas of the Horizon Europe Programme, including ERC, MSCA and the grant only actions in EIC. Will also be able to participate in direct actions of the Joint Research Centre, Article 185/187 partnerships and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology. The UK will participate in the COST programme.
- The only exceptions to this are:

## The EIC Fund

- UK has decided not to participate in EIC fund/equity elements of EIC.
- This means that UK entities will only have access to grant elements of the EIC.
- UK entities could not participate in the pilot scheme of the Fund in H2020 (due to the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement).

## Duly justified exclusions

- As in previous Horizon Programmes, the EU reserves the right to limit the participation of Associated Countries in specific calls. This can only be done for 'duly justified' reasons – we can ask the Commission to justify any exclusion of AC entities from calls to the UK.
- Any exclusion would be communicated in advance of the call opening.



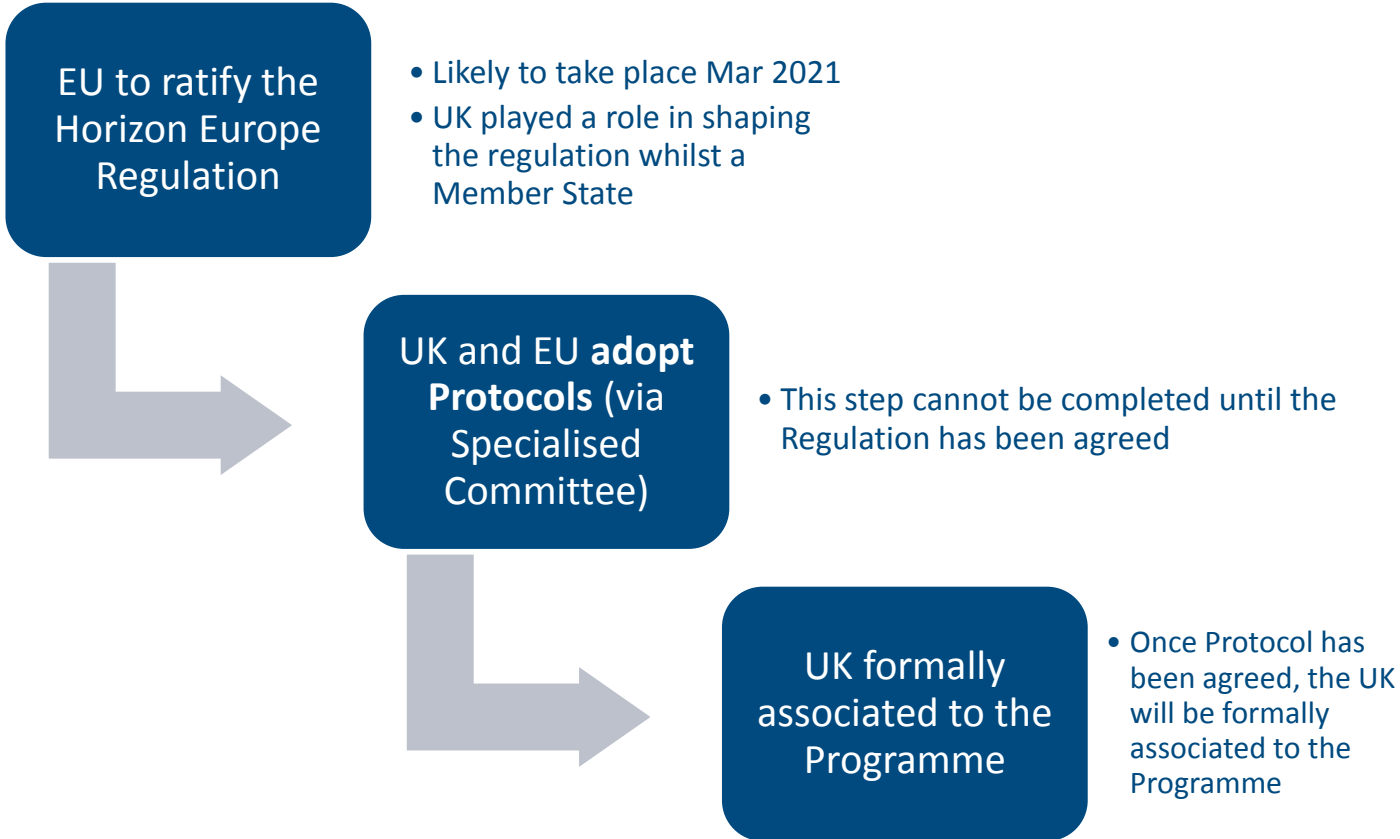
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# Governance

- 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 (as per the local rules of each committee/group). 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



# What happens next?





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# Times Higher Education – Central European Summit, 24-26 April 2018



<https://thesummit2018.upol.cz/#c18579>

## HMA Nick Archer meeting Minister Robert Plaga, 24 July 2018



# SoS Greg Clark opened Czech nano days in London, 23 October 2018



## Chris Skidmore - Science Minister – Prague visit 20 February 2019





# In 2020 and 2021, our engagement and events have been online



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic



UK Science  
& Innovation  
Network

High-level Round table on Secure International Science Cooperation



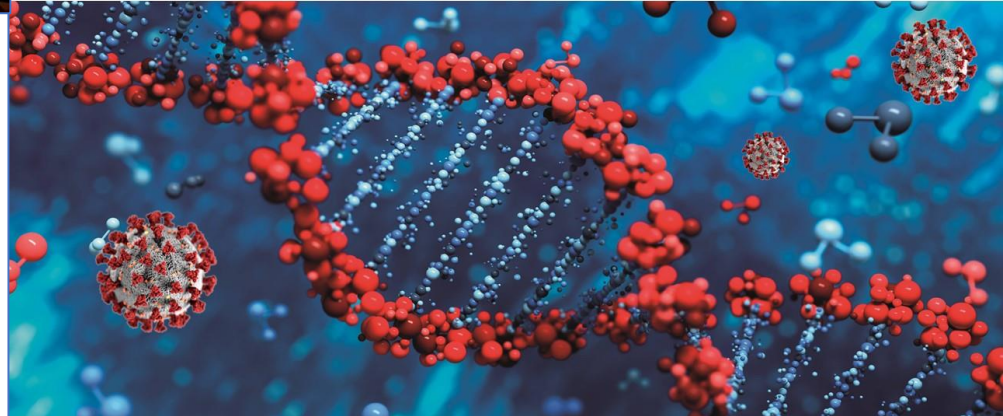
SARS-CoV-2  
Genome Sequencing  
Expert Exchange event



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## In 2020 and 2021, our engagement and events have been online

**Prof Virgil Paunescu**  
Victor Babes University of Medicine  
and Pharmacy (Romania)

**Prof Nils Rostoks**  
Latvian Biomedical Research  
and Study Centre

**Prof Borut Štrukelj**  
University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

**Prof Andrey Tchorbanov**  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

**Dr Vladimír Zelník**  
Slovak Academy of Sciences

**Prof Aurelija Žvirbliienė**  
Vilnius University (Lithuania)

Moderated by  
**Susan Watts**  
Strategic Science Communication

Science & Innovation Dialogues

# How to Build a Vaccine: Before and After Covid

Wed 10 Feb 16:00 GMT

Keynote address by  
**Prof Jeffrey Almond**  
University of Oxford

Introduction by  
**Prof Carole Mundell**  
International Science  
Envoy, FCDO



# In 2020 and 2021, our engagement and events have been online

**Prof Florina Bojin**

Victor Babes University of Medicine  
and Pharmacy (Romania)

**Prof Andrzej Fal**

Polish Society of Public Health

**Prof Ivan Ivanov**

National Center of Infectious  
and Parasitic Diseases (Bulgaria)

**Prof Gkikas Magiorkinis**

National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens (Greece)

**Dr Ondřej Májek**

Institute of Health Information  
and Statistics (Czech Republic)

**Prof Maja Pohar Perme**

University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Moderated by  
**Susan Watts**

Strategic Science Communication

Science & Innovation Dialogues

# How to Communicate Data in a Pandemic

Wed 24 Feb 16:00 GMT

Keynote address by  
**Prof David Spiegelhalter**  
University of Cambridge

Introduction by  
**Prof Carole Mundell**  
International Science  
Envoy, FCDO



In 2020 and 2021, our engagement and events have been online

Science & Innovation Dialogues

**Prof Bojana Beović**  
University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

**Dr Agata Starosta**  
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Poland)

**Assoc Prof Serap Suzuk Yildiz**  
Ministry of Health (Turkey)

**Dr Tomáš Szemes**  
Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia)

Moderated by  
**Susan Watts**  
Strategic Science Communication

Future Pandemic  
Preparedness:  
No Time to Wait  
on AMR

Tue 16 Mar 16:30 GMT

Keynote address by  
**Professor Dame Sally Davies**  
UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance





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## How to identify and build new partnerships?

- Formal MoU approaches do not work, it is important to engage directly with researchers
- Think about unique selling points of your organisation or research group – what can you offer to be interesting?
- The UK has open research environment – approach experts, write emails, be proactive – it is easy to start a conversation
- Use conferences to discuss student exchanges, potential lab cooperation, opportunities for data and knowledge sharing
- Invite UKI researchers to visit your labs – seeing is believing
- Identify small funding and mobility grants, these enable you to build first steps for larger research activities

