

Annexe 1: Realising our potential: UK participation in Horizon Europe

Technical annexe

Data sources

European Commission data

Note for European Commission data: As the data is continuously updated, replicated results may not exactly match findings from this analysis.

1. Data for proposals for both Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe was downloaded from the European Commission data portal on 23 December 2025.
2. Data for Horizon 2020 projects was downloaded from the European Commission portal on 23 December 2025. Topics and calls were relabelled to Horizon Europe pillars for consistency in longitudinal analysis (see *Horizon 2020* section).
3. Data for Horizon Europe projects was downloaded from the European Commission portal on 18 December 2025.

UKRI guarantee (2021–23)

Raw data

1. UKRI supplied data for 2021–23, using data from the publicly available Gateway to Funding database.
2. This data was incomplete relative to all allocations made by UKRI during the Guarantee period: £300 million worth of funding has not yet been uploaded to the public database, meaning this analysis does not include these projects.

Data cleaning

1. One project from 2018 was deleted.
2. Identifying the correct European Commission call IDs was crucial for merging with European Commission data.
 - a. ERC projects without the European Commission call ID in the raw data were manually identified using desk research.
 - b. Some collaborative projects without call IDs were identified after contacting PIs.

- c. UKRI supported with matching most remaining projects to call IDs.
- d. There remained some calls which could only be identified under the 'Horizon Europe Guarantee'. Where these were labelled as ERC/MSCA, they were placed under Pillar I. Where these were labelled as Collaborative R&I, a model was used to divide them into Pillars II and III based on distribution of known projects. (See *Modelling*.)

Modelling

1. Models were used for projects where the year or pillar was unknown. The same methodology was used for the number of projects and participations, and for funding.
2. Projects with an unknown year were distributed according to the distribution of known data. Of the known data, approximately 20% of all projects occurred in 2021; 41% in 2022; and 39% in 2023. It was therefore assumed that unknown projects had the same distribution.
3. Project funding with an unknown year was distributed according to the distribution of known data. Of the known data, approximately 33% of funding was awarded in 2021; 41% in 2022; and 27% in 2023. (Note that these rounded figures do not sum to 100%.) It was therefore assumed that unknown funding had the same distribution. A specific model was used for funding, rather than using the same distribution as project data, to reflect actual allocations rather than incorporating assumptions about project values.
4. Projects with an unknown pillar in Collaborative R&I were distributed according to the distribution of known data. Of the known data, approximately 88% of projects were in Pillar II, and 12% in Pillar III. It was therefore assumed that unknown funding had the same distribution.
5. Project funding with an unknown pillar in Collaborative R&I was distributed according to the distribution of known data. Of the known data, approximately 92% of funding was allocated to projects in Pillar II, and 8% in Pillar III. It was therefore assumed that unknown funding had the same distribution. For the data where the year was also unknown, a specific model was used to reflect actual funding allocations, which differed nontrivially from pillar distribution in project numbers.

Longitudinal analysis

Base assumptions

1. All projects from multi-year calls are excluded, as all data references specific work programme years.
2. Euratom is excluded from all analysis as the UK did not associate to Euratom for Horizon Europe.

Horizon 2020

1. Horizon Europe pillars were selected for year-on-year analysis for current and relevant commentary. Horizon 2020 topics were matched to Horizon Europe pillar equivalents as follows:
 - a. Topics in Excellent Science were relabelled to Pillar I, except FET, which was placed in Pillar III.
 - b. Topics in Industrial Leadership were relabelled to Pillar III.
 - c. Topics in Societal Challenges were relabelled to Pillar II.
 - i. Space was placed in Pillar II, reflecting the successor programme in Pillar II in FP9.
 - ii. All NMBP and IT topics were placed in Pillar II, reflecting the successor programmes in FP9 Cluster 4.
 - d. Topics in Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation were relabelled to Cross-cutting.
 - e. Topics in Science With and For Society were relabelled as Cross-cutting.
 - f. Euratom retained its label.
2. Some Horizon 2020 call IDs do not include the call year. The years of projects were manually identified using desk research.

Funding

1. Data in GBP was converted to EUR using the three-year average between Q1 2021 and Q4 2023, using published figures from the European Central Bank.
2. For European Commission funding, the net contribution was used.
3. For 2014–20, and 2024, funding share is calculated as: UK funding allocated / All funding allocated.
4. For 2021–23, funding share is calculated as: UK funding allocated / All funding allocated from the European Commission **and** UKRI. This is because the funding allocated through UKRI was additive to the funding available through the Commission.
5. After Horizon 2020, the UK is excluded from a small number of calls in Pillar II. As it is challenging to identify all the relevant calls using public data and this accounts for a small proportion of overall funding, these calls have not been removed from the funding denominator, meaning that UK funding capture for Pillar II is slightly underestimated for the years 2021 – 2024, as it does not account for the small number of calls for which the UK is ineligible.
6. After Horizon 2020, the UK has not participated in the EIC Fund. The analysis showing UK funding capture excluding the non-grant elements of EIC Fund was completed by using the filter available from the [EIC Data Hub](#) to remove blended finance and equity from the denominator of all funding allocated through the European Commission (in addition to UKRI, for 2021–23, as at point (4)).

Universities

1. Entities labelled as 'Higher or Secondary Education Establishments' were reviewed manually to ensure only universities were included, and entities under other definitions were reviewed to ensure any mislabelled universities were included. University hospitals were excluded from the definition; university departments and commercial branches of universities were included.

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