

Summary of the UKRI Research Organisation Consultation Group (ROCG) Meeting Wednesday 6th July 2022

Horizon Europe

At the time of the ROCG meeting there was no update about the UK gaining 'association' to Horizon Europe. ROCG flagged a number of policy queries. It was noted that policy queries not covered in the FAQs should be directed to eugrantsfunding@ukri.org, and Innovation Funding Service (IFS) system-related queries to heguarantee@iuk.ukri.org. Any updates to the guidance will be available on the UKRI website.

UKRI Bullying and Harassment reporting process

UKRI are at an early stage of exploring a single reporting service for research misconduct, bullying and harassment, complaints and safeguarding; and requested feedback from ROCG.

Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) rollout

UKRI have adopted the R4RI which is a narrative CV, based on the Royal Society's Résumé for Researchers. The R4RI is a CV template which is designed to help people evidence a wider range of skills, experience, and contributions to research and innovation. UKRI is also supporting the community adoption of R4RI-like narrative by convening the [Joint Funder Group](#) and [Alternative Uses Group](#) to align approaches, share best practice and co-produce resources which are made available in the Résumé Library. UKRI discussed with ROCG the training and guidance materials needed to support the sector.

Concordat and Agreement Review (CAR)

This review was commissioned by Universities UK (UUK), UKRI and the Wellcome Trust to gather insights into the adoption and collective impact of the various concordats and agreements currently in place across the UK's research landscape. ROCG received an update on the review as it embarks on its next phase.

Open Access

An update was given on the new UKRI Open Access policy that applies to peer reviewed research articles submitted from 1 April 2022; and to monographs, book chapters and edited collections published from 1 January 2024.

Research Sustainability

UKRI and ROCG discussed the challenges regarding financial sustainability facing the sector and possible interventions and mitigations.

Matched Funding

ROCG members raised with UKRI issues that can arise from matched funding within calls, to inform UKRI's guidance.

Simpler and Better Funding (SBF)

An update was provided on the SBF programme and the increasing number of pilot opportunities which are being run on the new Funding Service. The service is being iterated in response to user feedback which is central to its design. UKRI asked for feedback on RO functionality. It was also noted that SBF require more external user testers.

UKRI Strategy

ROCG members noted that the UKRI strategy will cover a period between 2022 and 2027. UKRI will foster a system built on four key principles for change embedded across all of our work: diversity, connectivity, resilience, and engagement. This will be delivered through a framework of six strategic objectives: people and careers, places, ideas, innovation, impact, and being a world-class organisation. The full details can be found here <https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-strategy-2022-to-2027/ukri-strategy-2022-to-2027/>

The 'Levelling Up' agenda

The Government's Levelling Up White Paper identified 12 missions, including one for research and development around ensuring that there will be at least 40% of domestic public investment made outside of the Greater South

East by 2030. BEIS and UKRI are piloting a £100m Innovation Accelerators programme, supporting three UK city regions to become major, globally competitive centres for research and innovation.

Funding Assurance

It was noted that The National Audit Office (NAO) are looking in more detail at profiling and have concerns about providing funding in advancement of need. The UKRI Funding Assurance team have also found instances where universities are not using timesheets for Directly Incurred staff working on multiple projects. ROCG were reminded that timesheets must be completed in a timely fashion, for example weekly or monthly, and certainly within two months in accordance with TRAC guidance.

AOB

Topics raised under any other business included:

- UKRI Ethics Framework
- Grant Extension Requests
- Short Call Deadlines
- The EDI Caucus Call
- Stationery and Consumables costs
- FLF Round 7 submissions cap
- Training Grant Terms and Conditions wording

The next meeting of ROCG will take place on 17th November 2022