

FUTURE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

**An ambitious and close
future partnership between
the UK and Europe**

**A Future Partnership Project
statement**

May 2018



THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY



European science is integral to the global scientific endeavour. Research communities across Europe are more than the sum of their parts. They bring diverse expertise to bear on challenges beyond the reach of any one nation and capitalise on economies of scale. The global community reaps the benefits of these partnerships.

As the UK and the EU prepare to define their future relationship, we welcome their shared ambition to ensure that we can continue our history of close working. As representatives of research communities across the wider European Research Area, we are united in our desire for an ambitious and close future partnership on research and innovation. This would be good for European science and, in turn, for science globally. It is essential we are able to work together to deliver broad benefits to all, tackle the challenges facing our societies, preserve our environment for future generations and build the industries of the future.

An ambitious and close future partnership between the UK and Europe

Any future partnership must enable excellent research and innovation to flourish across Europe, actively supporting collaboration and cooperation and avoiding introducing barriers to them. To achieve this, specific issues for research will need to be addressed, either as part of the wider UK-EU relationship or through a dedicated, standalone research and innovation agreement. Achieving this is critical to ensuring research and innovation can play their central role in the future of Europe.

People. Researchers across Europe have built extensive and valuable networks that include UK researchers and underpin excellent research. To maintain these networks, researchers and their teams must be able to work and cooperate across borders and travel easily and flexibly as part of multinational activities. Exchange, training and travel opportunities are crucial to the next generation of scientists. Institutions need to be free to recruit excellent researchers from wherever they are found. It is important to avoid barriers to the easy movement of relevant workers between the UK and the EU, as this would be detrimental to our shared research endeavour and to the cost of all nations.

Funding and programmes. European research programmes provide unparalleled support for cross-border collaboration, enabling collaborative projects across the European Research Area and beyond. We welcome the UK's full engagement with Horizon 2020 and agree with [the recommendation](#) that this should continue within the post-2020 EU research and innovation programme. Pooling national resources through these programmes brings benefits to all partners.

Wider policies. A successful future partnership must be complemented by wider policies that facilitate, rather than inhibit, continued collaboration and cooperation. A diverse range of policies govern and influence research and innovation. By working together to align policies across borders, Europe has facilitated excellent research and promoted fruitful collaborations, from open research and diversity to the regulation of clinical trials and the handling of personal data. A future research and innovation agreement should cover how the EU and UK would continue to work together to reduce policy barriers to collaboration, including through harmonisation.

Global partnerships. The UK is an important player within European science. This relationship between Europe and the UK is unique and complements the strong links that we all have with partners around the world. Our relationships predate the EU, extend beyond links at the national level and will continue after the UK's exit from the EU. A positive agreement on the future EU-UK relationship would help international networks of academic institutions, funders and professional bodies to most effectively collaborate and jointly contribute to the health, wealth and wellbeing of people around the world.



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