

Top Lines

- The UK Government is committed to backing the UK's R&D ecosystem to drive economic growth and achieve its five national missions. As well as unlock the breakthroughs that could improve everyone's quality of life.
- That is why we have taken R&D investment to record levels, and are empowering researchers and businesses to solve real-world problems, grow emerging new industries and create high-quality jobs
- Horizon Europe is the world's largest research collaboration programme, and the UK's participation is rooted in longstanding ties of friendship, shared expertise, and common values with Europe.
- To drive UK participation in Horizon Europe, DSIT, in collaboration with Innovate UK and the National Academies, are launching an expanded Pump Priming scheme.
- Pump Priming aims to help UK entities develop collaborative activities under Horizon Europe, further strengthening UK-EU research partnerships and supporting researchers in preparing high quality Horizon Europe applications.
- Pump Priming encourages small and medium enterprises, researchers, Research and Technology Organisations (RTO) to pitch, and win, Horizon Europe funding. The funding means that UK organisations can allocate time and funds to develop their Horizon Europe applications.
- This initiative will offer small grants to enable UK R&D performing organisations to create and join high quality consortia, develop their project ideas, and ultimately submit high quality applications to Horizon Europe.
- There are two separate but closely aligned Pump Priming schemes that UK-based entities can apply for:
 - **The British Academy scheme.** With their sister academies, the British Academy are launching a scheme focused on supporting researchers, RTO institutions and not-for-profit organizations develop proposals to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe.
 - [<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/Horizon-Europe-Pump-Priming-Collaboration-between-UK-and-EU-Partners/>]
 - **The Innovate UK Scheme.** Innovate UK are leading a separate scheme focused on supporting SMEs to develop and join proposals. This is open to both Pillar 2 and Pillar 3 of Horizon Europe. [<https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/opportunities/horizon-europe-pump-priming-collaboration-opportunities-2024/>]
- Full eligibility criteria, and information on how to complete and submit applications can be found at each delivery partner's website.

Q&A

Who can apply?

There are 2 different but related Pump Priming schemes – to establish which one is most suitable for your project please consult the eligibility criteria for each scheme.

The British Academy scheme

All researchers of Principle Investigator seniority from UK-based research performing institutions are eligible to lead applications to the British Academy scheme, although proposals involving UK SMEs and other eligible organisations – for example, hospitals, libraries, regulators, creative industry partners, museums, local authorities and associations-and charities – are encouraged and welcomed.

The innovate scheme

The lead applicant of the Innovate UK scheme must be a UK-based businesses that meets the criteria of a Small Medium Enterprise (SME) and similarly, research organisations can be included in bids as consortia members.

How can I apply?

Applications can be made either through Innovate UK's website or through the British academy's funding portal.

The British Academy

[\[https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/Horizon-Europe-Pump-Priming-Collaboration-between-UK-and-EU-Partners/\]](https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/Horizon-Europe-Pump-Priming-Collaboration-between-UK-and-EU-Partners/)

Innovate UK

[\[https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/opportunities/horizon-europe-pump-priming-collaboration-opportunities-2024/\]](https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/opportunities/horizon-europe-pump-priming-collaboration-opportunities-2024/)

When will applications open?

Applications will open on the 12/11/24. Please consult each delivery partner's website for information on the closing of the scheme. Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis, and you are encouraged to apply early if you are interested.

What sectors are covered by Pump Priming?

Pump priming is open to all disciplines—including but not limited to: engineering, natural sciences, medical and health sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

When should we engage with NCPs

National Contact Points (NCPs) are Government recognised experts supporting UK applicants to apply to the Horizon Europe programme. All applicants are encouraged to engage with support offered to deliver the scheme, whether this is a webinar or by speaking to an NCP directly.

This engagement is not a requirement of the scheme but is strongly encouraged.

Will there be more Pump Priming schemes in the future

Pump Priming is an effective way to encourage engagement with Horizon Europe. We continue to review the needs of the UK R&D community in order to offer support and facilitate access to Horizon Europe opportunities.

Can I apply to both schemes?

Our goal is to support the breadth of the UK R&D sector engage with the Horizon Europe programme, and we have therefore delivered two complimentary schemes to encompass the R&D environment.

While SMEs can be involved in bids for the BA scheme, they cannot be the lead applicant. We therefore encourage SMEs that are eligible for the Innovate UK scheme to apply through that route and researchers at research performing institutions to apply through the BA scheme.

And likewise, while researchers can apply as part of the application to Innovate UK, they are encouraged to consider the BA scheme with its focus on research and academia.