

**What happens to research funding after June 23?**

As the country prepares to vote on the future of its European Union membership on June 23, Research Division has been pondering the referendum’s implications for LSE’s access to European research funding should the result be in favour of ‘leave’.

A *Brexit* would most certainly impact the higher education sector, and research funding landscape in particular. The Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA) recently published a paper where they expressed the organisation’s support for the view that “*a UK exit from the European Union would be extremely damaging for UK research*.”[[1]](#endnote-1) According to a recent report by CaSE (Campaign for Science and Engineering), the UK received €8.8bn from the EU for research, development and innovation between 2007 and 2013. Over the same period, the UK contribution to the EU for its Research and Development (R&D) budget was €5.4bn.[[2]](#endnote-2)

The net benefits to UK science are apparent in terms of the awards to UK researchers from the European Research Council (ERC) programmes. Figures for the 2007/15 period show the UK as the top recipient of ERC grants[[3]](#endnote-3). As a recent example, the UK won 50% of the ERC Advanced grants awarded in the social science and humanities domain in 2015/16[[4]](#endnote-4). This means that out of the 59 awards, the UK received 30, followed by Italy with six awards, which is as many as the University of Oxford alone. In that call, LSE received two ERC Advanced awards.

For LSE, a large proportion of its research income comes from the European Commission and other EU based funders. Figures in LSE’s latest financial statement show that research grants and contracts from the European Commission and other EU based funders represented 25% and 30% of all research contracts and grants in 2014-15 and 2013-14, respectively.[[5]](#endnote-5)

What will happen to the UK’s participation in European funding programmes should Brexit win remains to be seen. As pointed out by LSE’s expert Anne Corbett, “*higher education and research do not have a place in David Cameron’s shopping basket of EU renegotiation items*”[[6]](#endnote-6). If the Swiss experience, which is often referred to as a potential model for the UK, is anything to go by, there would be causes for concern. According to EU statistics, Switzerland has seen its total number of participations in projects halved; the number of research projects led by Swiss institutions has fallen from 3.8% of all FP7 projects to a little under 0.3% of all H2020 projects.

Jon Deer and Ana Alvarez-Serra, LSE Research Division

**Upcoming EU referendum events**

**A nation at unease with itself? Britain on the eve of the EU referendum, Tuesday 14 June 2016, 16:30**

Prof. John Curtice considers how the problems of the polling industry and the social tensions exposed by the referendum might play themselves out in nine days' time... and beyond. John Curtice FRSA FRSE FBA FAcSS is Professor of Politics at the University of Strathclyde, Senior Research Fellow at NatCen and Senior Fellow of the ESRC's The UK in a Changing Europe programme.

>>[Book your place](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-nation-at-unease-with-itself-britain-on-the-eve-of-the-eu-referendum-registration-25427373960)

**After the EU Referendum – where next for social science? Thursday 30 June 2016, 17:00**

**Jon Deer, Research Division’s Deputy Director**, will be discussing the implications of the EU referendum result for the UK’s social science research along with Prof. James Wilsdon FAcSS (Chair), Prof. Jane Elliott FAcSS (ESRC), Prof. Graeme Reid (UCL), and Prof. Antje Wiener FAcSS (University of Hamburg).

>>[Book your place](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/after-the-eu-referendum-where-next-for-uk-social-science-registration-25230796993)

**More on the EU referendum**

Corbett, Anne (2016) *Research and higher education: UK as international star and closet European?* Political Quarterly. ISSN 0032-3179 (In Press).

>>[More](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/65778/)

HOUSE OF LORDS, Science and Technology Select Committee, 2nd Report of Session 2015–16, EU membership and UK science, published 20 April 2016

>>[More](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldselect/ldsctech/127/127.pdf)

[LSE’s “Brexit” video series](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK4elntcUEy1gwFZ6an9sJphtbGhbbqDu) features experts commenting on a wide range of issues relating to the EU referendum

The UK in a Changing Europe, an ESRC-funded project exploring the challenges facing the UK in the debate over its relationship with the European Union (EU).

>>[More](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/our-research/the-uk-in-a-changing-europe/)

Views of university leaders on the EU, Russell Group.

>>[More](http://russellgroup.ac.uk/policy/publications/views-of-university-leaders-on-the-eu/)

**References**

1. ARMA 2016 Position Statement on UK Membership of the European Union. <https://www.arma.ac.uk/news/arma-statement-on-eu-referendum> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. The role of European Union membership in UK science and engineering research. CaSE (Campaign for Science and Engineering), December 2015. [http://epc.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/151214-FINAL-EPC\_CaSE\_Research-and-EU-Report\_Dec-2015.pdf](http://epc.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/151214-FINAL-EPC_CaSE_Research-and-EU-Report_Dec-2015.pdf%20) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. ERC Statistics (2007,2009-2015) <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/statistics>. Last viewed on 26 May 2016 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. ERC Advanced Grants Press Release [https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press\_release/files/erc\_press\_release\_adg2015\_results.pdf](https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press_release/files/erc_press_release_adg2015_results.pdf%20) [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. LSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 July 2015 [http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/financeDivision/pdf/15-0757-FinancialStatements-Proof-7Dec.pdf](http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/financeDivision/pdf/15-0757-FinancialStatements-Proof-7Dec.pdf%20) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Commission hearing: Just how much do British universities need the EU?

   <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexitvote/2015/12/22/commission-hearing-just-how-much-do-british-universities-need-the-eu/> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)