

EU research is vital

scienceisvital.org.uk/brexit



Science is vital to the UK economy, our health and our future.

Research allows us to find new cures for diseases, new ways to generate energy, and innovations which grow our economy. The UK is also one of the top-ranking nations for research worldwide.

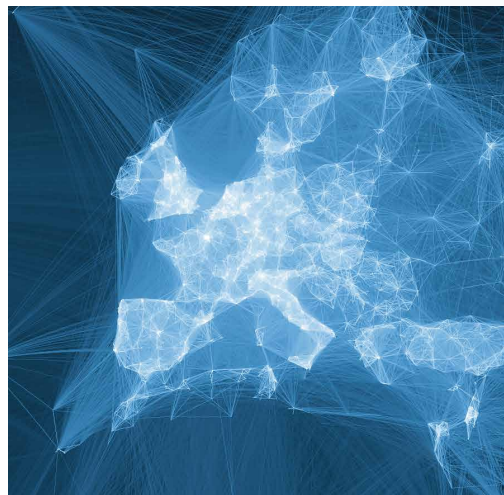
Our involvement in EU research programmes has huge benefits for UK science. These programmes provide funding, attract international talent, provide valuable training for UK researchers, and foster collaboration. This helps maintain the UK's world-leading position in research.

Science is Vital is a grassroots organisation campaigning for UK research. We're asking for your support to:

- 1. Maintain access to EU research programmes**
- 2. Ensure freedom of movement of researchers throughout the EU**
- 3. Invest at least 0.8% of UK GDP in public funding of research**

1. Maintaining access to EU research programmes

- Modern science is a global enterprise.
- EU research programmes allow scientists in multiple countries to collaborate on projects across borders.
- The government has not guaranteed to replace this in the long term, and current UK funding systems would not be able to replace these vital collaborative functions.
- The simplest way to preserve these benefits is for the UK to remain part of EU research organisations and programmes post-Brexit.



Scientific collaboration: 62% of UK papers are produced together with other countries. These have 40% more impact than UK-only research.

2. Freedom of movement of researchers

- Freedom of movement makes it dramatically easier for UK companies and institutions to recruit the top talent, wherever they are based in the EU.
- 16% of UK university research staff come from other parts of the EU, and numbers are far higher in some places. For example, 56% of post-doctoral researchers at the new Francis Crick Institute are from other EU countries.
- It also gives UK researchers the opportunity to work in 27 other nations, learn new skills, forge collaborations, and then bring these back to the UK.
- Reducing these opportunities would be a huge blow for both UK science, and individual researchers' careers.



Project No. 248767

Dealing with floods

Researchers from seven different countries (including the UK) and private companies used EU funding to develop new approaches to detecting and dealing with flood risks.

Cancer diagnosis

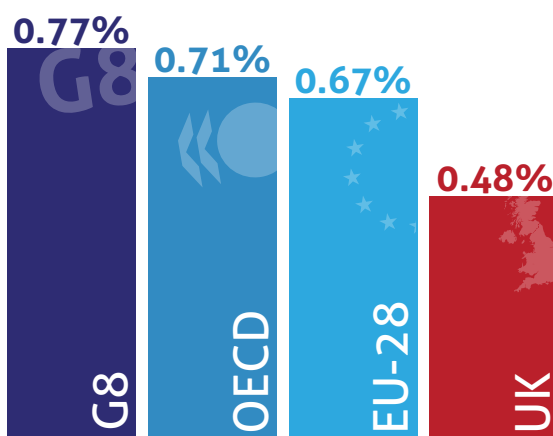
EU funding contributed €12m towards a five-year study of 200,000 subjects involving ten nations (including the UK), finding genetic changes linked to wide range of common cancers.



Project FP7 223175

3. Invest 0.8% of GDP in public-funded research

- The UK currently spends less than 0.5% of GDP on public-funded R&D. That's less than any major group of countries in the world, including the EU.



Public funding of R&D, % GDP

- We are net winners from EU research programmes: we contribute £12 per person per year, and recoup around £15 in grants won by UK scientists.
- This funding has helped maintain UK science at a time when domestic funding has been frozen.
- If we want to be a global nation for research, we need to set an ambitious, upward trajectory for science funding.