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EU Cooperation and Innovation - Delivering Value from our European Partnerships

Report on the Conference organised by Scotland Europa and Scottish Enterprise in partnership with Royal Society of Edinburgh, 29 September 2017



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CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Context.....	3
3. Scotland's European Collaboration - What's Next?.....	5
3.1 Impacts of Brexit	6
3.2 Retain value of collaboration – what to keep and why.....	7
3.2.1 Productive networking and exchange of ideas: engagement with partners at the leading edge of research and within key sectors	8
3.2.2 Building and extending innovation and competitiveness through collaboration	10
3.2.3 Achieving scale and critical mass to engage internationally and in international markets	12
3.2.4 Strategic engagement and profile in key areas.....	12
3.2.5 Distinct funding resource, without parallels in domestic policy	13
4. What to do next?: participate, prioritise, be proactive and persist	18
4.1 Participate - we have the networks so use them	18
4.2 Communicate, connect and engage - build, reinforce and broadcast the opportunities	21
4.3 Prioritise - need to identify areas of comparative advantage with future prospects and good networks.	22
4.4 Be proactive and persist - invest now in influencing priorities will aid future participation....	23
5. CONCLUSION	24
6. Annex 1: Workshop Summaries	26
7. Annex 2: EU Project Based Collaboration: Background.....	33
8. Annex 3: Conference Exhibitors	37
9. Annex 4: Conference Agenda.....	39

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report, commissioned by Scotland Europa, presents the findings of the Scottish Stakeholder Discussion on the Future of European Collaboration, held on 29 September 2017 in Edinburgh organised by Scotland Europa, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Scottish Enterprise. The aims of the Conference were to stimulate participation in current EU programmes and wider EU collaboration as ‘investment in the future’, and to gather views to feed into Brexit discussions at Scottish and UK levels. The primary focus was on competitive EU funding programmes, in particular Horizon 2020 and INTERREG, but the debate also included the role of, and synergies, with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and other forms of EU project-based funding.

The UK vote to exit the EU has led to profound fears over the negative impact of Brexit on EU cooperation, collaboration and interaction in Scotland, and more widely across the UK. Specific concerns relate to the impact on long-standing, productive networks and links, damage to professional and working relationships; losses of key staff and expertise; loss of influence in key frameworks and networks, and the impact of a ‘gap’ or a ‘break’ in involvement. These concerns are exacerbated by the protracted and uncertain nature of the Brexit negotiations, the complex governance situation for devolved governments in relation to Brexit, and wider debates underway on the EU budget, the future direction and development of the EU and major EU policy reforms.

The Conference made clear that Scotland is an active partner in EU cooperation programmes. Scottish organisations from the public and private sectors have been involved in programmes and frameworks since their inception, and overall they value highly the opportunities offered by EU collaboration projects offers them. The presentations and discussions during the Conference identified the following specific benefits from working with partners in other countries:

- skills and institutional capacity;
- skilled jobs in key sectors;
- new products, services, sectors and markets;
- supporting product, service and policy innovation;
- building the profile and confidence of Scottish stakeholders; and
- internationalisation.

A key question for the Conference is how relationships, partnerships and networks can be maintained after Brexit especially given the uncertain environment facing the public and private sectors. There is also the wider issue of how Scotland and Scottish organisations can continue to influence EU policy agendas. Much depends on the outcomes of the UK-EU negotiations, whether they include frameworks for cooperation in areas such as innovation and economic development and where responsibility lies within the UK for these areas for international cooperation beyond Brexit. Future relations also depend on the policy priority and resourcing accorded to such cooperation by the UK Government and Devolved Administrations. Conference discussions emphasised the need to think about the opportunities for new ways of working as well as the challenges.

The principal message from the conference is that stakeholders and participants want to remain involved in EU project based collaboration in the future. Linked to this, four conclusions and associated recommendations emerged:

- continuity of support and reputations are at risk without UK commitment to EU cooperation in the immediate term.
 - *Recommendation:* Early confirmation from UK Government of continued participation in these EU cooperation programmes and framework programmes beyond Brexit is essential. At a later date, it will be difficult to revive relationships with European partners if the current momentum of collaboration is not maintained.
- it remains (even more) important for Scotland to maintain presence and proactive participation in the current EU cooperation programmes following Brexit.
 - *Recommendation:* Maximise on-going involvement and engagement in the programmes, collaborations, policy platforms and other networking opportunities.
- Scotland should not 'sit back' and wait for Brexit to impact: we need to "participate, prioritise, be proactive and persist".
 - *Recommendation:* Proactive engagement in debates at Scotland, UK and EU levels in order to inform future thinking on preserving and extending links with EU partners. A strong voice, drive, commitment and leadership from Scottish Government is required, teamed with partnership, connectivity and a 'team Scotland' approach to external engagement.
- promote the benefits of EU project-based cooperation to inform Scotland's priorities for the forthcoming UK-EU negotiations and to target Scottish/UK interests in the future.
 - *Recommendation:* In order to inform future decision making on future collaboration, what to target, and identify emerging gaps in support, continue to build, evaluate and disseminate evidence to better inform Scotland's priorities for the forthcoming negotiations and post 2020.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by Scotland Europa and presents the findings of the Scottish Stakeholder Discussion on the Future of European Collaboration, held on 29 September 2017 in Edinburgh organised by Scotland Europa, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Scottish Enterprise. The aims of the Conference were to stimulate participation in current EU programmes and wider EU collaboration as ‘investment in the future’, and to gather views that could contribute to Brexit discussions at Scottish and UK levels. The primary focus was on competitive EU funding programmes and frameworks, in particular, Horizon 2020 and INTERREG, but the debate also included the role of, and synergies, with the broader European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and other forms of EU project- based funding.

The Conference encompassed discussions on both current and future EU engagement, structured around two main themes:

- **the role and significance of Scottish involvement in existing EU 2014-20 programmes and frameworks**, notably the perceived achievements and added value to date; and
- **gathering and distilling stakeholder views on current and future EU-funded engagement and views on future EU regional collaboration in the evolving Brexit context.**

Following an opening welcome from Sir John Elvidge,¹ the Conference heard the key note address from Michael Russell MSP, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe. Two subsequent panels focused on ‘Scotland’s European Collaboration – What’s Next?’ and ‘Current funding Programme Opportunities’. Moderated by Professor John Bachtler, panellists and speakers were:

- Professor Andrew Scott, European Union Studies, The University of Edinburgh & Member of the Standing Council on Europe
- Professor Iain Gray, Director of Aerospace Cranfield University, Fellow of RSE, former CEO Innovate UK, member of the EU High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU research and innovation programmes (Lamy Group).
- Eleni Marianou, Secretary General, Conference for Peripheral and Maritime Regions
- Dr Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive, European Policy Centre and Member of the Standing Council on Europe
- Tom Corker, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK Government
- Richard Buxbaum, Regional Contact Point Horizon 2020, Scottish Enterprise
- David Anderson, Deputy Director for Structural Funds, Scottish Government
- Valeria Ferrando, EU Head of Research, IES Ltd
- Dr Brian McVey, Head of EU Engagement, Scottish Enterprise

Discussion groups then went onto consider:

- the key priorities for Scotland in continued engagement in EU regional collaboration;
- the regional approach and perspectives from other UK regions; and

¹ Former Permanent Secretary 2003-2010, Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an Associate of the Institute for Government

- the scope for influencing and maintaining involvement the future EU policies, programmes and funding instruments for cooperation.

The Conference also presented EU-funded project case-studies from Scottish Partners, covering a wide range of Scottish stakeholders and organisations, types of funding and areas of activity. Case studies ranged from projects on marine energy and energy funded under the 7th Framework Programme and Horizon 2020 to INTERREG European Territorial Cooperation projects. Examples included Angus Council working on innovative public service delivery with nine partners in regions around the North Sea area and the University of Aberdeen working with partners in Norway, Finland, Sweden, Ireland and Northern Ireland on implementing transnational telemedicine.

There was a high level of interest in the event and a capacity audience. Delegates to the Conference came from across the public sector, business, academia, civil society, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish and UK governments, and government agencies. There was lively and well-informed debate in the plenary sessions and workshops. Informal feedback from delegates indicated that it was a successful, relevant and useful event.

This report summarises the key points from the speakers' workshops and discussions, questions raised and the strong messages emerging from the debate – and, crucially, what needs to happen next. It begins by setting out the context for the Conference (Section 2). Section 3 focuses on 'EU Collaboration – What Next?'. Section 4 draws on discussions on what actions to take, and Section 5 presents conclusions.

2. CONTEXT

The starting point for the Conference, introduced by Sir John Elvidge and Francesca Giannini (Scotland Europa and Scottish Enterprise), is the importance of EU project-based cooperation for Scotland. A wide range of Scottish public and private sector organisations have long-standing and active involvement in EU collaboration programmes. The perceived value of engagement is that it promotes learning and knowledge exchange, drives innovation, builds skills, and develops productive/durable international links and networks. It was noted that, engagement in EU-based collaborative projects covers key areas for the Scottish economy, research and development, innovation, new business development, sustainability, energy, blue growth, health, and developing the best institutions and infrastructures to support development. Brexit will significantly affect the scope and scale of cross-border and transnational interactions between Scotland, individual regions and organisations and their partners in neighbouring EU and non-EU countries and regions.

Michael Russell MSP, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe underlined these points and the value of the Conference's findings in informing Scotland's priorities for the UK-EU negotiations. He noted that Scotland is an 'outward-looking nation' and highlighted the shared challenges faced by nations and regions across Europe; working collectively is essential to overcome these challenges. He stressed that Brexit, and the associated uncertainty, reinforces the case for maintaining and developing EU cooperation in the future. Scotland's majority 'Remain' vote in the EU referendum justified an ongoing commitment to being an active participant in EU cooperation. The remaining opportunities for Scotland's participation in EU cooperation programmes and frameworks were highlighted. However, the Minister also advocated stronger commitment on the part of the UK Government to ensure continuity for Scotland's stakeholders in their ability to access the funding opportunities for the remainder of these programmes. Noting the contributions of EU project-based collaboration to date, the Minister asked:

- Would the dimensions of Scotland's world-class research be so internationally shaped without Horizon 2020?
- Can the skillsets of many young people in Scotland be as inclusive and holistic without the learning opportunities provided by Erasmus+?
- How will the transition to a low carbon economy be maintained (and accelerated) now without funds like INTERREG significantly investing in collaborations to support our marine renewable energy sector?
- What is the future for the vision of the Scottish arts and media organisations to take Scotland's creativity and culture to new international audiences and learn from their European peers if a programme like Creative Europe is no longer open to them?

The opportunity to capture the collective value of EU programmes and frameworks to Scotland, and also what Scotland brings to collaboration projects was highlighted as a particularly important part of the Conference. As well as benefiting from collaboration, Scotland was described as an active contributor, an eager participant, and an agent for collective and collaborative change, excelling in, e.g. innovation in health a science and social care provision; globally-recognised wind, wave and tidal energy facilities and expertise; a region of excellence in engineering and manufacturing innovation; and world-class research.

The Minister stated that it remains important for Scotland to maintain presence and proactive participation in the current EU cooperation both now and after exit from the EU. In building new relationships with the EU it would be expected that cooperation programmes and frameworks will be the foundation for cementing that new relationship. Therefore, it is important to reaffirm the benefit of European cooperation. Recognising the fact that other non-EU countries have established meaningful and mutual relationships through a number of EU programmes and the growing importance of global cooperation, it is important to think of Scotland's place and priorities, and how they could fit within a future framework for European cooperation with those outside the EU. In this context, the Minister concluded by emphasising the Conference as an important step in gaining a fuller understanding what EU cooperation brings to Scotland, and consolidating thoughts on how EU cooperation might be built upon in the future.

3. SCOTLAND'S EUROPEAN COLLABORATION - WHAT'S NEXT?

A high-level panel took up the challenges set out by the Minister and focussed on 'Scotland's European Collaboration – What's next?'. This panel discussed the ongoing commitment to work with European partners, ways in which such collaboration can continue to add value and bring about tangible benefits. Crucially, the speakers focussed on the emerging EU policy landscape for the post-2020 period, with reflections on the implications of the ongoing Brexit negotiations. The panellists were drawn from a wide range of organisations, government, private sector and higher education. As such, speakers offered a range of perspectives on what they and their organisations had gained from their involvement in EU project-based collaboration and future prospects. Speakers were:

- Professor Andrew Scott, European Union Studies, The University of Edinburgh & Member of the Standing Council on Europe
- Professor Iain Gray, Director of Aerospace Cranfield University, Fellow of RSE, former CEO Innovate UK, member of the EU High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU research and innovation programmes (Lamy Group).
- Eleni Marianou, Secretary General, Conference for Peripheral and Maritime Regions
- Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive, European Policy Centre and Member of the Standing Council on Europe

The following sections draw together the key points made by panellists and discussion participants, as well as case study examples provided in a report to Conference delegates.²



² Scotland Europa (2017) *EU funded project Case-Studies from Scottish partners*, Scotland Europa, <https://portal.scotlandeuropa.com/file/download?id=2154>

3.1 Impacts of Brexit

The speakers began by referencing Scotland and Scottish stakeholders longstanding commitment to and engagement with EU project-based collaboration programmes. However, the UK vote to exit the EU has led to profound fears over the negative impact of Brexit on EU cooperation, collaboration and interaction in Scotland, and more widely across the UK. As part of a non-EU country, Scotland could continue participating in EU project-based programmes (as Norway and Switzerland do, for example), but this would require funding from domestic resources and would require a clear commitment and clarity about what such engagement can offer. Nevertheless, as Fabian Zuleeg and John Bachtler noted (along with other speakers and delegates), any scenario other than remaining in the EU will at best involve disruption and at worst could sever some cooperative links. Specific concerns identified by participants were as follows.

- *Damage to long-standing, productive networks and links* with strategic partners in neighbouring regions and in key sectors and areas. For example, following a period of sustained effort to build and support export trade links and ties with EU markets, companies will face export costs. In some cases, as Fabian Zuleeg argued, such disruption could have an impact on the viability of sectors and supply chains; wider international trade and links were unlikely to 'pick up all the slack' that could be lost from EU links.
- *Damage to professional and working relationships* – The corrosive effects of Brexit on relationships with EU partners was highlighted. Already, some delegates noted concerns around a possible weakening of trust in formerly robust relationships. Reference was made to a perceived nervousness about involving UK participants in projects. A prolonged period of uncertainty during Brexit negotiations compounds these issues. Trust and established, well-founded relationships are the foundations for cooperation - but trust needs to be maintained, with stakeholders needing to work hard to build, and re build, links and relationships.
- *Losses of key staff and expertise* – A number of speakers and delegates noted that already skilled people are moving away from university posts in Scotland to EU universities, or others are not 'signing up' to projects or posts. Free movement of people is central to staff dynamics and development in, for example, major industries and within the higher education sector. The value of cultural diversity within organisations was highlighted. EU staff account for 11% of all staff in Scotland's 19 higher education institutions (4,595 full post equivalent – FPE). This rises to 17% of academic staff (3,280 FPE) and 24.8% of research-only staff (1,510 FPE). There are over 13,450 non-UK EU undergraduates in Scottish higher education (FPE). EU students account for 15.9% of the postgraduate research students in Scotland.³
- *Loss of influence in key frameworks and networks* – Through cooperation and engagement Scottish and other UK stakeholders work to inform shape and influence future research agendas and research, inform policy directions and set frameworks and regulations. Following an exit from the EU, UK partners will no longer be in such a strong position to shape and direct future policy trajectories and operational rules and procedures. It was recognised that there will still be collaboration in, for example, the European research sector. Scottish businesses working in new technologies have been at the forefront of innovation and in setting standards

³ See <http://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk/publications/brexit-priorities/>

and regulations. As Ian Gray noted, ‘they won’t be at the table any more’. Outside the EU, Fabian Zuleeg noted that UK partners will lose access and influence, and become ‘rule-takers’ if they wish to engage in EU markets and frameworks. As Eleni Marianou noted, this emphasises the importance of continued engagement through networks such as the Council for Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR).

- *Funding gap* – The impact of a ‘gap’ or a ‘break’ in involvement could lead to a loss of momentum, breaks in links and networks, loss of funding, becoming peripheral or excluded from strategic long-term planning leading to lack of ownership, familiarity etc.

Panel discussions noted that concerns linked to an exit from the EU are exacerbated by several factors.

- The protracted and uncertain nature of the Brexit negotiations is perceived to have spillovers in the way that UK institutions and stakeholders are regarded.
- Scotland and the other Devolved Administrations (DAs) are in a complex governance situation. The current constitutional settlement constrains the scope for Scotland to influence the Brexit negotiations and post-Brexit arrangements. For example, to engage formally in international collaboration Scotland would have to be in a position to sign off budgets and agreements. Stakeholders argued that devolution and the role of DAs should be taken into account for any future policies and funding.
- Beyond Brexit, there are wider debates underway on the EU budget, the future direction and development of the EU and major EU policy reforms. For collaboration partners, it is these issues, not necessarily Brexit, which are the most pressing concerns. For partners in the EU ‘life goes on’ and their primary focus is not Brexit. For example, questions are being asked about the role and approach of cooperation frameworks and programmes, such as INTERREG, and what should be the focus of future EU research funding. These debates will influence the future form and focus of cooperation programmes and initiatives and how non-EU Member States engage; Scotland and Scottish stakeholders need to continue to engage in these policy discussions.

Reform debates at EU-level and the nature of the new relationship that is established between the UK and Scottish Governments and the EU will structure future cooperation efforts. Post-Brexit, the UK will be a ‘third country’ which fundamentally changes the relationship between the UK and EU. As a ‘third country’, without the same rights as a member of the European Union, retaining formal links through the programmes and frameworks will require new bilateral agreements, which would take time to agree and require political commitment and backing, and commitments of resource. In the case of no Brexit deal, the task would be even more substantial, as Fabian Zuleeg observed.

3.2 Retain value of collaboration – what to keep and why

While concerns were expressed about the impact of Brexit on current and future collaboration, this also highlighted the desire to retain engagement and keep the benefits of EU project-based collaboration. These aspects were highlighted by all the speakers in the first panel of the Conference, and were reinforced by a dedicated session focussed on Scottish stakeholder benefits and impact of EU collaboration & engagement via EU programmes and/or networks. Speakers were:

- Valeria Ferrando, EU Head of Research, Integrated Environmental Solutions Ltd
- Brian McVey, Head of EU Engagement, Scottish Enterprise

The speakers illustrated the benefits and impacts of EU programmes, frameworks and projects, highlighting the main aspects of EU collaboration and engagement that they have found of most value and why it is important to continue this work. More generally, relevant points were raised throughout the day and are summarised below, using case study material provided as well as speakers' comments. Recurring themes included:

- productive networking and exchange of ideas: engagement with partners at the leading edge of research and within key sectors;
- building and extending innovation and competitiveness through collaboration;
- achieving scale and critical mass to engage in international markets;
- strategic engagement and profile in key areas; and
- access to a 'distinct' funding resource, without parallels in domestic policy.

3.2.1 Productive networking and exchange of ideas: engagement with partners at the leading edge of research and within key sectors

The opportunity to work closely on shared development opportunities and concerns has allowed those involved to learn and gain new perspectives, identify and apply new approaches, as well as increase their international profile and show case expertise. In doing so, participants have gone on to 'do what they do better', for example by.

- applying new techniques,
- gaining valuable institutional capacity and learning, and
- shaping institutional thinking on issues that have gone on to change institutional, policy and service development and delivery; and
- allowing issues to be addressed on a more relevant/impactful scale and offering structure and focus to existing international links.

Under the current programmes and frameworks, project and programme engagement are widening and deepening policy links and influence across all stakeholder groups from government departments and other public authorities to academia, private sector, voluntary organisations and civil society. Of particular note is the role of cooperation in widening the engagement and networks of small organisations, or individuals working on specific themes within wider organisations, allowing them to 'punch above their weight' in wider policy environments and take initial steps into wider collaboration.

Case studies from speakers and case study reports included the following. Brian McVey, Head of EU Engagement, Scottish Enterprise, noted in the value of EU engagement in Scotland's economic development agenda as: an important source of funding; a source of learning & knowledge and relationships; and the means of policy development – framework, ideas/knowledge, priorities. Particularly in the current round of programmes and funding, there is a greater sense of 'getting the knack' of the opportunities and maximising their role and impact. Although formal evaluations have not been undertaken, it was highlighted that, for example, through cooperation projects Scottish innovation

policy has been shaped by leading edge policy makers, and their results are already embedded in the front line services.

“The value from this collaborative EU engagement has been the opportunity to understand and examine how some of the other leading innovation regions in Europe are developing their policies to support regional economies, what works and why. This has directly contributed to the evolution of innovation policy in Scottish Enterprise.... The other benefit is to have a framework that allow the opportunity to assess Scotland’s position and performance relative to that of the other regions and get feedback from a group of highly experienced economic development specialists from across Europe.”

Box 1: Case studies of productive networking and exchange of ideas at the leading edge of research

Advanced Limes Applications (ALApp) Creative Europe Programme - Historic Environment Scotland and Centre for Digital Documentation and Visualisation working with partners in Germany, Austria.

Benefits: The collaboration helps to exchange experiences and knowledge between the project partners, both with regard to technological aspects as well as site related, comparative audience research.

Impact: Accelerates, advances and extends our current World Heritage activities, by developing more digital content and using new technological dissemination methods.

Sustainable Accessibility between Hinterlands and Gateways around the North Sea (SustAccess) North Sea INTERREG IIIB Programme - Perth and Kinross Council working with partners in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, and other parts of the UK.

Benefits: Project supported a cross-sectoral sharing of gained knowledge about strategies and concepts

Impact - Increased knowledge and awareness about the public transport interchanges, promotion of biking and methods of user and stakeholder involvement, particularly with a focus on peripheral areas

Synthesis of Systematic Resources (SYNTHESYS3) Seventh Framework Programme, - Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh working with partners in other parts of the UK, France, Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Czech Republic, and Greece.

Benefits: Enabled build stronger relationships with other European institutes resulting in further involvement in additional EU projects

Impact: The project produced an accessible, integrated European resource for research users in the natural sciences, new and more developed networks, and new and expanded public engagement with natural history collections. For the partner organisation it, helped advance digitisation capacity and strengthened scientific and international reputation.

Building a local digital innovation culture (LIKE!), North Sea Programme - Angus Council working with partners in the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Belgium and other partners from the UK.

Benefit: Sharing of knowledge and best practice with a range of public organisations, academia, businesses and citizens. Coming together around these common challenges allows for innovative practices to be trialled across a range of services.

Impact: Development of new skills, sharing of knowledge and engagement with citizens, business and academic institutions to deliver services which meet the needs of the communities they serve. The digital service delivery will make innovative use of data currently available, whilst also developing new technology to best-suit providers and users of services.

Implementing Transnational Telemedicine Solutions (ITTS), Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013 – Rossal Research and Consultancy working with partners in Norway, Finland, Sweden, and other partners in the UK.

Benefit: Cross-country learning, opened up new horizons.

Impact: Supported the development of 25 new services in 48 sites in the participating countries. In total 3890 patients have used the services as a direct result of the project, expanding access to timely and local health care. The estimate for potential use of these services is over 27,500 patients with the involvement of 550 staff in all demonstrator projects. Estimated 6.03 tonnes of carbon emissions were saved as a direct result of travel time saved by the introduction of these services.

North Atlantic Climate (NACLIM) EU Programme, Marine Scotland working with partners on Germany, Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Finland, Netherlands, Belgium and France,

Benefit: Enables scientists to continue cutting-edge internationally collaborative research. This is vital for investigating large-scale environmental questions related to ocean circulation and climate, which require knowledge, expertise and resources across several countries.

Impact: Re-enforce organisations ability to be an authoritative international voice on marine climate Defining and advancing a wide range of observing and modelling efforts related to ocean and atmosphere processes within the North Atlantic '

Source: Scotland Europa, (2017) *EU-funded project Case-Studies from Scottish partners*, Scotland Europa, <https://portal.scotlandeuropa.com/file/download?id=2154>

3.2.2 Building and extending innovation and competitiveness through collaboration

Speakers, including Iain Gray, emphasised that collaboration through EU frameworks and programmes are vital mechanisms through which Universities, public, private and voluntary sectors can build competitiveness and innovation. As highlighted by Andrew Scott, EU project relationships link places, sectors, stakeholder groups to facilitation innovation collaboration. For example, H2020 has served as a bridge in the innovation cycle between the private sector and universities: the latter have nurtured small firms and act as dynamos for regional economies. EU collaboration has helped to remove barriers to collaboration; it facilitates links to policy and close to market research. Improved systems and knowhow in supporting innovation and competitiveness have also been valuable outcomes of collaboration.

As a case study, Valeria Ferrando, Head of EU Research at Integrated Environmental Solutions set out the following key areas of value derived from the company's engagement in EU-funded projects which need to be retained:

- development of new tools, speeding up research dividend;
- entry into new markets, external investment and builds confidence;
- new knowledge, which led to improved commercial offering, profit and staff hired; and
- established long-term collaboration.

Figure 1: Benefits from EU collaboration and research for Scottish companies:



Source: Ferrando, V. (2017) *How EU Collaboration and Research can Benefit Scottish Companies: the example of IES*, presented at the EU Cooperation and Innovation - delivering Value from Our European Partnerships: Royal Society of Edinburgh 29 September 2017.

Box 2: Case studies of building and extending innovation and competitiveness through collaboration

Towards Regional specialisation for Smart growth spirit (TRES) INTERREG Europe IVC Programme - Scottish Enterprise working with partners in Spain, Hungary, Estonia, Italy, Romania, Poland Finland and Germany.

Benefit: Value from this collaborative EU engagement has been the opportunity to understand and examine how some of the other leading innovation regions in Europe are developing their policies to support regional economies, what works and why.

Impact: Learning from the TRES project to help refresh our innovation support offering and we continue to use the contacts and relationships build with people in other Innovation and Development agencies to further our approach and to build consortia for other EU funded projects.

Strategic Transnational Cluster Cooperation - unlocking the potential for regional innovation (Northern Connections) INTERREG North Sea VB Programme – Scottish Enterprise and Falkirk Council working with partners in Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Norway

Benefit: Value of working with partners which have a well-developed specialisation or particular expertise, and, across a programme with 21 partners there is a breadth of knowledge and experience available.

Impact: Project in early stages, but already improved local cooperation and established how both parties can support each other to focus on opportunities to develop areas.

Enabling Future Arrays in Tidal (EnFAIT) Enabling Future Arrays in Tidal (EnFAIT) Horizon 2020 Programme - University of Edinburgh working with partners in UK, Belgium, France, Germany

Benefit: The collaborative engagement approach fostered in this project has helped to build a consortium of leading European organisations with a complementary mix of skills and experience. Sharing information and being able to communicate seamlessly has enabled the consortium to work efficiently and effectively. Exciting and valuable cross-fertilisation of ideas that happens when partners with a range of experience from across Europe come together work together towards a common goal.

Impact: Project in early phases but aim to demonstrate the business growth opportunities for companies from a strong tidal energy market.

Source: Scotland Europa (2017) EU-funded project Case-Studies from Scottish partners, Scotland Europa, <https://portal.scotlandeuropa.com/file/download?id=2154>

3.2.3 Achieving scale and critical mass to engage internationally and in international markets

Collaboration offers the opportunity to operate at scale, to access and build innovation and R&D capacity by working with leading researchers and practitioners across the EU. Within both the private sector and the research community the mobility of senior staff has been vital; through the Marie Curie and Erasmus+ programmes, young staff and students can circulate freely, building expertise and sharing know-how. On this basis, it was clearly argued that this form of EU-level cooperation does work. It allows operations at scale with the potential to become globally competitive. Again, this is particularly significant in the Highlands and Islands, with a small business and sparse population. Highlands and Islands Enterprise has been positive and proactive with its EU links, which are considered to bring substantial gains to the region through collaboration with regions facing similar challenges, for example looking at business support for SMEs and micro enterprises in the remote regions of northern Norway, Sweden and Finland, as well as facilitating greater partnership working across regional partners. This has led to gains which would not have been achievable without the international dimension.

Box 3: Case studies for achieving scale and critical mass to engage internationally and in international markets

Ocean Energy ERA-NET (OCEANERA-NET) Framework Programme 7 - Scottish Enterprise working with partners in Sweden, Ireland, Spain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal and other parts of UK.

Benefit: Benefits for the project partners from exchanging experience and joint working. Strong relationships have been built with the European Commission and key stakeholders and the project has established a community of companies, particularly SMEs, and research organisations

Impact: Supported innovation in the ocean energy sector and facilitating an active community of companies and a basis for future collaboration leading to successful application for further funding. Working to address similar challenges and developing economies of scale that are not being achieved within eligible individual countries/regions. Collaboration and pooling of resources to face competition from regions such as the Pacific Rim.

Circular Ocean Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, INTERREG, Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI and Marine Scotland working with partners in England, Ireland, Greenland, Norway

Benefit: Adopting transnational partnership involving public, private and academic partners ensures that the results of the project have a real impact in the partner countries through encouraging greater dissemination of good practice, and widening the scope for successful enterprises and supply chains mechanisms to proliferate across the region. Through transnational collaboration, the project is developing solutions to address market fragmentation, testing and sharing approaches across the regions and connecting people in remote communities with the opportunities in their local areas.

Impact: Catalyst to motivate and empower remote communities to develop sustainable and green business solutions that will enhance income generation and retention within local regions by encouraging the 'upcycling' and 'repurposing' of plastic marine litter, e.g. using fishing nets to reinforce concrete, and within building materials i.e. bricks tiles, and roof insulation. Using fishing nets as a material to remove pollutants from water.

Source: Scotland Europa, (2017) EU funded project Case-Studies from Scottish partners, Scotland Europa, < <https://portal.scotlandeuropa.com/file/download?id=2154>>

3.2.4 Strategic engagement and profile in key areas

Cooperation programmes, framework programmes and projects were identified as addressing areas of high strategic economic and political added value. For example, through engagement at the 'cutting

edge' in H2020 research, stakeholders are involved in research communities which are shaping future research agendas, informing regulatory frameworks for new products and technologies and driving innovation and R&D. Of particular value in the EU programmes and projects is the fact that they are stable, long-running sources of funding with multi-annual planning.

At a political level, cooperation programmes and projects address areas of high strategic added value. The Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland Cross-border Programme is a key example. Engagement in the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme links Scottish partners to the Arctic region. Similarly, the value of strategic cooperation in the North Sea Region has been highlighted in the past. The particular value in cooperation in relation to North Sea energy, transport and blue growth sectors were noted - all of which have high levels of interdependence and interrelationships and offer development opportunities and as competition for space grows increasingly intense, so the need to cooperate will intensify. In this context, the opportunity for longer term planning across different programmes, in a sequenced and synergistic way, has proved extremely beneficial.

Box 4: Case studies of strategic engagement and profile in key areas

FP7 MERIKA marine energy project: Led by the University of the Highlands and Islands, which was built on the foundation of early ERDF and ESF Objective One investment in buildings, laboratory equipment, research staff and students. The project was influenced through collaboration with INTERREG partners in the Northern Periphery programme, gradually building up capacity to qualify for funding which bridges the gap between cohesion funding to research excellence.

Impact: It increased the number of scientific and technical staff, as well as technology leading equipment located at remote rural sites, leading to a step change impact on marine renewable energy capability at UHI. It has also acted as a springboard to further EU project engagement, including the INTERREG Cross Border Bryden Centre project, which will fund further PhD places and industry collaboration.

Integrated aquatic resources management across Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland (IBIS) Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland INTERREG IVA programme - University of Glasgow working with partners in Northern Ireland and Ireland

Benefit: Working across arrange of partner types, empirical data and sharing of best practice, merging of complementary skills across Europe, the creation of a more unified approach.

Impact: Research, education, and training drawing on combined and cumulative knowledge and enhanced empirical data provided to agencies involved in resources management at both a National and International level. Also, developed at an International level and engaged in other funding opportunities.

Novel biocontrol agents for insect pests from neuroendocrinology (nEUROSTRESSPEP), Horizon 2020 Programme – University of Glasgow working with partners in Belgium, Israel, Sweden, Germany, South Africa, and other partners in the UK.

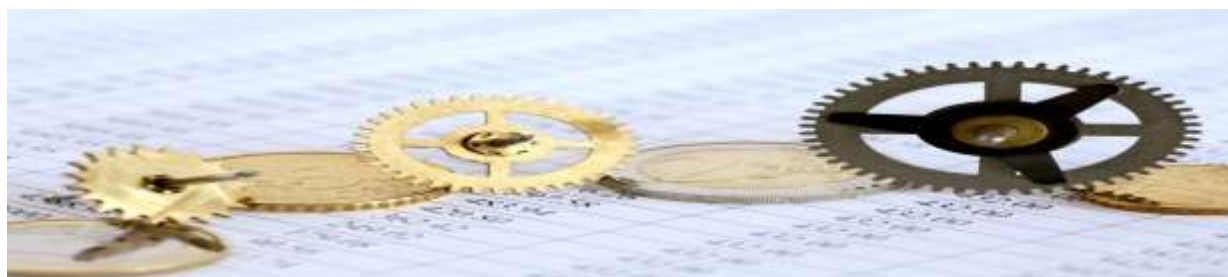
Benefit: Enabling research (technology, collaborations, planned future bids); can set big questions and undertake large scale efforts to address these; coordinated research at European and international level towards innovation; getting ahead of main competitors in, e.g. US and China; and increased industry and end user interactions. More generally, the experience gained has increased capacity for dealing with other EU/ International opportunities and projects, and has established valuable working relationships. The financial contribution facilitates the creation and retention of valuable expertise.

Source: Scotland Europa (2017) EU-funded project Case-Studies from Scottish partners, Scotland Europa, <https://portal.scotlandeuropa.com/file/download?id=2154>

3.2.5 Distinct funding resource, without parallels in domestic policy

The pooling of resources and knowledge delivers new opportunities and cooperation initiatives provides funding for actions that do not necessarily fall within the remit of nationally based or sectoral policies.

For example, EU cooperation programmes and frameworks can offer funding in niche and novel policy areas and around shared spaces and resources. Cooperative actions are also valued as catalysts to stimulate bids for other forms of funding and action, either accessing a new market or driving innovation. For example, in cooperation programmes, the scale of the projects and opportunity to work in partnership is appealing to ‘kick start’ organisations wishing to engage, but lacking the experience or scale to move straight into a larger application to one of the bigger funds.



Box 5: Case studies of the distinctiveness of funding resources

Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project (HyVLow and HyTransit), Horizon 2020 Programme – Aberdeen City Council working with partners in the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, and other partners in the UK.

Benefit: Development of approach would not have been developed without EU collaboration, and funding was crucial.

Impact: Development of hydrogen bus fleet and refuelling infrastructure in Aberdeen. Recognition as a leading European Region in the deployment of Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology has led to the emergence of new supply chain opportunities, with many companies showing interest in the technology. Collaboration with leading private sector bodies has created engagement opportunities for the private sector. Global interest in Aberdeen.

Integrated aquatic resources management across Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland (IBIS) Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland INTERREG IVA programme - University of Glasgow working with partners in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Benefit: Working across arrange of partner types, empirical data and sharing of best practice, merging of complementary skills across Europe, the creation of a more unified approach.

Impact: Research, education, and training drawing on combined and cumulative knowledge and enhanced empirical data provided to agencies involved in resources management at both a National and International level. Also, developed at an International level and engaged in other funding opportunities.

Source: Scotland Europa (2017) *EU-funded project Case-Studies from Scottish partners*, Scotland Europa, <https://portal.scotlandeuropa.com/file/download?id=2154>

As has been illustrated, the broad benefits of productive networking and exchange of ideas, capacity to operate at scale; strategic engagement, driving innovation and access to distinctive forms of funding were emphasised. The subtle benefits of collaboration are difficult to quantify and the process of involvement and management of the programmes is complex. However, the programmes and frameworks are well established, have the attraction of being formalised and regulated, and not merely ad hoc; as a small country, Scotland can participate on equal terms. Among stakeholders, there is a sense that cooperation has ‘come of age’ in the current round of programmes and frameworks – people and organisations are able to maximise impacts. In doing so, collaboration is increasingly able to deliver:

- skills and institutional capacity,
- business growth,

- jobs in key sectors,
- new products, services, sectors and markets
- supporting product, service and policy innovation and
- building the profile and confidence of Scottish stakeholders,
- and enhancing policies through European collaboration, see Box 6.

Box 6: Examples of collaboration being delivered

- Skills and capacity

Marine Energy Research Innovation and Knowledge Accelerator (MERIKA) Framework 7 Programme, UHI was the sole beneficiary, with project activity involving links with leading EU research institutions.

Benefit: Bi-lateral researcher exchange programme with seven leading EU research institutions; EU collaborative engagement has seen UHI expand and deepen its relationships with EU research institutions, industry players and a range of other institutional stakeholders.

Impact: The aim of MERIKA has been to enable UHI, located in the North of Scotland, to realise its ambition to become a European marine renewable energy Research and Innovation Hub. MERIKA has delivered a combination of capacity improvements and capability enhancements, a resource and research exchange programme with leading European research institutions, supported by a programme of networking, knowledge exchange and industry engagement activities. The project has been an enabler for follow-on activities, allowing the university to leverage its research capacity and networks/links to engage in more research collaborations.

- Business Growth

Additive Printing for Cell-Based Analysis (ANAPRINT) Horizon 2020 Programme – SME Instrument - AvantiCell Science Ltd

Benefit: Assisted AvantiCell Science Ltd pursue a global market opportunity in the field of preclinical life science.

Impact: ANAPRINT has accelerated both the technical development of an innovative product portfolio whilst supporting activities that ensure its commercial readiness, target-market focus and industry visibility. AvantiCell business evolution has happened alongside the progressive achievement of ANAPRINT technical milestones.

Compact Ultrafast Laser Sources Based on Novel Quantum Dot Structures (FAST-DOT) Framework 7 Programme - University of Dundee working with partners in other parts of the UK, Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Greece, France, Lithuania, Italy (€14.75M - EU contribution €10.1M).

Benefit: Opportunity for collaboration between leading photonics research groups and companies.

Impact: A close working relationship was developed through the project which has led to numerous new opportunities and projects, with an informed view of how to deliver optimal results within the structures of EU projects. The commercial impact of participation has been remarkable in both tangible and intangible ways, fuelling both direct revenues but also providing a launch pad for many further interactions with future customers and collaborators.

- Jobs in key sectors

Integrated Environmental Solutions Ltd Framework 7 & Horizon 2020 Programmes _ PROJECTS FP7: INDICATE UMBRELLA RESSEEPE Energy in Time EASEE Har-Win VERYSchool FASUDIR FORTISSIMO iUrban REEMAIN H2020: 4RinEU STREAMOD ENTRUST IMPRESS NewTREND Marie Curie: CINERGY EINSTEIN

Benefits: EU collaboration has been essential to our product development and company growth.

Impact: Evolved software and allowed considerable business growth, employed 65 additional staff due to EU projects (almost half the company total of 147) and have seen considerable revenue increase.

North Sea Solutions for Innovation in Corrosion for Energy (NeSSIE) European Maritime & Fisheries Programme, - University of Edinburgh and Scottish Enterprise working with partners in Belgium, Spain and Italy.

Benefit: Impact on the way we work with supply chain companies and our partners. We are working much more closely to develop genuinely market focused solutions to address issues in offshore renewables.

Impact: Test potential solutions for the benefit of both the ocean renewables sector, and the established marine industries of the North Sea and this will engage a wide company base; will establish transnational consortia and will take forward demonstration projects for the wider benefit of the North Sea basin.

- Supporting product, service and policy innovation

Tools for Assessment and Planning of Aquaculture Sustainability (TAPAS), Horizon 2020 Programme, University of Stirling, working with partners in Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, other parts of the UK, Spain, France, Greece, Malta, Ireland, Hungary.

Benefit: Working with partners from all around Europe allows the consortium to evaluate best practices, to develop necessary tools, approaches and frameworks to support EU Member States in establishing a coherent and efficient regulatory framework and delivering a technology and decision framework for sustainable growth.

- Building the profile and confidence of Scottish stakeholders

New industrial value chains for growth (S34Growth) INTERREG Europe Programme, Scottish Enterprise working with partners in Finland, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Benefit: opportunity to gain a more in-depth perspective of the approaches partner regions.

Impact: build closer, deeper relationships with a range of partner regions in Europe, providing not only the opportunity to showcase Scotland's areas of expertise to new audiences, identify potential new approaches which will help to further shape and enhance Scotland's approach to innovation going forward.

- Enhancing policies through interregional cooperation

Towards Regional specialisation for Smart growth spirit (TRES) INTERREG Europe IVC Programme - Scottish Enterprise working with partners in Spain, Hungary, Estonia, Italy, Romania, Poland, Finland and Germany.

Benefit: Value from this collaborative EU engagement has been the opportunity to understand and examine how some of the other leading innovation regions in Europe are developing their policies to support regional economies, what works and why.

Impact: Learning from the TRES project to help refresh our innovation support offering and we continue to use the contacts and relationships build with people in other Innovation and development agencies to further our approach and to build consortia for other EU funded projects.

Based on the recognition that cooperation is a two-way process, EU cooperation was also seen as an effective and visible mechanism to promote Scotland's knowledge, talent, expertise and qualities. In particular, Scottish stakeholders have highly regarded expertise and know-how in important areas, e.g. innovation in health and social care provision; globally-recognised wind, wave and tidal energy facilities and expertise; a region of excellence in health and life science; engineering and manufacturing innovation; and research in these areas and more. On this basis, Minister Mike Russell stated that 'it remains important for Scotland to maintain presence and participation in the current EU cooperation programmes both now and after exit from the EU.'

Speakers agreed there would be no scenario where 'we can have our cake and eat it'. At best, some collaboration would continue, but it would be qualitatively inferior.⁴ Nevertheless, non-EU Member States play an important role in a number of cooperation programmes, frameworks and initiatives. The non-EU Member States participating in INTERREG programme cover a wide range of countries, from Russia to Andorra. Related, non-EU Member States can have differing types and paths of engagement. Over time the precise nature of the involvement of non-EU Member States in cooperation programmes and frameworks has changed and evolved, with countries engaging (and disengaging) from EU accession processes, policies undergoing substantial reforms in terms of budgets and governance, new initiatives launched, and the relationships between the EU and non-EU Member States evolving.

⁴ Non-EU Member States can participate in, e.g. H2020 and INTERREG and there are other forms of non EU-linked European Collaboration such as the CPMR. However, as a non-EU Member State the UK would not be as directly involved in agenda setting for EU collaboration, would have to agree a bilateral agreement, would generally work with their own financial resources, and would be precluded from taking on some responsibilities, e.g. non EU Member States are not eligible to act as lead partners in some Programmes.

4. WHAT TO DO NEXT?: PARTICIPATE, PRIORITISE, BE PROACTIVE AND PERSIST

Following discussion on what EU project-based collaboration has brought to Scotland and what would be lost if it ceased or was significantly reduced, the Conference discussions focussed on what can be done now and in the future. Three workshops were held on the Future of European Collaboration and Engagement as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Conference workshops

<p>■ Group 1: What is key for Scotland in terms of continuing engagement in EU collaboration?</p> <p><i>Lead contributor: Mike Neilson, Director of the Scottish Government Brussels Office.</i></p> <p><i>This discussion group focused on Scotland's continued engagement from the perspective of maintaining our profile as a partner of choice with our European and International partners. How to approach this and what we need to develop and pro-actively do.</i></p>
<p>■ Group 2: A regional approach – a perspective from other UK regions</p> <p><i>Lead contributor: John Maxwell, Head of State Aid European Territorial Cooperation Unit, Scottish Government</i></p> <p><i>This discussion group focused on perspectives from across the UK, what they are, how they align with Scotland's views.</i></p>
<p>■ Group 3 - How do we influence and maintain alignment with the future EU collaboration policy and funding instruments?</p> <p><i>Lead contributor: Linda Stewart, Director of European and International Development, University of the Highlands and Islands</i></p> <p><i>This discussion group focused on Scotland's main priorities and challenges for maintaining influence and alignment with the EU policy and funding instruments after the UK has exited the EU and beyond 2020.</i></p>

Workshop discussions and subsequent feedback sessions reinforced and elaborated on many of the points raised during the preceding conference discussions and examined a range of specific issues and interest in greater detail, including priorities for continued engagement with the EU, approaches to future engagement and how to address barriers and obstacles. For each workshop, summaries of the findings are set out in Annex 1. However, of particular note are the common themes from across the workshops and the key steps in terms of 'what to do next?' Key messages were: participate, prioritise, be proactive and persist, all of which are discussed in the following sections.

4.1 Participate - we have the networks so use them

A key message for Scottish participants is to participate, keep active and collaborative in projects and project bids. The fact that programmes and frameworks still have funding available and the need for participation was highlighted both in the workshops and a dedicated conference session 'Current funding programme opportunities - What can we do now?'. In this session speakers considered the current EU funding and engagement opportunities, support available to engage in these opportunities, and why it is important to continue this engagement. Speakers were:

- Tom Corker, BEIS, UK Government
- Richard Buxbaum, Regional Contact Point Horizon 2020, Scottish Enterprise

- David Anderson, Deputy Director for Structural Funds, Scottish Government



David Anderson highlighted that INTERREG Programmes still have funding available: for example, across the seven INTERREG programmes in which Scotland participates, there is over €600 million of uncommitted funds. Tom Corker set out considerations for developing future projects (see Figure 2): what is the international need; what is the demand-led market failure; how does it fit with wider national and regional policies what will be the tangible change; how will results be durable; are the right people involved, how will projects be delivered?

Figure 2: Current position of UK INTERREG programmes



13

Source: Lucas, S. (2017) *Current funding programme opportunities: What can we do now?* Presentation prepared for Collaboration and Innovation Event Edinburgh 29 September 2017

With respect to H2020, speaker Richard Buxbaum noted that the European Commission was putting out calls for opportunities in 2018 and 2019. He emphasised that, for a large number of those closing

in 2018, this will happen in the first four months of the year. Now is therefore the time to be proactive in engagement, which will ensure relations continue to be retained and developed both during the Brexit negotiations and beyond. The European Commission has emphasised the importance and continued eligibility of UK partners to engage in the upcoming 2018 – 2020 funding opportunities (up to the day that the UK leaves the EU) as well as to contribute to the future development of the next Framework Programme. The UK Government has issued a Treasury Guarantee⁵ stating that it will underwrite the cost of applications that have been awarded and run beyond March 2019 as well as those which are submitted prior to the UK's exit and subsequently awarded.



Speakers and workshop participants stressed that there is still momentum in the programmes; Scottish and UK partners have a good track record for participating in and delivering successful bids. Through Scotland's long-standing engagement in the Programmes, there is a reservoir of institutional capacity and knowhow on how to make collaboration work and how to deliver positive outcomes and engagement which can be used to maximise gains from existing programmes. The UK Government has issued its funding guarantees and the European Commission has emphasised in guidance that UK participants should continue to participate and should not be subject to any discrimination.⁶

⁵ <https://admin.ktn-uk.co.uk/app/uploads/2017/10/Horizon-2020-underwrite-and-disclaimer-QA-final-for-upload3.pdf>

⁶ Financial guarantees are in place, with the Chancellor's guarantees on EU funding last year securing continued participation in EU cooperation programmes in the lead-up to any exit from the EU. HMT Guarantee: The Chancellor's August and October 2016 statements guarantee funding for UK partners in EU cooperation projects where funding agreements are in place and these projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. Scottish Government has confirmed it will pass on the current UK Government guarantees in full to Scottish stakeholders provide stability and certainty for these key sectors of the Scottish economy. This was further added to with a guarantee from the Scottish government in November 2016. See <https://news.gov.scot/news/eu-funds-guaranteed>. However, the argument was made that the guarantees do not go far enough; to date, the UK Government has not provided a position on participation in EU funding programmes beyond the UK's departure date.

4.2 Communicate, connect and engage - build, reinforce and broadcast the opportunities

Communication to build, reinforce and broadcast the opportunities arising from EU cooperation is essential to efforts to retain and maintain links. Within Scotland, which has a closely networked system of stakeholders and partners, it was seen as possible and desirable to build upon networks and link messages and ensure internal connectivity on relevant themes. Part of this is also to identify clearly and effectively what has been delivered through EU based collaboration. Efforts such as the Conference are a first step, but this work needs to be continued.

In order to identify areas of common and shared interest and to present clear messages to UK Government, there is also scope to develop further links with Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the English regions. There is 'common cause' across the UK in relation to EU collaboration. For example, the Welsh Government emphasise the importance of continuing to benefit from EU programmes and frameworks.⁷ UK and Irish governments and the European Commission highlight on-going commitment to cross-border cooperation in Northern Ireland and Ireland. Across a wide range of interests, stakeholders and areas, there is a lot of work on Brexit going on and possibly a need/opportunity to 'knit together' efforts, developing a collective approach to engagement, dissemination and managing change.

Communicating a strong, clear, collective and consistent message to Scottish Government and the UK Government is needed on the value of and future ambition for international engagement via EU project-based collaboration is critical. In particular, speakers such as Iain Gray called for greater efforts and engagement to communicate more of the examples of best practice and positive experiences. At the same time, concerns were expressed about the challenges of demonstrating clearly the results and impact of collaboration, as many results are 'soft' or can take time to develop. Also, Horizon 2020 was viewed as having a vocal 'lobby' and has benefitted from broad support, whereas for other forms of project-based cooperation the case for continued engagement could be more clearly and effectively expressed.

Communication is part of broader efforts to push for extended commitments to ensure continuity for Scotland's stakeholders in their ability to access the funding opportunities for the remainder of these programmes.⁸ The view was expressed that the UK government gave their commitment to participate in these programmes at their inception in 2014, and stakeholders should see that commitment honoured to their intended completion in 2020, thus helping to retain the confidence and willingness from the public sector, academia, businesses, communities and their partners to participate in cooperation programmes. Further, given the scale of the challenge, individual, and collective efforts also need to be backed up by leadership. Thus, a strong voice, drive and commitment from Scottish Government is viewed as essential.

⁷ Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government (2017) 'Securing Wales's Future: Transition from the European Union to a new relationship with Europe' https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2017-01/30683%20Securing%20Wales%20Future_ENGLISH_WEB.pdf

⁸ Financial guarantees are in place, with the Chancellor's guarantees on EU funding last year securing continued participation in EU cooperation programmes in the lead-up to any exit from the EU. This was further added to with a guarantee from the Scottish government in November 2016 See <https://news.gov.scot/news/eu-funds-guaranteed>

On-going communication and engagement with EU partners to maintain links, visibility and presence, through both formal and informal engagement is important for Scottish partners to remain 'art of the conversation'. Drawing on long-standing expertise, Scotland and Scottish partners can still provide meaningful and recognised contributions, to improve policies on economic, social and territorial cohesion that strengthen the foundations of EU connectivity and cooperation. Looking to the future of EU cooperation, it is contributions to the debates happening now that will be used to inform its shape into the next decade. However to remain engaged and be part of the reform 'conversation'; speakers noted the a need to invest in 'soft power', the ability to shape preferences through appeal and attraction, and building capacity to respond to up-coming challenges and working to get a voice and be heard in EU fora. Several delegates referred to the 'Norway House model'⁹, the need for clear visibility in Brussels, and involvement in debates on EU policy. It was observed that Norwegian officials had a strong presence at EU institutions, a deliberate policy as they do not have an automatic 'place at the table'. The question was posed: should Scotland be considering this approach and consciously increasing visibility of stakeholders and profile at this critical time?

4.3 Prioritise - need to identify areas of comparative advantage with future prospects and good networks.

The lead-up to a new EU budget and policy reforms after 2020 naturally involves a period of reflection and critical review of funding priorities. Both EU and non-EU Member States need to be clear on what they want from future engagement and contribute to the emerging deliberations. Brexit is just one element of these deliberations, with wider issues such as added value, simplification, accountability and efficient use of resources being key concerns for the EU.

As part of a 'third country' outside the EU, Scotland will be working with fewer resources, as participation would no longer be co-financed,¹⁰ and with reduced direct political and strategic influence on the content and direction of the programmes and interventions. Consequently, there will be a need to prioritise and face choices on what to fund, where to participate and which stakeholders to involve. A process of strategic prioritisation and targeting is needed, coupled with contingency planning to fill support gaps, and a domestic agenda on how to deal with the implications of changing priorities, frameworks and resources. This prioritisation exercise will need to look at what are the main aspects that make Scotland a partner of choice? What are the country's unique strengths that other European partners value and what would Scottish partners value retaining access to? The uncertainty around future regional policy and funding is also a major factor in decision making, which will influence prioritisation.

⁹ The mission of Norway to the EU houses representatives from Norwegian ministries in Brussels is an important centre of expertise on EU and EEA affairs for the Norwegian public administration. Some of the Mission's main tasks are to: represent the Norwegian Government in Brussels and promote the Government's policies and positions vis-à-vis the European Union; identify at the earliest stage possible issues related to the EEA and Schengen cooperation that are of political or economic importance to Norway; safeguard Norwegian interests in negotiations with the European Commission, the European External Action Service and the Council of the European Union in areas covered by the EEA and Schengen agreements; work closely with the EU institutions on the further development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy; and increase awareness of Norway's close ties with the EU, in particular our participation in the internal market. Source: <https://www.norway.no/en/missions/eu/about-the-mission/what-we-do/>.

¹⁰ Or funding where available would be limited to specific cases and significantly reduced.

4.4 Be proactive and persist - invest now in influencing priorities will aid future participation

In order to maintain, and build, vital strategic links, a key Conference conclusion was that stakeholders have to be active and show that they remain open and constructive partners. Crucially, this is a commitment that does not depend upon the results of the Brexit negotiations and was coupled with the reminder that collaboration does not simply depend on a number of EU programmes. For example, as highlighted by Eleni Marianou, Scotland has been a long standing and active participant of the CPMR and can continue to be in the future.

However, cooperation is a two-way process, and evidence from stakeholders suggests that EU partners value the links that have been built up and are enthusiastic about on-going engagement. There is a recognition of the distinctive case of Scotland and some sympathy currently – but Brexit is not the top of the agenda for EU partners and their priorities will move on particularly as the debate on post 2020 policy and funding gains pace. Scottish partners cannot afford to be parochial and depend upon past goodwill. Continued engagement with established partners in the EU and EU-27 Member States, emphasising the benefits of a collective approach and active engagement, is vital. There is a need to seek collaboration wherever stakeholders can, build on personal relationships and links, and stress ‘excellence’ - ‘we are the right people to work with’, ‘we have something distinctive to offer’ and ‘we want to be included’. There is also a strong recognition of the value of the UK scientific base, and stakeholder and sectors involved in cooperation. Rather than waiting to be consulted or invited, key stakeholders have to be active - coming up with solutions and proposals. The UK is ‘creating’ the problems around Brexit and discontinuity in links and should, therefore, be coming up with solutions, proposing and leading change and building external links.

There is the ability to forge new, and strengthen existing partnerships, networks and alliances across Europe that have been notably assisted by Scotland’s continued proactive participation in these programmes and projects. There are still major strategic issues, which demand collaboration. There is still a belief in cooperation with the UK, e.g. Scotland has been highly involved not just in EU funded programmes and projects but also in, e.g. the CPMR. There are opportunities to build strategic links, e.g. especially in key areas like the maritime sector. There is a contribution and role that the Scotland can still make. The UK will hold different status in the future, but the contributions that can be made as a ‘third country’ can and absolutely should remain prevalent through continued EU engagement. If the UK government is to build a new relationship with the EU effectively, it would be expected that cooperation programmes in some form will be part of the cement of that new relationship.

5. CONCLUSION

Scotland is an active partner in EU cooperation programmes and frameworks. Scottish organisations from both public and private sectors have been involved in programmes and formal cooperation initiatives since their inception. They have influenced their evolution and progression and have both contributed and gained resources, knowledge and results. Scottish partners are valued for their expertise in key sectors, their role as active and engaged participants, and for the quality of the systems and structures in place to manage the cooperation process. They also value the benefits of EU collaboration projects offer them.

There are clear perceived benefits from productive networking and exchange of ideas, capacity to operate at scale. Strategic engagement, long term partnership planning, and access to distinctive forms of funding. The Conference discussions acknowledged that the specific benefits of collaboration are sometimes intangible, subtle and difficult to quantify, while the process of managing and implementing the programmes can be complex. However, the programmes are well established, have the attraction of being formalised and regulated, and not merely ad hoc; further, as a small country, Scotland can participate in international cooperation on equal terms. There is a sense that cooperation has come of age in the current round of programmes and frameworks – people and organisations are seeking to maximise impacts. In doing so, collaboration is considered to be delivering;

- skills and institutional capacity;
- skilled jobs in key sectors;
- new products, services, sectors and markets;
- supporting product, service and policy innovation;
- building the profile and confidence of Scottish stakeholders; and
- internationalisation.

Although Scotland voted to remain in the EU, Brexit will be a reality and is already presenting challenges. The lack of clarity around the likely outcomes of Brexit negotiations was said to be damaging, with some delegates noting the impact of damaged levels of trust, loss of control and influence, loss of staff and loss of positions in project partnerships. In future, the ability of stakeholders to engage with counterparts in other European regions and communities will be compromised if resources for EU cooperation are no longer accessible, or are greatly reduced. Continuity of funding as a means of maintaining links and relationships was regarded as vital.

Much depends on the outcomes of the negotiations, and a substantial reassessment of Scottish involvement in EU collaboration will be necessary by the different sectors and interest groups in Scotland at policy, programme and project levels.

The Conference sessions and workshops consolidated the many experiences of Scottish partners and their thoughts on how that EU cooperation might be enhanced within an uncertain and dynamic environment. It was an important step towards gaining a fuller understanding what EU cooperation brings to Scotland, its perceived benefits as well as challenges, and what would be lost if opportunities to undertake EU project-based collaboration were to disappear. While the discussions emphasised the difficult uncertainties associated with Brexit, EU cooperation could help to maintain some continuity of networks.

The principal message from the conference is that stakeholders and participants want to remain involved in EU project based collaboration in the future. Linked to this, four conclusions and associated recommendations emerged:

- continuity of support and reputations are at risk without UK commitment to EU cooperation in the immediate term.
 - *Recommendation:* Early confirmation from UK Government of continued participation in these EU cooperation programmes and framework programmes beyond Brexit is essential. At a later date, it will be difficult to revive relationships with European partners if the current momentum of collaboration is not maintained.
- it remains (even more) important for Scotland to maintain presence and proactive participation in the current EU cooperation programmes following Brexit.
 - *Recommendation:* Maximise on-going involvement and engagement in the programmes, collaborations, policy platforms and other networking opportunities.
- Scotland should not 'sit back' and wait for Brexit to impact: we need to "participate, prioritise, be proactive and persist".
 - *Recommendation:* Proactive engagement in debates at Scotland, UK and EU levels in order to inform future thinking on preserving and extending links with EU partners. A strong voice, drive, commitment and leadership from Scottish Government is required, teamed with partnership, connectivity and a 'team Scotland' approach to external engagement.
- promote the benefits of EU project-based cooperation to inform Scotland's priorities for the forthcoming UK-EU negotiations and to target Scottish/UK interests in the future.
 - *Recommendation:* In order to inform future decision making on future collaboration, what to target, and identify emerging gaps in support, continue to build, evaluate and disseminate evidence to better inform Scotland's priorities for the forthcoming negotiations and post 2020.

6. ANNEX 1: WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

Workshop 1: What is key for Scotland in terms of continuing engagement in EU regional collaboration?

Q1: Having heard from the speakers in the morning session and from your own experience, what do you think are the priorities in this area?

There were a number of priorities expressed by the participants of this group: most notably people, being the 'partner of choice', positive approach, and policy and funding opportunities.

People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The main priority area raised by the majority of participants is that of freedom of movement, mobility and rights of citizens. It is clear that stakeholders would like a concentrated focus on this area, with some highlighting it to be necessary for those working in the scientific and educational community/sector to maintain this freedom of movement and rights – to ensure there is no loss of talent ▪ Influencing decision makers
Partner of choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying partners of choice and common interests, whilst maintaining our influence and communication with stakeholders on key policy areas and regulations, so that we too are seen as a partner of choice ▪ Continue to participate as an equal partner and maintain our offer ▪ Scope out beneficial cultural and geographical links where possible
Positive Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interact and engage in a positive and confident way, despite the ongoing uncertainties of Brexit ▪ Ensure we move forward in a way which allows us to prepare for the outcomes as they become apparent and to identify risks
Policy and Funding Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look for harmonisation with regards to regulations and the implementation of policy where possible, to ensure alignment with our EU partners to maintain successful engagement with them. ▪ Have a clear commitment to funding beyond Brexit. ▪ There is a strong will from the research community to maintain access to the EU Research and Innovation programme post-Brexit. Ensure that science is relevant by understanding markets and connecting the right companies to the right markets and knowledge

Q2: If we can agree those are the priorities, what do think are the main challenges and opportunities to continued engagement in EU regional collaboration?

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Perception of Scotland's willingness to maintain engagement with our EU partners ▪ Facilitation of Scottish collaborative activity ▪ Collective Scottish Stakeholder engagement ▪ More industry to industry/company to company collaboration (supply chains, R&D, etc) by Scottish companies ▪ Utilising the diverse networks we are currently engaged with and strengthening those relationships and activities further ▪ We have a strong research base and people want to collaborate with us, therefore we need to capitalise on that profile ▪ Identify where we can add value to Europe and where we can learn/be better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We want to engage, but are we still seen as a relevant and worthwhile partner? – Some participants felt that we were. However, others were did not feel as confident with this. We need to ensure that we stay a 'partner of choice' ▪ Institutional & political leadership and support. ▪ How do we ensure Scotland's voice in negotiations? There is a huge uncertainty in major decision making ▪ It will be harder to fund world-class R&D facilities in Scotland ▪ Resource and funding deficit. The availability of match funding to maintain activity in projects ▪ Tackling challenges collaboratively and across borders ▪ Understanding what may or may not happen – as there are so many different implications ▪ Facing tariffs and border controls ▪ Administration and bureaucracy ▪ It will be harder to engage in EU collaboration because we will be dealing with the consequences of Brexit. ▪ Time pressures - so much to do in a short space of time

Q3: How do we address/solve those obstacles? How can we approach these barriers, for example do we need to develop new relationships clearer messaging?

A number of ways to address the challenges identified were highlighted by;

- Continue to build relationships
 - Make common cause with others who share our priorities
 - Do it as a 'connected' Scotland - have a team Scotland position
 - Make use of support networks within Scotland and beyond (including those bigger than the EU)
- Persistence - showing up for everything - being visible
- Flexibility and compromise – including internally within the UK
- Regional scale involvement and sector level involvement, with joined up working at local level
- New ways of engaging people in policy conversations, proactive stakeholder engagement
- Communication –
 - to local organisations that they can still apply

- to potential EU partners that UK is still eligible
 - to decision makers about the positives of involvement in EU programmes
- Make better use of Scottish 'Hubs' and improve focus on economic opportunities
- Use key contacts and networks in Brussels and beyond to best effect
- Really focus on the key issues as priorities
- Encourage critical thought and new ideas
- Look for further opportunities
- Other vehicles for collaboration that are not EU-focused but have links e.g. Nordic Council
- Get clarity on political direction

Question 4: Are there additional things we need to be aware of/develop/pro-actively do?

- Utilise new technology and digital engagement post-event discussion, make things more available online and video/skype
- Facilitate more cross-member networking discussion and information-sharing
- Continue to engage with more EU partners/organisations
- Maintaining and strengthening relationships, be visible and network in Brussels and elsewhere
- Increase European stakeholder engagement with industry

Working Group 2: A regional approach – a perspective from other UK regions

Challenges	Opportunities
The EU's prescriptive top-down priority setting during 2014-2020 ESIF Programmes has made many of the ETC programmes too similar	Where economic geography of some ETC programmes no longer makes sense, there could be an opportunity for creating new geographies covering more of the UK. Sectors that participants saw of being of greatest priority are based around common challenges such as: health and social care; sub-sea marine energy
The UK lobby for continuing to access Horizon 2020 is strong, crowding out other EU Programmes with less of a galvanised sector group behind them	Need to ensure communication between European teams in the DAs and UKG are linked up to policy leads on key areas relevant to specific EU programmes
The diversity of the UK regional interests and political nuances makes a united front on what could be a common regional approach more challenging. There is an obvious gap of English regional representation..	Should we encourage the Northern Powerhouse city majors become more prominent in the future of European collaboration debate? Does this in turn exclude huge parts of England from having a voice?
With resource (time and money) scarce, it will be difficult to make case for continuation of status quo with future UK-European collaboration. Prioritisation is needed in terms of focus and targeted EU programmes.	Community and stakeholder engagement was identified as critical for building support and evidence base for continuing European collaboration on projects. Within this space, identifying case-study projects with impact which the general public can relate to is important. Also important is the ability to sell less tangible EU programmes to those in charge of budgets for UK Governments. This is a call to action for all people involved in delivery of EU projects to communicate their impact, and why collaboration is often greater than the sum of each individual partner's parts.

Working Group 3: How do we influence and maintain alignment with the future EU collaboration policy and funding instruments?

Q1: Which areas of policy & funding do you see as being main priorities for continued engagement with the EU, post Brexit?

Participants highlighted a range of instruments including, H2020, INTERREG, ERASMUS, Creative Europe, LIFE, DG Mare. Key policy areas identified were varied. However, it was also noted that these could be clustered. Included were: innovation, low carbon & renewables, energy, life sciences, marine resources, renewables, tourism, biodiversity, nature conservation, bio economy, environment, social innovation, health, inclusive society, historic environment, healthy ageing, agriculture and rural development, food security, transport and supply chain, regional connectivity, rural development, standards and regulation.

Areas of possible action include:

- make areas of added value clear;
- need to be pushing agendas/innovating/being adaptable;
- identify where collaboration is key, and mechanisms to retain;
- mobility of people is crucial– talent exchange;
- identify where engagement with UK government is important; and
- promote Scotland as pilot region – as test bed for, e.g. regional policy innovation.

Q2: In this new context, post Brexit, will we carry on engaging with the EU (institutions, partners) in same way – or will we need new ways? If so, what?

It was stressed that much will depend on the future rules/requirements for receiving/engaging in funding/policy programmes. Nevertheless the following suggestions were made.

- Relationships and 'soft power' need to be maintained and built – more important than ever.
- May need new mindset on engagement – explore bilateral partnerships (although these may be 'chaotic'/ad hoc.
- Build relationships in London and Brussels, e.g. through Scotland Europa.
- Use trade bodies
- Look more widely for partnerships and funding (IEA) international - EU not the only audience with whom we need to engage.
- Need a Team Scotland approach
- European networks – not all are dependent on EU membership. Maintain/build on those that aren't. Leaving the EU not Europe.
- Develop our own scenarios of priorities, opportunities, way forward – what would a successful outcome look like?

Q3: What are the 3-5 main actions / recommendations necessary for Scotland to maintain engagement and influence in future EU regional and innovation collaboration policy and funding arrangements?

Need clarification on:

- Shared Prosperity Fund (SF replacement) – what will it offer?

- Eligibility under on-going programmes, e.g. Framework programmes

Demonstrate the value of:

- transnational cooperation projects and Scotland's strengths and successes and advocate Scotland's contribution and involvement in EU programmes.

Engage:

- Try to retain access and engagement in current EU funding programmes
- Strengthen a coherent channel to collate and make representation of stakeholders needs in the UK:EU negotiations. Build and maintain relationships in EU and relevant UK departments.
- Maximise Scotland Europa and SG presence in Brussels

Prioritise

- Scotland should prioritise policy areas and unite around them. Should work on a Team Scotland basis. Use competitive advantage – promote specialisms and expertise
- Demonstrate what we have to offer – market our achievements / opportunities
- Promote sector specialisms: e.g. energy, low carbon, life sciences, social innovation, environment, historic environment, inclusiveness
- Promote Scotland as a test bed for regional innovation, given its unique position as region and nation and areas of specialisms and expertise.

Further issues to address

- Regulations and standards – need to look at how to approach this as it is cross-sectoral, i.e. in a block or prioritise
- Lobby for free flow of people for universities, research institutes and for companies (as opposed to immigration)
- Scottish Government devolved powers – review how we might use them differently

7. ANNEX 2: EU PROJECT BASED COLLABORATION: BACKGROUND

As part of an EU Member State, Scotland currently participates in several major collaboration and cooperation programmes and frameworks programmes and programmes, most notably Horizon 2020 and INTERREG, but also including, e.g. LEADER, LIFE+, Creative Europe and Erasmus+.¹¹



Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is 'Europe's Research and Innovation programme' – and was heavily referenced by speakers and delegates. For the 2014-2020 period Horizon 2020 has over €76 billion of funding available for research and innovation driven cutting-edge projects involving universities and research institutes, businesses, and public and third sector organisations. The programme focuses on the following three core themes:

- Excellent Science – aiming to strengthen the EU's position in science by providing a boost to top-level research in Europe, including through the European Research Council;
- Industrial Leadership – aiming to strengthen industrial leadership in innovation, including through major investment in key technologies and greater access to capital and support for Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SME);

¹¹ Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the culture and audiovisual sectors; LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU, LEADER initiative supports rural development projects initiated at the local level in order to revitalise rural areas and create jobs; Erasmus+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport and has supported significant numbers of student and staff exchanges, as well as joint project activities, in Scotland's schools, colleges and universities.

- Societal Challenges - to help tackle major societal challenges across Europe such as climate change; sustainable transport and mobility; making renewable energy more affordable; ensuring food safety and security; and coping with the challenge of an ageing population.¹²

Scottish universities and SMEs are active participants in Horizon 2020. Scottish organisations have successfully submitted applications within all pillars, most notably demonstrating strengths within frontier research with over 50%/ 147 million secured within the Excellent Science Pillar, €39 million has also been awarded within the ICT aspect of Industrial Leadership. Within the Societal Challenges Pillar, Scotland has demonstrated strengths in in Health, Food Security and Energy.¹³

INTERREG

Scottish stakeholders – development agencies, local authorities, universities/colleges and enterprises – are also long standing partners in INTERREG programmes. For over 25 years, European Territorial Cooperation programmes, most notably INTERREG, have provided EU and non-EU Member State regions with a framework to work across borders on shared economic, environmental and societal challenges and opportunities. The current programmes cover areas with key strategic links to Nordic and Scandinavian countries and regions, partners across the North Sea and Atlantic, cross border links with Ireland and Northern Ireland and the economic hubs of North West Europe. The current round of programmes, commenced in 2014, have so far produced a collective investment of more than - €46 million to jointly work on a wide range of issues, including business innovation, social innovation, marine energy, renewables, health. INTERREG programmes are mainly specific to identified regions; Scotland currently participates in one cross-border and four transnational programmes, as well as the EU-wide programmes INTERREG Europe and URBACT, which supports regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy through collaboration. The INTERREG programmes which are region specific to Scotland are:

Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme



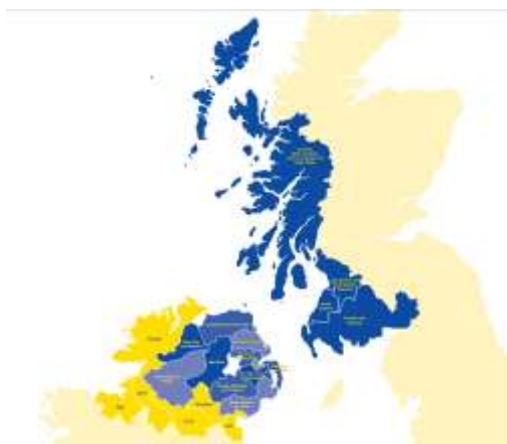
North Sea Region Programme



Northern Ireland, Ireland Scotland

¹² <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Business-Industry/support/Horizon2020>

¹³ Source: Scotland Europa



Atlantic Area Programme

Interreg



in Scotland

North West Europe Programme



Other EU Funds

Alongside H2020 and INTERREG, sectorally/thematically focussed frameworks and initiatives also play an important role, e.g. Creative Europe, LIFE, LEADER, and Marine Regional Cooperation. EU cooperation initiatives and programmes can be small scale, in comparison to major national or sectoral interventions; they operate across a broad policy spectrum and geographic levels; interventions often focus on innovative and/or niche areas of intervention, as such their direct impact can be difficult to measure. Although not the focus of the event, and not including transnational cooperation, there was also reference to Scotland's participation in the European Structural and Investment Fund (2014-2020), with particular focus on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF), for which Scotland secured a total investment of €941m split between €476m ERDF and €464m ESF allocation. Further resources have been secured through the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Historically, this has supported major investments in Scotland's innovation, business, skills, environment and voluntary sectors, particularly in the Highlands and Islands, which has qualified for additional support since the 1990s in recognition of regional disparities. Delegates were encouraged to remain active in current ESIF programmes, but across Scotland, there is significant concern over future regional policy and funding post Brexit. The UK Government's proposals for a Shared Prosperity Fund were mentioned in this context, but to date no detail is available.

8. ANNEX 3: CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

EXHIBITORS - EU COOPERATION & INNOVATION EVENT - 29 September 2017					
	Project	Programme		Contact	Email
1	SAINTS (Slow Adventures in Northern Territories)	Interreg NPA	UHI West Highland College, Centre for Recreation & Tourism Research	Sarah Bellshaw	sara.bellshaw.whc@uhi.ac.uk
2	Ocean Energy ERA NET	FP7	SE	Karen Fraser	karen.fraser@scotent.co.uk
3	RaiSE	Interreg Europe	SE	Darah Zahran	darah.zahran@scotent.co.uk
			SE		suzanne.orchard@scotent.co.uk
4	TR3S	Interreg Europe	SE	Gunjan Gadav	gunjan.yadav@scotent.co.uk
			SE	Alison Munro	alison.munro@scotent.co.uk
5	NESSIE	DG MARE	SE	Mark Georgeson	mark.georgeson@scotent.co.uk
6	MERIKA	FP7	UHI / ERI	Damian Collins	damian.collins@uhi.ac.uk
7	Recruit and Retain	Interreg NPA	NHS Western Isles / Centre for Rural Health	David Heaney	dhcrh@hotmail.co.uk
8	Various (22): Erasmus, Interreg,	Various	Glasgow Caledonian University	Pablo Lopez Alonso	Pablo.LopezAlonso@gcu.ac.uk
9	EnFAIT (Enabling Future Arrays in Tidal)	H2020	Nova Innovation	Gavin Mcpherson	gavin.mcpherson@novainnovation.com
10	ITTS: Implementing Transnational Telemedicine Solutions	Interreg NPA	Aberdeen University	David Heaney	dhcrh@hotmail.co.uk
11	Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project: HiViLo + HyTransit	FP7 FCHJU – Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking	Aberdeen City Council	Stuart Bews/ Emma Watt	StBews@aberdeencity.gov.uk
12	HyTrEc	Interreg NSR	Aberdeen City Council	Emma Watt/ Stuart Bews	ewatt@aberdeencity.gov.uk
13	Circular Ocean	Interreg NPA	UHI / ERI	Neil James	Neil.James@uhi.ac.uk
14	ALApp	Creative Europe	Historic Environment Scotland	Carsten Hermann	carsten.hermann@hes.scot

15	EFFESUS	FP7	Historic Environment Scotland	Carsten Hermann	carsten.hermann@hes.scot
16	SHEILA	Erasmus+	Edinburgh University	Yi-Shan Tsai	yi-shan.tsai@ed.ac.uk
17	Synthesis of Systematic Resources	FP7	Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh	Elspeth Haston	EHaston@rbge.org.uk
18	LAUREN (bLadder cAncer Urine cEll aNalysis)	H2020	Cysto Systems	Richard Berry	richard.berry@cytosystems.co.uk
19	IBIS (Integrated aquatic resources management across Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland)	Interreg IVA Programme: N. Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland	University of Glasgow	Colin Adam	colin.adam@glasgow.ac.uk
20	NorthSEE, MUSES, Ricore	Interreg NSR /H2020	Marine Scotland	Finlay Bennet	Finlay.Bennet@scot.gov lan.Davies@scot.gov
21	EU Network for Rural Development (ENRD)	EARFD	ENRD	John.Grieve	john@enrd.eu
22	Young Academy Brexit Observatory Report	No external funding	RSE/Young Academics of Scotland	Maria Ana Cataluna	m.cataluna@hw.ac.uk

9. ANNEX 4: CONFERENCE AGENDA

EU COOPERATION & INNOVATION – DELIVERING VALUE FROM OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

A SCOTTISH STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN COLLABORATION

#EUROPEANCOLLABORATION

Scotland remains committed to European regional collaboration and the value that brings to us and our partners across the EU. Recognising the value that such collaboration has brought to Scotland over the years – be it on regional policy and European Structural & Investment Funds; rural development; Smart Specialisation or research and innovation – this stakeholder forum will provide an opportunity for Scottish stakeholders to discuss the future development of European policy and instruments for collaboration and innovation, as well as the opportunities for our continued engagement.

Friday 29 September 2017	
The Royal Society of Edinburgh 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh	
<i>The conference will be facilitated by Professor John Bachtler, University of Strathclyde, Director European Policies (EPRC) and Research Centre, Fellow of RSE</i>	
09:15 – 09:45	Registration
09:45 – 10:00	Opening Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sir John Elvidge, Former Permanent Secretary 2003-2010, Fellow of RSE, and an Associate of the Institute for Government. ▪ Francesca Giannini, Scotland Europa EU Funding Senior Manager – Scottish Enterprise
10:00 – 10:30	Scotland's Place in Europe – the value of our European Partnerships A Key Note Speech will be delivered by Michael Russell MSP, The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe Followed by Q&A facilitated by Professor John Bachtler <i>The speech will be delivered via video link</i>
10:30 – 12:00	Scotland's European Collaboration – What's next? <i>European collaboration has brought value to Scotland in terms of exchange of good practice, policy learning and improving implementation. It has been</i>

	<p><i>key to developing relationships and networks that deepen and strengthen our collaborative capacity and ability to deliver in partnership. This panel discussion will consider our ongoing commitment to such work with our European partners, to continue to add value to their work as well as our own; and the emerging EU policy landscape for the post-2020 period with reflections on the implications of the ongoing Brexit negotiations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Andrew Scott, European Union Studies, The University of Edinburgh & Member of the Standing Council on Europe ▪ Professor Iain Gray, Director of Aerospace Cranfield University, Fellow of RSE, former CEO Innovate UK, member of the EU High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU research and innovation programmes (Lamy Group). ▪ Eleni Marianou, Secretary General, Conference for Peripheral and Maritime Regions ▪ Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive, European Policy Centre and Member of the Standing Council on Europe <p><i>During this panel discussion there will be opportunity for Q&A and we encourage the active participation from participants to contribute to the discussion and reflection.</i></p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Current funding programme opportunities - What can we do now?</p> <p><i>Whilst we have much to consider in relation to our future engagement in EU regional collaboration we do not want to have a hiatus in our EU collaboration work whilst we plan for the future, so what can we do now? Our speakers will consider the current EU funding and engagement opportunities, support available to engage in these opportunities and why it is important to continue this engagement.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tom Corker, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK Government ▪ Richard Buxbaum, Regional Contact Point Horizon 2020, Scottish Enterprise ▪ David Anderson, Deputy Director for Structural Funds, Scottish Government <p><i>During this discussion there will be opportunity for Q&A. A guide to available funding opportunities will also be distributed to participants.</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	<p>Networking Lunch</p> <p><i>There will also be an exhibition of projects from Scottish partners</i></p>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>The Future of European Collaboration and Engagement</p> <p><i>Breakout discussion and reflection sessions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group 1 (Blue – Wolfson Lecture Theatre): What is key for Scotland in terms of continuing engagement in EU collaboration? <p><i>Lead contributor: Mike Neilson, Director of the Scottish Government Brussels Office.</i></p>

	<p><i>This discussion group will focus on Scotland's continued engagement from the perspective of maintaining our profile as a partner of choice with our European and International partners. How to approach this and what we need to develop and pro-actively do.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group 2 (Red – Scott Room): A regional approach – perspectives from other UK regions <p><i>Lead contributor: John Maxwell, Head of State Aid and Territorial Programmes Unit – Scottish Government</i></p> <p><i>This discussion group will focus on perspectives from across the UK, what they are, how they align with Scotland's views.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group 3 (Green – Upper Gallery) - How do we influence and maintain alignment with the future EU collaboration policy and funding instruments? <p><i>Lead contributor: Linda Stewart, Director of European and International Development, University of the Highlands and Islands</i></p> <p><i>This discussion group will focus on Scotland's main priorities and challenges for maintaining influence and alignment with the EU policy and funding instruments after the UK has exited the EU and beyond 2020.</i></p>
15:00 – 15:35	<p>Scottish stakeholder benefits and impact of EU collaboration & engagement via EU programmes and/or networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Valeria Ferrando, EU Head of Research, IES Ltd ▪ Brian McVey, Head of EU Engagement, Scottish Enterprise <p><i>Speakers will demonstrate the benefits and impacts of EU programmes, highlighting the main aspects of EU collaboration and engagement which they have found of most value and why it is important to continue this work.</i></p>
15:35 – 16:10	<p>Feedback from each of discussion sessions</p> <p><i>Feedback will be delivered by each of the facilitators from the discussion sessions.</i></p>
16:10 – 16:25	<p>Conclusions and wrap up</p> <p>Professor John Bachtler, Director EPRC, University of Strathclyde, FRSE</p>
16:25 – 16:30	<p>Close of conference</p> <p>Francesca Giannini, EU Funding Senior Manager, Scotland Europa</p>
<p>- The conference will be followed by a networking reception -</p>	