

# Academia after Brexit

What are the potential implications for exchange students and academic workers after Brexit?

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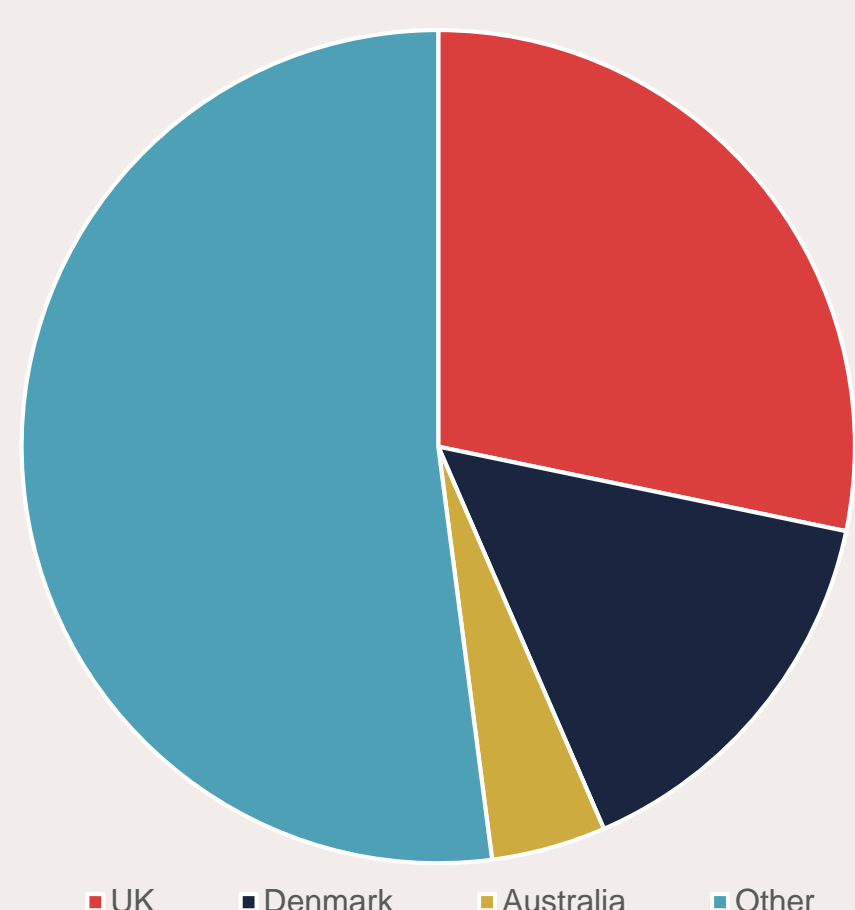
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## Current numbers from Erasmus+

In 2017, 47 455 participants in 742 UK projects benefited from mobility in higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult learning and youth for a total grant amount of €105.77 million.

Norwegian students studying abroad (2016)



## Two outcomes

November 14th, 2018, under the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, it was agreed that the UK will still be a part of Erasmus+ until the end of the UK membership on the 31st of December 2020. After this period there are two outcomes:

- 1 The UK becomes a 'third country associated to the programme' like other EFTA countries part of the EEA Agreement and have no decision-making power.
- 2 The UK become a 'third country *not* associated with the programme' which will look significantly different from its time within the programme.

## Academic qualifications

The acknowledgement of school periods abroad will not be affected by Brexit as the EU have no management over this. But, the European Commission has proposed for a Council Recommendation on a system that will automatically recognize higher education, which will be relevant for the member states, although not binding. This means UK can implement the law as wanted no matter outcome.

## Professional qualifications

Different to academic qualifications, some professions are regulated by EU rules, therefore professional qualifications are too. Because of the freedom of movement for workers, freedom of establishment, freedom to provide service, and the single market in the EU professional qualifications in the EU need to be regulated and approved according to the regulations. Under some conditions these qualifications can be attained by an EU citizen in a different EU member state or by an EU citizen in a third country.

## Implications

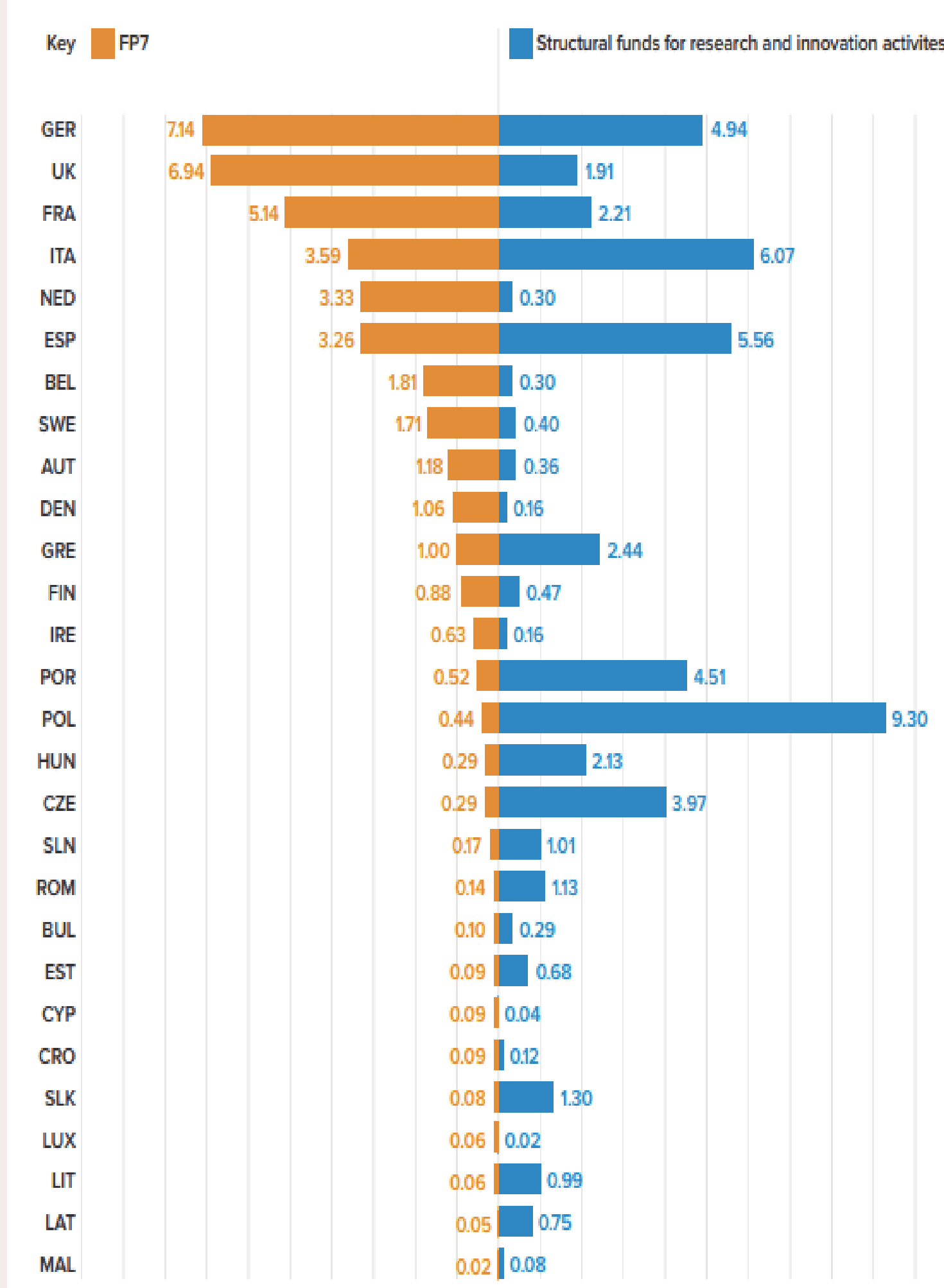
In the ongoing Brexit negotiations between Britain and the EU, there are major questions, policies and deals that needs to be fleshed out and negotiated on. In most cases science and research has been overlooked and not been a major part of these negotiations. And there is a lack of news reported to the media on what might be the implications of Brexit on science and research community in the UK and EU. So, what might these implications be?

# 66%

of the UK science and engineering trade unions European members, have considered leaving the country after Brexit.

In case of a no-deal Brexit this means that the UK will lose access to three major funds in the EU scientific funding programme Horizon 2020. The UK have received 15.4% of these funds, only second to Germany. If the UK lose access to these funds it will cripple major parts of the research community in the UK.

Distribution of EU expenditure on research, development and innovation (Framework Programme 7 and structural funds) in EU-28 countries. 2007 – 2013 (€ billion).



## Uncertainty

In a recent statement, the Norwegian Research Council warned Norwegian scientists about participating in new research projects coordinated by British institutions and organizations. The reasoning behind this statement is that the future for foreign scientists working in the UK, and for UK scientists work in EU is very uncertain. A major implication will be the freedom of movement within EU. It is clear that if this happens, it will be a major blow to the research community and for finances.

## Future funding

Brexit will in addition mean that the UK will be regarded as a third country when applying for the upcoming Horizon Europe funding programme succeeding Horizon 2020. This means they will gain significantly less and have no power when negotiating funds.

## What will happen?

It's difficult to predict the outcomes of the ongoing Brexit discussion within the academic world. The biggest problem might just be the uncertainty.

Regardless of the outcome, it will affect both students and academic workers.

## REFERENCES

Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, 2018.  
The Erasmus+ Annual Report 2017.  
[Chemistryworld](#)  
[Forskningrådet](#)  
[Labfolder](#)  
Photo by [Vasily Koloda](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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