

Events

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Response Type:
Normal ResponseCollector:
Web Link
(Web Link)Custom Value:
emptyIP Address:
87.238.217.70Response Started:
Monday, July 22, 2013 3:56:51 PMResponse Modified:
Monday, July 22, 2013 4:06:38 PM

1. Name:

2. Organisation (if applicable):

CEFAS

3. Email address:

4. Address:

5. In responding, it would be helpful if you could indicate whether you are responding as

a government body

6. Keeping in touch

No Response

1. 1. Where has EU action had a positive impact for the UK on research, technological development, innovation or space? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action encouraged national action in any areas?

The EU launch calls to work on research and development in areas deemed important at the National and European level. Work on these calls is generally in consortia using researchers from across the EU. Advantages of this approach include: a. Allowing collaborations between institutes which had previously not had the resources for such collaborations b. Developing the science in areas of importance at a National and EU level c. Focussing (by providing funds) advances into areas of strategic or tactical importance rather than funding a broad range of scientific activity. Specific examples relevant to the above are available in the areas of capture fisheries research, marine biotechnology, aquaculture science, aquatic animal disease, marine pollution, food safety and many more.

2. 2. Where has EU action had a negative impact for the UK in these fields? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action prevented potentially useful national action in any areas?

We are not aware of areas of scientific endeavour where action at the EU level has prevented action at the national level. On the contrary, EU initiatives have allowed funding into areas of research which have benefitted the UK. One negative aspect is that institutes must provide "matched funding" for some research calls and, with the decline in UK government funds available for research in the UK, this has meant that we have been unable to apply for some EU research funds, even though we were competent to participate.

3. 3. How and where has UK engagement with partner countries or international bodies, both within and outside the EU, been helped or hindered by EU involvement?

As mentioned under 1, engagement with scientists in partner countries has been very beneficial, allowing collaborations in areas of science that would have been difficult without the advantage of an appropriate EU call.

4. 4. What benefits or difficulties has the objective of a European research area (ERA) delivered for the UK?

We have no experience of the ERA so cannot comment.

5. 5. How has the EU sought to coordinate the policy instruments at its disposal across different policy areas to create an enabling environment for researchers and innovators? How successful has this been?

Our involvement with EU policy instruments is limited and we have no insight into coordination across policy areas.

1. 6. What could the EU most helpfully do to promote scientific and technological progress and innovation (including in the space sector)? - How could the EU use its existing competence differently to deliver more in your area? - How might a greater or lesser degree of EU competence deliver more in your area? - How could improvements to existing EU activities make them more effective and efficient?

Continue to fund areas of strategic and tactical importance to the UK and the EU. Improvement could be made by: a. Removing the need for matched funding, allowing open competition in all areas in which an institute might be competent. b. Reduce the complexity of submissions, which at present create an administrative burden to the submitting institutes. c. Simplify the requirements for financial reporting which add to the administrative costs

2. 7. Where might future EU level action be detrimental to your work in this area?

We are not aware of any scenario where future EU action might be detrimental to the work of our organisation

3. 8. Where might action at national rather than EU level be more appropriate / effective?

UK scientists and policy makers work within an EU framework, prioritising those areas which are strategically and tactically important to the UK and the EU. The UK has the ability to influence the content of funding initiatives via its consultative networks, channelled, in our case, through UK government policy making departments. As such we are not aware of any area in which UK action might be more appropriate.

4. 9. How could EU and national policies and funding streams interact better?

Better integration of UK calls and research initiatives with EU calls would be advantageous to the UK (allowing more value for money by linking in projects in related areas) and scientists (allowing more deliverables in related areas).

5. 10. What impact would any future enlargement of the EU have on this area of competence?

We have no comments, negative or positive, on this subject

6. 11. Are there any other points you wish to make which are not captured above?

The EU is an important funder of research in the UK. Without EU funding, UK scientists would have to rely on research councils, miscellaneous funding from different government departments and commercial funding. EU research funding ensures coordination and collaboration across Europe and is a cost effective approach. The EU funds applied research which supports policy making at the national and EU level. Loss of EU funding would have a substantial detrimental impact on the UK's science capability.

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