

# The Impact of Brexit in SRUK/CERU members

## March 2017

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### Survey report

#### INTRODUCTION

Last June 23, 51.9% of the British population voted for Brexit. Six months later, Theresa May, the Prime Minister, has explained the intentions of the government to invoke the Article 50 of 'Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union'. This Article formally notifies the voluntary and official withdrawal of a member state. Once article 50 is invoked, it will begin a 2-year period to negotiate the conditions for separation.

European citizens who live and work in the UK are likely to be affected by this result. The National Statistics Office estimates that around 3.3 million of EU citizens live in UK. It estimates that approximately 129,000 are Spanish nationals.

The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK) has more than 600 members. They work and study in all scientific disciplines and are at different levels in their careers, ranging from undergraduate students to professors. The highest representation is at a postdoctoral level. In order to gather some insights from our members on how Brexit will affect their lives in the UK, we have conducted a survey.

#### SURVEY TECHNICAL INFORMATION

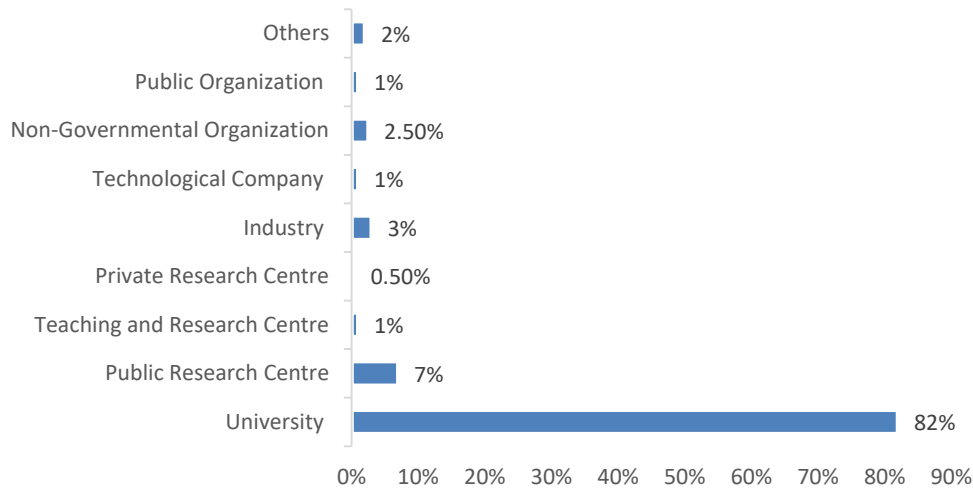
This report presents the results of the SRUK/CERU Survey on Brexit, hosted by Survey Monkey, and distributed among the 354 regular and associate members of SRUK/CERU between the 28<sup>th</sup> October and the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. A total of 201 members answered this survey. The survey was designed by the Science Policy Committee of the Society and approved by the board of directors. The results of the entire survey are enclosed in this document.

London, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017



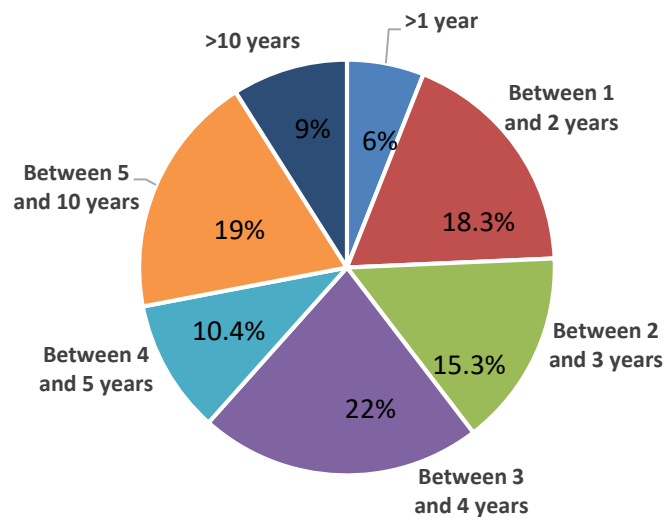
## 1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

### a. Professional affiliation



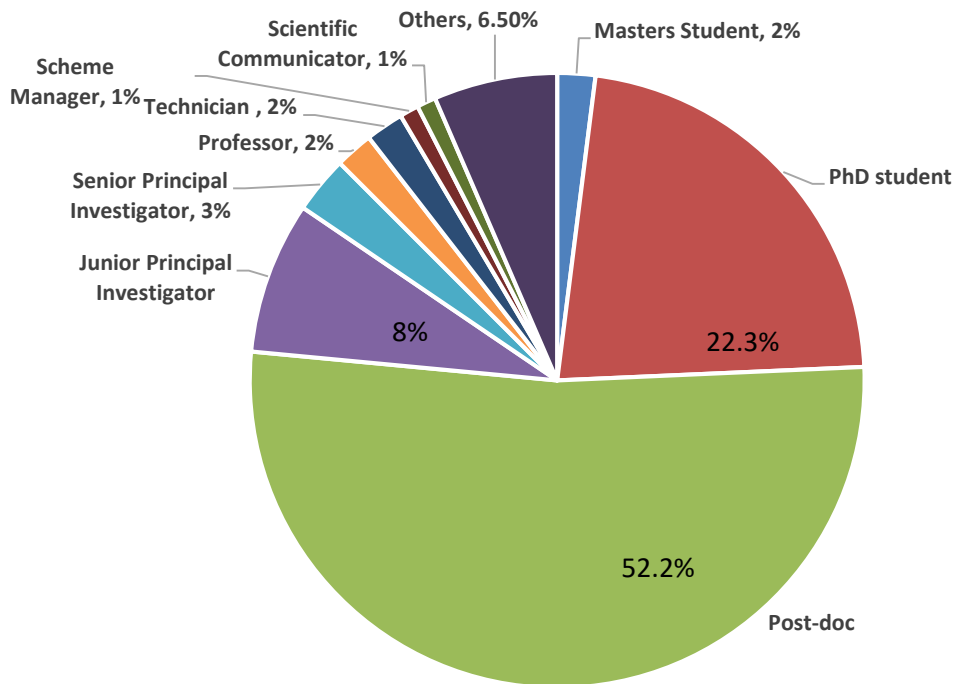
*Most of the respondents work at universities (82%) or public research centres (7%).*

### b. Time living in the UK



*SRUK/CERU members that responded to the survey have lived in the UK for a variable numbers of years, the highest percentage are between 1-2 years (18%), 2-3 years (15%) or 3-4 years (22%).*

### c. Career stage



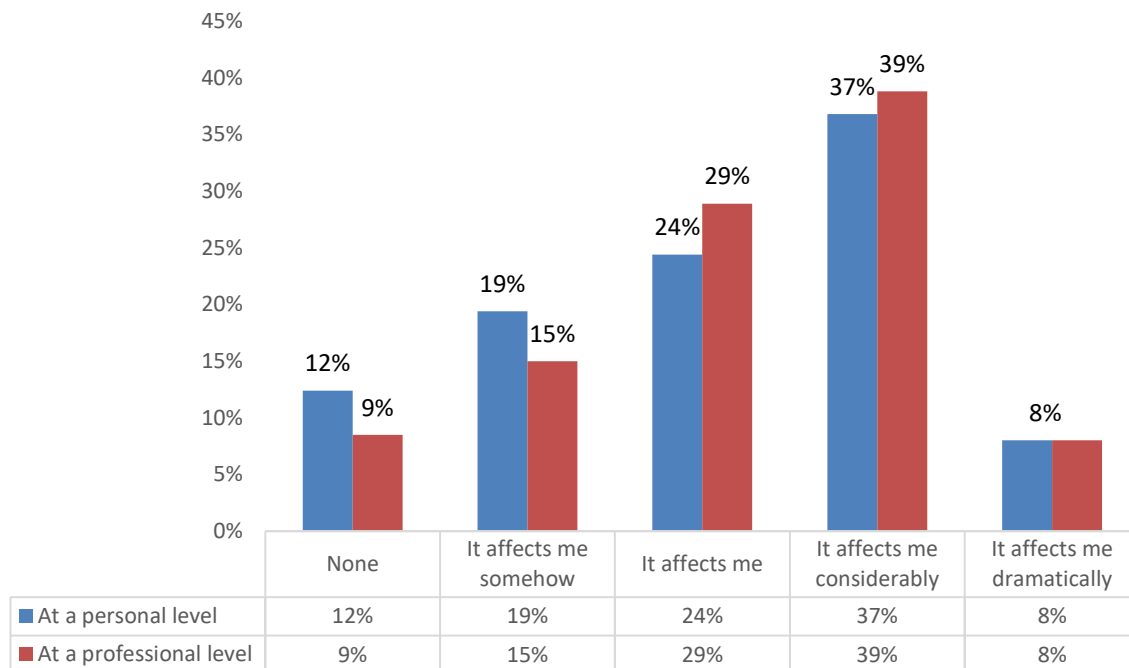
*Postdoctoral researchers (52%) and PhD students (22.3%) are the professional categories more represented in this survey.*

### d. Year when current contract will end

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Permanent
15%	28%	21%	11%	4.5%	1%	19.5%

*The vast majority of the respondents will have finished their contracts by 2018 and only 19.5% hold permanent contracts.*

## 2. ASSESS THE IMPACT THAT THE RESULT OF THE EU REFERENDUM HAS HAD/WILL HAVE IN YOUR LIFE



*The majority of SRUK/CERU members think that Brexit will impact them considerably or dramatically, at a personal (45%) and professional (47%) level.*

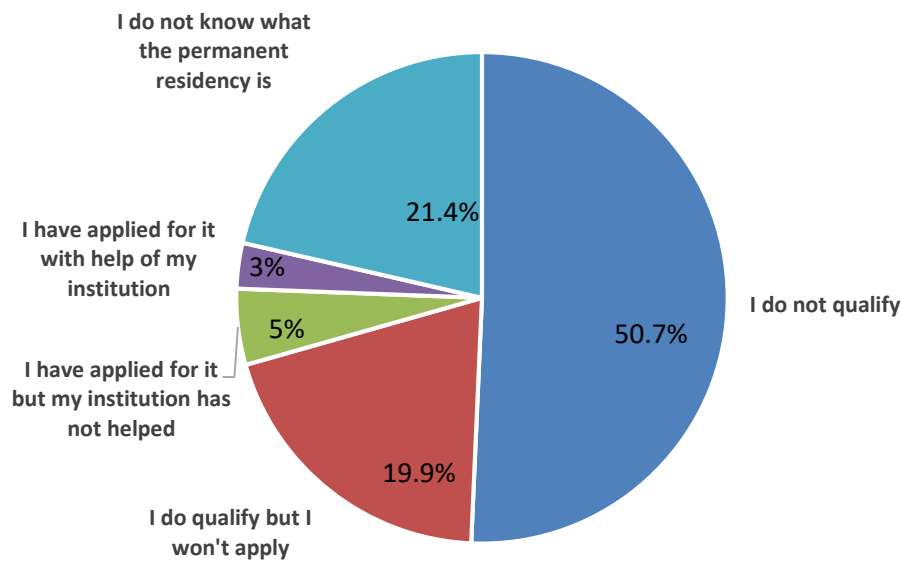
### 3. THE RESULT OF THE EU REFERENDUM CAN AFFECT SEVERAL AREAS OF THE R&I SYSTEM. PLEASE ASSESS THE RELEVANCE OF THIS RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Answer Options	None	Some relevance	Considerable relevance	High relevance	Dramatic relevance
Movement of skilled workers	0	6.5	21.40%	44.30%	27.80%
Movement of relatives with skilled workers	1%	6.5	21.40%	42.30%	28.80%
Bureaucracy to live and work in the UK	0	2%	15.40%	40.30%	42.30%
British economy	0	2%	20%	35.30%	42.70%
Access to European research funding	0	0.50%	9.50%	28.40%	61.60%
Access to British funding	9.50%	15.40%	24.90%	28.90%	21.30%
Opportunities to progress in your career	2.50%	15.40%	26.40%	39.30%	16.40%
Changes in legislation in your research field	5%	19.40%	26%	37.30%	12.30%
Academic fees	5%	10%	28%	30.40%	26.60%
Change in the rights of Europeans residents in the UK	1%	6%	21%	37.30%	34.70%
Discrimination/ social tension	3.00%	10.00%	21.00%	31%	35%

*A majority of respondents (61.6%) believe that to have access to European funding could be dramatically affected by Brexit.*

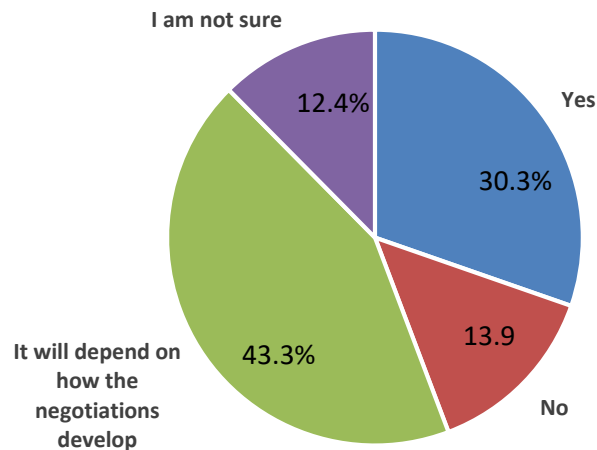
## 4. FUTURE PLANS

a. If you qualify for the permanent residency, would you be interested in applying for it? Is your host institution helping with the application?



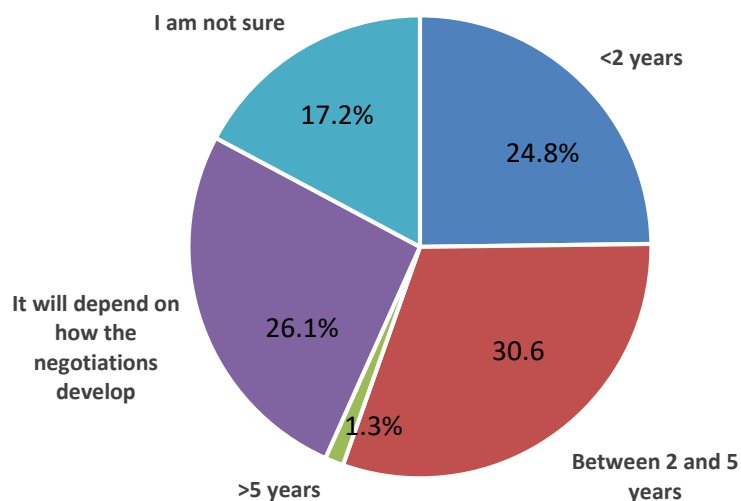
*Half of SRUK/CERU members that completed this survey do not qualify for permanent residency in UK.*

## b. Have your future plans changed due to Brexit?



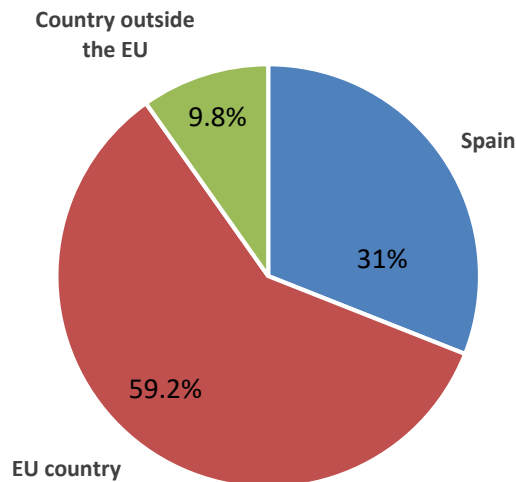
*Most of SRUK/CERU members are waiting for the negotiations to decide on their future (43%), whereas 30% of them have already changed their plans due to the EU referendum.*

## c. How much longer will you stay in the UK?



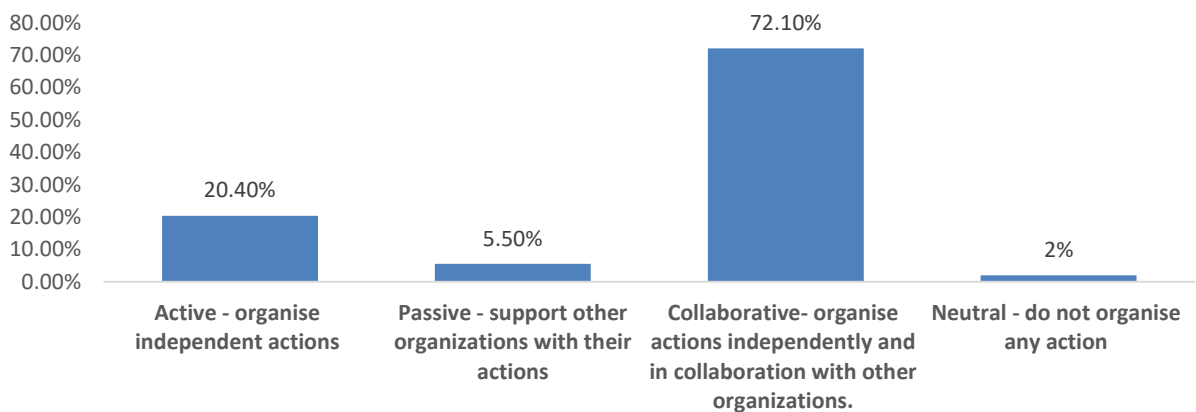
*Most of the respondents intend to stay in the UK between 2-5 years (31%) or less than 2 years (25%), whereas 26% wait for the negotiations to develop.*

## d. If you move to another country, where will you go?



*In the event of moving to another country, most of the respondents would go to another EU country (59%) and 30% would move back to Spain.*

## 5. WHAT POSITION SHOULD SRUK/CERU TAKE DURING THE BREXIT PROCESS?



*A collaborative approach, where SRUK/CERU organizes actions both independently and in collaboration with other societies, is preferred among the members that answered the survey.*



## ABOUT SRUK/CERU

[The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom](#) (SRUK/CERU) is an independent non-profit organisation officially established in 2012.

The Society's mission focuses on four pillars:

- To promote networking within the community of Spanish Researchers working in the United Kingdom.
- To represent Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom to British and Spanish organizations, the society and the media.
- To help closing the gap between researchers and the general public through scientific outreach.
- To develop collaborations between our members and R&I-led institutions and businesses in Spain and the UK.

For further information, see our [Objectives](#).

**Spanish Researchers in the UK (SRUK/CERU)**  
**London, March 2017**

