

Response to the UK Research and Development Roadmap

In response to the [UK Research and Development Roadmap](#), published by the British Government on July 1, 2020, the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU) states:

SRUK/CERU favours the recent publication of the R&D roadmap. Along with the commitment to increase the R&D spending during the following years, it suggests that the government regards science and innovation as essential areas for the future. The R&D roadmap has brought our attention to two aspects outlined in it:

- The will to maintain the international collaborations across Europe and participate in the EU funding programs, such as Horizon Europe and Euratom R&T. In our opinion, this is a positive pledge, even more so considering that the government foresees a compensation funding scheme to avoid a funding gap if a deal is not achieved. Likewise, we support the intention of providing funding to UK partners willing to participate in European programs open to third countries. We consider that preserving collaborations between UK and EU research groups is crucial, particularly upon Brexit. Indeed we have carefully monitored the impact of Brexit on Spanish researchers working in the UK, and this remains as a main cause of concern – as does potential loss of EU or UK funding, or changes in their rights to live and work in the country, according to [our latest survey](#).
- The aim of attracting global talent and facilitating the process for settling in the UK and finding a position in the R&D system. We favour the decisions of not requiring a job offer to come to the UK, the possibility of living and working in the UK three years after the PhD or two years after the master's and undergraduate degrees. We believe that providing clarity through a detailed picture of the possibilities that the UK offers will contribute to recover the attractiveness that the UK has lost among our members.

In conclusion, we see this R&D roadmap as a positive step and we hope that it shows a trend where a progressive clarification of the future legal framework will be provided to EU citizens who either live and work in the UK currently or are planning to do so in the near future. Therefore, we encourage the government to provide further details about how the Global Talent Visa system will work and the possibilities that it entails.

London, July 2, 2020

