

## Response to the UK Research and Development Roadmap

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

SRUK/CERU welcomes the recent publication of the UK R&D roadmap. Along with the renewed commitment to increase the R&D spending to 2.4% of GDP by 2027, it suggests that the government regards research and innovation as essential areas for the future. The R&D roadmap has brought our attention to two aspects outlined in it:

- The ambition to maintain and strengthen international collaborations across Europe and participate in the EU funding programmes, such as Horizon Europe and Euratom R&T. In our opinion, this is a very positive pledge, even more so considering that the government foresees an alternative 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 programmes open to third countries. We consider that preserving collaborations between UK and EU research groups is crucial, particularly upon Brexit. We have carefully monitored the impact of Brexit on Spanish researchers working in the UK, and this remains 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 and retaining global talent. We welcome 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 graduating with a PhD from a UK university or two years after a master's or undergraduate degree. 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 the Global Talent Visa Reform and the possibilities that it entails, together with a comprehensive Action or Implementation Plan to better understand how this vision will be fulfilled.

London, July 2, 2020

