

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in European research. Harnessing vibrant communities

ITRE working group meeting

Social sciences and cultural and creative industries in H2020. Implementation of Challenge 6 and mainstreaming social sciences into pillars II and III.

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- **International network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for Societal Challenge 6 "Europe in a changing world: Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies" (SC6) in Horizon 2020 - EU Programme for Research & Innovation**
- Established in February 2008
- Members from more than 50 countries in Europe and beyond

Net4Society

**European
Commission**



**Research
Community &
NCPs**

What is SSH integration – A researcher's point of view

SSH integration is **NOT** :

1. Designing Business Plans
2. Stakeholder Participation
3. Communication and Dissemination activities
4. Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)
5. Ex-post social acceptance of technological innovations...

 ***SSH integration is SSH RESEARCH in interdisciplinary projects where SSH is not merely an ex-post add-on to otherwise technological projects.***

SSH Facts and Figures

- SSH represent the largest research community and the largest student body in higher education in Europe (with an overall share of more than 40%)
- SSH are not a monolith – they are themselves interdisciplinary, combining different methodologies and research approaches
- Traditionally very strong and diverse communities (especially in comparison with the US or China in this area) because of high variety of histories and cultures. Essential in a global intercultural world...
- High impact of this community on European priorities e.g. the European agenda set in July 2014 by the new EP after the Juncker's plan

Facts and Figures: Budgets

- With SSH increased relevance in the European Framework Programmes (since FP 6) oversubscription has been an ongoing and ever-increasing problem
- In FP 7, Priority 8 (SSH) - Success Rate: 13% (FP7 overall 20%)
- Horizon 2020, SC 6 – average 9% (including non SSH), humanities related topics below 2%. (H2020 overall average 13,5%)
- Highest oversubscription also applies to SSH in the ERC, the ERA-Nets HERA (2,5%) and Norface, and COST (4%)
- Europe's largest research community has access to extremely limited research funding opportunities in Horizon 2020 (1,2 % budget share), which, in turn, limits the overall impact this research can have, including outside Europe

In a global world, European SSH research should circulate more, not less.

Consequentially....

The considerable budget decrease (by more than 30%) from FP7 Theme 8 to H2020 SC6 in collaborative SSH research actually prevents the circulation of knowledge in Europe and outside Europe which Europe embodies!

Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities throughout Horizon 2020

The Commission has dedicated substantial efforts into the integration of SSH research by:

1. Flagging SSH relevant topics of all Work Programmes (37% in WP 14/15; 41% WP 16/17)
2. Monitoring SSH integration (SSH 2014 Integration Report) which has documented the need for further improvement
3. Increasing SSH awareness within the Commission services (RTD and beyond) and Programme Committees
4. Increasing the involvement of SSH community in the implementation, including the introduction of the SSH Stakeholders' workshop in 2014
5. Supporting Net4Society with its integration activities (including co-NCPs activities)

How can interdisciplinarity work?

- The topics should be drafted in order to motivate interdisciplinarity
- SSH researchers need to be included at the onset of the design process, not as an after thought or “add-on”.
- SSH-expertise must be mandatory in the evaluation of interdisciplinary project proposals – and an evaluation criteria
- Contributions from Arts and Humanities should be taken into account more adequately
- Interdisciplinarity is not only a top-down process... How to convince the scientific communities to cooperate?

Conclusion

Europe needs 'research on societies'

The need for SSH research is more rather less in Europe given such issues as:

- Migration and integration of migrants
- The future of European democracies
- Peace within Europe and European defense
- Inequalities & social welfare issues
- Employment and sustainable growth (beyond GDP)
- Culture and education in Europe
- Europe's interaction with the world

Why should we weaken our capacities to think our future?

Recommendation for „FP9“

These topics demand their own ‘Societies Challenge’, they cannot be mainstreamed across other challenges

A dedicated society-focused programme is needed:

- with an adequate budget
- new instruments and designs for interdisciplinary research projects, while guaranteeing a close monitoring of the process



Integration of SSH throughout H2020 and **society-focused Challenge** complement each other

Thank you for your attention!

- Social networks



- Newsletters

- ISSUES e-magazine
- e-newsletter

- Website

www.net4society.eu

The screenshot shows the Net4Society website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Net4Society logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a main content area with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains a menu with items: Home, News, About the Project, Research Directory, Partner Search Support, Horizon 2020 Call Information, Other SSH Funding Opportunities, SSH Events, Increasing SSH Visibility, SSH Embedding in H2020, Library and Links, Newsletters, and Login for SC6 NCPs. The main content area features a large headline: "Net4Society - International network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Societal Challenge 6 in Horizon 2020". Below this headline, there is a text box describing the network and its purpose. To the right of the text box, there is a social media section with "LIKE US ON FACEBOOK" and "FOLLOW US ON TWITTER" buttons. Below the social media section, there is a "PARTNER COUNTRIES" section with a map of Europe. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a "HIGHLIGHTS" section with three items: "15.11.2016 - 16.11.2016 | BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA" with the headline "Social Sciences and Humanities: a New Agenda for Europe's Challenges", "14.03.2016" with the headline "First edition of e-magazine 'ISSUES - The voice of SSH in Europe' has been published!", and "Opportunities for Researchers from the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020 in Work Programme 2016/17".

Net4Society

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Login for SC6 NCPs

Net4Society - International network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Societal Challenge 6 in Horizon 2020

Net4Society is the international network of National Contact Points for the Societal Challenge 6 ("Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies") in Horizon 2020. National Contact Points (NCPs) are set up to guide researchers in their quest for securing EU funding.

This website is aimed at researchers and stakeholders interested in Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge 6 "Europe in a changing world". It is particularly relevant for researchers from the Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH). The information on this website will help you find funding opportunities for your research project and provide you with up-to-date information on the European Commission's funding schemes.

HIGHLIGHTS

15.11.2016 - 16.11.2016 | BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

"Social Sciences and Humanities: a New Agenda for Europe's Challenges"

An international conference on Social Sciences and Humanities during SK PRES in 2016, organised with a financial support of and cooperation with the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation. → [more]

14.03.2016

First edition of e-magazine "ISSUES - The voice of SSH in Europe" has been published!

This edition deals with a review and interviews with key speakers of the Trust-conference Horizon 2020, the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) 2015 in Paris and SSH publications for Policy Makers. → [more]

Opportunities for Researchers from the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020 in Work Programme 2016/17

Net4Society has recently published the new document "Opportunities for Researchers from the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities", which contains the full texts of SSH relevant Horizon 2020 Topics in Work Programme 2016/2017. → [more]

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Jennifer Striebeck providing overview of social science and

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DOCUMENTS

Net4Society Project leaflet [PDF - 785.6 kB]

LINKS

Newsletter and

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