European Commission

Commission proposal for
Horizon Europe

THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021 – 2027)

#HorizonEU

Krzysztof Kania

Policy Officer, DG RTD unit B6 - Inclusive societies

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Research and Innovation

UNIT B6 OPEN AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
Areas of activity

➢ Coordination of Societal Challenge 'Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies' (SC6)

➢ Integration of Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH) in the calls of Horizon 2020

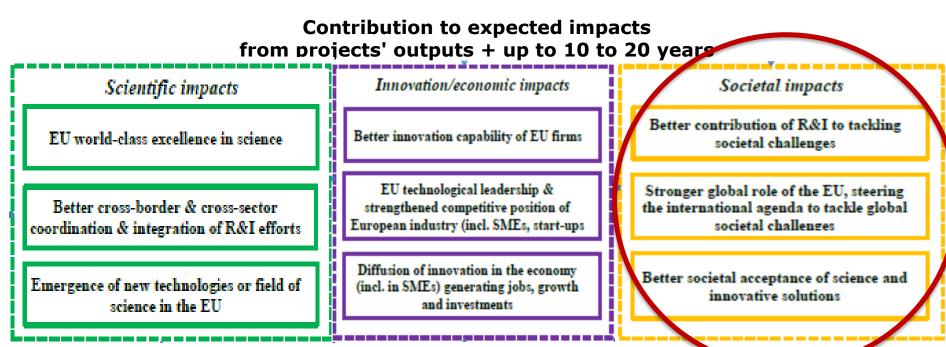➢ Focus on policy-relevant thematic priorities such as;

Migration & Mobility	Radical ideologies & societal polarisation	Reversing inequalities	Employment & New Growth	Cultures & Citizenship

➢ Management of 100 running projects (FP7 & Horizon 2020)

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CLASSIFICATION OF IMPACTS FOR THE INTERIM EVALUATION HORIZON 2020

**Contribution to expected impacts
from projects' outputs + up to 10 to 20 years**

Scientific impacts	*Innovation/economic impacts*	*Societal impacts*
EU world-class excellence in science	Better innovation capability of EU firms	Better contribution of R&I to tackling societal challenges
Better cross-border & cross-sector coordination & integration of R&I efforts	EU technological leadership & strengthened competitive position of European industry (incl. SMEs, start-ups)	Stronger global role of the EU, steering the international agenda to tackle global societal challenges
Emergence of new technologies or field of science in the EU	Diffusion of innovation in the economy (incl. in SMEs) generating jobs, growth and investments	Better societal acceptance of science and innovative solutions

Source: Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020

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1. Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

Current situation

a. Monitoring:

- **Monitoring reports are <u>produced every year</u> to establish to what extent SSH disciplines/aspects/partners are involved in Horizon 2020**

- **The latest report (published in May 2018 based on 2016 data) covers <u>pillars 2 and 3, plus the ERC</u>**

- **The results are <u>fairly stable</u>. Around <u>20% of the budget</u> to projects under topics flagged for SSH go to SSH partners. Quite large differences between Work programme parts, and from year to year.**

- **The work on 2017 data has started and we will expand the coverage to <u>FET, RI and MSCA</u>**

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b. State of play in Horizon 2020:

- Approx. <u>43%</u> of topics in WP 2018-20 <u>flagged for SSH</u> (more than 50% in several Societal challenges). Gradual increase since 2014.

- The main criticism we get from stakeholders is that in practice there is <u>little real interdisciplinarity</u> in collaborative projects

- The collaboration with our internal network of SSH contact points works well – and our impression is that <u>current topic texts cover better SSH and STEM related issues</u> in WP 2018-20 than in previous years

- Fair to say that in many large consortiums the STEM disciplines dominate, and the SSH part is often modest and <u>becomes an add-on</u> to the proposal/project

2. Integration of SSH

Main questions/themes

Topic design/co-creation:

- To attract interest from the SSH community topics have to be written in a way that <u>invites contributions from a broad spectre</u> of disciplines and sectors

- It is essential – at least under Societal challenges – that topics are <u>not too technically described</u>, but that they include references to social, political, economic, legal, human and/or cultural aspects

- Ideally this should happen <u>early in the process</u>, experience shows that if a topic is fully drafted it becomes difficult to integrate SSH aspects

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Flagging:

- The <u>share number of flagged topics</u> makes it difficult to attract the right type of expertise to collaborative projects

- We should discuss <u>what makes a topic relevant for SSH</u> contribution; acceptance of technology or public engagement does not make it into an "SSH topic"

- If flags are put with no justification it <u>becomes counterproductive</u> (i.e. relevant for SSH is not the same as scientific contribution from SSH researchers on the same footing as STEM)

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Inputs to topics in 2020:

- **2020 topics should form a <u>bridge to Horizon Europe</u>**

- **Based on previous experiences with flagging <u>quality remains more important</u> than quantity**

- **Unit B6 is ready to give input – and ideally co-create!**

3. Integration of SSH

State of play and options to consider ahead of Horizon Europe

Widening the scope of our regular monitoring reports:

- For the next report we aim to also cover FET, MSCA and RI

- In Horizon Europe our ambition is to cover <u>the whole programme</u>

- We aim to have a larger focus on the <u>actual cooperation between SSH and STEM</u> under collaborative projects (obstacles, differences in methodology, innovation aspects etc,)

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Evaluation:

- **At EU-level (and in MS/AC) evaluation of proposals in the middle of several scientific – or indeed policy – fields are <u>more difficult to manage</u>**

- **We need more evaluators with background from SSH disciplines/ civil society/across sectors to <u>properly assess</u> interdisciplinary proposals**

- **In Horizon Europe we should aim to involve <u>at least one</u> evaluator with <u>either SSH or interdisciplinary expertise</u> under topics/missions with SSH relevance**

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Reconsider the number of SSH flagged topics – and the reasoning behind:

- More **streamlined policy** for what is required to flag a topic

- **Aim for less flagged topics in the five clusters (20-30%?), but with a more substantial role**

- **Make sure that SSH aspects are an integral part of the Missions throughout the different stages**

Strengthen awareness

- **Enlarge the network of SSH liaisons**

- **Work more across Work programme parts and <u>involve the NCPs</u>**

- **More visibility for SSH on the Participant portal**

- **Better communication on <u>SSH involvement and relevance for (social) innovation, Missions, evaluation procedures, guidance documents</u>**

What and how to improve in the future…

- **(Co-)design of topics**

- **Flagging**

- **Evaluation**

- **Internal network of SSH contact points (SSH liaisons)**

- **Missions**

- **Input from the different communities**

More information is available on:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index.cfm