"The value of social science and humanities in Europe"
Permanent Representation of Republic of Slovenia to EU

Brussels, 6. December 2018

Research on Societies in Future European Research Funding

Dr. Nicole Birkle
ROSE – The Working Group

ROSE is a working group of German EU liaison officers founded in 2017.

Our main objectives are to contribute to the creation of the new framework programme for research and innovation Horizon Europe, and to sustainably strengthening of the role of research on societies in the European Research Area.

ROSE is at the moment supported by the universities of Mainz, Mannheim and Frankfurt / Main.

We strongly encourage scientists and colleagues to join and support us.
**Why ROSE?**

**In Horizon 2020 ....**

- SSH topics significantly underrepresented despite in pillar 3 "Societal Challenges“, SC6: "Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies".

- Low budget and high oversubscription in SC6.

- Many SC6 calls and topics strongly focused on ICT / technology driven approaches.

- No real success of embedding / integrating SSH in all areas of H2020 according to the annual reports

- Scientists from SSH were often asked too late to join a consortium to significantly contribute to the conception of projects.

- Interdisciplinarity between the natural sciences and SSH often failed due to a lack of a common lingua franca.
Europe – The challenges?

Europe currently suffers above all from a vanishing confidence in democratic orders, economic crises, social inequality, migration processes, nationalism and populism, demographic change, new digital realities, and fake news.

Europe faces diverging ideas on its future direction and role in the world.

Europe depends on a more effective exchange between researchers, policy makers and citizens on the role of research on societies.

Europe needs a stronger SSH community lobbying for the intrinsic value of its research topics and outputs.

However, many scholars in the humanities and social sciences still have insufficient experience in communicating with stakeholders and with the EU Commission or make too little use of it.
Why ROSE?

Horizon Europe – The Solution?

- The draft proposal for Horizon Europe published in June 2018 by the European Commission does not fully address **citizens’ concerns** and the **challenges** Europe faces.

- Research on democracy must develop knowledge-based solutions to **foster democratic orders**, and to improve the functioning of institutions and communication structures.

- Research on social transformations shall address the conditions of inequality properly to design **new forms of social protection**, and to guarantee economic growth.

- As the core basis for both social and democratic stability, Horizon Europe must include **educational research** both as a new area of intervention and as a **mission**.

- Horizon Europe does not offer enough possibilities for **joint research** on originally European socio-political questions/in the field of SSH.
ROSE – what we did so far?

Activities:

- First recommendation paper on: CULTIVATING EUROPE: DEMOCRATIC EUROPE • SOCIAL EUROPE • EDUCATED EUROPE (January 2018)

- Critical Statement of the ROSE Working group on the Draft Proposal for Horizon Europe (June 2018)

  [Link to ROSE Cultivating Europe: Democratic Social Educated June 2018]

---

CULTIVATING EUROPE: DEMOCRATIC EUROPE • SOCIAL EUROPE • EDUCATED EUROPE

The present recommendation contributes to the debate on the creation of the new Framework Programme F9. It points to the importance of a proper role of research on European societies within the next Framework Programme taking into account the challenges Europe, European societies and their citizens face in a globalized, digitalized and innovation-driven world. These research fields must be seen as corner stones for cultivating Europe. The social, cultural, economic and human dimensions of the ongoing manifold, multifaceted and complex transformations must be scrutinized to build a comprehensive evidence base for policymaking towards a democratic, social, inclusive and competitive Europe.

Therefore, we recommend the following research CHALLENGES and MISSIONS to be the core of the next European Research Framework Programme in a growing digital and global Europe.

**CULTIVATING EUROPE**

- Enhancing trust and transparency in politics
- Bringing Europe to the citizens in times of crisis
- Rethinking European Governance in times of crisis

**DEMOCRATIC EUROPE**

- Ensuring Social Security in times of transformation
- Enabling Solidarity from the local to the global
- Making Social Market Economies sustainable

**SOCIAL EUROPE**

- Ensuring equal education to the citizens
- Fostering knowledge in a post-factual society
- Fostering innovation through education

**EDUCATED EUROPE**

We argue that the future European Framework Programme F9 shall define new Societal Challenges and Missions for European collaborative research including small and medium size projects, in part with bottom-up approaches. These Missions shall promote research that:

a) produces scientific analyses on how EU member states, its regions and citizens have been affected by and react to the present and future socio-political and socio-economic challenges.

b) identifies best-practices on how those challenges have been successfully addressed and develops new models for future developments.

c) provides decision-makers with scenarios on the effects that different decisions may produce.

---

Recommendation of the ROSE Working Group

Supported by Bundesministerium der EU-Vertretung (BMV), Germany

January 2018

[Link to BMV website]

Contact: rose-ecu@uni-mainz.de
Activities:

- Workshop in Brussels on: New Horizons: Research on Societies in Future European Research Funding (27.09.2018)
  Participants: researchers and representatives of university management boards, the Programme Committee of the Societal Challenge 6 in Horizon 2020, EASHH, EARMA, NET4SOCIETY, KOWI, SCIENCELEADS, the German National Contact Points Society, the German Rectors Conference, the Leibniz Association, the State Representative of Brandenburg, Hessen and North Rhine-Westphalia, the European Commission (Harald Hartung, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation; Loukas Stemitsiotis Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; Alice Xenia Rajewsky, Head of Sector Humanities, European Research Council Executive Agency).

**ROSE – what do we ask for?**

**The Concept**

- ROSE proposes a new concept of collaboration that requires a **shift** from discipline-oriented research towards a stronger focus on the challenge. Excellent research relies on partnerships between disciplines on equal terms. Research on societal challenges requires a less technology-driven approach and a stronger participation and leadership of the SSH.

**What Research on Societies needs for maximizing impact?**

- Funding lines bringing together new interdisciplinary consortia.
- Funding lines fostering the cooperation of ongoing projects.
- Funding tools like Proof of Concept in all programme parts.
- Project lifetimes appropriate to the expected social impact.
- A diversified definition of impact and a clear focus on European added value.
- Participation of all relevant disciplines in research proposals as a key evaluation criterion.
Increased participation in stakeholder consultations and in local lobbying work in Brussels (on the research agenda, but also on structural issues, such as basic research versus applied research and bottom-up versus top-down).

Feeding urgent research topics, e.g. educational research, not only into European funding programmes, but also into national funding schemes.

Raise awareness of the importance of European research funding and the opportunities it offers.

Elaboration of special topics for SSH, e.g. in the form of information events (e.g. on Sustainable Development Goals, Impact, Ethics, inter/crossdisciplinary and intersectoral studies, ERC for SSH: Making better use of opportunities, ... )

Developing measures to strengthening the SSH at universities in order to promote their future participation in European funding programmes in the longer term.

Reinforce the cooperation between researchers and university administrations with stakeholders such as NCPs, rector's conferences, EASSH, EUA, Net4Society, and policy makers.
ROSE – the next steps

ROSE highly encourages researchers and colleagues in administration from all over Europe to join forces to strengthening the role of SSH in the future European research agenda, if not in Horizon Europe, then maybe follow-up programmes.

ROSE needs more members to continue our work for and with SSH! We are looking forward to cooperating with single persons or institutions. Please contact us for further information.

rose@uni-mainz.de

Thank you very much for your attention!