Slovenian Business & Research Association
Slovensko gospodarsko in raziskovalno združenje

Conference on

THE VALUE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES IN EUROPE

Date: 6 December 2018

Venue: Permanent Representation of republic of Slovenia to EU, Rue du Commerce 44, 1000 Brussels

The concept and objective:

The long term objective of the conference and efforts of the organisers seeks to ensure that social sciences and humanities (SSH) receive their proper recognition in academia and society. Too often governments, European policymakers and research community refer approvingly to the undoubted contributions made by natural sciences, engineering and technology to wealth generation, economic prosperity, knowledge transfer, innovation, and the development of new businesses, products and services, while failing to acknowledge the equally important contributions made by SSH. Furthermore, SSH research is neglected and poorly utilized in Horizon 2020 (even in SC6) as evidenced by several reports. However, it is obvious that society's most pressing challenges can be solved only by the successful interplay of all fields.

The boundary between natural sciences and social sciences and humanities is becoming increasingly fluid as research at the frontiers of knowledge becomes increasingly inter- and multidisciplinary. Document Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities proves that SSH is unevenly integrated across H2020, and ERAC (the European Research Area and Innovation Committee) points out in its Interim Evaluation of H2020 that there is clear lack of interdisciplinarity for all societal challenges, except in SC6.

The main objective of the conference is to demonstrate the importance of SSH research for competitiveness of Europe and well-being of its citizens, their contribution in solving main societal challenges and the added value of multidisciplinary research. The importance of SSH should also be recognised in the next EU research policies and framework programme for research and innovation by a more prominent and clearly pronounced role of SSH expertise in societal challenges/missions and by meaningful integration of SSH into policy documents, topics' calls and evaluation panels.

University *of Ljubljana*

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

Draft agenda

10.00 – 10.45
PANEL 1: WHY SOCIETY NEEDS RESEARCH, SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

- Time, innovation, and values: a perspective from social sciences and humanities, dr. *Borut Telban, ZRC SAZU*
- Impact of social sciences and humanities on society – *dr. Jack Spaapen, vice president of the Cost action ENRESSH, The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences*
- Importance of multidisciplinary research, *Gabi Lombardo, director, European Alliances for Social Sciences and Humanities*

10.45 – 11.30
PANEL 2: EXCELLENCE SSH RESEARCH – REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- Research and achievements of SSH in ZRC SAZU*, dr. Mimi Urbanc, deputy director, ZRC SAZU*
- Digitalization as Driving Force for Sustainability of Individuals, Organizations, and Society, *dr. Aleš Popovič, vice dean, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana*
- SSH research in addressing electric mobility, *Maša Repež, ELES Slovenia*
- Regional presentation

11.30 – 12.15
SSH ON EU AGENDA

- SSH integration in Horizon 2020, *Nina Braun, Net4Society Project Coordinator*
- The contribution of European University Association to EU SSH goals, *dr. Bregt Saenen, European University Association*
- Social Science and Humanities in EU agenda and the future of SSH research in Horizon Europe, *Krzysztof Kania, DG RTD, European Commission*

12.15 – 14.00
LIGHT NETWORKING LUNCH
served alongside an excellence selection of wine from Vinakoper