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Social platform on research for families and family policies

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Nature of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in FP7

- SSH addresses **major challenges facing EU** and the World :
 - growth, employment, competitiveness, knowledge society (***Lisbon Agenda*** on "Growth and Jobs") (Activity 1)
 - major trends in Society: demography, quality of life, cultural interactions (***Social Agenda*** 2005-2010) (Activity 3)
- SSH research is **problem oriented** and **policy relevant** at the same time.
- A **fair balance** between economic, social, cultural and political issues and aspects.





Policy context

- «**Renewed Social Agenda**» (Communication of July 2008)
 - Strengthen the social component of the Lisbon strategy in order to improve social cohesion.
 - Focus on youth, intergenerational equity, demographic developments.
- EU Social Policy requests greater involvement of the **scientific community** and reinforcement of the analytical tools
 - stronger links with **ongoing research activities** will also contribute to developing knowledge and evidence-based policies.
 - enhanced statistical capacity and data collection





What is a Social Platform?

- Introduced in FP7 by the Council's Research and European Parliament : "*Social platforms to discuss future research agendas; these would involve the research community and societal stakeholders.*"
- Counterpart to the Technology Platforms, as a means for civil society to help determine the research agenda:
 - To tackle **complex societal problems**, and
 - to catch **different perspectives** and **involve stakeholders** (policy makers, civil society, researchers)
- «**Families**» will be the 2nd major societal challenge on which a social platform is organised; First SP launched in 2008: «Social Polis: *Cities and Social Cohesion*»





Social Platform on research for families and family policies

- Main objective: help the Commission in **identifying new research areas**, together with societal, policy and research **stakeholders**.
- The social platform will define a **future research agenda** for families and family policies,
 - based on a focussed, critical review of **existing research**,
 - and taking account of key **policy and societal questions** in this context.
- Support action, not a research project. Participative aspects are essential.





EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Community Research

Some advice: Stock taking is crucial

On FP6 and FP7

European Comparative research results



As well as on
• National
• Regional
• Local, ...
Evidence