Research on Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities

European Commission
Research DG
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« Science, Economy and Society »
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in FP7

ERC - ‘Ideas’ Programme:
Five SSH Panels

‘Capacities’ Programme:
• Infrastructures
  • Science in Society

‘Cooperation’ Programme:
• Theme 8: SSH
  • SSH & SiS in other themes
‘Ideas’ Programme – ERC (European Research Council)

- Proposals and funding areas are curiosity-driven and « bottom-up »; funding support across all areas, including Socio-economic sciences and Humanities.
- **Budget 2007-2013**: 7.5 billion euros (+/- 10-15% for SSH).
- Funding directed to individual teams and projects selected solely on the criteria of excellence.
- No pre-defined research agenda but 5 specific ERC panels dealing with SSH themes: 1. Individuals and Organisations, 2. Institutions, behaviour, values and beliefs, 3. The human mind and its complexity, 4. Cultures and cultural diversity, 5. The study of the past and of cultural artefacts.
Under SSH the *Research Infrastructure* concept covers mainly "soft" tools (databases, IT tools and methodologies, data archives etc).

6 significant RI projects in SSH have been identified in the final *ESFRI Roadmap*, adopted on October 19, 2006 and presented to the Commission:

- **CESSDA (Council of Eur. Social Science Data Archive)**
- **CLARIN (Common Language Resources and Techno-Infrastr.)**
- **DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastr. for the Arts and Human.)**
- **EROHS (Eur. Observatory for the Human and Social Sciences)**
- **ESS (the European Social Survey)**
- **SHARE (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe)**
‘Capacities’ Programme

Science in Society

- Strengthening and improving the European science system
- Broader engagement political and societal issues (inc. ethical issues)
- Science and technology and their place in society
- Gender research and the role of women in research
- Science education – curiosity and the participation of young people
- Policy for the role and engagement of universities
- Improved communication

[Underpinned by Socio-Economic and Humanities Research]
Science in Society underpinned by Socio-economic and humanities research

- Research on relationships between science, democracy and law
- Research on Ethics in science and technology
- Research on the reciprocal influence of science and culture
- Meta-analysis of gender & science research
- Research on new methods in science education
- Research aimed at enhancing science communication in its methods and its products
Cooperation collaborative research

• Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities

• In Theme 8: specific programme SSH with a substantial increase of the budget: EUR 623 million (2007-2013)

• In many other cooperation themes like food, agriculture, environment, energy, transport...
‘Cooperation’ Programme

Other Themes

– Input from SSH essential in many research fields – socio-economic research is integrated in other themes of the Cooperation specific programme

– Many Cooperation SP Themes address a wide range of highly interesting issues for social sciences like globalisation, sustainability, environment, energy, agriculture, security … >>>> examples include:
  • Topic ENERGY.2007: Socio-economic assessment of pathways for the deployment of Carbon Capture Storage in Europe
  • Bio-Economy 2007: Comparative analysis of market factors for agriculture across the Member States

– Multidisciplinary cooperation and cross thematic links encouraged
‘Cooperation’ Programme
Theme 8 – Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities *main features*

- Pre-defined research agenda
- Addresses « problems »
- Collaborative research and trans-national teams
- Multi-disciplinary
- Comparative
- Policy-relevant in a mid-to-long term perspective (projects’ duration often 5 years)
- Relevant for EU but also for national and regional policies
Addressing major challenges

• Growth, employment, competitiveness, knowledge society
• Combining economic, social and environmental objectives: social cohesion, rural and urban issues, energy...
• Major trends in Society: demography, quality of life, cultural interactions
• Europe in the world. Conflicts and peace
• Participation, democracy, governance; European diversity and commonalities
Elaborating tools for the future

- Socio-economic and scientific indicators
- Foresight activities
- **Strategic activities**:  
  - coordination of national research programmes / ERA NET and ERA NET Plus  
  - international and global dimension  
  - monitoring trends of SSH research in Europe (METRIS)
In brief

- SSH research is an important component of European research policy (in FP7)
- In this new panorama (ERC, Infrastructure, embedding..) the SSH cooperation programme will be more « problem oriented and policy relevant »
- SSH cooperation programme is structured along issues and challenges, not along disciplines
Four Presentations to come

- Economic and social challenges (Pierre Valette)
- Governance issues (Peteris Zilgalvis)
- Culture and Citizenship (Johannes Klumpers)
- Foresight
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities

First Call for proposals

Pierre VALETTE
Head of Unit
Research in Economic, Social Sciences and Humanities
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in FP 7
"Consolidation and new orientations"

- **Addressing major challenges facing EU and the World**:
  - growth, employment, competitiveness, knowledge society.
  - combining economic, social and environmental objectives: energy, agriculture, rural and urban issues.
  - global interactions and interdependence; conflicts and peace.
  - participation, democracy, governance; European diversities and commonalities.
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"Consolidation and new orientations"

- The research is *problem oriented* and *policy relevance* at the same time.

- A *fair balance* between economic, social, cultural and political issues and aspects.

- A major *new focus* on: the international /global dimension, humanities, methods of analysis and assessment.
• The management of the SESH program is split amongst 3 Units; willingness to strengthen the links between SESH and “Science in Society” explains for a large part this new structure.

• Indications are given on the deadline (first or second), the type of instruments, the opportunity to associate third countries, the possibility to involve civil society organisations.

• Gender dimension and dissemination of results for a better information and exploitation are crucial elements which should be addressed.
**Nature and scale of activities**

**Approach:**
- Emphasis on knowledge generation (no NoEs / Smaller networking schemes in specific topics)
- ERA-NETs are included
- All topics open to international cooperation

**Projects should:**
- Sufficiently broad European and comparative perspective
- Cooperation between disciplines to the degree required by the topics
- Involve users and stakeholders as appropriate

**Indicative budgets:** an average of between 3 and 4 M per topic
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"Practicalities"

**Funding schemes**

- **Collaborative projects:**
  - Small / medium scale: 0.5 – 1.5 M
  - Large-scale: 1.5 – 4 M

- **Research for the benefit of specific groups** (CSOs) up to 1 M

- **Coordination and Support Actions:**
  - CSA-coordinating
  - CSA-supporting

- **Each topic uses specific scheme(s)!**
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in FP 7
"Practicalities"

Eligibility requirements

**Collaborative projects:**
- Min. 3 partners from 3 MS or associated countries
- Financial thresholds

**Research for the benefit of specific groups (CSOs):**
- Min. 3 CSOs (or 1 association of CSOs) + 2 R&D providers
- Financial thresholds

**Coordination and Support Actions:**
- CSA-coordinating
  - Min. 3 partners from 3 MS or associated countries
- CSA-supporting
  - Min. 1 organization

**Each topic uses specified funding scheme(s)!**
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in FP 7
“Practicalities”

Call deadlines / proposal submission & evaluations

• **Deadline 1:** 10 May 2007
  - First contracts to be launched towards the end of 2007

• **Deadline 2:** 29 November 2007
  - First contracts to be launched in Autumn 2008

• One stage proposal submission only

• Remote evaluation will be used
Specific Programme
Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

“Research will integrate the aspects:

- **The changing role of knowledge throughout the economy**...
- **Economic structures, structural change and productivity issues**...
- **Institutional and policy questions**…”
Work Programme 2007
Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

Area 1.1: Changing role of knowledge throughout the economy

1. **Interactions between knowledge, economic growth and social well being (2nd d., l-s p.)**
   Prospective analysis; future outlook of the knowledge society.

2. **Intangible investments and innovation in Europe (1st d., sm-s p.)**
   Understanding and valorisation of impacts; links with knowledge and externalities; role of capital markets.
3. **Impact of internationalisation on Europe’s research and innovation systems (1st d., sm-s p., ic)**

“off shoring” R&D; inter-firm knowledge and technology flow; strategies of enterprises, universities, governments; foreign direct investments.
Area 1.2: Structural changes in the European knowledge economy and society

1. Globalisation and its interaction with the European economy (2nd d., l-s p., ic)
   Measure, forecast the effects of globalisation; international specialisation; relocation of production; EU integration and enlargement.

2. The implications of developments in the service economy (1st d., sm-s p.)
   Contribution to the economy; service innovation; international trade in services; different categories of services.
3. **The role of finance in growth, employment and competitiveness in Europe (1st d., sm-s p.)**

Relations between finance and growth; financial markets, capital mobility, integration of capital markets. Role of banks and insurances; macro to micro levels.

Area 1.3: Strengthening policy coherence and coordination in Europe

1. **Macroeconomic policy, its interactions and coordination with other policies (2nd d., sm-s p.)**

European integration; enlargement and Lisbon strategy; modelling tools; macro-micro coordination; policy mix.
Specific Programme
Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

“To support the societal goal of combining economic, social and environmental objectives... two interrelated issues:

• How European socio-economic models and those outside Europe have fared in combining the three objectives ...

• Economic and social cohesion between regions and urban and regional development in an enlarged EU…”
Area 2.1: Socio-economic development trajectories

1. **Analysing, comparing and evaluating the various societal models in a medium to long-term perspective (2nd d., sm-s p., csa, ic)**
   
   Understanding of the different approaches taking across countries, regions or local communities to combine sustainable development objectives.

2. **Trade-offs and synergies between the different aspects of sustainable development (1st d., sm-s p., csa, ic)**
   
   Types of growth-social cohesion; reduction of emissions-costs; consumer behavior. Macro micro levels.
3. **Development and applications of tools for the assessment of policies and socio-economic forecasting (2nd d., l-s p.)**

Data bases, accounting frameworks (e.g. input/output matrices), models for EU and the world; evaluation of policies and forecast; macro-micro levels; cross-sector issues.

4. **Socio-economic factors and actors that shape the « post-carbon » society (2nd d., sm-p.)**

Energy demand; socio-economic, cultural and political factors; environmentally-friendly concept; expectations and needs of the users.
Area 2.2: Regional, territorial and social cohesion

1. **Regional development challenges in an evolving international context** *(2nd d., sm-s p., csa)*
   - Uneven development of regions; regional specialisation; role of knowledge; challenges facing regions e.g. Central Eastern and Southern Europe.

2. **The impact of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms on Europe’s rural economies** *(1st p., sm-p.)*
   - Energy demand; socio-economic, cultural and political factors; environmentally-friendly concept; expectations and needs of the users
Work Programme 2007
Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

3. Social platform on cities and social cohesion (1st d., csa)
   Elaboration of a research agenda; different stakeholders and researchers involved in the process. Agenda to be ready for the call covering 2009 budget.

Specific Programme SSH-FP7: “For certain issues, use may also be made of social platforms to discuss future research agendas; these would involved the research community and societal stakeholders”
Specific Programme
Activity 3: Major trends in society

“Assessment of the causes and implications of particular key trends in society that have major consequences for European citizens... three major trends:

- **Demographic change** including ageing, fertility and migration...
- **Changes** in the related aspects of life styles, families, work, consumption, health, quality of life (child, youth, disabilities issues)...
- **Cultural interactions** in an international perspective...”
Area 3.1: Demographic changes

1. The impact of demographic changes in Europe (1st d., sm-s p., csa)

   Socio-political, economic and cultural dimensions of demographic ageing. Impact on growth and employment; sustainability of pensions and health systems; lifelong learning.

2. Determinants of birth rates across the European Union (1st d., sm-s p., csa)

   Economic, social, cultural and psychological determinants of birth rates; quality of life, family formation, housing, national approaches to family policies.
3. Migration (1st d., sm-s p., ic)
Migration flows; international comparative research; provide policy directions including the Lisbon strategy; new immigration regimes; brain-drain and brain-gain, intergenerational issues.

Area 3.2: Societal trends and lifestyles
1. Youth and social exclusion (1st d., sm-s p., csa)
Causes, processes, changes and prospects; employment, education and training, housing.
Specific Programme

Activity 4: Europe in the World

“To understand changing interactions and interdependencies between world regions... two related tracks:

- Flows of trade, finance, investment, migration; uneven development, poverty and sustainability; economic and political relations, global governance; cultural interactions.
- Conflicts and fostering peace; security and destabilising factors…”
Area 4.1: Interactions and interdependences between world regions and their implications

1. *Europe’s role in global economic governance (1st d., l-s p., ic)*
Understanding interactions between regions of the world, the causes and impacts of their changes, how the rules are developed, the role of and impacts on Europe.

2. *Development paths in an historical and comparative perspective and their impact on Europe (2nd d., sm-s p., csa, ic)*
Influence of economic, technological, political, and cultural relations on development; paths towards sustainable development.
Specific Programme
Activity 6: Socio-economic and scientific indicators

“To improve the use of indicators in policy..., improvements in indicators and methods:

• How indicators are used...
• How evidence based policy might be supported by indicators...
• Use of indicators and related approaches for evaluation of research programmes, including impact assessment.”
6.1: **Current use of and emerging needs for indicators in policy**
(1\textsuperscript{st}d., sm-s p.)
Appropriate use of indicators for policy (from macro to micro).

6.2: **Developing better indicators for policy** (1\textsuperscript{st}d., sm-s p.)
New Indicators for policy. Impact assessment of EU policies: indicators and methods.

6.3: **Specific statistical issues** (1\textsuperscript{st}d, sm-s p., csa)
6.4: Ex post and ex ante impact analysis of research policies and programmes

Evaluation (ex post, ex ante) of research activities.

Tools; impact assessment; short to long term estimates.
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities

First call for Proposals

Peteris ZILGALVIS
Head of Unit L3
Governance and Ethics
SSH in FP7 and in FP6, Governance and citizenship: continuity and change

- Consolidate research launched in FP6 or earlier (eg. conflicts, citizenship, governance)
- Keep mainstreaming interdisciplinarity, gender dimensions, policy relevance of research
- New focus: international dimension, ‘Europe in the World’
Specific Programme

Activity 4: Europe in the World

Research involves two related tracks:

- **Flows of trade, migration... economic and political relations; global governance; cultural interactions** *(managed by L2)*

- **Conflicts, causes and resolution; security and destabilising factors; terrorism, causes and consequences; security-related policies, insecurity, civil-military relations.** *(managed by L3)*

- **Horizontal aspects: Europe’s role in the world, multilateralism and international law, the promotion of democracy and fundamental rights, Europe as seen from outside will be addressed** *(managed by L3)*
Area 4.2: Conflicts, peace and human rights

1. Conflicts and peace (1st d., sm-s p.)
   Factors leading to violence; early warning; third party mediation; distributive issues; civilians as targets of war; peace keeping/making; disarmament processes; civil/military relations.

2. Rule of law and human rights (1st d., sm-s p.)
   Developments in criminal justice, humanitarian law, Geneva Conventions; war crimes; International courts; appeal systems and right of victims; restorative justice; role of women and other civil soc. actors in human rights protection.
Area 4.3: Europe’s changing role in the World

1. **Europe seen from outside (2nd d., sm-s p.)**

   How Europe/EU are seen from people, elites, media, literature outside; influence of historical and other ties/divides; views of immigrants; notions of borders; how views are reported in Europe/considered in policy.

2. **Multilateralism and new ext. relations (2nd d., sm-s p.)**

   Notion/practice of multilateralism & relations with other concepts (hegemony, unilateralism..), and bi-lateral relations (eg.transatlantic rel., neighbourhood policy); accountability issues, citizens’ perceptions of EU role.
Specific Programme
Activity 5: The Citizen in the European Union

Two main strands:

- **Participation, representation, accountability, legitimacy; European public sphere, media and democracy; governance and policy processes; civil society, citizenship and rights** *(managed by L3)*

- **European diversities and commonalities, their historical evolution and institutions; cultural heritage; visions and perspectives on European integration; identities; multiple coexisting cultures; language, arts and religions; attitudes and values** *(managed by L4)*
Area 5.1: Participation and Citizenship in Europe

1. Democratic “ownership” and participation (2nd d., sm-s p.)
   Role of CSO, social partners, parties etc; factors causing non-participation/instruments for effective participation; political participation of expatriates, migrants, minorities, women, youth; education for citizenship; direct participation and representation; access to politics and expertise.

2. Citizenship within the European Union (1st d., sm-s p.)
   Democratic functioning of the EU; citizens’ rights and broader fundamental rights – including access to judiciary and diplomatic protection; citizens’ involvement in Constitutional processes.
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities

First call for Proposals

Johannes KLUMPERS
Head of Unit L4
Scientific culture and gender issues
Area 3.3: Cultural interactions in an international perspective

1. **Cultural interactions and multiculturalism in European societies (1st d., sm-s p.)**

   Historical migrations and transport of languages, cultures, ideas and knowledge, social cohesion, tolerance, racism, xenophobia, integration of migrants or minority groups. Role of media and public discourse in the coexistence of diverse cultures.
Work Programme 2007
Activity 5: The Citizen in the European Union

Area 5.2: Diversities and commonalities in Europe

1. **Histories and Identities – articulating national and European identities (1st d., sm-s p.)**
   European identities, relationship between history and cultural heritage. effects of EU enlargements on the identities in the new Member States.

2. **Creativity, Culture and Democracy (1st d., sm-s p.)**
   Societal impact of creativity (literature and the arts), arts and policy. Historical and anthropological perspectives. Role of literature, philosophy, arts in expressing challenges related to e.g. discrimination, human rights, social conflicts.
Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities

First Call for Proposals

Uğur MULDUR
Head of Unit C 4
Foresight Activities
Specific Programme
Activity 7: Foresight Activities

• Policy oriented, 4 axes:
  1. Wider socio-economic issues with implications for research policy
  2. Emerging S&T issues
  3. Research actors
  4. Cooperation, mutual learning, open coordination
• Part of Theme 8 Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities but not only dedicated to SSH.
• Focus 2007
  – Reflects EU policy priorities
  – Building-up of activities; ground prepared for wider actions at European level and the preparation of FP8
  – Continuation of FP6 foresight activities
• Top-down and bottom-up:
  – Expert groups; calls for tender; call for proposals, support actions
1. **Blue Sky Research on Emerging Issues Affecting European S&T (2nd d., sm-s p.)**

- Relates to first and second axes of the specific programme;
- Identification of emerging issues that could have far-reaching implications for European S&T;
- Situated outside conventional frameworks;
- Present innovative and new action strands;
- Demand some risk-taking, original vision, and creative approach;
- Example of issues: complex dynamics in and between scientific disciplines or within and between industries; developments in energy, demography, global stability, poverty, sustainable development.
1. **Emerging needs (1st d., sm-s p.)**
   Highly innovative, collaborative research projects.

2. **Horizontal measures to support international cooperation (1st d., csa.)**
   Actions for the development of partnerships between communities.

3. **Measures to support dissemination of research (1st d., csa.)**
   Specific dissemination actions.

4. **Trans-national co-operation among National Contact Points (NCPs) for Socio-economic sciences and the Humanities. (1st d., csa.)**

5. **ERA-NETs (+) (5 M in the joint call)**
"In conclusion"(1)

- The SSH programme offers a **wide spectrum** of challenging and stimulating research areas: 38 topics for the 1st call for proposals (two years).

- An **integrated approach** is necessary for most of the topics, even if each area has often its own “driving force(s)”. Both quantitative and qualitative analyses will be necessary (when relevant).

- The research areas are generally related to issues on the top of the EU political agenda: a good reason to be well informed of **EU policies** and to ensure a good **dissemination plan** of the results for their future use.
"In conclusion" (2)

- For many subjects, the EU research does not “start from scratch”. It is recommended to be aware of the outcome of the previous programmes and the nature of the ongoing projects (6thFP).

- Global issues call for cooperation at the global level; true opportunities to involve third countries exist in many topics (12 topics with an explicit request).

- Equal opportunities exist for all the European countries participating to the 7th FP. New areas should help to increase diversity in the research workforce. A balanced representation of women and men in the projects is encouraged.
Thank you for your attention

This programme is your programme!