The Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) monitoring report 2019

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SSH; the human factor in R&I

- Not a single discipline currently able to fully address very complex societal challenges, necessary inter-action between STEM and SSH fields (multi, trans and inter-disciplinarity)

- Cross-cutting key issue across many research and innovation areas

- Need to examine in the future the societal impact of science and research novel policies (e.g. behavioural change, public acceptance of new technologies, ethical dimension, etc.)
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Principles

• Monitoring SSH integration is an obligation under the FP

• Two-fold approach to SSH in Horizon 2020 (streamlining of cross-cutting issue and focus in SC6 ‘Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies’)

• Quantitative and qualitative assessment of SSH integration

• This report describes the integration of SSH in the SSH flagged topics and projects of the year 2017 and is published in 2019
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Novelties

Analysis of the results for pillar 2 of the programme regarding SSH and inter-disciplinarity, adding information on:

- the European Research Council (ERC), as last year
- the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), new
- Research infrastructures (RI), new
- and Future Emerging Technologies (FET), new
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Main findings

- Monitoring reports are produced every year since 2014 to establish to what extent SSH disciplines/aspects/partners are involved in Horizon 2020.

- More than 40% of topics flagged for SSH (more than 50-60% in several Societal challenges). Gradual increase since 2014.

- For funding the results are fairly stable. Over 20% of the budget allocated to projects under topics flagged for SSH goes to SSH partners.

- Quite large differences between programme parts, and from year to year.
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Main findings (graph)

Budget for SSH flagged topics

- SC6 contribution
- Budget allocated to SSH-partners in SSH flagged topics
- Total budget for SSH flagged topics
- Percentage of budget to SSH partners out of the estimated total budget for SSH flagged topics
The quantitative integration of SSH is clearly on the rise

BUDGET FOR SSH FLAGGED TOPICS, IN MILLION EURO 2014-17
The flagging of SSH topics is increasing

Number of SSH-flagged topics 2014-17

- 2014: 98
- 2015: 83
- 2016: 84
- 2017: 113
But very strong differences by societal challenge

Budget going to SSH partners

Million euro

sc1, sc2, sc3, sc4, sc5, sc6, sc7, LEIT-ICT, LEIT-NMBP, LEIT-SPACE
SSH partners and coordinators by country affiliation

SSH partners come predominantly from these seven Member States in 2017
Distribution by scientific disciplines

- Political Science and Public Administration: 16%
- Economics: 16%
- Business/Marketing: 10%
- Sociology: 8%
- Education: 6%
- History: 4%
- Anthropology/Ethnology: 2%
- Geography: 1%
- Project Management and Project Communication: 16%
- Law/legal Studies: 8%
Overview of funding for SSH integration

Under societal challenges (SCs) the share of the total budget going to SSH is around 7-8% on an annual basis.

European Research Council (ERC): 23% of the overall grant financing went to SSH related projects.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): 15% of the total budget allocation was for SSH.

Research infrastructures (RI): the SSH related share stood at c. 6.7% of the general RI expenditure.

Future Emerging Technologies (FET): c. 49.5% of total budget.
The quality of SSH integration is improving only gradually

Good quality of Integration

- at 10% threshold
- at 20% threshold
The quality of SSH integration is uneven

With a 10 % threshold

- 55% Good
- 21% None
- 14% Fair
- 10% Weak
The quality of SSH integration is uneven …

*With a 20% threshold*
The coordination by SSH partners is limited

Share of SSH coordinated projects

- SC1: 10%
- SC2: 14%
- SC3: 6%
- SC4: 6%
- SC5: 7%
- SC6: 35%
- SC7: 6%
- LEIT-ICT: 11%
- LEIT-NMBP: 2%
- LEIT-SPACE: 4%
The SSH Expertise is still largely unexploited
Future of SSH Integration

- Co-design/co-creation of topics
- Flagging
- Evaluation
- Internal network of SSH contact points (SSH liaisons) – and external outreach activities
- HE Missions and Partnerships
- Input from the different communities - humanities
Co-creation and co-design process for SSH integration

Very useful network of SSH liaison officers in RTD and associated DGs, crucial for SSH embedding across H2020

For the 2020 WPs up-date: crucial informal pre-consultation with SSH liaison officers on initial inter-disciplinary input into WPs and co-creation of SSH related topics (October-November 2018), inclusion of drafting suggestions

Also key role of formal consultation phase and active involvement of unit B6 in this process inside DG RTD (December 2018-February 2019) for second round of SSH integration comments for topic drafters
Indication of SSH Evolution 2019-2020

Total increase in the share of SSH flagged topics from c. 41% in 2019 to possibly c. 46% in 2020 (+5 pp year on year)

Very strong foreseeable differences between SCs, with SC6 still in first position but other SCs gradually improving

Important variations from 2019 to 2020 for certain sectoral areas: e.g. notable increase in potential SSH flagging for health and climate, as well as energy and transport areas
Good Practice Examples for sectoral SSH Integration 2018-20

Transport: “Accounting for the People” section under call ‘Mobility for Growth’

Climate: “Protecting and leveraging the value of our natural and cultural assets – Heritage alive” section under the call ‘Greening the Economy in line with SDGs’

Energy: “Smart and clean energy for consumers” section under the call ‘Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future’
Horizon Europe and SSH

• Inside and across Clusters, including Missions (social, economic, cultural, human aspects are essential for both impact and relevance)

• Continued monitoring while broadening the scope (the ambition is to cover practically the whole of Horizon 2020 and in the future Horizon Europe)

• Interdisciplinary approach and collaboration between STEM and SSH

• SSH monitoring is a precursor across the current programme for monitoring of key cross-cutting issue
Conclusions and Way Forward

- Flagging in a realistic way
- Follow a holistic approach covering the entire cycle (from co-design to selection and implementation of project)
- Integrate SSH expertise in a more binding way
  - Drafting calls/topics
  - Concept & consortia projects
  - Evaluation & selection of project
  - Evaluators with SSH expertise
More On

SSH Report published under:

SSH web page of DG RTD:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index.cfm?pg=home

EU Bookshop: