

Social sciences and humanities – an added value for your project

For decades, European research was primarily based on the expertise of researchers specialised in life and physical sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Now, the new Horizon 2020 policy looks further – it is based on a premise that integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH) aspects into European research projects is indispensable to generate new knowledge and innovation.

SSH encompasses various disciplines – from sociology, psychology, communication and political science to economics, history, culture, law and ethics. It is evident that the knowledge for solving different societal challenges, including those related to the food, agriculture, bioeconomy and blue growth fields, is spread across STEM and SSH disciplines. SSH integration in Horizon 2020 projects can yield innovative solutions and products that are socially acceptable, directly applicable, marketable and cost-effective. In addition, SSH integration can substantially enhance the impact of the project and support effective dissemination of results and communication with the target group and the wider public.

What does SSH integration mean in practice?

SSH experts contribute to framing Horizon 2020 topics and, consequently, the SSH aspects determined by them must be adequately addressed in Horizon 2020 proposals. In addition, evaluation panels include SSH expertise and the evaluators are trained on how to identify and evaluate SSH aspects. Given the above, inclusion of SSH expertise in project proposals can substantially increase evaluation scores and consequently raise a chance for a grant.

Do all Horizon 2020 projects require SSH integration?

The topics that require SSH integration are called “flagged for SSH” topics. There are two types of them:

- Topics dedicated to SSH research: issues are framed mainly from the SSH perspective and most project partners come from SSH disciplines;
- Topics with significant SSH component: SSH expertise is an integral, though not exclusive, part of the research design of topics, and solutions to the problem are to be generated by integrating knowledge stemming from both SSH disciplines and non-SSH disciplines such as natural sciences, medicine, engineering and technology

Which topics in 2017 Work Programme for SC2 require SSH integration?

Topics dedicated to SSH research	RUR-09-2017 - Business models for modern rural economies
Topics with significant SSH component	SFS-20-2017 - Towards a science-based regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy
	SFS-29-2017 - Socio-eco-economics – socio-economics in ecological approaches
	SFS-34-2017 - Innovative agri-food chains: unlocking the potential for competitiveness and sustainability
	SFS-35-2017 - Innovative solutions for sustainable food packaging

	SFS-39-2017 - How to tackle the childhood obesity epidemic?
	SFS-40-2017 - Sweeteners and sweetness enhancers
	SFS-48-2017 - Resource-efficient urban agriculture for multiple benefits – contribution to the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership
	BG-06-2017 - Interaction between people, oceans and seas: a strategic approach towards healthcare and well-being
	BG-08-2017 - Innovative sustainable solutions for improving the safety and dietary properties of seafood
	BG-11-2017 - The effect of climate change on Arctic permafrost and its socio-economic impact, with a focus on coastal areas
	RUR-02-2017 - Coastal-rural interactions: Enhancing synergies between land and sea-based activities
	RUR-03-2017 - Towards 2030 - policies and decision tools for an integrated management of natural resources
	RUR-05-2017 - Novel public policies, business models and mechanisms for the sustainable supply of and payment for forest ecosystem services
	RUR-13-2017- Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice
	RUR-15-2017 - The benefits of working with others – fostering social capital in the farming sector
	RUR-16-2017 - Optimising interactive innovation project approaches and the delivery of EU policies to speed up innovation in rural areas
	BB-05-2017 - Bio-based products: Mobilisation and mutual learning action plan

In order to see in detail which are the specific SSH aspects included in the above-mentioned topics, please see a document entitled 'Opportunities for Researchers from the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020', available at: http://www.net4society.eu/media/SSH_opportunities_document_update2017.pdf.

Where in the proposal should SSH aspects be included?

SSH aspects should be included in all three parts of a Horizon 2020 proposal, i.e. Excellence, Impact and Implementation, as required by the evaluation criteria.

What do SSH aspects include?

In general, SSH aspects refer to the expertise in the following fields:

- Behavioural aspects,
- Consumption and lifestyles,
- Management, governance,

- Public awareness & acceptance,
- Policy support / assessment,
- Social innovation,
- Markets, business development,
- Economic systems and instruments.

With a **specific regard to the food theme**, SSH involves matters such as sustainable production and consumption, forward looking activities, impact assessment, organisational/economic/social innovation, etc.

For more detailed information about SSH aspects in SC2, please see the the document entitled 'Report on the Integration of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020', available at: http://www.net4society.eu/media/Net4Society_D3_2_SSH_Integration_inH2020_PU.pdf.

More information

For more information about SSH integration in Horizon 2020 projects you can **visit the website of Net4Society** (the international network of National Contact Points for the Societal Challenge 6 "Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies"), available at: <http://www.net4society.eu/>. The website contains numerous documents and publications on SSH integration.

You can also **contact your National Contact Point (NCP) for Societal Challenge 6**. Information about the relevant NCPs is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html