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SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

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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*)



'Capacities' Programme Research Infrastructures

- 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)*



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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



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SSH in FP7

- The structure of SSH specific programme is based on **5 major EU challenges** and 2 cross cutting activities: the EU challenges are still at the top of the agenda for the next 6 years.
- SSH programme is “**problem oriented and policy relevance**”; high importance placed on policy support (both research policy and EU policies).
- High level of communication and exploitation is therefore necessary. Management of research has also to be more “policy and user oriented”.



Research Activities

Five Activities based on major challenges for the EU:

- Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society (*“Lisbon strategy”*)
- Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective (*“Sustainable development”*)
- Major trends in society and their implications (*“Social trends”*)
- Europe in the world (*“Internationalisation”*)
- The Citizen in the EU (*“Citizenship”*)

Two “cross-cutting” Activities:

- Socio-economic and scientific indicators



Foresight activity



The fundamentals: problem oriented and policy relevant research

- The Framework Programme decision clarifies that the main goal of the SSH programme is *‘Generating an in-depth, shared understanding of the complex and interrelated socio-economic challenges Europe is confronted with [...] in particular with the view to providing an improved knowledge base for policies in the fields concerned’*.
- It is explained furthermore that: *‘The activities to be supported [...] are expected to contribute significantly to improving the formulation, implementation, impacts and assessments of policy and the definition of regulatory measures in a wide range of areas [...]’*.





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WP design procedure: principal actors

- The Commission (principal actor, responsible for the implementation of the SSH programme)
- The scientific community represented in the Advisory Expert Group on SSH (advises on the design of the WP)
- Members States represented in the SSH Programme Committee (advises in the design of the WP and formally approves it).



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First Year Experience

1st Call for proposals:

- 2 deadlines: in May 2007 and in November 2007
- About 1000 proposals have been received (530 + 430) for a budget of 130 million euro (total FP6: 1600 proposals).
- From the **first deadline**, 65 proposals have been selected (60 M€), well covering the work programme
- The evaluation of proposals addressed to the **second deadline** will be finalized at the end of January 2008.



First messages

- In general, results of the 1st Call for Proposals are a success both in terms of evaluation/ selection process and substance of the research.
- The enlargement of the programme (international dimension, humanities, environment, post carbon-society, agriculture and rural dimension, quantitative analysis) has been well understood in general.
- All the topics are covered; a good balance between disciplines; both qualitative and quantitative approaches; strong policy relevance as well as generation of new innovative knowledge.
- Openness to many new teams; but still not well enough balanced coverage of EU Member States; important participation of new EU countries (15%) and international cooperation (6%).



Selected projects from the 1st deadline – First Call for Proposals

ACTIVITY 1 “Lisbon strategy”

- Strong potential contribution for ERA with 2 projects about research and innovation systems in the context of internationalization (**SCIFI-Glow**, **GlobInn**).
- In depth understanding of services: 7 projects related to new services related to innovation; financial services; tangible investments (**SERVPINN**, **FINESS**, **INNODRIVE**, **IAREG...**)



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Selected projects from the 1st deadline – First Call for Proposals

ACTIVITY 2

“Sustainable Development Strategy”

- New dimension of SSH programme through 2 projects about social and economic dimensions of agriculture, rural and land use issues (e.g.: **RUFUS**, **CAP-IRE**).
- A new instrument: social platform selected for social cohesion and urban issues (Social-Polis)
- New indicators for Sustainable Development subject (2 projects) to scenario building (e.g.: **SMILE**).



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ACTIVITY 3

“Societal Trends”

- Demography: impact of demographic changes; potential of seniors; fertility and migration (new pattern of migration) – 6 projects (e.g.: **MULTILINKS**, **ASPA**, **REPRO**, **TRANSNET...**)
- Youth and social inclusion (ethnic differences in education, social inclusion/exclusion, young adults, social and political integration of young unemployed – 5 projects (e.g.: **EDUMIGROM**, **EUMARGINS**, **YOUNEX...**)
- Interethnic tolerance and neighbourhood integration in the urban spaces, religious education, ways in which transnational media reshape the political landscapes of citizenship in the European Union – 5 projects (e.g.: **Media and Citizens**, **GEMIC**, **REMC...**)



ACTIVITY 4

“Europe in the world”

A major initiative:

- Global Economic Governance: about integration of different types of markets; migration and mobility of labour – 1 project (PLEGGED)
- Conflicts and peace: transnational communities (CSO instrument); diasporas for peace; justice and durable peace; multi-stakeholders partnership in post-conflict reconstruction – 4 projects (e.g.: INFOCON)
- Human rights and conflicts: mass atrocity cases and impact of the criminal procedures; ‘privatisation’ of war and regulatory issues; armed conflicts and transitional justice - 3 projects (e.g.: PRIV-

WAR)





ACTIVITY 5

“The citizen in EU”

- Citizenship: racial anti-discrimination laws, enacting European citizenship – 2 projects (**GENDERACE**, **ENACT**)
- Histories and identities: evolution of European identity, articulation of regional, national and European identities, nations between states along the new eastern borders of the EU – 5 projects (e.g. **EUROIDENTITIES**, **SPHERE**, **CRIC...**).
- Creativity: art festivals and the European public culture – 1 project (**EUROFESTIVAL**).



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Selected projects from the 1st deadline – First Call for Proposals

ACTIVITY 6 “Indicators”

- A major outcome: possibility to make impact assessment of innovation and research policies; possibility of forecast and comparison between all the EU countries – 1 project (**DEMETER**)
- Various indicators for policy-making including pattern data, poverty and living conditions – 5 projects (e.g.: **InnoS&T**, **AMELI**, **RISQ...**)





ACTIVITY 8

“Support to SSH”

- Activity relative to emerging needs and coordinated and specific actions.
- Emerging needs not really innovative – 4 projects of which one on regenerative medicine (**REMEDIE**)
- International cooperation quite well addressed with 4 projects covering Asia, Africa and Latin America (e.g.: **CREATING, EULAKS, EURASIA-Net...**)
- Also 3 projects on communication and dissemination of information, including the National Contact Points.



In conclusion

- Very encouraging one-year results.
- Openness of the programme is enlarging the scientific community of SSH and motivating it.
- Support to policy (EU policies and ERA) and exploitation of results is also a driving force which motivates the participants.
- Foresight will strengthen this interest.
- *ERANET* and *ERANET +* should motivate the Member States administrations; it could conduct to additional call for proposals.
- Links with ERC, Capacities and Marie Curie have to become more strategic.



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Thank you for your attention!



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