



#HorizonEU

THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

**SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
(SSH) INTEGRATION**

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Research and
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Why is SSH integration important?

- **SSH = Social Sciences and Humanities**
- **SSH Integration** = to make sure that SSH disciplines and tasks are fully integrated with other types of disciplines such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

R&I societal challenges can be complex and the integration of SSH disciplines in R&I projects leads to

- Stronger **societal** impact
- Broader citizen engagement
- R&I results easy to transfer to end-users
- **Better and stronger research for Europe**

The legal framework

- ❖ Art 7(2) Principles of the programme of the Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (Principles of the programme)
 - *The Programme shall ensure a multidisciplinary approach and shall, where appropriate, provide for the integration of SSH across all clusters and activities developed under the Programme, including specific calls for proposals on SSH related topics*
- ❖ Art 2.2(f) of the Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe (Operational objectives)
 - *(The operational objective of the Specific programme is) to increase collaboration links in European R&I and across sectors and disciplines, including social sciences and humanities (SSH)*

From topic description to proposals

- ❖ In the current Cluster 3 WP2025, 5 topics out of 25 are SSH-flagged:
 - ❑ They are suitable to include SSH disciplines and tasks in the proposals
 - ❑ They contain the sentence: *This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related innovation activities.*
- ❖ Consortia should:
 - ❑ Give special attention to SSH-flagged topics
 - ❑ In case they do not include SSH tasks, they need to justify it

One project example of SSH integration

GEMS: Gaming Ecosystem as a Multilayered Security Threat

- GEMS is focused on the spread of extremism within the gaming community. It aims to provide law enforcement with a training curriculum to battle this extremism, and also develop an A.I. tool
- The sociologists in the project focus on the creation of a Sociology of Gaming and Radicalisation. Secondly, IT-experts develop the A.I. tool, called The Watchtower, designed to detect and prevent extremist content in online gaming
- The main challenge faced in the different discipline languages

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101121345>



In conclusion...

- ❖ SSH research important in SSH-flagged topics, but consortia may consider it also for other topics
- ❖ Important that SSH scientists are involved in the proposal from its conception
- ❖ It may take some time to find a “common” language or a joint “vocabulary” between different disciplines, but this helps achieving the expected outcomes
- ❖ Even when SSH activities are part of a separate workpackage, important to make sure that SSH scientists are actively involved through all the other workpackages
- ❖ Deliverables should possibly indicate, at least in the Deliverable description, how SSH research contribute to them

Some useful links

- ❖ SSH integration page

- ❖ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/social-sciences-and-humanities/ssh-integration_en

- ❖ Net4Society webpage

- ❖ <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/cluster-2>
 - ❖ <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/ncp-networks/cluster-2/funding-opportunities>

- ❖ Horizon Europe Programme Guide

- ❖ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

Thank you

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