

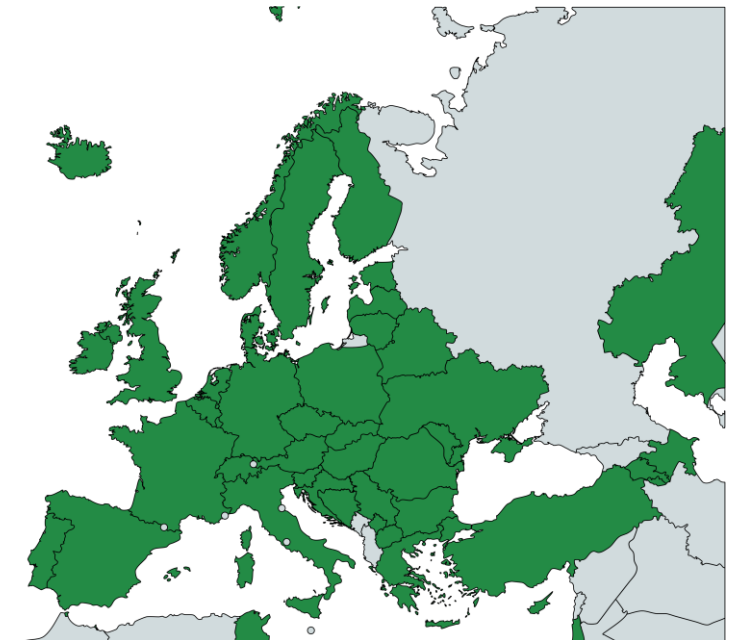


Perspectives from an international network

Dominik Klinkenberg | DLR-PT, 20 November 2020

International network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for Societal Challenge 6 (SC6) in Horizon 2020

- Established in February 2008
- Duration until December 2021
...to be continued
- Members from more than 50 countries
in Europe and around the world



Offers for SC6 NCPs

- NCP Info Sessions in cooperation with the European Commission
- Workshops and online courses: Good practice exchange amongst NCPs
- Trainings
- Mentoring sessions for less experienced NCPs
- Distribution of relevant information via internal communication

Offers for researchers

- International Info Days and brokerage events
- Proposal check events
- Thematic conferences
- Highlighting SSH Funding Opportunities

Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities

- SSH Opportunities Document
- Factsheets on Success Stories in SSH integration



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www.net4society.eu

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contact@net4society.eu

Experiences & future of interdisciplinary research

- Good news first: Interdisciplinarity works.
- Still reservations and prejudices on both sides
- Need for interdisciplinary research is not always seen
- Different understandings regarding
 - Terminologies
 - Scientific approach
 - Communication

Experiences of successful Horizon 2020 projects

Factors which facilitate cooperation between disciplines:

- To have a **clear concept** and objectives from **the very beginning of the project writing**, agreed upon between all partners.
- The presence of people with the capacity and opportunity to act as **facilitators and integrators**.
- Look for a shared area to co-create knowledge **giving each discipline the same importance**.
- An **active involvement of all partners** in the project already from the proposal writing phase
- **Physical meetings** (including informal situations e.g. dinners, etc.) should be organised as frequently as possible as all the partners need to know each other.

Factors which hamper cooperation between disciplines:

- **Language and terminology** used by STEM and SSH experts differs.
- **Different conceptual understanding** and **different methodologies** followed by STEM and SSH partners
- **Different semantics** from **country to country** and from **discipline to discipline**
- Different levels of ambition. Some partners have a **purely academic approach** –as they represent academia, whereas others pursue a more practical one -as they come from the **consultancy sector**

Future of interdisciplinary research

- Interdisciplinary research will be a vital aspect in European framework programmes
 - Covid-19 Call
 - European Green Deal Call
- Focus on societal impact favours Social Sciences and Humanities
- **Policy priorities:**
 1. Climate transition
 2. Digital transition
 3. A fair and inclusive recovery after the pandemic, accelerating the “twin transitions” (green and digital transitions)

Future of interdisciplinary research

- **Under Horizon Europe, the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities will be**
 - More holistic (applying across the entire program and over the entire cycle)
 - More explicit (expected societal impacts clearly set out)
 - More forceful (explicitly evaluated and followed-up)
- **SSH integration at the stage of**
 - Topic drafting
 - Proposal writing & evaluation
 - Reporting

Takeaway

*“Today, humanity is facing unprecedented challenges.
Profound societal transformations will take place.
The SSH community is needed to create a more desirable future!”*

European Commission