



International scientific cooperation, interdisciplinarity and the role of social sciences

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International dimension of SSH in the FP: *evolution*

- **FP4:** 'Targeted Socio-Economic Research' launched
- **FP5:** five '*pilot*' projects on *global governance and international relations under the area on 'Governance and citizenship'* of the programme 'Improving Human Potential and the socio-economic knowledge base'
- **FP6:** *dedicated activity on 'Conflicts and peace'*
- -including large integrated projects and networks of excellence- of the programme 'Citizens and governance in a knowledge based society'
- **FP7:** *dedicated activity on 'Europe in the World'* (+ work on international aspects of competitiveness, sustainability, innovation in other activities) of the programme "Social sciences and Humanities"
- **Horizon 2020:** international dimension of Challenge 'Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies'



Some lessons

- **Interdisciplinarity within SSH:** mainly political sciences, economics, law and re-emergence of area studies (culture, history, language,..)
- **Interdisciplinarity btw SSH and natural sciences and engineering:** limited to topics where this was explicitly requested (e.g. climate change, water and security; surveillance and democracy)
- **Policy relevance:** knowledge for policy needs to be targeted; specialised knowledge on specific legal, technical,..questions + interdisciplinary knowledge on causes, contexts and impacts = both needed.



International Cooperation in the FP: *evolution*

- **FP4:** Programme '*Cooperation with third countries and international organizations*' (INCO) is established
- **FP5:** *Confirming the international role of Community research+* international cooperation dimension integral to the other specific programmes
- **FP6:** '*Specific International Scientific Cooperation Activities*': general objective to help open up the European Research Area to the world and support to EU foreign policy and development policy
- **FP7:** '*International Cooperation*' to support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with non-EU countries; enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by facilitating access to research environments outside Europe; address specific problems that third countries face, or that have a global character
- **Horizon 2020:** International cooperation across H2020 and some dedicated activities + Strategy (September 2012)



EU International Strategy for Research and Innovation



Aims:

- strengthening the Union's excellence and attractiveness in research and innovation and its economic and industrial competitiveness;
- tackling global societal challenges, such as food and energy security and climate change;
- supporting the Union's external policies

Differentiation of activities by country and/or region: EFTA countries, enlargement countries and countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy; Industrialised countries and emerging economies; Developing countries



Partners with a Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities research component, with participations in international cooperation activities of the FP6 – Examples

Centre National de recherche en anthropologie sociale et culturelle, Algeria

Townhouse Gallery of contemporary art, Egypt

Royal Scientific Society –Dep. of Antiquities, Jordan

Centre d'expertise en evaluation et etudes prospectives, Morocco

Institute of Research on Medieval Modern Arab Studies, Syria

METU, Dept. of Sociology, Turkey

Project *HAMMAM*:

The project applies an interdisciplinary and transsectoral approach, based on the concept of sustainability. It **integrates architectural and technological considerations with the socio-cultural and economic dimensions** in order to ensure ways of sustainable restoration of the important cultural heritage sites.

Project *OPERHA*:

The overall objective of the project is the design, development, testing and validation of an adaptive and reversible restoration solution for structural strengthening of historical buildings in Europe and Mediterranean area. It aims at **providing an integrated solution, bridging technical, architectural and socio-economic settings**.



Partners with a Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities research component, with participations in international cooperation activities of the FP7 Capacities programme

Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement, Algeria
EARN

Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
SEE-ERA.NET PLUS
SEA-EU-NET
EULARINET
BILAT-RUS, BILAT-UKR
IncoNet EECA
KORANET
New Indigo
UEMEXCYT II
WBC-INCO.NET
ERA.Net RUS

Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia
WBC-INCO.NET

London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
IncoNet-GCC

National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (NSPSA), Romania
IncoNet EECA

Political Development Forum, Yemen
IncoNet-GCC

State University Higher School of Economics, Russia
INCONTACT
INCONTACT - one world
BILAT-RUS
ERA.Net RUS
IncoNet EECA

United Nations University MERIT, Maastricht Economic & Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology, Netherlands
WBC-INCO.NET



Activities of International Cooperation projects with a Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities component: examples

- SWAN: further develop truly interdisciplinary research activities (physical, natural and social science) and an integrated approach to water (from resources to discharge in nature) within the framework of sustainability
- DEBPAL 2: the Occupied Palestinian Territories are an emblematic case of massive biodiversity loss (both natural and agricultural), determining a series of severe consequences in nature and on human life and the economy. Therefore, the competences, techniques and technologies that will be developed in Al-Quds University are focused at integrating **biodiversity and cultural and social perspectives** into a coherent sustainable landscape management.
- MIRA: The project continuously monitors and reviews ongoing EU-MPC cooperation activities in the field of S & T. It identifies specific S & T indicators in MPCs to be used by the observatories so as to monitor S & T cooperation activities between the EU and MPCs. The observatories will eventually help **promote the creation of an academic taskforce able to tackle and measure the social impact of research** in the Mediterranean area.
- EuRuCAS: In order to promote effective scientific communication between worldwide acknowledged scholars, leading experts and promising young scientists from various research domains, **an international summer school will be devoted to modern trends in environmental and climate research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, including socioeconomic issues.** It will be held as a multidisciplinary scientific/educational event bringing together the experienced and younger generations of researchers from a broad spectrum of relevant research topics in both earth sciences and socioeconomics.



Some Lessons

- Globalisation, Competitiveness, Development, International Relations, Neighbourhood...are all concepts and processes at the core of SSH, but
- SSH is only marginally present in S&T Agreements and INCO projects
- Why?
- Most problems -poverty, climate change, resources scarcity, energy and food security,...- are seen as socio-economic (societal challenges), but specific ability of SSH to address them is not much seen; interdisciplinarity seems even harder to practice in contexts of mainstream science diplomacy and of asymmetric research capacity



Some reflections on venues forward: **1. *intelligence for science diplomacy***

- Studies in the fields of science policy, innovation policy and foresight have been instrumental to FP programme design and strategy for international cooperation, and need to continue doing so
- The international dimension of ALL research programmes needs to be in even stronger focus given global interdependence & results need to be assessed and used to set priorities for further cooperation



Some reflections on venues forward: **2. Context Sensitivity**

International cooperation, including in the field of science and innovation, must be 'context sensitive':

- need to understand the specific socio-economic and cultural features and needs of partners (countries, regions, international organisations..)
- as well as geopolitical changes (including access to/development of STI)



Some reflections on venues forward: **3. Interdisciplinarity goes International, and viceversa**

we need to strenghten both interdisciplinarity and international cooperation as cross-cutting dimensions of all programmes, as well as WITHIN each other:

- interdisciplinarity IN international cooperation activities as the world is too complex and diverse for exclusively monodisciplinary efforts;
- international cooperation IN/OF many interdisciplinary efforts as most of the problems addressed by FP research do not stop at European borders...

感謝您的關注

grazie per la vostra attenzione

आप अपना ध्यान के लिए धन्यवाद

ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit

dank u voor uw aandacht

asante kwa mawazo yako

Köszönöm a figyelmet

관심에 감사드립니다

שלך של תמושת לע הך הדוד

gracias por su atención

dziękuję za

go raibh maith agat as do aire

شكرا لكم على اهتمامكم

uwaga

Kiitos huomiota

Благодарю вас за внимание

obrigado por sua atenção

tak for din opmærksomhed

merci pour votre attention

მადლობა გადაგიხადოთ თქვენი ყურადღება

σας ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας