



Public Stakeholder Consultation on Horizon 2020 Background Information

Net4Society (www.net4society.eu) is the international network of National Contact Points for the Societal Challenge 6 ("Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies") in Horizon 2020. National Contact Points (NCPs) are set up to guide researchers in their quest for securing EU funding.

The European Commission has launched an online [public stakeholder consultation](#) on Horizon 2020, the EU research and innovation framework programme, which runs from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of 77 billion €. The results of the consultation will feed into the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 to improve the implementation of the programme. Even more important is the fact that **the results will also help to prepare the next EU research and innovation programme ("FP9")**.

The consultation offers a crucial opportunity to **stress the importance of research on European societies**, which is mostly carried out by social sciences and humanities. Researchers and other stakeholders from these areas should therefore **take this opportunity to make their voices heard**. Net4Society would like to support their participation in the online consultation by providing its perspective on a number of consultation questions below.

Crucial consultation questions for particularly stressing the importance of societal research are the following:

Q11.1: Relevance of Horizon 2020 priorities and forms of funding:

To make sure that Horizon 2020 addresses the main challenges Europe currently faces, as well as the needs of European citizens with regard to R&I, it is important to strengthen research on European societies and to improve the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities throughout the programme. Funding of collaborative projects offers a particular European added value.

Q12/13: Please rate the implementation of [...] the inclusion of Social Sciences and Humanities in calls for proposals across Horizon 2020 (very poor – very good) / Further comments:

The European Commission's first Monitoring Report on SSH integration in Horizon 2020 has documented the need for further improvement.¹ A majority of projects funded in topics flagged for SSH relevance fail to adequately integrate SSH. Further efforts are needed to improve SSH integration. During the evaluation of proposals for SSH-flagged topics, the question of SSH integration needs to play a vital role. Evaluation panels therefore need to include experts with SSH backgrounds and experience in interdisciplinary research.

¹ European Commission (2015): Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020: Participants, Budget and Disciplines. Monitoring report on projects funded in 2014 under Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership priorities, http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/horizon2020/document.cfm?doc_id=11232

Q 18.1 Further comments on the EU added value of Horizon 2020:

Horizon 2020 research on European societies (as it is e.g. funded under Societal Challenge 6) always has a clear European added value, since it calls for comparative approaches, analysing different situations in a number of European countries or regions as well as European policies. This kind of research cannot be carried out on a national level or by individual researchers – European consortia are a pre-requisite to adequately address these research themes.

Q23/Q24 Focus of future EU framework programmes:

Five Sustainable Development Goals of specific relevance for societal research and with a particular connection to Horizon's Societal Challenge 6, where Horizon 2020 research on societies is currently to a large extent funded, are:

- Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
- Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

Q25.1 Further comments on important issues regarding a successor programme to Horizon 2020:

A future EU framework programme on research and innovation needs to support research on European societies and social innovations that contribute to reducing inequalities, fostering employment in a sustainable economy, making societies more inclusive, or preserving peace in Europe and the world. It is evident that the themes which make up Societal Challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world: Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies” will continue to be highly relevant also beyond Horizon 2020.

Link to the consultation:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_h2020_2016/consultation_en.htm

The consultation is open to all individuals and organisations. Contributions are particularly sought from researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators and all types of organisations that have participated in Horizon 2020. The consultation will be open until 15 January 2017.