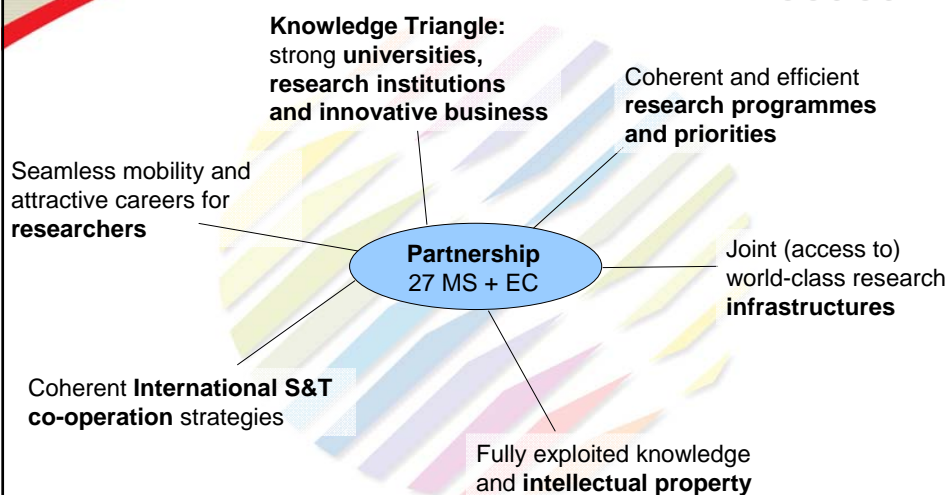


Research in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities: towards a New Approach (2010-13)

Directorate Science, Economy and Society
DG Research
European Commission
October 2009

A shared vision of the ERA is needed



Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in FP7

ERC - 'Ideas' Programme:

Five SSH Panels

European Research Council (ERC):
bottom up,
frontier research
Individual grants
disciplines and excellence oriented
EUR 1 billion (2007-2013)

'Cooperation' Programme:

Theme 8: SSH

Cooperation programme :
societal challenges oriented,
policy relevance
Collaborative, comparative research
projects, excellence,
pluri-disciplinarity
EUR 623 million (2007-2013)

Why a new approach in SSH (I)

- Need to forge a clear programme identity firmly focused on a policy-driven orientation for Europe
- Need to create a solid knowledge-base on which Europe-wide, comparative, interdisciplinary research would flourish



Why a new approach in SSH (II)

- Structuring the European Research Area by:
 - better linking disciplines together
 - better feeding policymaking
- Need to avoid fragmentation
- Need for critical mass / better added value
- Gains for management efficiency



An approach building on Societal Challenges for the EU

- Identification of important Societal Challenges for the EU
- Each of the Challenges addressed by a specific Set of Research actions (*Funding Scheme: Large Scale Integrating Research Project*) (4-5 years duration)
- An Indicative Strategic Research Roadmap allowing for better planning and coordination within the research community (published on July 30, 2009)

Future SSH large scale research projects:

- Address a societal challenge
- Take stock of **past related research** in this field
- Multi-annual research actions addressing the different dimensions of this challenge, **foresight/forward looking dimension and dissemination**
- Contribute to support EU policies, the European Research Area in SSH and its international dimension
- Funding Scheme: Collaborative projects (large scale integrating projects) with **min. EC contribution of EUR 6 500 000**

Large Scale Integrating Projects – How to

- Use of well-known funding scheme (large-scale integrating collaborative projects)
 - No Networks of Excellence
- Transition from present set-up will be gradual
- More bottom-up approach allowing scientific community more flexibility

SSH New Approach – What is in for the scientific community ?

- Ambitious objectives
- Europe wide comparative studies
- More meaningful results at European level
- New macro trends and phenomena to identify
- More inter-disciplinarity and linkages – interactions between disciplines

Impact on the structure of future SSH Work Programmes

- Continuity and Change in view of a growing budget (2010-2013)
- Impact and place of Large Scale Integrating Projects growing over time
- Continued presence of “conventional” topics as focused dimensions of the Societal Challenges
- Presence of Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICA) and Coordination/Support Actions (CA)

Expected Outcome

- Enhanced excellence in SSH research
- Increase of knowledge according to the EU major challenges (remit of the SSH Programme in FP7)
- Scientific evidence for policy-making, in particular ERA and other EU policies
- Development of input for infrastructures: databases, indicators, modelling frameworks
- Partnerships, involvement of stakeholders

Stay tuned !

- Our new website is full of information:
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.html