APRE
Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea

How to comply with the requirement of the effective contribution of SSH experts in a technology-driven proposal

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APRE – Agency for the Promotion of the European research (ITALY)

Joint at
Slido.com
#cluster3

Call - Fighting Crime and Terrorism 2024

Deadline: 20 November 2024

Topic
HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-03 - Lawful evidence collection in online child sexual abuse investigations, including undercover
HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-04 Radicalisation and gender
HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-05 Combating hate speech online and offline
HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-06 Open Topic

Call - Resilient Infrastructure 2024

Topic
HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01-02 Resilient and secure urban planning and new tools for EU territorial entities
HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01-03 Advanced real-time data analysis used for infrastructure resilience

Call - Disaster-Resilient Society 2024

Topic
HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-01 Prevention, detection, response and mitigation of chemical, biological and radiological threats to agricultural production, feed and food processing, distribution and consumption
HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-03 Harmonised / Standard protocols for the implementation of alert and impact forecasting systems as well as transnational emergency management in the areas of high-impact weather / climatic and geological disasters
HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-04 Hi-tech capacities for crisis response and recovery after a natural-technological (NaTech) disaster
HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-05 Cost-effective sustainable technologies and crisis management strategies for RN large-scale protection of population and infrastructures after a nuclear blast or nuclear facility incident

The topics

Excerpt from a topic

The proposals should […] lead to the development of an integrated modelling capacity allowing to **capture the economics and behavioural aspects** of demand, production and trade of materials, as well as techno-economic trajectories of the industrial sectors identified. That would include […] concepts from system dynamics modelling (for materials flows and stocks), techno-economic modelling (for the **economics of production costs**, elasticity of demand or trade effects), macro-economic modelling (**socioeconomics impacts**), as well as agent-based modelling (choices of materials or technologies).

SSH flagged

Standard sentence (long)

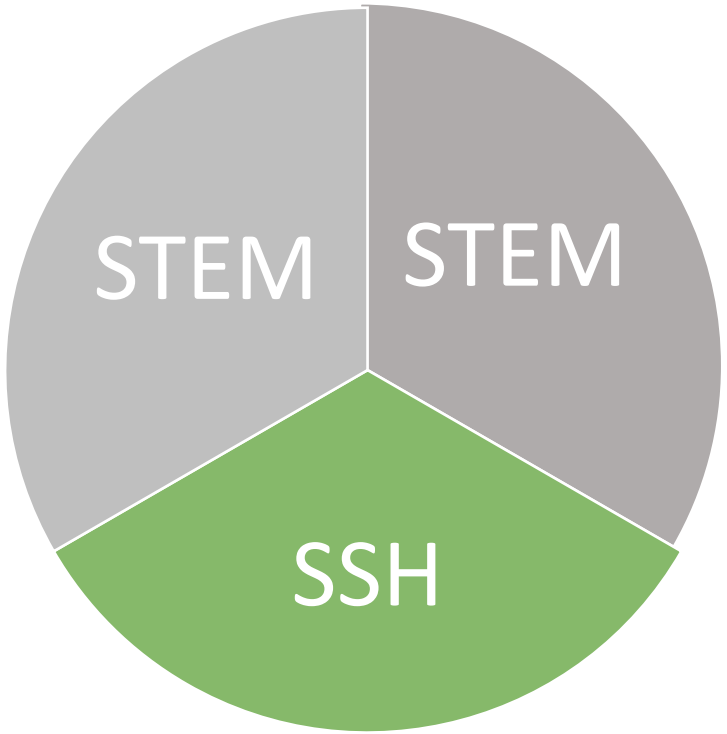
"This topic requires the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities (SSH) disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant impact".

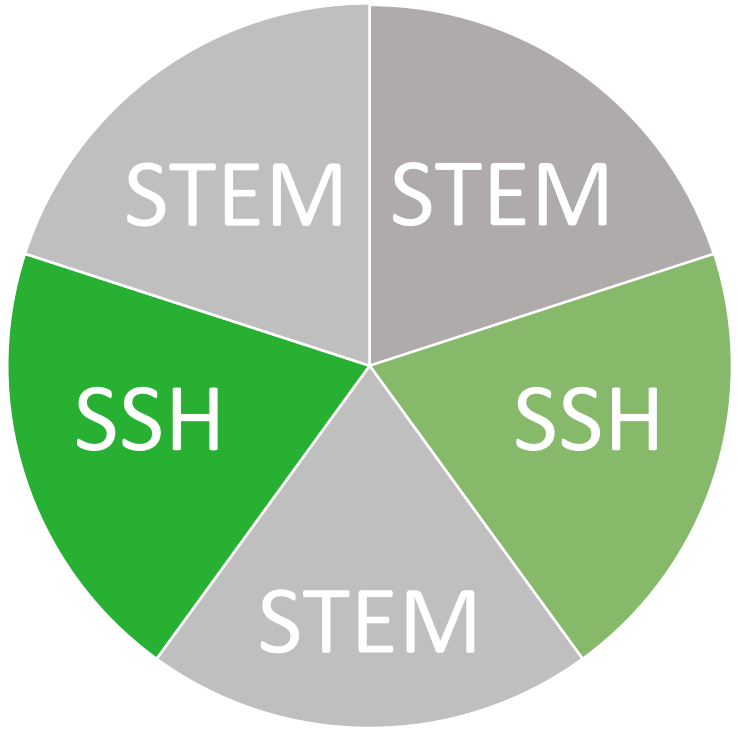
Standard sentence (short)

"This topic should include the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities disciplines."

What is SSH Integration in the context of Horizon Europe?

- The **“SSH expertise inclusion” requirement** underlines the importance
  - to explore social aspects along with the technological aspects in some research projects
  - to involve researchers from Social sciences and Humanities in technology-oriented projects.


STEM
STEM
SSH


STEM
STEM
SSH
SSH
STEM

Valutazione

HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-02-7-two-stage
Minimising climate impact on aquaculture: mitigation and adaptation solutions for future climate regimes

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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Topic updates

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GENERALISED FEEDBACK for successful applicants after STAGE 1

In order to best ensure equal treatment, successful stage 1 applicants do not receive the evaluation summary reports (ESRs) for their proposals, but this generalised feedback with information and tips for preparing the full proposal.

Information & tips

Main shortcomings found in the stage 1 evaluation:

- The integration of the Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines in the methodology was often not well demonstrated.
- The integration of the gender dimension in the research and innovation content of the proposal was not adequately addressed in some proposals and it was often confused with gender balance/equality.
- The technical robustness of the proposed AI-system was not sufficiently addressed in some proposals.
- The potential barriers that may determine whether the desired outcomes and impacts are achieved were not always well identified and/or the mitigation measures were not adequate.

In your stage 2 proposal, you have a chance to address or clarify these issues.

Please bear in mind that your full proposal will now be evaluated more in-depth and possibly by a new group of outside experts.

Please make sure that your full proposal is consistent with your short outline proposal. It may NOT differ substantially. The project must stay the same.

^ Show less

Main shortcomings found in the stage 1 evaluation:

The integration of the Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines in the methodology was often not well demonstrated.

Interpretative bridges between technology and society

Science and technology have the power to **create scenarios and options** for the future, social sciences and humanities can

- comprehensively **analyse the implications** related to [emerging] technologies.
- ensuring that the **results** of research and innovation **can find their positive place** in the existing or changing social order.

- **counterbalance** possible critical systemic effects and to **design** an adequate **social adaptation**.

- **capture rising social trends** or not yet established,
- **ensuring awareness** and **providing interpretative keys** to identify **under what conditions technology can**
  - **act favourably** and supportive **to human needs**
  - or realistically **generate vast positive impacts**

Margot Bezzi. (2021). Ricerca e innovazione aperta, partecipativa e responsabile: un glossario. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4497847

Creation of original knowledge

Collaboration between socio-humanistic disciplines and the STEM sciences **generates new knowledge,** different and epistemologically original from the contributions of the disciplines of origin.

This generates **competitive advantage** and **frontier visions** on the competitive global scenario.

Margot Bezzi. (2021). Ricerca e innovazione aperta, partecipativa e responsabile: un glossario. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4497847

Do not confuse the request of «SSH experts» with …

What should I do?

Who are the scientists I need to involve?

How is it possible to integrate their work with ours [STEM]?

At what stage of the proposal should SSH researchers be involved?

What activity are they going to do?

Where do I find these expertise?

How much budget will they need?

Stakeholder engagement

- Stakeholder engagement refers to the use of processes aimed at **involving different social actors** - bearers of different interests, different stakeholders - in activities of dialogue and exchange of ideas, in order to better understand and integrate the different perspectives, needs and interests at stake in a given solution.

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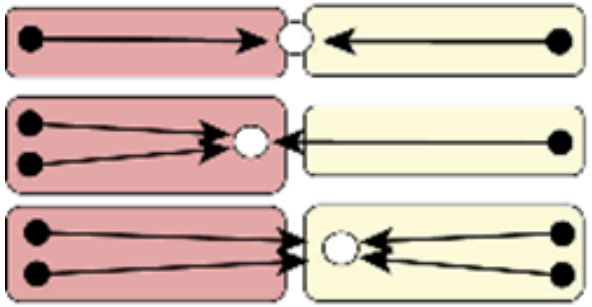


Participatory

- Academic and nonacademic participants
- Knowledge exchange without integration

Source: Architectures of adaptive integration in large collaborative projects (Wright Morton, Eigenbrode and Martin, 2015[2])

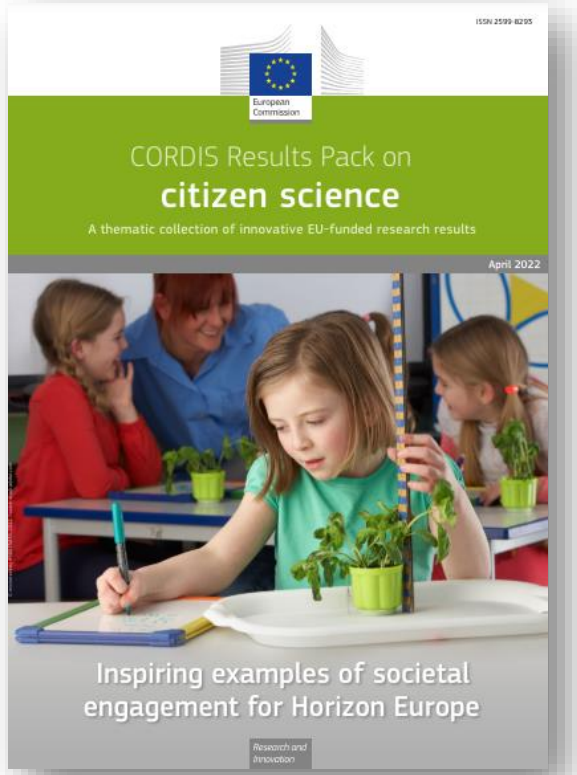
Communication activities in the project

Context: a research project where STEM researchers are involved

- If people with a background/education in social sciences is in charge of communication activities in the project (writing newsletters, blogs, etc.), it **is not** a case of SSH integration.
- If people with a education/specialization in social sciences (for example Communications/Media Studies) is doing research on communication related behaviours, **it is** a case of SSH integration.

Citizen science

- Citizen science is any activity that involves the public in scientific research, where **citizens collaborate with scientists**
- Through citizen science, all people can participate in **many stages of the scientific process**,
  - from the design of the research question,
  - to data collection and volunteer mapping, data interpretation and analysis,
  - and to publication and dissemination of results.
- Citizen science is also an approach of scientific work that may be used as a part of a broader scientific activity.
- If the Scientists have a SSH or STEM specialization is pointless.



https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/435872-citizen-science-inspiring-examples-of-societal-engagement-for-horizon-europe
https://eu-citizen.science/

Gender dimension

GENDER SENSITITIVE RESEARCH: in this research, the gender scale **is not the core** of the project but it needs to be taken into account throughout its cycle, from concept to implementation.

- For example, a project collecting data about patients, youngsters, adults, students, workers, should **collect data by gender** to assess if the output of the project has a different impact on female or male individuals.
- Does the project need SSH researchers to analyse the differences between the 2 or more groups?
  - If yes, it is SSH integration
  - If not, it is not SSH integration

Has the technology/treatment developed by the project a **different impact** on female or male patients/ youngsters/adults/ students/workers?

GENDER-SPECIFIC RESEARCH: a project where «gender» **is the core** of the research.

EXAMPLE

HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-04: Radicalisation and gender

GENDER-SPECIFIC RESEARCH

- Improved understanding of **women and girls** motivation for the support of extremist ideologies, including grievances and stigmatisation elements;

- Does the project need collaboration among STEM and SSH researchers?
  - If yes, it is SSH integration
  - If not, it is not SSH integration

What does that mean at proposal level?

Some key points to keep in mind for a good SSH integration

SSH should be involved since the beginning.
A truly interdisciplinary project requires the involvement of SSH researchers already in the **concept phase** of the proposal through (ideally) a **co-creation process.**

- Joint topic analysis/reading
- definition of **research questions** integrating both STEM and SSH perspective

It helps to **reduce** **knowledge asymmetry** problems and related to clash of opinions.

How can we use this technology to improve that **industrial process** in the food sector?

Will the technology developed by the project have an **impact** on …?

… the local businesses?

… the patients and caregivers?

… the workers of the industry sector?

Can we combine these molecules to **treat the disease**?

Will there be / What can we do to deal with **potential resistance** in the society?

Can we use this technology to **develop a more efficient solar panel**?

Are there any new **societal trends** that can prevent the uptake of the technology by the market?

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Some key points to keep in mind for a good SSH integration

- Pay particular attention to the **excellence part** (Chapte 1 in the proposal template)

  - the **objectives** of the proposal should be designed **to bring together the SSH and STEM domains**
  - **Integrating both STEM and SSH methods**, tools, **concepts**, and/or **theories**, information, data

Some key point to keep in mind for a good SSH integration

- Reasonable **balance** of contributions from SSH and STEM disciplines
  - **avoid isolated SSH work package**
- Plan sufficient & reasonable **budget** for SSH partners, tasks, & planned activities
- Foresee strategy to handle possible **difficulties** of interaction and communication between SSH and STEM researchers
  - Tailor-made strategies/tools to managing the interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary team
    - frequent face-to-face meetings/networking events
    - social events
    - writing together to encourage integration across disciplines

Matchmaking platform

https://security-research-map.b2match.io/how-it-works