SSH collaboration in Horizon Europe

- **The challenges of SSH collaboration with other sciences in the Horizon Europe Research Programme**

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- **French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation**
- **26th May 2021**

The Contribution of Social Sciences and the Humanities To Research Addressing Societal Challenges : Towards a Policy for Interdisciplinarity at European Level?
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  ˝Interdisciplinarity is not an obligation, it is a choice and the why, how, where and when are important questions for its relevance ˝

- (see final remarks of chapter)

Evolution during different FPs

- There is an ambition towards interdisciplinarity since FP4, even though no real policy evolved to promote it till FP8 (Horizon 2020).

- H2020 was a game changer in the senses that the 'global challenges' and 'problem solving' based approach pushed disciplines and communities outside their 'comfort zones'

- A majority of scholars are still not intrinsically comfortable at being pushed out of their disciplinary zones
- In fact, the Horizon 2020 programme drew a lot of flak from academic communities in the early stages because of the presentation style, the broad challenge based approach and the emphasis on social impact

Monitoring reports and SSH participation criteria

- Indicators : SSH funding, flagging of topics, quality of presence (share of SSH partners and their budget, contributions from disciplines and time allotted) , SSH evaluators

- The indicators are useful in an administrative sense, but they do not represent any agreed upon scientific criteria. They do not represent an upstream / constructed scientifc dialogue between disciplines

The evolution of challenges

- From traditional concerns like growth and employment to more complex issues like migration, conflicts of culture and identity, terrorism and radicalisation, varied environmental challenges and disruptive technological breakthroughs like AI, big data, and phenomena like social media and fake news, pandemics, Covid and the disruption of work :

- Point to the need for new dialogues and collaborations between the sciences including SSH

- In data driven disciplines, AI, big data, high speed computing, research infrastructures, data sharing (open sciences) are magnifying the possibilites of collaboration

- But is the collaboration happening to the extent that it should, especially in critical areas?

Some examples : or problems?

- The Covid crisis provides a positive answer .
- JRC and the Science of Justice : experimenting with the behaviour of chimpanzees sharing a pie : animals with a sense and a measurement of equity and inequity
- ….does measurement by itself solve a problem in this particular case?
- Example : E-RIHS collaboration between disciplines in heritage sciences, especially on measurement

- Scientific controversies : fake news, skepticism over climate change, vaccines : the field of Behaviour and incentives .. Including 'desirable behavioural changes' – can 'value judgements' be avoided ? There is necessarily a normative content

- The NET4Society note identifies reasons for success from cases, and also highlights the deeper collaboration issues stressed here. Difficulty of SSH evaluator participation can be solved only if there is deeper upstream collaboration in thinking problems, methodology and the use of data and facts

- Keraudren P. (2018) The Contribution of Social Sciences and the Humanities to Research Addressing Societal Challenges. Towards a Policy for Interdisciplinarity at European Level?. In: Tressaud A. (eds) Progress in Science, Progress in Society. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-69974-5_5