

## **Social and Humanities Research Must Be Given A Major Role in Horizon Europe**

To the Honourable Members of the ITRE Committee,

Your upcoming trilogue discussions with the Council and European Commission will be instrumental in determining the final shape and content of Horizon Europe. As a recognized voice of the social sciences and humanities, EASSH **calls upon you to ensure that the human and societal dimensions of the challenges and opportunities of direct concern to people across the EU are more strongly and more comprehensively addressed than in previous Framework Programmes.**

During these times of uncertainty and instability it is more important than ever **to identify, elaborate and offer solutions for our citizens' concerns.** While Europe's investment in research programmes over the past 35 years has created tremendous benefit through technological innovation, understanding and proposing solutions for **human and social concerns has not received sufficient attention. With Horizon Europe there is a unique window of opportunity to give these concerns the attention they deserve.** Informed by wide ranging discussions within the research community and society, and detailed analysis of past and present EU research policies, EASSH considers that the elaboration of Horizon Europe must devote attention to the following:

- **A strong cluster focused on Culture and Inclusive Societies must be a major building block of Horizon Europe** to address complex challenges for which technical solutions alone will not produce meaningful new policy outcomes. **The intervention areas for this cluster are:**
  1. **Democracy, European values and Governance**
  2. **Social and Economic Transformations**
  3. **Cultural heritage, Creativity and Art**
- **The cluster must be appropriately resourced with a similar budget as other clusters** to reflect the breadth and magnitude of the knowledge to be generated and to capture the contribution of excellent research in these areas.
- **Investment in fundamental research and infrastructures must be maintained.** This provides the platform for more applied research and build evidence for policymaking,
- **Areas of interventions in all clusters** (health, digital, climate, food, mobility, security) **need to have a strong humanistic and social research approach.** Horizon Europe should ensure better integration of SSH disciplines in intervention areas in all clusters to reflect their complex human and social dimensions (and redress the unsatisfactory situation in Horizon 2020 as documented in the Reports on SSH integration).

**EASSH calls for:**

- **Sustained investment in the Excellence Pillar** (in particular ERC, MSCA and Research Infrastructures).
- **A strong cluster including at least the intervention areas mentioned above with equal standing** in terms of resourcing.
- **More intervention areas in each cluster that clearly include and are driven by social and humanities research perspectives.**
- Particular attention to **social innovation in the European Innovation Council**

*The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities ([www.eassh.eu](http://www.eassh.eu)) brings together more than 50 European disciplinary associations, scholarly networks and universities. It promotes research on social sciences and humanities as a resource for Europe and the world and gives a voice to SSH disciplines in the design of science policy at the national and international levels.*