Accelerating SSH Research
Aches & Remedies.

Enspire.science
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Why is SSH important?
In Horizon 2020.

**Excellent Science**
- Frontier basic research
- Social perspectives towards technological innovation
- Mobility & interdisciplinary
- Improving access to data

**Industrial Leadership**
- Cultural & social aspects for innovation.
- Creative thinking in developing new services & products.
- Business & management models.

**Societal Challenges**
- Optimising healthcare provisions.
- Mitigation & adaptation of new policies, strategies & resource efficiency initiatives.
- Cultural & socio-economic aspects of security & risk management.

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Raise public awareness & launch future research careers
Broaden participation & synergies to maximise impact of Widening countries
32% of funded flagged projects were coordinated by an SSH partner.
22% when excluding SC6.
29% of funded flagged projects had no SSH partner (70 out of 239).
20% of SSH-flagged topics budget went to SSH partners.
8.5% of overall 2017 budget went to SSH partners.

Source: Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020: Participants, Budget and Disciplines report, 2018.
Challenges associated with SSH research funding

The aches.

Challenges associated with SSH researchers
The aches.
SSH research funding

- Institutional environment that nurtures individual research.
- A tradition of incrementality.
- Integration to STEM vs. a collaboration.
- Disciplinary biases (h-index).
The aches.
SSH research funding

- Time dedication.
- Low motivation or need to apply for external grants.
- Less experience in grant writing.
The aches.
SSH research funding

- Research grants don’t always comply with SSH practises.
- The hypothesis dilemma.
The aches.
SSH researchers

- Tend to refrain from leading new research projects.
- Collaborate with close circles.
- Work in smaller & more autonomous groups.
The aches.
SSH researchers

• Locality vs. internationality.
• The collaboration dissonance.
• ‘Ivory tower’ syndrome.
The aches.
SSH researchers

- Is asking for a lower budget always a good policy?
- Perceived to be less lucrative than STEM.
- Stay in their comfort zone.
The remedies.

External support

Internal support
The remedies.

External support

- Information days for WPs & upcoming calls.
- Networking platforms & brokerage events.
- Flagging tool to identify funding opportunities.
- Involvement of SSH experts in the evaluation process.
The remedies.
‘Traditional’ internal support

- Advocacy & awareness raising.
- Access to relevant information.
- Dedicated training days & workshops.
- Direct engagement with SSH departments/researchers.
- Initial screening.
- Provide support to SSH applicants.
The remedies.
Needed internal support

• Extra attention.
• Extra support.
• Extra guidance.

Go that extra mile.
The remedies.
The coordination dilemma

Official coordinator
Management & communication channel to EC

Scientific leader
Scientific leader of the research

A partner
Carrying out project’s tasks
The remedies.
How to get started?

START EARLY.

Define a project idea.
Write it down.
Find a suitable call topic.
Adjust idea according to call text.
Build a consortium.
Write the application.
Submit.
The remedies.
How to structure a consortium?

- Aim for more (5-10 partners).
- Interdisciplinary nature & complementary expertise.
- Avoid redundancies.
- Cross-sector collaboration.
- Geographical representation.
- Balanced division of work.

Call requirements
List of functions / roles
Types of expert organisations
Names of potential organisations
The remedies.
RMAs points of intervention
SSH research. Just do it.

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