however, is not appropriate, as it suggests at best an asymmetric relationship with what is already defined by others, whether that is the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines or policy makers. Engagement captures the desired relationship much better.

In order for SSH research to make a true difference, it needs to engage at three levels: With the STEM disciplines in all of the societal challenges, with the European Commission, to define research questions and instruments, and with society and a range of publics to strengthen democratic participation in addressing the challenges.

Practical recommendations

The following recommendations are addressed to the SSH research community, to the European Commission, to research policy-makers and to funders alike. Implementing them would be a substantial step towards a holistic integration of SSH research in Horizon 2020 and to fostering true interdisciplinarity.

Even though Societal Challenge 6 "Europe in a Changing World – Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies" is the challenge particularly dedicated to SSH-relevant research, the social sciences and humanities have the same basic task as other disciplines in the other challenges. We have to cooperate with the sciences and engineering. And not only cooperation is important, but also the genuine integration of other disciplines into SSH. The major difference is that it is up to us – the SSH community – to set the agenda, to identify the obstacles to be overcome, and to engage with the stakeholders who can contribute to these topics and to their integration.

SSH is characterized by a high degree of internal heterogeneity concerning methods and theoretical approaches. Thus, for challenge six to be successful and to be able to integrate others, we have to overcome internal tensions, agree internally on common themes and together identify partners. Integrating others also means to be willing to integrate ourselves, and to present our internal diversity as a source of strength.

We have to ensure that the best researchers participate in EU-funded research projects. This is not easy since many institutes and scientists still refrain from applying for EU funds, as bureaucratic requirements are seen to be a burden. The most valuable currency that we need to offer is the possibility to cooperate with other excellent researchers.

Applying for funding has become highly specialized work, taking months of preparation.

The EU and research in the Social Sciences and Humanities

Jutta Allmendinger, Julia Stamm and Sally Wyatt

Conference "Horizons for Social Sciences and Humanities", September 23–24, 2013, in Vilnius under the patronage of the President of the Lithuanian Republic Dalia Grybauskaitė

The conference focused on the role social sciences and humanities will play in the new European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020". Within Horizon 2020, approximately 28 billion EUR will be put at the disposal of the European academic scientific community to address seven societal challenges identified by the European Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament. This report looks at in which research addressing issues of relevance to the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) can contribute best to achieving the goal of the new Framework Programme and in particular its "Societal Challenges".

SSH's contribution to Horizon 2020?

The social sciences and humanities contribute substantially to the development of the human spirit, and to critical reflection and debate. They also make more practical contributions to culture, media, education, tourism, etc. through university-level education and training. The role of SSH is not simply to help science and business to reduce public resistance or increase acceptance of scientific and technological innovations.

The term "embedding" has been coined to designate the need to integrate SSH research in all of Horizon's Societal Challenges. This terminology,