

Concerns about the funding of the Investment Plan for Europe on Innovation and Research

Dear Mr Juncker

The European Alliance for Social Sciences and the Humanities (EASSH) is the umbrella organization for all associations in Europe on Social Science and Humanities research. EASSH sees and supports the need for an investment plan to refuel the European growth, but we are concerned about the project of cutting the Horizon 2020 programme.

First, we agree with the consensus voicing concerns about cuts in funding for the European Research Council that will make it impossible for ERC to maintain its title as a “European Flagship Initiative”.

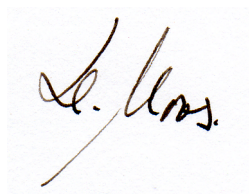
We also would like to bring to your attention that the Horizon 2020 Programme has already suffered from significant budget cuts since the original proposal. This is particularly true for Social Sciences and Humanities, both in terms of the funding of SSH related challenges like the Horizon 2020 Social Challenge 6, and the funding available for the embedding of SSH in all social challenges.

The SC6 was a tool showing the interest of the EU institutions for the human and social dimension of Europe and investing in researches tackling the effect of the current crisis on these dimensions and on the future of Europe. The SC 6 budget has nonetheless been seriously cut for the first year of its implementation. On the 1.2 Bn Euro voted by the legislators, only a trend of 300 M. Euro is effectively devoted to their initial goals. The directorate of SSH also disappeared, the Human and Social Challenge being significantly the only one without a directorate. During the preparation of H2020, it was also widely recognised that SSH knowledge lies at the very foundation of understanding the processes, systems, motivations and behaviours of societal and economic innovation and change, the core argument for embedding SSH aspects in all projects. However, we know from recent experiences that the “H2020 embedding process” for SSH has been poorly prepared and thought through. Only a fraction of the Calls in the Work Programme for 2014-15 provided both procedures and processes that make SSH participation possible.

Therefore, unless special measures are taken, it is likely that there will be little space for SSH in future H2020 calls if the funding is cut. We believe that taking funding from the Horizon 2020 Programme is short sighted and counter-productive as it will undermine the very foundation for growth and development of societies and economies.

Particularly conscious of the challenges the Commission has to face in the economic and social juncture, we stay at your entire disposal to work in full partnership.

Yours sincerely



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Associations represented at the EASSH Annual Meeting in Berlin, May 9th, 2014

ACADEURO	Academia Europaea	EASR	European Association for the Study of Religion	FTCP	Foundation for transatlantic Culture and Politics
ACSS	Academy of Social Sciences (UK)	EAUH	European Association for Urban History	FU	Freie Universität Berlin, Division Research
AEC	Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique e	ECHIC	European Consortium of Humanities Institutes and Centres	HDCA	Human Development and Capability Association
AISEA	Italian Association of Ethno-Anthropological Sciences	ECREA	European Communication Research and Education Association	HERA	Humanities in the European Research Area
ANUAC	National Academic Association of Cultural Anthropologists	EEA	European Economic Association	IHA	Irish Humanities Alliance (IE)
CEL/ELC	Conseil Europeen des Langues	EERA	European Educational Research Association	ISSP	Irish Social Science Platform
CENDARI	CENDARI	ELC	European Language Council	JPI CULT	JPI Cultural Heritage and Global Change
CLARIN	CLARIN ERIC	ENIUHG	European Network in Global and Universal History	MedioEvo	MedioEvo Europeo
CLIOH	CLIOHnet/CLIOHRES.net / CAHEA	ERSA	European Regional Science Association	MIN	Ministère de la Recherche (FR)
CNRS	Alliance Athena (FR)	ESA	European Association of Sociology	Net4Soc	Network of National Contact Points: SSH/SC6
COEURE	Cooperation on European Research in Economics	ESC	European Society of Criminology	NetIAS	Alliance Athena (FR)
DARIAH	DARIAH	ESCLH	European Society for Comparative Legal History	NetLAS	Network of Institutes of Advanced Study
DGIA	Max Weber Stiftung (DE)	ESCoP	European Society of Cognitive Psychology	RCC	Rachel Carson Center Munich
EACS	European Association for Chinese Studies	ESEH	European Society for Environmental History	REELC	Réseau européen d'études littéraires compares
EADH	European Association of Digital Humanities	ESF	European Science Foundation	RISE	RISE Network
EADI	European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes	ESHS	European Society for the History of Science	ScienceEurope	Science Europe
EARA	European Association for research on Adolescence	ESS	European Social Survey	SLE	Societas Linguistica Europaea
EAS	European Sociological Association	EASA	European Association of Social Anthropologists	FIEC	Fédération internationale des associations d'études classiques
ECPSA	European Confederation of Political Science Associations	RFIEA	Réseay Francais des Instituts d'études avancées	EuroSEAS	European Association for Southeast Asian Studies
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