

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES IN H2020



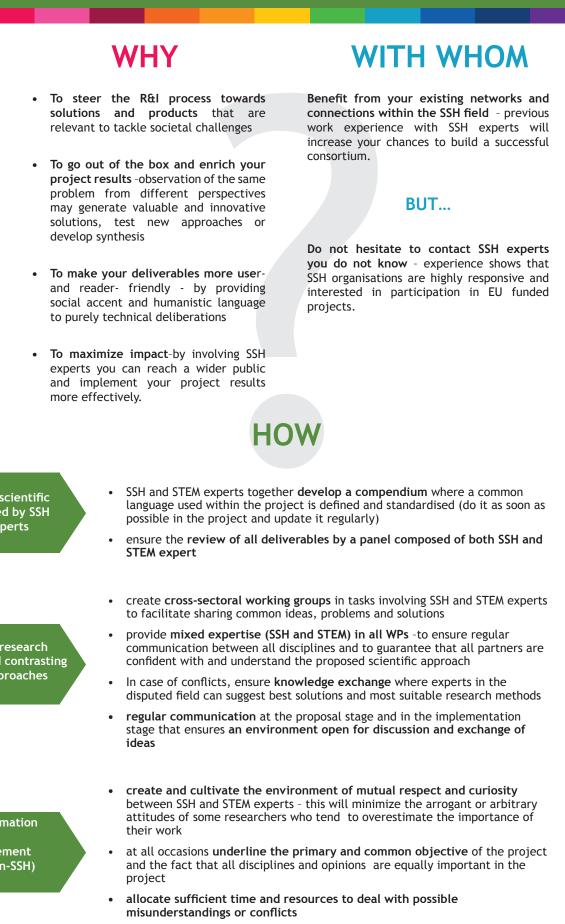
The integration of Social Sciences and Humanities research (SSH) in Horizon 2020 projects comes with great opportunities but also with certain challenges. For decades, the European research was mainly focused on the expertise of researchers specialised in life and physical sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Now, the Horizon 2020 policy looks further - **it is based on a premise that integration of SSH aspects into European research is essential to generate new knowledge** and produce interdisciplinary and innovative solutions to both societal and technological issues.

Since SSH encompasses various disciplines - from sociology, psychology and political science to economics, history, culture, law and ethics - the added value of including different aspects of SSH in a research project is unquestionable. The question remains: how to ensure fruitful and effective integration of SSH into a project?

To address this issue, an **Expert Meeting** entitled 'SSH in H2020: Societal Challenge 6 and integration in other Challenges' has been organised by Net4Society - the Network of National Contact Points of Societal Challenge 6 'Europe in a changing world -inclusive, innovative and reflective societies', in cooperation with the 'Open and inclusive societies' Unit of the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation. The meeting's objective was to share and discuss the results achieved so far in the integration of SSH in Horizon 2020 and to discuss concrete experiences of interdisciplinary collaboration.

The workshop brought together representatives of the European Commission responsible for SSH integration, several high-level experts in interdisciplinary research and management as well as coordinators of Horizon 2020 projects that successfully integrate SSH. The latter have been invited to the Workshop based on their outstanding results, as recognised by the European Commission, in bringing SSH expertise into research projects. The workshop discussions clearly revealed that successful involvement of SSH aspects is attainable and advantageous for the overall implementation of the project and for the quality of the final results.

SUCCESSFUL SSH INTEGRATION



1) Different scientific language used by SSH and STEM experts

2) Different research methods and contrasting scientific approaches

3) Underestimation or lack of acknowledgement by other (non-SSH) disciplines