

Success stories in SSH integration



SSH INTEGRATION IN SC2

The objective of the Societal Challenge 2 '**Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy**' is to secure sufficient supplies of safe, healthy and high quality food and other bio-based products, by developing productive, sustainable and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services and the recovery of biological diversity, alongside competitive and low-carbon supply, processing and marketing chains ¹.

Horizon 2020 considers the socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) as cross-cutting and integrated in all the priorities and objectives of the Programme. The Societal Challenge 2 involves this research in order to tackle the societal challenges and to provide the most suitable impact for society. The following aspects need to be considered:

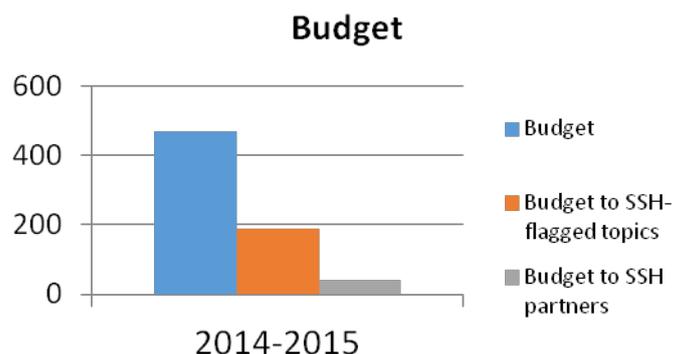
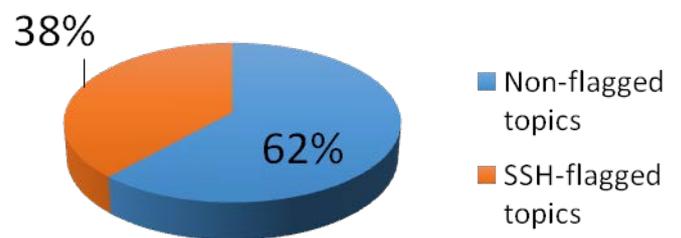
- To achieve sustainable agriculture and forestry, research should analyze the behaviour of citizens through sociologists and psychologists;
 - To have a sustainable and competitive agri-food sector for a safe and healthy diet, projects have to consider economic aspects but also the well-being of citizens;
 - To carry out marine and maritime research the project should consider the impact on society and involvement of local community.
- To have a good proposal cooperation with SSH researchers is crucial!

¹ Horizon 2020 Specific Programme

FACTS & FIGURES

In the Work Programme 2014-2015 SC2 funded a total of 60 topics with a total budget of €471,5 million.

23 out of 60 topics were flagged for SSH. Within these topics 34 projects were funded for a budget of €189 million out of which 41 million went to SSH partners.



Source: 1st and 2nd Monitoring Report on Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020: Participants, budget and disciplines, EC



Interview with Michaela Aschan, Project Coordinator of ClimeFish project

Q: Why did you decide to integrate SSH in your project?

*It was mentioned explicitly by the topic but in any case SSH aspects would have been included in the proposal as SSH expertise increases the **effectiveness of project implementation, the impact, relevance and outreach of project's results.***

Q: How did the process of SSH integration go from the proposal to the project?

*No major problems have been identified, besides cultural differences between project partners. The main challenge was to agree on the **terminology** used in the project. For this reason, at the beginning of the project, a glossary was elaborated by and circulated among partners. The **glossary** is updated regularly to ensure that all partners have the same understanding of terms and names used throughout the project. The publishing of **trans-disciplinary publications** is difficult because publishers usually do not find it relevant to publish multi-disciplinary studies or have problems with finding relevant reviewers. The Coordinator's institution is a multidisciplinary institution comprising various scientific fields, including social sciences, governance and political studies, law and fisheries. This framework has been primarily used to identify relevant SSH partners.*

Q: What is the added value of integrating SSH in your project and what is the contribution from SSH partners?

*SSH integration is crucial for the involvement of different actors in the **co-creation process** and ultimately for reaching the objectives of the project. It increases the **impact and relevance of the project's results.** The majority of project's activities are carried out in close collaboration between SSH and STEM experts. SSH partners are actively involved in the stakeholder **co-creation process**, for which a separate Work Package has been designed. It also aims at identifying risks and opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture industries, and **conducting socio-economic analyses of the impacts.** In specific, SSH partners are responsible for the facilitation of this process, collecting stakeholders feedback, conducting relevant analysis and integrating them into final results and deliverables.*

Q: Which are the factors that facilitate collaboration and which the factors that hamper it?

The factors which facilitate cooperation:

➤ **Physical meetings** (including informal situations e.g. dinners, etc.) should be organised as frequently as possible as all the partners need to know each other.

The factors which hamper cooperation:

➤ **Different approach** to the project: University employees are more focused on publications and tend to have a more distant, institutional approach while researchers in the institute sector are more pragmatic and hands on when it comes to implementation. This needs to be addressed up front to ensure effective collaboration and avoid problems in the implementation of the project.

Q: What would be your main recommendation for both researchers and EC?

For the researchers:

➤ To **involve** STEM and SSH experts from the **very beginning** of project preparation (i.e. already at the project drafting phase).

For the European Commission:

➤ There should be more **interdisciplinary institutions/universities** that would allow for better and more frequent integration of SSH in STEM projects.

Project info

ClimeFish

The overall goal of ClimeFish is to help ensure that the increase in seafood production comes in areas and for species where there is a potential for sustainable growth, given the expected developments in climate, thus contributing to robust employment and sustainable development of rural and coastal communities.



<http://climefish.eu>