



ECPSA

European
Confederation of
Political Science
Associations



Ms. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science
European Commission

Brussels, March, 11th

Dear Commissioner,

The European Sociological Association (ESA), the European Confederation of Political Science Associations (ECPSA), the European Educational Research Association (EERA), the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC) have welcomed your intention to improve the position of the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), as you have stated on several occasions since the British Academy meeting in November 2011.

Considering your clearly expressed political intent to support SSH, in line with the European Parliament and the Member States, we wish to express our strong concern about the implementation of H2020:

- The first available 2014-2015 work programs indicate that the share of SSH research in SC6 has diminished dramatically. Extrapolated to the whole Horizon 2020 period, the core SSH program in SC6 will be funded up to the amount of 300 Million Euros. This is less than half of the FP7 budget for SSH (625 Million Euros) and far removed from what has been claimed on many occasions prior to this. It is now also evident that the main share of the SSH Challenge has been allocated to other priorities: a third of the budget of SC6 has been given to DG CNECT, which already gets more than 7 billion Euros under Priority 2 and from other budgets elsewhere in various Societal Challenges, and a further third of the budget is allocated to “innovation research”. Such budgetary decisions are in complete contradiction to the proposals for the Specific Programme of H2020, which allows for large research activity for SSH in SC6 in support of several key policy areas developed in particular by DG EMPL, EAC, ECFIN, HOME, JUST, DEVCO, BEPA, ENV and EEAS.
- According to the call for proposals, the « mainstreaming policy » of SSH in other challenges, which was presented as an important complement to the specific challenge, rarely pertains directly to research in SSH. Instead the calls have a narrow utilitarian approach to SSH and fail to mobilise the breadth of relevant SSH research for societal challenges. The selection of experts similarly fails to draw the breath of relevant SSH expertise.

We hope that we are mistaken. We therefore ask for a meeting with you urgently in order to get some clarification from you regarding the situation detailed above and so that SSH core research in SC6 can be granted the key position that was agreed upon by the European Parliament and the Council.

Yours sincerely,



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President of ESA



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This letter was Cc'ed to:

- Members of Parliament
- Members of the Programme Committee for Challenge 6 (H2020)
- Media in member states: La Repubblica, El Pais, Libération, Der Spiegel, The Irish Times, European Voice