

University of Rijeka, Center for Advanced Studies

**European Interdisciplinary Studies: (New) Challenges
for Europe in a Changing World**

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**The Role of SSH in European
Scientific Platform H2020**

Maja Vehovec, Croatian national expert for SSH in SC6, H2020

Three pillars of H2020: SSH position

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I. Scientific Excellence

ERC

FET

MSCA

Research
Infrastructure

II. Leading Role of industry

LEIT
Basic and industrial
Technology
Nanotechnology, Information Technology,
Materials, Biotechnology,
Production, Space

RISK FINANCING

INNOVATION IN
SMEs

III. Societal Challenges

1. Health

2. Transport

4. Climate

5. Energy

6. Europe in a Changing
World - Inclusive,
Innovative and
Reflective Societies

7. Secure Societies

Widening Participation

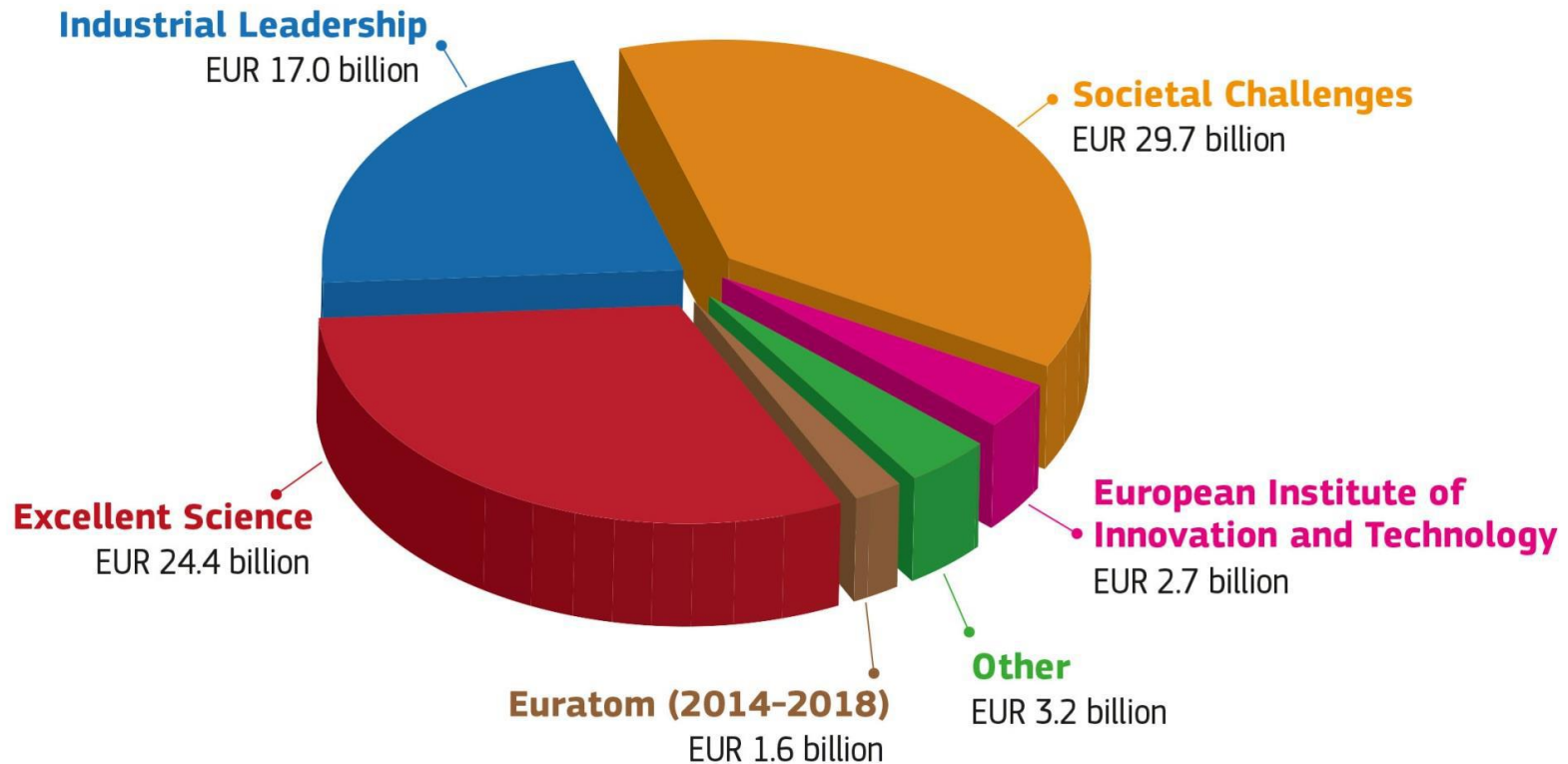
Science
and for
Society

JRC

EIT

SSH research is a horizontal activity – cross cutting issue

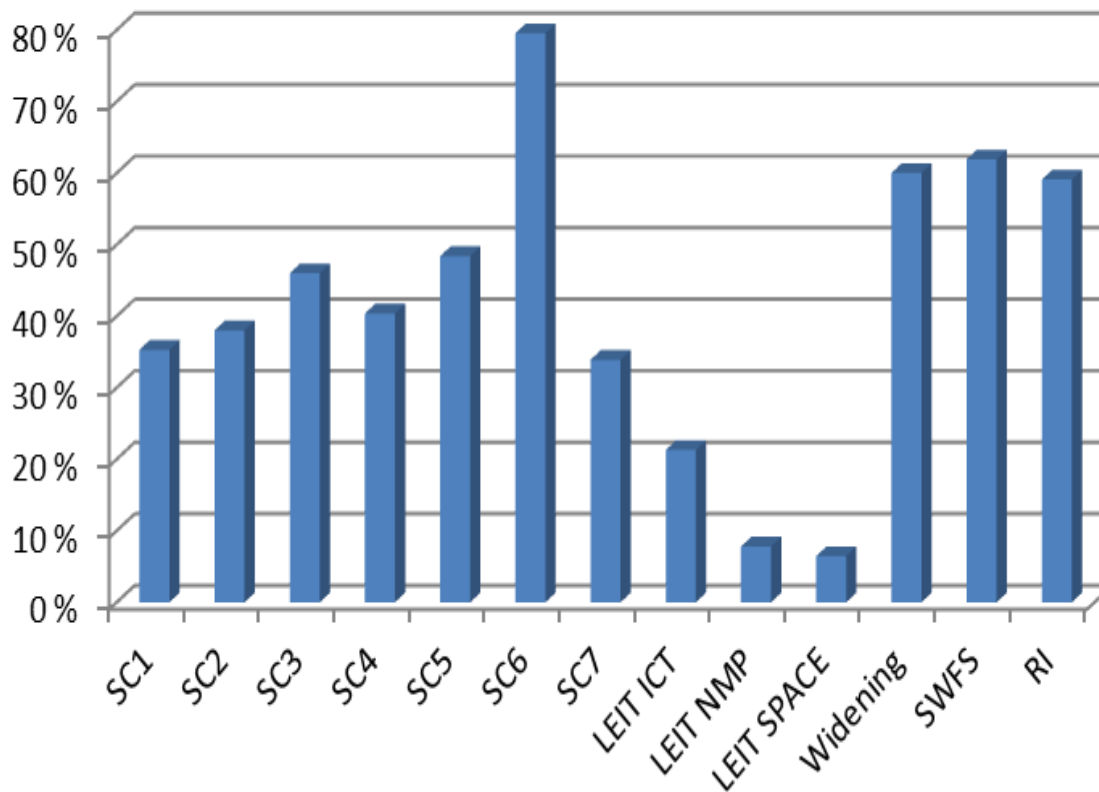
HORIZON 2020 BUDGET (in current prices)



Funding opportunities for social sciences and humanities in Horizon 2020.

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Share of SSH-flagged topics



- Societal Challenges, LEIT, Science with and for Society, Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation, and Research Infrastructures are flagged as SSH.
- Under the Excellent Science pillar, SSH will account for 17% of the budget for the European Research Council and for 11% of the budget for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

In numbers

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Total SCs:

- all topics - 337
- SSH flagged topics - 152
- Share of SSH flagged topics – 45%

Total LEIT:

- all topics – 155
- SSH flagged topics – 18
- Share of SSH flagged topics - 12 %

Widening Excellence:

- all topics- 5
- SSH flagged topics - 3
- Share of SSH flagged topics - 60 %

Science with and for Society

- 21
- 13
- 62 %

Research Infrastructures

- 22
- 13
- 59 %

Total:

540 -199- 37 %

Total excluding SC6:

496 -164-33 %

Integration of SSH in H2020

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- http://www.net4society.eu/_media/NET4SOCIETY_Opportunities_SSHresearchers_2014_2015_final.pdf

- Analysis of SSH relevant topics in 2015 (minor or major relevance for SSH):

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/NET4SOCIETY_Opportunities_SSHresearchers_2014_2015_final.pdf#view=fit&pageno=1

SC6 – SSH core placement

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SC6. Europe in a Changing World - Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies

Principal perspective of social science and humanities is focused on society-driven and problem-oriented research.

- WP 2014-2015 (15 billion EUR):

Calls – EURO, YOUNG, INSO, INT, REFLECTIVE

- WP 2016-2017 (17 billion EUR) :

Calls are currently in preparation

SSH – which type of research design do we need?

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Past: **Multidisciplinarity** – each discipline attempts to explain the same phenomena from its own viewpoint resulting in *independent stories*.

Present: **Interdisciplinarity** – looks at same phenomena from different viewpoints but tries to integrate the explanations thus producing *connected stories*.

Present: **Transdisciplinarity** – draws together theories and approaches to form a shared conceptual and analytical framework – a new discipline thus resolving in an *integrated story*.

Why interdisciplinarity?

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- In the heart of the H2020 are societal challenges which are so complex and wide in the scope that explanations can not be addressed from only one discipline. Such challenges need interdisciplinary approach to reach appropriate solutions for problem-oriented research.
- While nourishing interdisciplinarity it provides the foundation for transdisciplinarity.
- Interdisciplinarity in SSH help us in understanding „big picture” of various SC.
- Europe 2020 Growth Strategy and H2020 for R&I call for more interdisciplinarity

H2020 evaluations and expectations

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1. Excellence

- Clarity of the objectives;
- Soundness of the concept, including transdisciplinary considerations;
- Credibility of the proposed approach;
- Progress beyond the state of the art.

2. Impact [...] extent to which project outputs contribute to:

- The expected impacts listed in the work program under the relevant topic;
- Enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge;
- [Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets;]
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to communicate the project, disseminate and/or exploit the project results, and appropriate management of IPR

3. Quality and efficiency of implementation

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources;
- Competences, experience and complementarity of the individual participants, as well as of the consortium as a whole;
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk management.

Obstacles for interdisciplinarity in SSH

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- Long lasting traditional vertical orientation in scientific discipline and scientific carrier promotion
- Little experience and knowledge how to build and conduct interdisciplinary project or translate it in to WPs
- Unclear scientific contributions outside of traditional core discipline – need to think outside the box!
- Interdisciplinary research is sometimes difficult to get published in high-ranked journals
- Merits of interdisciplinary approach are sometimes difficult to evaluate (horizon is building qualified interdisciplinary evaluation committees)

Research – Education links

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- Research environment – need to think outside the box



- Education endeavor – flexibility in tailoring education curricula because teaching is starting and ending point for understanding and adopting interdisciplinarity

Thank you for your attention!

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Welcome
comments

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