

CESAER

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CONCERNS: Support to SSH Call
DATE: 23rd February 2018

To whom it may concern:

On 5th February 2018, a group of universities from [leading countries](#) in Social Science & Humanities (SSH) research and innovation [called](#) upon the European Union (EU) to create high-quality dedicated and embedded SSH research opportunities in the 9th EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation (FP9). The [universities of science & technology](#) - united within [CESAER](#) - have previously addressed embedding SSH research in FP9 in our [paper](#) 'How you can boost worldwide Research and Innovation'. With this letter, CESAER expresses its support for the call on the EU.

Due to the complexity of global challenges, and with their mix of social and environmental problems and breadth of technological developments, a thorough understanding of the social and human contexts is required to protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all. Greater inclusion of high-quality SSH in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects is required. Consequently, we fully support the call to reserve a targeted and dedicated 10% of the total FP9 budget for SSH across all actions. Importantly, SSH researchers should be involved from the start in defining the approaches to societal challenges and in drafting project proposals.

In particular, when creating embedded SSH research opportunities, it is essential to significantly broaden the range of SSH disciplines contributing to FP9. SSH expertise incorporates high societal value creation, and bottom-up approaches involving Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME), business, industries, public services and citizens (the 'quadruple helix') can help us address societal challenges.

To support multidisciplinary cooperation of STEM and SSH researchers, the definition of impact and benefit should take into account broader assessments of quality, impact and benefit, including scientific, cultural, social and societal as well as economic aspects. We call upon the EU to encourage researchers and consortia at the start of research project ideas to think about the broader quality, impact and benefit of the project and to promote that all researchers are open and collaborative in order to create successful multi-disciplinary teams capable of addressing major societal challenges.

For more information and enquiries, please contact our [Vice for President Research](#) or our [Senior Advisor for Research & Innovation](#).



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