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HORIZON EUROPE

IHA Position Paper
November 2018

Irish Humanities Alliance

Horizon Europe Concerns

According to the third *Report of the Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020* (May 2018), Irish Humanities and Social Sciences partners were successful in only two of the programme's Societal Challenges:

- **Societal Challenge 2: Health and Wellbeing:** two Irish partners (representing 4% of the total)
- **Societal Challenge 6: Europe in a Changing World: Inclusive, Innovative and Reflexive Society:** 6 Irish partners (represents 5% of the total)

The Irish Humanities Alliance is concerned that the proposed 'research and innovation missions' for the next framework programme, **Horizon Europe**, have a reduced focus on Societal Challenges (from seven to five) and eliminates the SC6 strand. This will have serious consequences for researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences researchers given that these are the areas where they have been most successful. It is imperative that something along the lines of SC6 should be re-inserted as a mission in the new programme.

We are in agreement with the sentiments expressed by ALLEA in their **July statement**:

> 'In relation to the encouragement of participation from all disciplines within the research community, ALLEA fears that the Regulation does not sufficiently support the inclusion of all disciplines, especially the social sciences and humanities (SSH), and argues for substantial investments in transdisciplinary research regarding societal challenges. ALLEA also calls for a greater focus on basic research as a precondition for innovation. Innovation should go beyond just technological aspects and enable change by addressing societal and cultural dimensions, too.'

The Alliance supports a broader definition of innovation and endorses the submission by the **ALLEA Horizon Europe Working Group** in which it was recommended that the proposed five clusters ('Health'; 'Inclusive and Secure Society'; 'Digital and Industry'; 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'; 'Food and Natural Resources') increase to seven inclusive of:

1. 'Wellbeing and Demographic Change'
2. 'Inclusive and Creative Society'
3. 'Digital Society, Ethics and Work'
4. 'Sustainable and Mobile Societies'
5. 'Environmental Futures'
6. 'Secure societies'
7. 'Heritage and Dignity'

Further information
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