Net 4 Society

Success stories in SSH integration

SSH INTEGRATION IN RI

Research infrastructures are facilities, resources and services that are used by research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. Research infrastructures play an increasing role in the advancement of knowledge and technology and their exploitation. By offering high quality research services to users from different countries, by attracting young people to science and by networking facilities, research infrastructures help to structure the scientific community and play a key role in the construction of an efficient research and innovation environment.

Horizon 2020 considers the socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) as cross-cutting and integrated in all the priorities and objectives of the Programme. **European research infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures)** involves SSH research in order to tackle societal challenges and to provide the most suitable impact for society. To do so, the following aspects need to be considered:

➢ To take into account the strategic relevance of today's and tomorrow's societal challenges, projects have to involve sociologists, lawyers and economists.
➢ To analyse societal and economic benefits of the infrastructure, projects have to involve sociologists, and economists.

Good collaboration with SSH researchers at the proposal stage is crucial!

FACTS & FIGURES

In the Work Programme 2014-2015, RI funded a total of 60 topics with a total budget of €587 million.

10 out of 60 topics explicitly required the involvement of SSH disciplines. Within these topics, 11 projects were funded for a budget of about €59 million.

- Non-flagged topics
- SSH flagged topics

- Total budget
- Budget to SSH-flagged topics
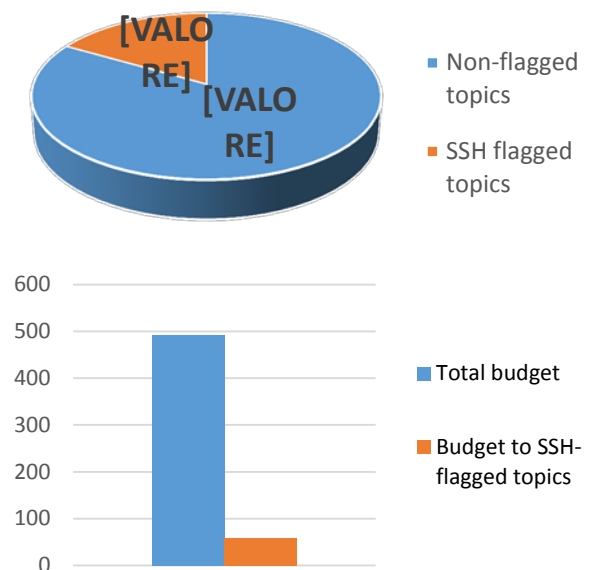
Source: European research infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures) Work Programme 2014–2015, CORDIS.

IPERION CH : a success story in SSH integration

Interview with Luca Pezzati, Project coordinator of IPERION CH

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

Given that the project is an extension of a previous activity for restoration and conservation, the inclusion of SSH disciplines were fundamental to the project. In any case, SSH integration was explicitly mentioned by the topic.

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

Because the development of a trans-disciplinary heritage science is in our mission, the concept of co-creation of knowledge is the basic idea around which the project is built. The use of a common digital language will help to create new ways for making multi-disciplinary science between SSH and STEM a reality.

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

Project info

IPERION CH

IPERION CH aims to establish the unique pan-European research infrastructure in Heritage Science by integrating national world-class facilities at research centres, universities and museums.

The cross-disciplinary consortium of 23 partners (from 12 Member States and the US) offers access to instruments, methodologies and data for advancing knowledge and innovation in the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage. Fourth in a line of successful projects (CHARISMA-FP7, Eu-ARTECH-FP6 and LabS-TECH network-FP5), IPERION CH widens trans-national access by adding new providers with new expertise and instruments to the three existing complementary platforms ARCHLAB, FIXLAB and MOLAB.

http://www.iperionch.eu

We started the project proposal with a kind of gap analysis to understand what we had to improve and what was the best way to do that. The conclusion was that we needed to have more SSH partners with respect to the previous project to balance the necessary expertises to achieve the project's objectives. Moreover, during the starting phase, all the partners were involved in writing down the most comprehensive and efficient proposal. The contribution of the SSH partners in that phase has been fundamental from both a STEM and SSH point of view. The real added value in the project has come from the creation of several multidisciplinary groups able to present a complex problem to answer and to better incorporate the response to create knowledge.

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

The factors which facilitate cooperation:
➢ *Think of the consortium as a whole and approach issues with an open mind.*
➢ *Look for a shared area to co-create knowledge giving each discipline the same importance.*

The factors which hamper cooperation:
➢ *Different semantics from country to country and from discipline to discipline.*
➢ *STEM and SSH researchers have different native languages, even digitally.*

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

For the researchers: Active involvement of all partners from the very beginning poses the basis for positive communication and productive collaboration. Different disciplines need equal consideration.

For the European Commission: The landscape of tools for STEM - SSH cooperation is rather fragmented in Framework Programmes. Foster multi-disciplinarity to obtain better results!