SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES:

A NEW AGENDA FOR EUROPE'S CHALLENGES

An international conference on Social Sciences and Humanities during SK PRES in 2016, organised with a financial support of and in cooperation with the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
under the auspices of the EU Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation Carlos Moedas and the Slovak Minister for Education, Science, Research and Sport Peter Plavčan

Bratislava, Slovakia, 14-16 November 2016

KEY OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bratislava conference in brief

- *Almost half of the world's top 100 institutions undertaking scholarship in the humanities are based in the EU. 40% of leading centres of excellence for research in the SSH are in institutions based in the EU. Europe has a large and active scholarly SSH community. Together with North America, Europe produces more than 80 % of articles registered in the world's leading Citation Indices and account for about 75% of the registered world's social science journals. Intra-European co-authorships of scientific articles, which is a measure of international cooperation, have also grew by 4 times between 1980 and 2009, in particular thanks to European funding.*
- *European liberal democracies are under enormous internal and external pressures and grow weaker and weaker. SSH research contributes to warn, support and renew democracies against the threats of anti-democratic populism and extremism, political apathy, "post-facts" and "post-truth", corrupt and anti-democratic leadership, ineffective policies and borderless commodification/ commercialisation which affects cultures and values.*
- *The EU needs to adopt a strong collaborative and comparative research programme on the future of European democracies and societies. This research programme will actually cover and include all the areas addressed in the conference, such as growth, jobs, inequalities, migration, radicalisation, extremism, cultures, values, beliefs and citizenship and their links to democracy.*

Introduction

Key outcomes of the conference: „Social Sciences and Humanities: a New Agenda for Europe's Challenges" that was organised during the SK PRES with a financial support of and cooperation with the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, in Bratislava, Slovakia, 15-16 November 2016, present a brief overview and key outcomes and recommendations addressed to all stakeholders that are involved in any type of support to the future Social Sciences and Humanities research and its interaction with other sciences.

The conference brought together over 300 researchers, policy makers, administrators, funders, coordinators, advisers, journalists and other experts from around Europe including 45 active speakers, chairs and rapporteurs. The goal of the conference was to illustrate that SSH research is crucial in addressing societal challenges faced by Europe and has to be recognised as a major contributor to the solution of problems in contemporary democratic societies. The conference organisers and participants wanted to ensure that the SSH research continues to receive relevant recognition and support from the Commission and Member States.

Presentations in plenary sessions, roundtables and parallel sessions emphasised an increasingly important role that social sciences and humanities play in solving challenges of contemporary societies. This document offers an insight into some of the challenges identified by the speakers and participants. It highlights key points and presents recommendations based on the outcomes from thematic plenary and parallel sessions.

A copy of the conference agenda is included in the annex of this document.

Background and overview

The Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) are fundamental in addressing the societal challenges faced by Europe today and tomorrow, both within its boundaries and at the global level beyond. They significantly contribute to strengthening democracy by nourishing knowledge, appreciating values and teaching critical thought. In a fast changing world, no problem can be analysed and no democratic and efficient solution can be found without cutting-edge thinking and research in SSH.

The Horizon 2020 Programme clearly identified a number of complex societal challenges that require participation and engagement of the SSH in the whole interdisciplinary agenda of addressing and solving these challenges. In addition, new challenges have emerged in recent years and months that need full involvement of social sciences and humanities in order to bring better understanding of the development of contemporary European societies (such as migration with its consequences on national politics, human rights and freedom of

movement; growing populism, extremism and radicalisation, which sparks debates on religious diversity and security inside and outside Europe; or unemployment which fuels social exclusion in some of the EU Member States). Other trends in the fields of identities, inequalities, cultures, citizenships and global justice have also been increasingly intense in the recent developments of European and world politics in the so called „post-factual and post-truth" era. Such challenges cannot be solved by mere technological solutions, and anyway, all technological solutions are socially grounded. These are crucial reasons why SSH research deserves exceptional attention by policy-makers.

What is the present and the future role of the SSH and how can they contribute to the sustainable future of the European Union and the world? These were the questions that resonated during the conference.

The key message of the conference to policy-makers at European, national and institutional levels can be taken from the key-note speech by Vladimir Sucha, the Director General of the Joint Research Centre, European Commission: „Social Sciences and Humanities are the sciences of the 21st century".

There are a number of reasons for this statement. Whereas there is a significant contribution of STEM disciplines to global progress, there is also a limited support to the knowledge and understanding of histories, cultures, languages, values, heritage or mentalities. The current growth of extremism and radicalisation of opinions that oppose and undermine the great idea of Europe of knowledge, values and human rights, as well as the accelerated erosion of liberal democracies in Europe should toll the bell. Only SSH can provide evidence and foster greater understanding of inclusive, isecure and reflective societies in Europe.

Global mega-challenges that include democracies, inequalities, migration, population growth and ageing, climate change, security, new ways of employment and new jobs in the fourth industrial revolution, urbanisation and new forms of governance, call for further full engagement of SSH research across all disciplines, inclusing the arts and the humanities. Access to big data and combining multiple sources are enormous challenges but also a great opportunity for SSH for analysing and assessing the historical background, developments and impacts of various societal, political, cultural, environmental or technological innovations on people´s real lives.

Key outcomes and recommendations

SSH research in the growth, jobs and policies against inequalities

Key outcomes

- Inequalities (mainly horizontal inequalities - social inequalities, income inequalities, inequalities of opportunity, inequalities in access to education, food, health care or services of all kinds, etc.) have been increasing in recent decade, which has an impact on the well-being and the political attitudes of the majority. Addressing inequalities is one of the major political challenges of democracies which in recent decades have largely been unable to establish equality policies although equality is a core concern of democracies.
- The SSH have methods and tools how to study inequalities. However, there are big differences in the availability, scope and quality of data and statistics across Europe because different countries use different indicators that are often difficult to compare. Generally there is an agreement that data and big data, their quality, availability and advanced analytics are crucial for future policies in Europe and for the renewal of liberal democracies. Decision- and policy-making based on correct data evaluation and processing may help to understand and address inequalities correctly, to cope with existing inequalities and to avoid creating new inequalities.
- Nevertheless, the development of relevant data cannot replace theoretical developments which strongly influence the shaping and collection of these data. Cutting-edge theoretical developments on equality and inequality in modern democratic settings is necessary, from all disciplines and also through interdisciplinarity.

Recommendations

- In order to provide correct research theories, analyses and data to policy-makers, identification and unification of indicators required for statistics and for meaningful comparative analysis of inequalities in various areas have to be discussed and agreed upon among researchers, but also among policy-makers at national and European levels. Integration of data from different sources (including big data) in the context of their possible exploitation by SSH is one of the future challenges. The role of the EU is vital in this regard.
- More interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial research collaboration in the field of growth, jobs and inequalities is needed among universities, research institutions, industry/ businesses and public sector.
- Policy-makers should be brought to recognise the value of data analyses, and economic, social and statistical theories for public policies. European and national social and economic public policies and strategies have to be built on research data collected, compared and analysed by SSH researchers, and not on opinions and notions of politicians. Research results have to be translated into clear policy recommendations that will be implemented and monitored.

- Overall, the nexus SSH research-policy-makers/politicians on inequalities and equality has to be much better analysed and transformed with a view to renew democracies in Europe and the ways science can shape policies.

Migration and mobility

Key outcomes

- Migration and mobility is both a challenge and an opportunity for Europe.
- The SSH research in migration and mobility, including the question of integration of migrants, requires broad interdisciplinary collaboration and theory building, systematic cross-national comparisons, and integration of various levels of analysis (micro-macro; spatial levels; levels of governance).
- Migration patterns have been changing and research demonstrates new geographies (new spatial trajectories of migration flows in relation to sending, receiving and transit countries) and new temporalities (growth of short-term, temporary, circular and seasonal migration and mobilities).
- In order to provide evidence and to improve faster transfer of research results to policy-makers, more flexible procedures for research support are needed as a tool to overcome the limitations that derive from the political agendas of policy-makers.
- Short-term project funding cannot support the establishment of stable networks of researchers.
- Systematic and long-term cross-national and interdisciplinary comparative research including data collection and analysis are urgently needed.

Recommendations

- More interdisciplinary, cross-national and inter-sectorial research on all types of migration and mobility (geographies and temporalities) is needed as a basis for understanding migration and mobility flows and the development of migration and integration policies. Long-term funding support of stable research centres and networks of researchers dealing with migration and mobility research should be considered. Research based on a 3 to 4 year model of projects cannot guarantee the sustainability and continuity of research in migration and mobility.
- More research should focus on cultures, history, languages, values and heritage of non-European societies in order to improve understanding, interactions and (non) cooperation and collaboration of European citizens with migrants coming to Europe.
- Research in this field must be conducted hand in hand with the development of innovative and inclusive education as well as training.
- Research should also tackle in a much more systematic way the actual regulation of migration on site, i.e. the various public and private bureaucratic treatments of migrants across all European countries as it appears that practices vary a lot between and within countries.

- Research results and particularly good practices should be translated in institutional and public policies, disseminated across European countries and communicated in a proper and clear way to the media and society as a whole. A European platform should be created to link all projects results, policies and good practices, and should be funded by the Commission in order to ensure sustainability of such platform.

Radical ideologies and extremism

Key outcomes

- The responsibility for addressing radicalisation and extremism (related primarily to religious, ethnic, right-wing or left-wing radicalisation) lies primarily with Member States and actors at local, regional and national level. However, the EU provides complementary support across several key areas (such as the Radicalisation Awareness Network - since 2011, the Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online - 2016 and two Commission Communications that frame actions to be undertaken in R&I: *Preventing Radicalisation to Terrorism and Violent Extremism* (COM 941, 2013) and *Supporting the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violent Extremism* (COM 379, 2016).
- Gaps in research on radicalisation and extremism prevention include the role played by ideologies; the role of social media and specificities of internet recruitment techniques; the influence of role models; the renewal of religions, their development in Europe but also in various parts of the world; the study of politics, history, religions, societies, languages and cultures in regions with large Muslim populations; the growth of radical anti-establishment movements and subcultures; or decreasing belief in scientific facts and their replacement with conspiracy theories.
- Ethical issues are highly important in relation to this research area. However, a traditional approach is far from sufficient to help cope with complex issues addressed by researchers. New ethical approaches such as affirmative ethics, ethics of care, aesthetic ethics need to be explored and considered as potential frameworks for ethical decisions in this field.

Recommendations

- SSH researchers should pay more attention to radicalization and extremism, in particular to extreme right agendas and receptivity to these agendas.
- There is a pressing need for empirical qualitative research results stemming from fieldwork. However, given the complexities of fieldwork on radicalisation and extremism, a support security system should be set in place.
- More reflection is needed on how to conduct research and how to phrase research findings in a way that does not stigmatise communities, religions or demographic groups. We need to explicitly refine analysis to the level of sub-groups and individuals.

- Research on radicalisation and extremism requires strict, but also very sensitive ethical guidelines that protect all actors.
- Research outcomes have to be properly communicated to the media, civil society and policy-makers.

Democracy, justice and stability

Key outcomes

- Europe faces a crisis of liberal democracy and the growth of anti-democratic rhetorics. The reality of illiberal democracies or authoritarian regimes in Europe and close to Europe casts a crude light on the limits and failures of yesterday's and today's liberal democracies. There is therefore a broad recognition of the necessity of research in topics and issues related to democracy, justice and stability.
- These topics interconnect various disciplines in the field of social sciences and humanities, and thus stimulate interdisciplinary research and overcome competition between disciplines.
- Research in democracy, justice and stability that is built on theories, concepts and practices of numerous SSH disciplines must continue and be supported if we want to live in a secure, peaceful and tolerant world.
- A human rights and democratic values perspective is fundamental in addressing and researching cultural and religious pluralism in Europe.
- New and innovative ways of governance (from local to global governance) and threats to democratic governance (including global economic pressures) should be supported as a future research topic. Research focused on effective legal regimes and on effective police, justice and security at all levels (from local to global) is crucial as a prevention to threats to democracy and security.

Recommendations

- European liberal democracies are under enormous internal and external pressures and grow weaker and weaker. SSH research contributes to warn, support and renew democracies against the threats of anti-democratic populism and extremism, political apathy, "post-facts" and "post-truth", corrupt and anti-democratic leadership, ineffective policies and borderless commodification/ commercialisation which affects cultures and values.
- The EU needs to adopt a strong collaborative and comparative research programme on the future of European democracies and societies. This research programme could actually cover and include all the other areas addressed in the conference, i.e. "growth, jobs, inequalities", "migration and mobility", "radicalisation, terrorism, extremisms", "cultures, values, beliefs and citizenship" and link them to the existing democratic and anti-democratic developments in society, politics, economy, cultures and arts to mention but a few areas of significance.
- One of the foci of research in this field should be on democracy as it is lived, perceived and defined in everyday life of European citizens, as well as the development of (non) democratic attitudes. A second focus should be the role of

democratic institutions and intermediary bodies and the redefinition/reassessment of representative and direct democracies in theory and contexts. A third focus should be the development of ideologies, imaginaries and redistributive policies and the relationships between politics and economics in a context of globalization. A fourth focus should be the historical and future selection, training and evaluation/democratic control of representatives/leaders and the political organisations that compete for power in democracies. A fifth focus should the development of democracies in the world and the role of Europe.

- Research on democracy requires the involvement and collaboration of numerous SSH disciplines that contribute to a better understanding of contemporary democracies. The EU SSH research is well-placed to study the future of European democracies and societies but needs to be supported.

Cultures, values, beliefs, motivations and citizenship

Key outcomes

- Cultural heritage is a critical means for societies to understand and cope with change. European cultural heritage that reflects cultures, values, beliefs and motivations of each of EU Member States and their citizens is a key to European/ national/ regional/ local and cultural identity construction as well as to understanding European citizenship.
- Europe is home to a unique and diverse wealth of cultural heritage (both tangible and intangible, recently also digital), which means an enormous potential for national/regional/ local development. At the same time, cultural heritage suffers from growing threats such as climate change or mass tourism. A strategic interdisciplinary and cross-national research approach is necessary if we want to protect values of cultural heritage in Europe.
- Cultural heritage in Europe offers numerous new opportunities in the development of creative industries and cultural activities that can lead to economic growth, but also better social inclusion and cohesion. This new use of cultural heritage is a driver in digital innovations. Digital humanities open new areas of research and of the application of research results.
- Research on cultures, values and beliefs has made progress over the last decades but still remains fragmented. There is a lack of interactions between fields and disciplines.

Recommendations

- It is essential to better link existing and future research on cultures, values and beliefs under the umbrella of democracy. Research on culture as a means to strengthen national/ regional/ local identity and to understand European citizenship needs more support in order to build a stronger, tolerant and peaceful European Union which will be a source of pride for every European citizen.

- Active participation of citizens has to become part of research on cultures, values, beliefs and cultural heritage. Innovative ways of involving citizens in this research can bring fruitful mutual exchanges of opinions and help identify new ways of building democracies, renewing social values and beliefs, and protecting, revitalising and governing cultural heritage.
- Digitalisation of cultural heritage (in all its forms) as an important driver for the development of new creative jobs and industries should be supported both at national and European levels and link various actors, disciplines and sectors.

Prospects of SSH research: impacts, cooperation, interdisciplinarity and links to policies

Key outcomes

- The conference demonstrated that SSH could represent a European comparative advantage on the research landscape. Almost half of the world's top 100 institutions undertaking scholarship in the humanities are based in the EU. 40% of leading centres of excellence for research in the SSH are in institutions based in the EU. Europe has a large and active scholarly SSH community.
- However, in a context of weakening democracies and tense debates around "political correctness", there are also some trends towards a declining support to SSH research in Europe whether in terms of budget and policies or in terms of public debates around the impacts of this research.
- The SSH research community in Europe produces high quality scholarship. Over the life of the ERC, support for SSH has grown from around 15% to almost a quarter of the annual funding allocated. According to INTERCO SSH, together with North America, Europe produces more than 80 % of articles registered in the world's leading Citation Indices and account for about three quarters of the registered world's social science journals. Intra-European co-authorships of scientific articles, which is a measure of international cooperation, have also grew by 4 times between 1980 and 2009, in particular thanks to European funding.
- SSH researchers are the most mobile as shown by the participation in the Marie Sklodowska Curie programme. SSH researchers are contributing beyond the academy providing the drivers behind some leading and fast growing industries in Europe, like those based on social innovation and the creative industries.
- The wealth of the SSH research is at the service of European policy makers but we need to make better efforts to harness this resource through the better design of architectures, frameworks and processes to support multi-national and European research programmes. For this purpose, in January 2015, a high level group of scientific networks and disciplinary associations founded the 'European Alliance for

Social Sciences and Humanities' (EASSH). EASSH is to promote social sciences and humanities research as a resource for Europe and the world.

- SSH research can analyse and support democracies at times when European (and non european) liberal democracies are in obvious trouble to find answers to the concerns of their citizens (hence the success of alternative non traditional political attitudes and the emergence of new democratic or anti-democratic forms of political supply).

Recommendations

- SSH research has to stay a strong part of European Research Area and should be recognised and supported as an asset not to be wasted in the global research competition.
- SSH research needs continuous recognition and funding at EU and national level because it is fundamental in addressing and solving emerging new challenges such as democracy, migration, extremism, populism, inequalities and cultures and values.

Annex 1: Conference Programme

"SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES: A NEW AGENDA FOR EUROPE'S CHALLENGES"

An international conference on Social Sciences and Humanities during SK PRES in 2016, organised with a financial support of and in cooperation with the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
under the auspices of the EU Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation Carlos Moedas and the Slovak Minister for Education, Science, Research and Sport Peter Plavčan

Bratislava, Slovakia, 14-16 November 2016

Conference Programme

14th November 2016 Pre-conference events		
DANDELION THEMATIC WORKSHOP		**NET4SOCIETY BROKERAGE EVENT**
13:00 13:15	Welcoming participants and *registration* (coffee break)	*13:00 15:00*
13:15 13:30	*Welcome & Introduction* to Dandelion and division of participants into three groups: TABLE 1: *Migration & Refugee integration in the EU* TABLE 2: *EU identities, extremism and radicalization* TABLE 3: *Social Innovation and reform of EU Public Services*	
13:30 14:00	ROUND I: *Barriers, bottlenecks and lost knowledge from projects untapped potential of SSH projects to reach policy and society*	
14:00 14:30	ROUND II: *What has worked well so far: Success stories and best practices which have reached policy, society, the market*	
14:30 15:00	ROUND III: *How to communicate in an effective, target-sensitive manner in order to mobilise stakeholders and valorise research?*	

Info session
- Welcome and intro
- 2017 SC6 call presentation
- SSH opportunities in other 2017 H2020 calls
- Introduction to brokerage mechanics

15:00 15:30	Coffee break	15:00 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 *16:00*	***Conclusions***: Presentation of main results and plenary discussion	*15:30* *18:30*	***Brokerage session*** Flash presentations One-to-one meetings
		19:00 *21:00*	Social event

15th November 2016 *Conference Day 1*	
9.00 *10.00*	*Plenary session 1: Opening session* Peter Plavčan, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sports, SK Wolfgang Burtscher, Deputy Director-General of DG RTD and Acting Director of Directorate B, European Commission Vladimír Šucha, Director General of the Joint Research Centre, European Commission
10.00 *11.00*	*Plenary session 2: The role of SSH research in addressing Europe's challenges* Josette Baer (University of Zurich, CH) Andre Gingrich (University of Vienna, AT)
11.00 *11.30*	**Networking break**
11.30 *12.30*	*Plenary session 3: SSH analysing crises 1: understanding migration* Russell King (University of Sussex, UK) Anna Triandafyllidou (EUI, IT - GR)
12.30 *14.00*	**Lunch**
14.00 *15.00*	*Plenary session 4: SSH analysing crises 2: radical ideologies and extremism in perspective* TBC Michal Vašečka (Masaryk University, CZ)
15.00 *15.30*	**Networking break**
15.30 *16.30*	*Plenary session 5: The SSH research in the growth, jobs and policies against inequalities* István György Tóth (TÁRKI Social Research Institute, HU) Vladimír Baláž (Slovak Academy of Sciences, SK)
16.30 *17.30*	*Plenary session 6: SSH and democracy in Europe* Adam Michnik (Gazeta Wyborcza, PL) Iveta Radičová (BISLA, SK)
	Moderator of the day: Jonathan M. Wootliff
18:30 *19:30*	**Dandelion cocktail and networking**
18:30 *19:30*	**Launch of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities**
19.30	**Conference dinner and social event**

16th November 2016
Conference Day 2

9.00 **10.00**	*Plenary session 7: Roundtable Young SSH scientists: experiences and challenges* **Chair**: Alexandra Bitusikova (Matej Bel University, SK) and Angela Liberatore (ERC, BE) **Speakers:** Justyna Olko (University of Warsaw, PL) Sarah Glück (Zeppelin University, DE) Ivan Sokáč (IS Capital, SK) Jozef Bátora (Comenius University Bratislava, SK)
10.00 **10.30**	**Networking break**

10.30 **12.00**	*SSH research in the growth, jobs and policies against inequalities* **Chair**: Teresa Sordé (Autonomous University of Barcelona, ES) **Speakers:** Olivier Godechot (MaxPo – Max Planck Sciences Po Center, FR-DE) John Östh (Uppsala University, SE) **Rapporteur:** Kamila Borseková (Matej Bel University, SK)	*Migration and mobility* **Chair:** Elisabeth Lipiatou (Head of Unit 'Open and Inclusive Societies', B6, DG Research and Innovation, EC) **Speakers:** Rinus Penninx (University of Amsterdam, NL) Alessandra Venturini (University of Torino and EUI, IT) **Rapporteur:** Katerina Rozakou (University of Amsterdam, NL - GR)	*Radical ideologies and extremism* **Chair:** Angela Schindler-Daniels (KoWi, DE) **Speakers:** Laura Hetel (DG Research and Innovation, EC) Hilary Pilkington (University of Manchester, UK) **Rapporteur:** Gabriel Bianchi (Slovak Academy of Sciences, SK)

12.00 **13.30**	**Lunch**

13.30 **15.00**	*Democracy, justice and stability* **Chair:** Didier Georgakakis (University Paris 1- Panthéon-Sorbonne, FR) **Speakers:** Radoslaw Markowski (University of Social Sciences and Humanities & Polish National Election Study, PL) Daniela Piana (University of Bologna, IT) **Rapporteur:** Slavomíra Ferenčuhová (Masaryk University, CZ)	*Cultures, values, beliefs, motivations and citizenship* **Chair:** Michal Buchowski (University of Poznan, PL) **Speakers:** Gabor Sonkoly (ELTE, HU) Daniela Koleva (CAS, BG) **Rapporteur:** Poul Holm (Trinity College Dublin, IE)	*Prospects of SSH research: impacts, cooperation, interdisciplinarity and links to policies* **Chair:** Julia Stamm (Science-Leads, BE – DE, Chair of the International Scientific Board) **Speakers:** Sylvie Rohanová ('Open and inclusive Societies', DG Research and Innovation, EC) Lidia Puigvert (University of Barcelona, ES) Gisèle Sapiro (CNRS and University of Paris I, FR) **Rapporteur:** Gabi Lombardo (European Alliance of Social Sciences and Humanities)
15.00	*Plenary session 8: The new agenda for SSH research in Europe*

15.30	***Chair and conclusions by***: *Milena Zic Fuchs (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, HR)* ***Speakers:*** Short debriefings by the rapporteurs (5' each) Short comments by the audience
15.30 *16.00*	***Closing Plenary*** **Speakers:** *Elisabeth Lipiatou (Head of Unit 'Open and inclusive Societies', B6, DG Research and Innovation, EC)* *Alexandra Bitušíková (Vice-Rector for Research, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Chair of the Local Programme Committee)*