

CULTIVATING EUROPE

DEMOCRATIC EUROPE • SOCIAL EUROPE • EDUCATED EUROPE

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Europe – The Challenge ?

- Europe currently **suffers** from a vanishing confidence in democratic orders, economic crises, social inequality, migration processes, nationalism and populism, demographic change, new digital realities, and fake news.
- Europe faces **diverging ideas** on its future direction and role in the world.
- Europe depends on a more effective **exchange** between researchers, policy makers and citizens on the role of research on societies.
- Europe needs a stronger SSH community **lobbying** for the intrinsic value of its research topics and outputs.

Horizon Europe – The Solution ?

- The draft proposal for Horizon Europe does not fully address **citizens' concerns**.
- Research on democracy must develop knowledge-based solutions to **foster democratic orders**, and to improve the functioning of institutions and communication structures.
- Research on social transformations needs to address the conditions of inequality properly to design new forms of **social protection**, and to guarantee economic growth.
- As the core basis for both social and democratic stability, Horizon Europe must include **educational research** both as a new area of intervention and as a **mission**.

What Research on Societies needs for maximizing impact:

- Funding lines bringing together new **interdisciplinary consortia**.
- Funding lines fostering the cooperation of **ongoing projects**.
- Funding tools like **Proof of Concept** in all programme parts.
- **Project lifetimes** appropriate to the expected social impact.
- A diversified definition of impact and a clear focus on **European added value**.
- Participation of all relevant disciplines in research proposals as a **key evaluation criterion**.

Pillar 1:
Valuation Pathways

Pillar 2:
Structures & Policies.

Key words:

research on societies for societies
SSH lobbying
cooperation on equal terms
democratic change
reduced inequalities
well-educated citizens

Research on Societies must be a future corner stone of **European Research Funding**. When creating the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation **Horizon Europe**, the European Commission must consider that Europe can not meet today's biggest challenges – such as social inequality and demographic change, migration pressure, rising nationalism, populism, terroristic threats, economic crises, and thus an overall waning confidence in democracy – with predominantly technology-driven approaches. To maximize the impact of collaborative research in Horizon Europe, it needs an **adequate budget for research on an 'Inclusive Society'**, a solid and monitored **integration of SSH** in all parts of the programme, and a better support for the development of interdisciplinary consortia. The new research agenda must rely on an open exchange between policy makers, researchers, and citizens. The portfolio of funding instruments must be adapted to current needs and must enable researchers to develop innovative toolsets and to create impact especially through intensive citizen participation.

The Working Group **ROSE** stands for a strong SSH contribution to this agenda and to a democratic, social and educated Europe that take citizens' concerns properly into account.



**Research
On Societies
in Europe**

ROSE – The Group

ROSE is a working group of EU liaison officers. Our main objectives are to contribute to the creation of the new framework programme for research and innovation Horizon Europe, and to sustainably strengthen the role of research on societies in the European Research Area. We strongly encourage scientists and colleagues to join and support us.

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ROSE – The Concept

ROSE proposes a new concept of collaboration that requires a **shift** from discipline-oriented research towards a stronger **focus on the challenge**. Excellent research relies on partnerships between disciplines on **equal terms**. Research on societal challenges requires a less technology-driven approach and a stronger participation and leadership of the SSH.

ROSE is strongly supported by a large number of researchers, university administrators, and stakeholder organizations.

In particular, we are grateful for the support of:

