

15-16 June 2022



Questions and Answers

- 1. Can the process of policies and generally the EU funding programmes be simplified? These programmes proved to be challenging to StartUps and consortia as they aim at developing innovative solutions across several sectors.**

The use of public money by funders requires fair, transparent, and robust processes. Policies are drawn from consultations to identify the needs of the society and relevant sectors. The funder will adopt their objectives accordingly.

The funding process is developed to select excellent research proposed by qualified and well-prepared consortia. Funding is designed to feed evidence and/or results into new policy development, or to support the execution of existing policies (such as driving innovation). Applicants need to show they have knowledge of existing policies and explain how their planned research fits into them, otherwise it can make the evaluation process, and comparing proposals, very challenging.

- 2. To what extent SSH experts/researchers are involved in the design of Cluster 6 topics? SSH content is described in very general terms and there is a lack details on what aspects/issues the SSH expertise is expected to address.**

Since Horizon 2020, the topics are written in general terms. In the previous programmes stakeholders complained that they were too prescriptive and not inclusive enough. Topics are now deliberately written in a general way because the Commission wants to see new and original ideas from the consortia showing how they will deliver the desired outcomes.

The EC usually engage with experts in relevant areas, high-level groups and partners involved in funded EU projects. Topics can be proposed initially by researchers, but the draft develops over many rounds of consultation with experts inside the Commission and comments from Programme Committees (representatives of Member States) which add to and refine the text; some of these will have expertise in SSH areas.

We invite you to watch the [recording/slides](#) of the EC event '*Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon Europe - Diving into the opportunities, 2 June 2021*'. It gives information on how the work programmes are drafted.

- 3. Is there a list of all potential states that can be considered under Horizon Europe? I would like to work with institutions in the US, Australia, and Canada. Is there an agreement with these states?**

The [list of participating countries](#) in Horizon Europe is available on the [EC Funding portal](#). The United States, Australia and Canada can participate in EU collaborative projects, but they will need to bring their own funding unless the topic specifically requires the participation of these

countries. The EC recently published some information on [complementary funding schemes](#). We also understand that the EC engaged with Japan, Canada and New Zealand to potentially associate these countries to Horizon Europe.

4. When are the call topics for '23/24 going to be published?

Publication of the final work programme is expected at the end of October; however the draft may be made available earlier. You should contact your National Contact Point: <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/find-your-ncp>

5. Did EU-China-Safe call topic require the integration of these SSH considerations or was this something that the consortium felt was important to ensure the success of the project?

The topic mentioned *'there is a need to contribute to the prevention of major food safety crisis throughout the whole food chain, to meet consumer expectations for international standards and ensure the authenticity of high-quality products such as those covered by Geographical Indications (GIs)'*. Omitting the group of consumers would not have complied with the keyword *'whole food chain'*. In general, it is highly appreciated to consider and address SSH issues, even if the topic is not specifically asking for it. At the end Horizon Europe, as its predecessors, ambitions to improve the life of citizens and this needs collaboration with SSH actors.

6. Can you please share the link to the Teagasc video?

The [video](#) on the multi-actor approach in Teagasc is also saved on the slides.

7. As projects run for only 3-5 years, getting citizen participants substantially engaged for a somewhat short period can be difficult - what advice would you give about reducing/overcoming the "research fatigue" these citizens feel and therefore increase engagement with your project?

Three to five years is actually a long period to keep citizens groups engaged from the start to the end of the project. Many coordinators choose to engage at specific moments along the project life to avoid constant updates that could lead to fatigue. When working with new groups, it is advisable to explain what is expected from them. You should also ask about their capacity, the time they can spend on the project, the type of information that would like to receive and how frequently they would like to get it, etc. This is essential to establish a fruitful collaboration.