



# EASSH

European Alliance for Social  
Sciences and Humanities

**The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities expresses deep concerns about the current budget developments regarding Horizon Europe**

**In a critical period for Europe and the world, Horizon Europe must take the insights of what has been learnt in 2020 into the next period.** The current pandemic crisis clearly showed that:

- **scientific progress and technological advances provide potential long-term solutions to challenges and crises**
- **trust, care, solidarity and democratic values are key to the resilience of our societies**
- **individual behaviours, citizens' participation, community responses and public policies will underpin any robust and sustainable recovery in the future.**

We draw two conclusions from the current period:

- more money, not less must to be invested in research
- embedding the social, cultural and political aspects in research and policy design is key if we want to avoid partial solutions to current and future challenges.

**Regrettably the current budget discussion for Horizon Europe is not progressing in the right direction** on these two fronts. The discussion reflects:

- **short-term considerations and political infighting and will not provide EU scientific research with the resources to lead globally.**
- **inadequate decisions regarding the crucial role of societal contexts for scientific progress and technological advances** in all domains i.e. health, climate, artificial intelligence, energy, biodiversity, food, security.

**EASSH members are deeply concerned that Horizon Europe risks developing only partial solutions if the huge imbalance in research funding is not addressed.** They consider that the current budget discussion does not recognise the crucial place of the societal dimension across all clusters and does  **earmark insufficient resources for the Cluster devoted to SSH-driven societal issues.** Any amount under €1,5bn for that cluster would trigger numerous negative reactions across research communities, civil society associations and think tanks.

EASSH has called for a balanced investment across the different clusters of Horizon Europe in our position paper [Resources for Clusters in Horizon Europe](#) and has demonstrated the role of societal research in time of crisis with the paper on [Mission Covid 19: Global problems need a research portfolio approach](#).

**EASSH invites the Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament to ensure a real balance in how Horizon Europe is equipped to invest in societal research to help tackle current and future challenges.** Balance will need to apply to the various components of the programme: (a) to fundamental research and individual scholarship (ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie), (b) to the research directed at application as in clusters and missions, (c) to infrastructures and networks.