

# Success stories in SSH integration



## SSH INTEGRATION IN ICT

The potential and capabilities of modern ICT systems are still growing exponentially fuelled by the progress in electronics, microsystems, networking, the ability to master increasingly complex cyber-physical systems and robots, and progress in data processing and human machine interfaces.

Horizon 2020 considers the socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) as cross-cutting and integrated in all the priorities and objectives of the Programme. The **Information and Communication Technologies** involves this research in order to tackle the societal challenges and to provide the most suitable impact for society. The following aspects need to be considered:

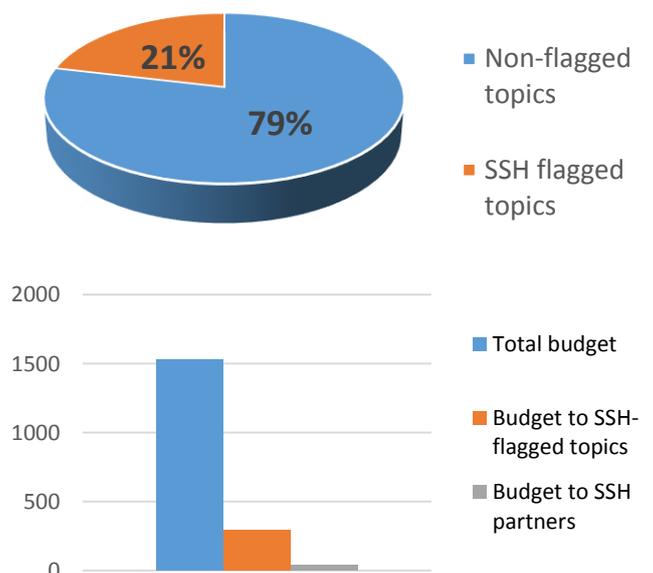
- To pay attention to emerging ethics of digital innovation, such as social entrepreneurship, direct democracy, privacy preservation and digital right, projects have to involve SSH researchers.
- To address non-technical market barriers to evaluate the impact of robotics on the labour market in a pro-active way, ethics, law, sociology and economics should be involved.
- To pay due attention to the diversity of users and users' needs, cooperation with SSH researchers is crucial.

To have a good proposal cooperation with SSH researchers is crucial!

## FACTS & FIGURES

In the Work Programme 2014-2015 ICT funded a total of 47 Topics with a total budget of €1529 Million.

10 out of 47 topics were flagged for SSH. Within these topics 94 projects were funded for a budget of €295 million out of which 42 million went to SSH partners.



Source: 1st and 2nd Monitoring Report on Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020: Participants, budget and disciplines, EC

## K-PLEX : a success story in SSH integration



### Interview with Jennifer Edmond, Project coordinator of K-PLEX project

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

*SSH integration was mentioned explicitly by the topic. Moreover, there was no risk that the humanities and social sciences could become marginalised within K-PLEX, in spite of the fact that big data was at the heart of the project. Digital humanities itself is a great example of how humanistic knowledge creation can interact with other epistemic paradigms, given that we work all the time at the border of technology, the arts, culture and information science.*

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

*Each of the four partners involved in the project comes from one of the following backgrounds: literature and historical data, anthropology, research data archive, and language technology services.*

*I had met each of these collaborators over the preceding several years in the course of other projects and meetings. When I first thought of K-PLEX, I almost immediately thought of this group of contacts, knowing that applying these perspectives to Big Data could really add something new to the debate. From this point on, the work was a matter of true collaboration: in a 15 month project, we had 4 face-to-face meetings, including a week long writing retreat at the end to ensure our results were truly integrative and reflective of the perspectives we were bringing together.*

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

We'd like to think that the value of having an SSH-led project in the area of big data was that we were able to see things other take for granted. We were not always listened to in the big data community meetings, but we were there, we were represented, and our recommendations will stand.

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

The factors which facilitate cooperation:

- Dialogue and respect are crucial.
- The presence of people with the capacity and opportunity to act as facilitators and integrators.

The factors which hamper cooperation:

- Feeling like your work is not essential to the overall goal of the group.

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

For the researchers:

- Don't decide you want to do a project, then decide to integrate other perspectives. Get out there and get to know the other perspectives first, then develop the research questions together.

For the European Commission:

- We need more connectors, people and places that foster open dialogue, for unexpected connections.
- We need more support for interdisciplinary publishing and for interdisciplinary research positions in academic tracks.

### Project info

#### K-PLEX

The project aimed to undertake a 15-month investigation of the ways in which a focus on 'big data' in ICT research elides important issues about the information environment we live in.



As an ICT-programme 'sister project,' the primary purpose of the project was to inform future research and policy in the ICT space. The team was committed to sharing results widely to inform philosophical debates in both the technical sphere as well as in the digital humanities.

The project investigated 4 key themes:

- Toward a New Conceptualisation of Data;
- Hidden Data and the Historical Record;
- Data, Knowledge Organisation and Epistemics;
- Culture and Representations of System Limitations.

<https://kplex-project.eu/about/>