

The European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Information Session:

Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH)



What is the EU FP7?

- The complete name of FP7 is the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
 - 'Framework programmes' (FPs) are the main financial tools through which the European Union supports research and development activities covering almost all scientific disciplines, and have been implemented since 1984
 - FP7 will last for seven years from 2007 until 2013, and has a total budget of over € 50 billion
 - FP7 is a key tool to respond to Europe's needs in terms of jobs and competitiveness, and to maintain leadership in the global knowledge economy
 - Activities funded from FP7 must have a “European added value”:
 - *Transnationality of actions*
 - *Research projects are carried out by consortia which include participants from different European (and other) countries*
 - *Fellowships in FP7 require mobility over national borders*
- Information obtained from http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/faq_en.html
 - Leaflet, fact sheets and posters available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=understanding
 - Also see www.esastap.org.za

Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH)

- One of ten programmes in FP7 under the broad category “Cooperation”
- The ten programmes are:
 - *Health*
 - *Food, agriculture and biotechnology*
 - *Information and communication technologies*
 - *Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies*
 - *Energy*
 - *Environment (including climate change)*
 - *Transport (including aeronautics)*
 - **Socio-economic sciences and the humanities**
 - *Security*
 - *Space*
- All of the above programmes address issues relevant to SSH

Previous related programmes under FP6 and FP5

- FP6 (2002-2006)
 - Priority 7: “Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society”
 - Priority 8: “Scientific Support to Policies”
 - Lists of funded projects under both priorities accessible from <http://cordis.europa.eu/citizens/projects.htm>
 - Up to 2006: Low level of participation from South Africa; no National Contact Point (NCP)
 - Top-up call (2006) yielded four successful applications involving South African research teams
- FP5 (1998-2002)
 - Key Action “Improving the Socio-economic Knowledge Base”
 - No significant participation from South African researchers

Specific attention to South Africa

- Privileged position: Formal intergovernmental agreement in place
- Advisory Group on Social Sciences and Humanities in the European Research Area (SSHERA)
 - Luc Soete: Mission report to South Africa July 2005
http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/mission_report_south_africa_en.pdf
 - ‘South Africa: a case of “best practice” in EU international S&T collaboration?’
 - ‘South Africa: a “goldmine” for social sciences and humanities research’
 - *Knowledge management and economic growth*
 - *Growth and employment*
 - *Migration*
 - *Local governance*
 - *Quality and funding of higher education*
 - *Social cohesion and national identity*
 - *Democracy and voting behaviour*
 - *Geo-political integration*
- Consultative meetings, visits to South Africa, invited presentation and participation at conference December 2005

SSH Research: Purpose and Priorities

- EU Objective:
 - *“To contribute to an in-depth, shared understanding of the complex and interrelated socio-economic challenges Europe is confronted with”* (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/socio-economic_en.html)
- Opportunities for South African (“Third Country”) Participation:
 - *Such understanding can obviously be enriched and informed by collaborative and comparative work, and benefit from expertise and experience in other countries and regions – **such as South Africa!***
- Research to address the following major challenges facing Europe and the world:
 - *Growth, employment and competitiveness;*
 - *Social cohesion, social, cultural and educational challenges in an enlarged EU;*
 - *Sustainability, environmental challenges, demographic change, migration and integration, quality of life and global interdependence.*

SSH Activities to be Funded (I)

- Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society
 - *Innovation, competitiveness and labour market policies*
 - *Education and life-long learning*
 - *Economic structures and productivity*
- Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective
 - *Socio-economic models within Europe and across the world*
 - *Economic and social and cohesion across regions*
 - *Social and economic dimensions of environmental policy*
- Major trends in society and their implications
 - *Demographic change, reconciling family and work, health and quality of life, youth policies, social exclusion and discrimination*
- Europe in the world
 - *Trade, migration, poverty, crime, conflict and resolution*

SSH Activities to be Funded (II)

- The citizen in the European Union
 - *Political participation, citizenship and rights, democracy and accountability, the media, cultural diversity and heritage, religions, attitudes and values*
- Socio-economic and scientific indicators
 - *The use and value of indicators in policy making at macro and micro levels*
- Foresight activities
 - *The future implications of global knowledge, migration, ageing, risk and the emerging domains in research and science*
- Also: Strategic activities
 - *Emerging and unforeseen policy needs, international cooperation, dissemination of programme activities, strategic studies*

SSH Indicative Budget and Funding Schemes

- Total amount available
 - *More than € 610 million for SSH over duration of FP7 (2007-2013)*
 - *First call (launched 22 December 2006): € 58.5 million*
- Funding schemes
 - *Collaborative research projects:*
 - *Large-scale integrating (€1.5 M to € 4 M per project)*
 - *Small or medium-scale focused (€ 500k to € 1.5 M per project)*
 - *Coordination and Support Actions (CSA):*
 - *Coordinating*
 - *Supporting*
 - *Also possible: Public Procurement, Expert Groups*
- Minimum conditions for **collaborative research projects:**
 - *At least three independent legal entities, established in three different Member States or Associated Countries*
 - *Third country participation possible – **often required or desirable** – once minimum conditions have been met*

Points to bear in mind (I)

This is a fund created by the EU, to address EU priorities

South African participation and perspectives are welcome – as long as we can show how we will **add value** to the issues under consideration

For some topics, international collaboration is particularly encouraged. This means that proposals without participation of international partners will probably not be successful

For other topics, international collaboration will nevertheless be possible under the same conditions as for topics with collaboration explicitly encouraged.

For more detailed descriptions of the issues to be addressed under each topic, please refer to the Work Plan



Points to bear in mind (II)

Keys to success:



Responding to the topics and work plans is like working with an exam paper: Read carefully what the EU wants, and prepare your response accordingly!

Get the right partners in the EU. A strong, experienced lead organisation in the EU will make it easy and enjoyable to be a South African counterpart



ESASTAP

European - South African Science and Technology
Advancement Programme

Also see: “Ten tips for a successful proposal”, at
http://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=676&no_cache=1

First Call: 22 December 2006 (I)

- Detailed description and requirements to be downloaded from http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=39
- Information package consists of
 - *The call fiche (high-level summary information)*
 - *The Work Programme (detailed information to inform proposal)*
 - *FP7 fact sheets (providing an overview of the basic features of FP7)*
 - *Guides for Applicants relevant to the various funding schemes*
- Structure of Work Programme (WP)
 - *Activities, each subdivided into areas and topics*
 - *Proposals invited at the level of topics (see p. 2 of WP)*
 - *For first call: 38 different topics listed under 8 areas*
 - *Different deadlines for different topics: 10 May 2007 and **29 November 2007** (see pp. 46-49 of WP; call fiche)*

First Call: 22 December 2006 (II)

- Hints provided by Pierre Valette, Head of Unit: Research in the economic, social sciences and humanities
 - *An integrated approach necessary for most topics - multidisciplinary teams, quantitative as well as qualitative analyses, show links to other topics and areas (when relevant)*
 - *Research areas are generally related to issues on the top of the EU political agenda – proposals to reflect good understanding of EU policies and priorities, provide good dissemination plan for results*
 - *Research projects should demonstrate awareness of the outcome of the previous programmes and the nature of ongoing projects (FP6)*
 - *Equal opportunities for participation supported – new areas under SSH should help to increase diversity (across EU countries) in the research workforce; a balanced representation of women and men in projects is encouraged*
 - *Global issues call for cooperation at the global level; true opportunities to involve third countries exist in many topics (12 topics with an explicit request)*

Presentation on SSH by Pierre Valette, 22 January 2007, Proposers' Day, Brussels

First Call: 22 December 2006 (III)

Topics identified as **particularly suitable for international cooperation:**

- SSH-2007-1.1.3. *The impact of internationalisation on Europe's research and innovation systems*
- SSH-2007-1.2.1 *Globalisation and its interaction with the European economy*
- SSH-2007-2.1.1 *Analysing, comparing and evaluating the various societal models in a medium- to long-term perspective*
- SSH-2007-2.1.2. *The extent to which trade-offs or synergies exist between the different aspects of sustainable development*
- SSH-2007-3.1.3 *Migration*
- SSH-2007-3.3.1 *Cultural interactions and multiculturalism in European societies*
- SSH-2007-4.1.1. *Europe's role in global economic governance*
- SSH-2007-4.1.2. *Development paths in an historical and comparative perspective and their impact on Europe*
- SSH-2007-4.2.1. *Conflicts and Peace*
- SSH-2007-4.2.2. *Articulation of rule of law and protection of human rights at national, European and international levels*
- SSH-2007-4.3.1. *Europe seen from outside*
- SSH-2007-4.3.2. *Multilateralism and the new external relations of the EU*

First Call: 22 December 2006 (IV)

Twelve topics remaining for Deadline 2 (closing date 29 November 2007) (I)

- SSH-2007-1.1.1. Interactions between knowledge, economic growth and social well-being
- ***SSH-2007-1.2.1 Globalisation and its interaction with the European economy***
- SSH-2007-1.3.1 Macroeconomic policy, its interactions and coordination with other policies
- ***SSH-2007-2.1.1. Analysing, comparing and evaluating the various societal models in a medium to long-term perspective***
- SSH-2007-2.1.3. Development and applications of tools for the assessment of policies and socio-economic forecasting
- SSH-2007-2.1.4. Socio-economic factors and actors that shape the "post-carbon" society

First Call: 22 December 2006 (V)

Twelve topics remaining for Deadline 2 (closing date 29 November 2007) (II)

- SSH-2007-2.2.1. Regional development challenges in an evolving international context
- **SSH-2007-4.1.2. Development paths in an historical and comparative perspective and their impacts on Europe's economies and societies**
- **SSH-2007-4.3.1. Europe seen from outside**
- **SSH-2007-4.3.2. Multilateralism and the new external relations of the European Union**
- SSH-2007-5.1.1. Democratic 'ownership' and participation
- SSH-2007-7.4.1 Blue Sky Research on Emerging Issues Affecting European S&T

For more information on SSH

National Contact Point (NCP) and Assistant National Contact Point (ANCP) for SSH in SA:

Christa van Zyl, HSRC

Carla Pheiffer, HSRC

ssh.ncp@esastap.org.za

Link to the ESASTAP website:

<http://www.esastap.org.za/esastap/ncp/soceco.php>

Link to the CORDIS (EU) website:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/socio-economic_en.html



Thank you!

More information
www.esastap.org.za



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