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Community Research

Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities

First Call of proposals

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Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in FP 7

“Consolidation and new orientations”

- **Addressing major challenges facing EU and the World :**
 - growth, employment, competitiveness, knowledge society.
 - combining economic, social and environmental objectives: energy, agriculture, rural and urban issues.
 - major trends in Society: demography, quality of life, cultural interactions.

Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in FP 7

“Consolidation and new orientations”

- global interactions and interdependence; conflicts and peace.
- participation, democracy, governance; European diversities and commonalities.
- **The research is problem oriented and policy relevance at the same time.**
- **A fair balance between economic, social, cultural and political issues and aspects.**
- **A major new focus on: the international /global dimension, humanities, methods of analysis and assessment.**



Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in FP 7

“Practicalities”

- The management of the SESH program is split amongst 3 Units; willingness to **strengthen** the links between SESH and “Science in Society” explains for a large part this new structure.
- Indications are given on the **deadline** (first or second), the type of **instruments**, the opportunity to associate **third countries**, the possibility to involve **civil society** organisations.
- **Gender dimension** and **dissemination of results** for a better information and exploitation are crucial elements which should be addressed.



Specific Programme

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

“Research will integrate the aspects:

- **The changing role of knowledge throughout the economy...**
- **Economic structures, structural change and productivity issues...**
- **Institutional and policy questions...”**

Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

Topics:

Area 1.1: Changing role of knowledge throughout the economy

1. *Interactions between knowledge, economic growth and social well being (2nd d., I-s p.)*

Aim: prospective analysis; policy conclusions for research, innovation, EU and national policies.

Issues: nature, sources and impacts of knowledge underlying innovation and technological changes; economic and social value of knowledge in economic theories; role of knowledge, competence and skills in our societies.



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Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

2. Intangible investments and innovation in Europe (1st d., sm-s p.)

Aim: understanding and valorisation of the contributions of intangible investments.

Issues: role and production of intangible investments, quality indicators for their assessments, development of tools to measure the impact of policies aiming at their promotion.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

3. Impact of internationalisation on Europe's research and innovation systems (1st d.,sm-s p.,ic)

Aim: assessing the impact of the European's research and innovation systems, their contributions to growth and competitiveness.

Issues: engagement of firms within global knowledge and production networks, factors driving the internationalisation of innovation activities, role and strategies of the main stakeholders, « off-shoring » R&D.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

Topics:

Area 1.2: Structural changes in the European knowledge economy and society

1. Globalisation and its interaction with the European economy (2nd d., I-s p., ic)

Aim: measure and forecast the effects of globalisation on the international competitiveness, growth and employment in Europe.

Issues: international specialisation, aspects of economic effects of relocation of production, aspects of European integration and EU enlargement, changing strategies of European business, emergence of dynamic growth regions.



Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

2. The implications of developments in the service economy (1std., sm-s p.)

Aim: Implication and evolution of the developments of the service economy in relation to the European economy.

Issues: Interactions between dissemination of knowledge, service innovation and others factors generating productivity growth in public and private sectors ; international trade in services ; different categories of services e.g. knowledge, business, social, environment, health, personal.



Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

3. The role of finance in growth, employment and competitiveness in Europe (1st d., sm-s p.)

Aim: Understanding and appraisal of the relations between finance and growth.

Issues: Macro-meso-micro levels; emphasis on EU; financial markets, innovations in financial services, capital mobility, integration of capital markets. Real economy: role of banks and insurances, investments funds, impacts on the behaviour of companies, households.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

Topics:

Area 1.3: Strengthening policy coherence and coordination in Europe

1. Macroeconomic policy, its interactions and coordination with other policies (2nd d., sm-s p.)

Aim: Evaluation of macroeconomic policy and its interactions with other policies in the context of European integration through the Single Market, enlargement and the Lisbon strategy.

Issues: Development or updating of modelling tools for analysis, macro-micro coordination, monetary-fiscal policy mix, coordination of fiscal and public finances policies.



Specific Programme

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

“To support the societal goal of combining economic, social and environmental objectives... two interrelated issues:

- **How European socio-economic models and those outside Europe have fared in combining the three objectives ...**
- **Economic and social cohesion between regions and urban and regional development in an enlarged EU...”**



Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

Topics:

Area 2.1: Socio-economic development trajectories

1. *Analysing, comparing and evaluating the various societal models in a medium to long-term perspective (2nd d., sm-s p., csa, ic)*

Aim: Understanding of the different approaches taking across countries, regions or local communities to combine sustainable development objectives.

Issues: European countries (groups of), other developed, developing or emerging countries; comparison of development trajectories; role of socio-economic groups; gender, culture issues.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

2. Trade-offs and synergies between the different aspects of sustainable development (1st d., sm-s p., csa, ic)

Aim: Conditions under which trade-offs exist between economic, social and environment objectives of SD.

Issues: Economic-social aspects (types of growth and social cohesion), economic-environment (reduction of emissions costs), economic-social-environment (consumer behaviour, ecological footprint). Macro, micro levels.





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Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

3. *Development and applications of tools for the assessment of policies and socio-economic forecasting (2nd d., I-s p.)*

Aim: Development of data bases, accounting frameworks (e.g. input/output tables), models (e.g. economic, techno- and socio-economic) covering Europe and global levels.

Issues: European and world projections and scenarios. Common classifications and methods; comparisons, evaluation of policies; macro, micro levels; cross-sectors issues like environment, land use, trade-offs between objectives.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

4. Socio-economic factors and actors that shape the « post-carbon » society (2nd d., sm-p.)

Aim: Socio-economic, cultural and political factors that shape energy demand and use in various environment (e.g. transport, housing)

Issues: Development of an environmentally-friendly European concept of energy policies; expectations and needs of European citizens, urban and rural economies.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

Topics:

Area 2.2: Regional, territorial and social cohesion

1. Regional development challenges in an evolving international context (2nd d., sm-s p., csa)

Aim: Understanding of the key regional development challenges in the light of the major changes taking place in the world.

Issues: Uneven development of regions; regional specialisation; competition between regions; role of knowledge; challenges facing different types of regions e.g. those of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

2. *The impact of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms on Europe's rural economies (1st p., sm-s p.)*

Aim: Sustainable development of rural areas in Europe in the context of the CAP reform (2 pillars).

Issues: Rural typologies; land use planning; management of natural resources; links with the rest of the economy; knowledge and service economy in rural areas; multifunctional role of agriculture; demographic trends; related gender issue.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 2: Paths towards sustainable development

3. *Social platform on cities and social cohesion* *(1st d., csa)*

Aim: Elaboration of a research agenda which addresses the role of cities and social cohesion.

Issues: Agenda to be ready for the call covering 2009 budget. Different stakeholders and researchers involved in the process.



Specific Programme

Activity 3: Major trends in society and their implications

“ Assessment of the causes and implications of particular key trends in society that have major consequences for European citizens... three major trends:

- Demographic change including ageing, fertility and migration...
- Changes in the related aspects of life styles, families, work, consumption, health, quality of life (child, youth, disabilities issues)...
- Cultural interactions in an international perspective ...”



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Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 3: Major trends in society and their implications

Topics:

Area 3.1: Demographic changes

1. The impact of demographic changes in Europe

(1st d., sm-s p., csa)

Aim: Analyse of the socio-political, economic and cultural dimension and impact of demographic ageing in Europe.

Issues: challenges related to the combination of increasing life expectancy with low birth rates; impact on employment; capacity of the economy to innovate under the conditions of ageing society; sustainability of pensions and health systems; lifelong learning.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 3: Major trends in society and their implications

2. Determinants of birth rates across the European Union (1st d., sm-s p., csa)

Aim: To study changes in birth rates over time and across countries; to identify the determinants of these changes.

Issues: Economic, social, cultural and psychological determinants of birth rates; changes in work patterns, quality of life, family formation, housing, gender role; analysis of different national approaches to family related policies; role of gender and culture.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 3: Major trends in society and their implications

3. Migration (1st d., sm-s p., ic)

Aim: To understand better the factors determining migration flows; international comparative research; provide policy directions in the European Union including the Lisbon strategy.

Issues: Causes in changing migration flows; new immigration regimes and innovative migration management techniques; specific issues: brain-drain and brain-gain, intergenerational issues, return and repatriation.



Activity 3: Major trends in society and their implications

Topics:

Area 3.2: Societal trends and lifestyles

1. *Youth and social exclusion (1st d., sm-s p., csa)*

Aim: Comprehensive and integrated approach to provide policy recommendations.

Issues: Causes, processes, changes and prospects of young people exclusion, availability of employment, education issues, access to services, housing, economic and social representation. Specific questions e.g. discrimination, gender, migration, insecurity.



Specific Programme

Activity 4: Europe in the World

“To understand changing interactions and interdependencies between world regions... two related tracks:

- **Flows of trade, finance, investment, migration; uneven development, poverty and sustainability; economic and political relations, global governance; cultural interactions.**
- **Conflicts and fostering peace; security and destabilising factors...”**





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 4: Europe in the World

Topics:

Area 4.1: Interactions and interdependences between world regions and their implications

1. *Europe's role in global economic governance* *(1st d.,l-s p.,ic)*

Aim: Understanding interactions between regions of the world, the causes and impacts of their changes, how the rules are developed, the role of and impacts on Europe.

Issues: Addressing the most important changes in the rules about flows of trade, international finance, investments, natural resources, provision of public goods; relative influences of different actors and institutions; role of EU.





Draft Work Programme 2007

Activity 4: Europe in the World

2. Development paths in an historical and comparative perspective and their impact on Europe (2nd d., sm-s p., csa, ic)

Aim: Understanding how development processes are being affected relations between world regions and countries, in historical and comparative perspective.

Issues: Influence of economic, political, technological and cultural relations on development; how historical relationships affect today's development paths; role of urbanisation; impacts of development aid approaches.





Specific Programme

Activity 6: Socio-economic and scientific indicators

“To improve the use of indicators in policy...,improvements in indicators and methods:

- **How indicators are used...**
- **How evidence based policy might be supported by indicators...**
- **Use of indicators and related approaches for evaluation of research programmes, including impact assessment.”**





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Activity 6: Socio-economic and scientific indicators

6.1: Current use of and emerging needs for indicators in policy (1std., sm-s p.)

Aim: Improving policy through the appropriate use of indicators.

Issues: Better ways of using indicators in all aspects of policies (from macro to micro).

6.2: Developing better indicators for policy (1std., sm-s p.)

Aim: Need for new, improved and more appropriate indicators for policy.

Issues: Impact assessment of EU policies: indicators and methods.



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Activity 6: Socio-economic and scientific indicators

6.3: Specific statistical issues *(1std,sm-s p.,csa)*

Aims: Availability, quality and relevance of official statistics for use in policy.

Issues: "Gaps" in statistics by increasing availability of additional comparable desaggregations.

6.4: Ex post and ex ante impact analysis of research policies and programmes *(1std,sm-s p)*

Aims: Evaluation of research programmes and policies (*ex post, ex ante*) e.g. ERA.

Issues: Development of tools for impact assessment; short, medium and long term estimates.



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"In conclusion"(1)

- The SESH programme offers a **wide spectrum** of challenging and stimulating research areas: 38 topics for the 1st call for proposals (two years).
- An **integrated approach** is necessary for most of the topics, even if each area has often its own "driving force(s)". Both quantitative and qualitative analyses will be necessary (when relevant).
- The research areas are generally related to issues on the top of the EU political agenda: a good reason to be well informed of **EU policies** and to ensure a good **dissemination plan** of the results for their future use.





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"In conclusion"(2)

- For many subjects, the EU research does not “start from scratch”. It is recommended to be aware of the **outcome** of the previous programmes and the **nature** of the ongoing projects (6thFP).
- 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).
- **Equal opportunities** exist for all the European countries participating to the 7th FP. New areas should help to **increase diversity** in the research workforce. A **balanced representation** of women and men in the projects is encouraged.





Thank you for your attention

***This programme is your
programme!***

