

RESEARCH & INNOVATION AGENDA (RIA) 2020-2030 SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH IN HORIZON EUROPE

This is a brief summary of SHAPE ENERGY's recommendations for the upcoming Horizon Europe programme following 2 years of research and activities, with input from over 10,000 stakeholders.

These 7 principles outline clear actions for European funders, policy workers and researchers to support a more impactful role for energy-SSH in defining the energy agenda over 2020-2030.

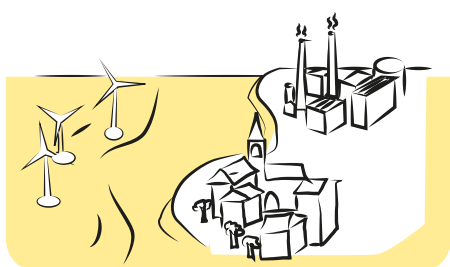
The **complete findings** and other **useful resources** can be found on our website (<https://shape-energy.eu/index.php/agenda-2020-2030/>) where we also invite you to **add your support** to the signatories, which will be submitted to the European Commission's strategy unit for Energy Research and Innovation in January 2019.

1. SSH must feature more explicitly in Horizon Europe's energy research and innovation funding opportunities, compared to Horizon 2020.



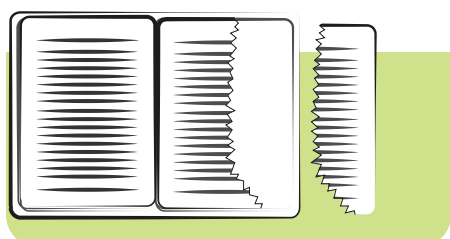
- ▶ **Energy-SSH remains significantly underfunded. In 2016:**
 - only 4% of the EU's Horizon 2020 energy research budget went to SSH partners
 - 96% went to STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
- ▶ **SHAPE ENERGY advocates an ambition to double SSH partners' share to 8% through Horizon Europe**
- ▶ **We need interdisciplinary projects (across SSH and STEM) as well as SSH specific projects**

2. Core SSH issues need to be more deeply integrated into technical energy projects which seek to address societal challenges.



- ▶ **Integrating energy-SSH issues (e.g. political, ethical, historical, cultural, institutional):**
 - makes findings more societally relevant
 - increases their robustness
 - reduces risk of problems when embedding technological energy solutions in the real world
- ▶ **We need more awareness of the diversity of energy-SSH (it's not only about e.g. education or communication)**

3. Horizon Europe energy calls should explicitly consider which SSH disciplines they focus attention on, and report on how this is being addressed.



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4. The European Commission should more actively recruit energy-SSH expertise for Horizon Europe's proposal evaluator databases and panels.



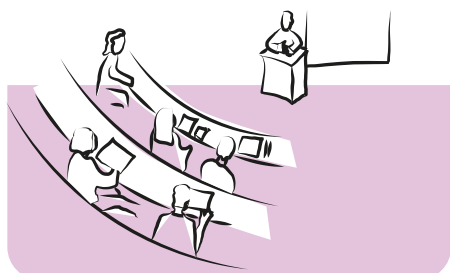
- ▶ Energy-SSH researchers need to be represented on every Horizon Europe energy evaluation panel
- ▶ To achieve this, better representation across disciplines in the European Commission's database of experts is essential
- ▶ The European Commission should transparently publish and advertise annual figures for the disciplinary backgrounds of their evaluators

5. SSH should feature in interdisciplinary energy projects' concepts (i.e. setting the project direction), not only as a tool to generate impact (i.e. an add-on at the end).



- ▶ **For Horizon Europe, the European Commission should:**
 - give clear guidance on their 'mainstreaming' ambitions and evaluation criteria for SSH
 - expect SSH to be incorporated fully into the 'Concept' section of interdisciplinary proposals (not just the 'Impact' section)
 - explicitly invite proposals to discuss what type of collaborative working they seek, why, and how

6. Energy-SSH tasks should be undertaken by those with relevant background and training.



- ▶ Training in SSH methods matters if rigorous and robust SSH research is to be conducted
- ▶ Coordinators of interdisciplinary (energy) projects need to understand the different disciplinary approaches their project is utilising

7. Qualitative measures are needed for the European Commission to meaningfully monitor the successful integration of SSH in energy projects.



- ▶ **Potential qualitative measures include:**
 - how have different types of expertise been brought together?
 - what has the inclusion of SSH-inspired interdisciplinary aims, processes, and outputs led to?
 - how has working with SSH enabled energy projects to affect policy?
- ▶ **Evaluation could also allow for more experimentation - learning from failures**

The complete findings and other useful resources can be found on the SHAPE ENERGY's website: shapeenergy.eu

SHAPE ENERGY is a €2m European platform for energy-related Social Sciences and Humanities (energy-SSH) which is working to develop Europe's expertise in using and applying energy-SSH.

Over 2017-2019 SHAPE ENERGY is running a wide range of activities and producing resources of use to researchers, businesses, policymakers, and NGOs.



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