Opinion on the Proposal for

The European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - HORIZON 2020 (2014-2020)

Having analyzed the Powerpoint presentation given on 2 March 2012 at this Institute by Graça Carvalho, MEP, entitled "European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation – Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)", the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2011) 808 final, of 30 November 2011) on this same topic, and the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (COM(2011) 809 final, of 30 November 2011), the *Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa* highlights the following aspects regarding the social sciences and the humanities:

1. Insufficient importance attributed to the Social and Human Sciences (CSH): a retreat in relation to FP7?

Our analysis of the documents in question, and in particular Annex 1 of the proposed Regulation, which defines the general outlines of the programme's activities and specific objectives, reveals inadequate recognition of both the role of the Social and Human Sciences in research and innovation and of the Union's added value in this domain. This becomes all the more obvious when a comparison with the 7th Framework Programme confirms that the current version of Horizon 2020 represents a diminution and underestimation of the importance attributed in that programme to the social and human sciences:

. Although we can accept the commitment to horizontal activities, we cannot understand why there is no specific set of issues clearly associated with the social sciences and the humanities;

. The "Science and Society" area has been eliminated. This area helped to promote research not only on scientific issues but also on the linkage between science and society, introducing crucial aspects such as ethical questions in research and education for scientific research.

Recognition should be given to a role for the Social and Human Sciences which is proportionate to their importance for the future of modern-day societies in general, and for the implementation of the *Europe 2020* strategy in particular. Recognition of that role should be reflected directly in the definition of the priority activities, the specific objectives, and the corresponding financial envelopes.

2. An ambiguous view of the "Societal Challenges" priority": an insufficiently social approach to societal challenges?

The "Societal Challenges" priority includes aspects which are acknowledged to be crucial for the future of the European Union from the point of view of the objectives of the *Europe 2020* strategy. However, in an apparent paradox, the six *Horizon 2020* objectives do not address some of the main policy priorities and societal challenges identified in the *Europe 2020* strategy. Some of the headline targets are not included or explicitly mentioned (e.g. understanding the issues of changing labour markets and labour mobilities in order to attain the target of 75% of the population aged 20-64 in employment; promoting and improving educational levels and the social integration of young people in family and working life; the empowerment of individuals over the life cycle; combating social inequalities and the reduction of poverty; increasing social cohesion).

In addition, the label adopted for this Priority is ambiguous, to the extent that it suggests an awareness of the contribution of the social sciences and the humanities which is negated by a close reading of the specific objectives and the lines of activities suggested:

. The specification of the topic which addresses health, demographic change and well-being is very uneven, being excessively detailed on issues related to health and, in contrast, too vague and even silent on issues of demographic change and well-being;

. The topics relating to food security, energy, transport and climate action adopt a basically technological approach, and do not sufficiently appreciate awareness and knowledge of the social, cultural and institutional factors which strongly influence social acceptance and the realization of many of the proposed solutions;

. The sub-topics *Inclusive Societies* and *Innovative Societies* are the only ones which are clearly and unambiguously focused on issues in the social and human sciences, but there are alarming gaps in them, which we set out in section 3 of this Opinion;

. The sub-topic *Secure Societies* does not explicitly address research on the preventive management of social violence nor does it establishes a connection, which we deem to be essential, between security and active citizenship.

3. Critical Review of the Objectives of Priority "Societal Challenges" (those which appeal to the contribution of the social sciences)

(a) Health, demographic change and well-being

The title is misleading. It refers to three broad areas of research, but the sub-topics included in this objective are focused almost exclusively on HEALTH. The main objective of this priority is to promote research on health issues in the context of an ageing society. As a result, apart from some very specific issues related to ageing, there is no reference to other major topics of demographic change such as the decline in the birth rate, trends in marriage and divorce, increased life expectancy or the problems of dependency over the life course. Also absent is the need for research on the social consequences of these trends for European families, services, institutions and policies. In particular, there is no clear reference to question of *Care*, care systems and intergenerational solidarities over the life course. Moreover, ageing and dependency in ageing are presented as problems which concern the elderly individual her/himself (cf. the topic of "active ageing") and mainly highly dependent elderly persons (cf. the topic of "integrated care") rather than a societal issue involving both *carers* and a variety of *cared for persons*, both formal and informal care, both families and institutions. Finally the issue of well-being and the promotion of welfare in European societies is not clearly set out. Since it represents a major challenge for future Europe, and goes far beyond the issue of well-being in relation to health and care, it is essential to include it in an objective clearly related to this societal challenge.

Proposals:

1. To change the title of this Objective so it is not misleading. Suggestion: "Health and Well-being in the Context of Ageing".

2. To add the above-mentioned missing topics to another Objective which clearly identifies these social science research issues (e.g. demographic change; impact of social trends on individuals, families, and well-being; care regimes; tackling changes and innovation in services; welfare state reform and changing social policies; inequalities (gender, age and social) in well-being and quality of life; facing parenthood and parenting in the context of declining birth rates, facing dependency and old age in an ageing society). Although the social sciences may contribute to the Objective on "Health and Well-being in the context of Ageing", it is also essential to consider these issues *per se.* For example, demographic and social change must be analysed *per se.*

3. Within this Objective on Health and Well-being: to add the issue of the different aspects of well-being (subjective, psychological and social) and their relationship to health.

(b) Smart, green and integrated transport [Comment: add the issue of "more sustainable forms of land use"], and

(c) Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials

Proposal: in order to avoid an approach which focuses strongly on technological solutions, it is important to emphasize institutional and cultural contexts, social knowledge, public acceptance and local experimentation in ALL these sub-topics.

(d) Inclusive, innovative and secure societies

Inclusive societies

The research aims set out in the sub-topics are too broadly defined (compared, for example, to the detailed topics set out in Objective a). They also reduce the scope of research in the social sciences to the themes of sustainable growth and resilient societies, and their meaning and connections to the topic of inclusive societies is not clear, in particular in c) and d). For example: "Eliminating the cleavage between research and innovation" is an issue that would be better placed within an Objective focusing on "Science and Society" rather than an Objective focusing on "Inclusive societies". Lastly, they do not address many societal issues which represent major challenges for future Europe (such as educational systems, welfare state and labour market change, immigration, combating poverty and social inequalities, demographic change, science and society...).

Proposals:

1. To review the research issues in "Inclusive societies" and to broaden them out in order to include other relevant topics related to on-going challenges for European societies. Give it a new title and separate it from the other two topics (secure societies, innovative societies). The latter may need some contribution from the social sciences but they basically represent distinct spheres of research.

2. Several key topics/concepts are missing and should be added: e.g. understanding changing labour markets and labour mobilities and how they affect social inclusion; the construction of resilient and inclusive territories in Europe; the promotion of collaborative models of governance of diversity and cohesion; social, cultural and gender inequalities and their linkages to social cohesion; the impact of the economic crisis on welfare state retrenchment and reform; changing family and social policies and how this affects social inclusion and cohesion; immigration, discrimination and minority groups and current policies to reduce discrimination and exclusion; combating poverty and social exclusion in disadvantaged areas and regions; educational systems and reforms and their capacity to promote inclusion of young people in schooling and in society; changing transitions over the life course and their challenge for public policies and societies; reconciling work and personal life over the life

course; science and society (ethical issues, developments in the public understanding of science, bridging the gap between research and innovation).

Secure societies

Proposals:

1. This research topic should be separated from the topic of "Inclusive societies". It has some points of contact with the other topics in this Objective but it represents a distinct area of research.

2. A broad, comprehensive concept of "secure societies" should be adopted, including issues such as combating economic and financial crime and the building-up of secure communities based on the principles of citizenship, sustainability and well-being.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, we strongly support:

i) **Reinforcing the strategic importance of the role of the social and Human Sciences in implementing the *Europe 2020* strategy;**

ii) **The adoption of a more clearly social approach to the societal issues taken into account in *Horizon 2020*;**

iii) **The creation of a separate and revised Objective, within "Societal Challenges", which focuses clearly and directly on the relevant topics of social science research agenda.**

This latter objective may be achieved by revising the content of the topic "Inclusive Societies". As explained above, careful revision of the detailed objectives is essential in order to include areas which are currently omitted and which are vital both for implementing the *Europe 2020* strategy and to respond appropriately to the social science research agenda.

Lisbon, 18 April 2012