

Dear Members,

Please find attached an invitation to sign an Open Letter addressed to the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation.

Kind regards,

Michal Wierzchon

ESCoP Secretary

Dear colleagues,

With this message we would like to invite you to sign an Open Letter addressed to the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation (<http://www.eash.eu/openletter2011/>). The letter alerts the Commission to the vital insights that Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) contribute to addressing Europe's and the world's Grand Societal Challenges, and suggests that a substantial and independent SSH-centered research programme should be included into the next and into all future European Framework Programmes.

Kindly also circulate this invitation to sign in your institutions, across your projects, networks and programmes, and through your respective subject associations.

In view of legislative decisions to be taken on the next 100-Billion-worth EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), the letter stresses the necessity for a varied and strong research programme in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH): it argues that neglecting such potential contributions as SSH research has to make risks undermining the EU strategy to develop innovative, inclusive and sustainable societies. Yet, there still is a distinct danger of insufficient funding in Horizon 2020 for research areas such as cultural change, demography, education, the economy and globalisation, identity politics and social cohesion, and many others. For background information on these matters see:

<http://www.eash.eu/openletter2011/>

The Open Letter initiative has grown out of deliberations among a number of European umbrella organisations in the area of SSH, and seeks to bring to the attention of the European Commission and national governments the concerns of the largest research community in Europe.

First results of this initiative will be presented at a meeting with the Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn on 10 November 2011. We hope to be able to point to a high number of signatures as an expression of a groundswell of support and concern among SSH communities. The collection of signatures will, however, continue after this specific date, as the legislative decision process will last for longer.

Thank you in advance for signing and for supporting this initiative – and our apologies for any cross-posting. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions: SSH-letter@net4society.eu.

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