

# Success stories in SSH integration



## SSH INTEGRATION IN SC4

The objective of the Societal Challenge 4 '**Smart, green and integrated transport**' is to achieve a European transport system that is resource-efficient, climate- and environmentally-friendly, safe and seamless for the benefit of all citizens, the economy and society <sup>1</sup>.

Horizon 2020 considers the socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) as cross-cutting and integrated in all the priorities and objectives of the Programme. The Societal Challenge 4 involves this research in order to tackle the societal challenges and to provide the most suitable impact for society. The following aspects need to be considered:

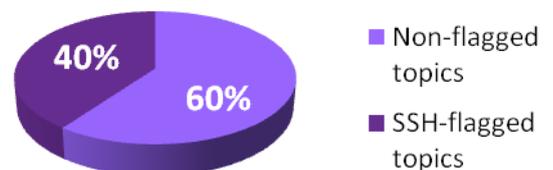
- To reach a resource-efficient transport that respects the environment, it is necessary to influence citizens' behaviour through sociologists and anthropologists.
- To have a better mobility, less congestion, more safety and security, research has to consider also the well-being of people involving psychologists.
- To reach a global leadership for the European transport industry the project has to assess economic factors.
- To carry out socio-economic and behavioural research and forward-looking activities for policy making, it is necessary to include sociologists, psychologists and political scientists.

To have a good proposal cooperation with SSH researchers is crucial!

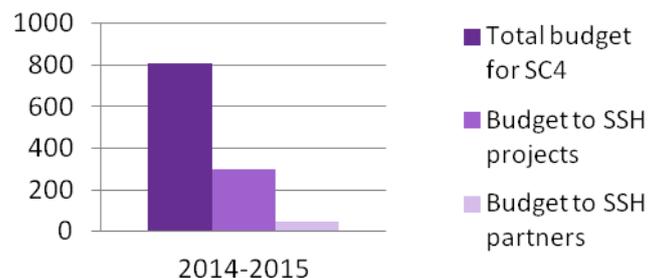
## FACTS & FIGURES

In the Work Programme 2014-2015 SC4 funded a total of 55 topics with a total budget of € 807 million.

22 out of 55 topics were flagged for SSH. Within these topics, 55 projects were funded for a budget of €301 million out of which €48 million went to SSH partners.



### Budget



Source: 1st and 2nd Monitoring Report on Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020: Participants, budget and disciplines, EC



### Interview with Cristina Garzillo, Project Coordinator of the SUMP-UP project

#### Q: Why did you decide to integrate SSH in your project?

*It was mentioned explicitly by the topic, but in any case SSH aspects would have been included in the proposal as within the mobility field, technical issues should be integrated with **social aspects** due to **the complexity of urban areas and the transport sector**.*

#### Q: How did the process of SSH integration go from the proposal to the project?

*The cooperation between different disciplines in the project went well. The problem is making synergies and aligning with other relevant projects, as required by the call.*

*The main challenge was to find **synergies between social and technical aspects** in the project, in order not to focus only on typically technical or engineering issues. The focus of the project is on cities where the take-up of sustainable urban mobility plans is low. In these cities in particular **social and cultural aspects** should be taken into account (e.g. when planning new bike paths, etc.).*

*The integration of different disciplines was mainly achieved by ensuring the presence of **multidisciplinary institutions** in the project - that also allowed for having another (new) perspective on the existing problems related to the mobility field. There is no typically SSH oriented organisation in the consortium, but many organisations are multidisciplinary. The coordinator knew them from previous projects.*

#### Q: What is the added value of integrating SSH in your project and what is the contribution from SSH partners?

*The reality of the mobility field, urban areas and related transformations is very complex. It covers not only typical technical/engineering aspects but also **social matters** (e.g. poverty, mental health, people's habits, etc.). To address the challenges related to the mobility sector, all those issues must be aligned and synergies must be created. Inclusion of SSH expertise offers **new perspectives** to the existing problems, allows for **co-creation, co-design and co-innovation**. Inclusion of different stakeholders and different perspectives allows to reach better conclusions.*

*SSH expertise is used for the purpose of evaluating and monitoring of mobility plans in the cities. SSH experts are also in charge of awareness raising campaigns and contact with local governments, policy makers and citizens. Moreover, they are responsible for capacity building activities (online and face to face learning, workshops, etc.).*

#### Q: Which are the factors that facilitate collaboration and which the factors that hamper it?

The factors which facilitate cooperation:

➤ Regular and frequent **communication** between all partners.

The factors which hamper cooperation:

➤ **Too big of a focus on technical/engineering aspects**, in this way the project loses the overall picture of the targeted problem.

#### Q: What would be your main recommendation for both researchers and EC?

For the researchers:

➤ Focus on the main objective of the project and keep this focus throughout the project. You can do that by **equally and actively involving different disciplines** from the very beginning of project writing throughout the project's whole duration.

For the European Commission:

➤ More **transdisciplinary** teams in calls. **Clearer specification of disciplines** that should be involved (but not closing the list, just giving examples).

## Project info

### SUMPs-UP

Through SUMP-UP (**SUMP** = Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans), a consortium of public and private organisations, including four major city networks and seven cities, skilled in coordinating major European SUMP projects will accelerate the take-up of SUMP.

To achieve this, the project will combine comprehensive SUMP research, tailored capacity-building, strong mechanisms for technical support, as well as constant SUMP monitoring and evaluation.

<http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/projects/SUMPs-Up&tpl=home>