



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

## National Contact Point Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH)



RESEARCH

Igniting ideas!



National Contact Point  
Socio-economic Sciences  
and the Humanities (SSH)

## The 7th European Research Framework Programme (FP7)

The EU's Research Framework Programme is the world's largest research funding programme and thus the most important instrument, both financially and politically, of the joint research policy supporting the idea of a common European Research Area.

**FP7 (2007 – 2013) has a budget of approximately 53 Bill. € for its duration, and is divided in seven Specific Programmes. The following four Specific Programmes are especially relevant for the SSH community:**

- + Cooperation
- + Ideas
- + People
- + Capacities

### **Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities in FP7**

Topics in the field of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities are mostly located in the Specific Programme "Cooperation" (here in "Theme 8"). A budget of 623 Mio. € is allocated for the 7-year-programme. The overall objective of SSH-research within the Specific Programme "Cooperation" is the creation of an in-depth, common understanding of the complex and interrelated socio-economic challenges, which Europe faces. These include e.g. growth, employment, and competitiveness, social cohesion

and sustainability, quality of life and global linkage, especially with regard to the provision of a better knowledge base for policy in the respective fields.

Beyond that, socio-economic research questions are also included in the other topics of the Specific Programme “Cooperation” as the so called “cross-section topics”.



### **The National Contact Point Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities**

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (German: BMBF) has established National Contact Points (NCPs) for the information and support of German applicants in FP7.

The SSH NCP has been assigned the consultation of Theme 8 and the cross-section topics and in its function works closely together with the EU-Bureau of the BMBF as well as other NCPs.

As a coordinator of the international NCP-network NET4SOCIETY, the German SSH NCP is connected to SSH NCPs the world over in more than 40 countries.

**Our service is free of charge and includes:**

- + individual support on FP7 both during the process of submission and during the implementation of the project
- + critical review of all applications and project drafts
- + organisation and realisation of information events, workshops and seminars
- + a newsletter with current information on relevant calls, important documents, latest developments and references on interesting events
- + a website containing up-to-date information on relevant FP7 topics and developments and other important references: [www.nks-swg.de](http://www.nks-swg.de)
- + Personal counselling interviews with applicants
- + Support on aspects of socio-economic Sciences and Humanities as well as on options of involvement of SSH research in the 10 topics of the Specific Programme "Cooperation"

### **Theme 8 in FP7: Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities**

The main research activities in Theme 8 are structured as follows:

**Activities:**

- + growth, employment and competitiveness in the knowledge society – the European case
- + combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective: Paths towards sustainable development
- + Major trends in society and their implications
- + Europe in the world
- + The Citizen in the European Union
- + Socio-economic and scientific indicators
- + Foresight activities
- + Horizontal actions

## **Internet**

The German National Contact Point SSH has collected all relevant information online for you. Please see:  
[www.nks-swg.de/english](http://www.nks-swg.de/english).

## **Further important Websites**

The German Portal on the Research Framework Programme is available under: [www.forschungsrahmenprogramm.de](http://www.forschungsrahmenprogramm.de)  
The server of the European Commission: [www.cordis.europe.eu](http://www.cordis.europe.eu)  
The website of the Commission's DG Research on socio-economic sciences and humanities:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.html)  
NET4SOCIETY: [www.net4society.eu](http://www.net4society.eu)

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For contact details of all members of the German SSH NCP team please consult our website: <http://www.nks-swg.de/en/ansprech-partner.php>

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