

New EU Declaration on Investment in Social Sciences and Humanities

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The European Union (EU) expects research and innovation to be the foundation for its future growth. Horizons 2020, an initiative running from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of a little more than €70 billion, is the EU's new program for research and innovation and is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. In September, a two-day conference was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, organized by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to address how socio-economic sciences and humanities can be incorporated into [Horizons 2020](#). The result is the [Vilnius Declaration](#) on Horizons for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), published on September 24. The Declaration issues the following statements:

- 1. Innovation is a matter of change in organizations and institutions as well as technologies.**
- 2. Fostering the reflective capacity of society is crucial for sustaining a vital democracy.**
- 3. Policy-making and research policy have much to gain from SSH knowledge and methodologies.**
- 4. Drawing on Europe's most precious cultural assets, SSH play a vital role in redefining Europe in a globalizing world and enhancing its attractiveness.**
- 5. Pluralistic SSH thinking is a precious resource for all of Europe's future research and innovation trajectories.**

It also outlines the following conditions for integrating social science and the humanities into Horizons 2020:

- 1. recognizing knowledge diversity;**
- 2. collaborating effectively;**
- 3. fostering interdisciplinary training and research; and**
- 4. connecting social values and research evaluation.**

For more information, [read the Declaration](#) on the conference's website.