

The Guild calls for a strengthening of EU-UK research collaboration in the present and future framework programmes and for a reassociation of Switzerland

A statement by The Guild's Deans of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (SSAH)

The Guild welcomes the reassociation of the UK to Horizon Europe and Copernicus programme and stresses the importance of making this re-connection impactful, especially for the generation of UK researchers that has never had the opportunity to engage in the EU framework programme. UK and EU partners should collectively strive for new research collaborations and optimally exploit the opportunities offered by the reassociation. Universities could support this re-engagement by providing seed funding for Horizon applications and exploring bilateral agreements that could enable researchers to join larger networks.

Previous monitoring reports¹ found that SSAH disciplines are an example of an area where the Framework Programme funding has made a visible impact in research communities through Pillar 1. These disciplines will contribute significantly to societal development and resilience if they are allowed to flourish and develop across present and future framework programmes and can draw on the added value offered by EU/UK collaborations. Research and education that fully integrate the SSAH disciplines will be able to strengthen the competitiveness of Europe, to close the technology gap, and to address global challenges such as democratic backsliding, ageing of the population, and climate change.

There is continuous support from The Guild and the research community at large to maintain research links with excellent partners during times when funding for collaboration is disrupted due to political reasons. In this context The Guild highlights that the Swiss research community is still lacking Horizon Europe association and not able to play its full role in European scientific networks. We welcome the restart of the negotiations between EU and Switzerland and encourage all relevant stakeholders to showcase the necessity for a swift reassociation.

Collaboration is instrumental in addressing pressing societal challenges that transcend national boundaries. There is a need for collaborative efforts informed by rigorous research in the realms of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. Researchers must be given access to the rich tapestry of interdisciplinary resources and research networks that bring added value to the entire European society by reinforcing our competitiveness and strengthening our resilience in the long term. Therefore, The Guild stresses the urgency to streamline the process for associating countries with long-standing legacies of participation in the development of the European Research Area and ensure that the collaborations will continue in the upcoming EU framework programmes.

¹ [ERC Frontier Research in Social Sciences and Humanities](#)