Horizons for SSH in Health, demographic change and well-being

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Horizons for Social Sciences and Humanities
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Outline

• Social sciences and humanities – in Health Research under previous FP

• Social Sciences and Humanities in "Health, demographic change and well-being"
Example of SSH in Health research under previous FP

- Large portfolio of public health projects using Europe as a living laboratory (health systems, health promotion, mental health care and prevention, health literacy etc)
- Living Organ Donation in Europe
- Europe's stem cell hub [http://www.eurostemcell.org/about](http://www.eurostemcell.org/about)
- Communication in Epidemics
- Integration of ELSA research into projects on e.g. genetic testing, stemcell research (FP6, integrated projects)
Lessons learned

• Integration of SSH with natural sciences in relation to new technologies /scientific developments
  • Not too early and not too late during the development of the technology – a challenges to identify the right moment
  • Risk of repetition if several projects funded in the same area
  • Lack of sufficient expertise in SSH
  • Scientists are conservative!

Scientific and intellectually stimulating – mutual benefits
Health R&I in Horizon 2020
The challenges ahead

- Cancer, chronic and degenerative diseases gain importance in the context of the ageing population
- More than 70% of healthcare spending on chronic diseases
- Infectious diseases remain a global and European concern
- Wanted: ways of keeping our healthcare costs stable and our healthcare systems running without increasing the health inequalities
Where are we now in health?

Health, demographic change and well-being
(for this challenge ~ €7bn over 7 years)

- 1.1. Understanding health, wellbeing and disease
- 1.2. Preventing disease
- 1.3. Treating and managing disease
- 1.4. Active ageing and self-management of health
- 1.5. Methods and data
- 1.6. Health care provision and integrated care

- Unravelling the complexity of health and disease (1.1)
- Towards personalised, safe and more effective health interventions (1.2, 1.3)
- Advancing active and healthy ageing (1.4)
- Improving health information, data exploitation and providing an evidence base for health policies and regulation (1.5)
- Integrated, sustainable, citizen centred care (1.6)
General approach to the implementation of Health challenge

- Cooperation between excellent, multidisciplinary and multisectorial teams to solve the challenges
- The teams to propose how to solve the challenge
- Involvement of patient organisations, policy makers and other end users
- Support to the full spectrum of research, development and innovation
Embedding SSH in Health Challenge
some examples

• Health promotion and disease prevention: translating ‘omics’ into stratified approaches
  (develop and assess the validity and utility of omics data in preventive medicine and assess the behavioural, ethical, legal and social implications incl. risk benefit communication)

• Evaluating existing screening and prevention programmes (evaluation of their impact on health outcome, quality of life, equity and cost-effectiveness, compare between different regions, demographic groups and culture)
Embedding SSH in Health Challenge
some examples

- Comparing the effectiveness of existing healthcare interventions in the elderly (including the socio-economic outcomes)
- Service robotics within assisted living environments (societal expectations and acceptability)
- Mental wellbeing in the ageing populations (incl. the physical, psychological and social dimension)
- New models for preventive oriented health and care systems
Embedding SSH in Health Challenge

some examples

- Foresight for health policy and regulation (e.g. identification of driving forces likely to influence health and wellbeing in Europe and beyond and analysis of their economic and social impact and propose policy options to respond to these challenges)
Actions needed!

- Put a strain on old habits and old structures both at national and European levels
- Get the SSH and natural scientists to know each other – SSH invited to info days organised by NCP's on Health challenges
- Learned societies need to take action!
- Encourage conference organisers mutually to integrate the SSH / natural scientists in sessions
- Increase the SSH research capacity
- ???
Timeline 2013:

- **22 Nov 2013:** INFO DAY for Health Challenge in BRUSSELS
- **10 Dec 2013:** Adoption of the work programme for 2014/2015
  
  Publication of the calls for proposals
- **2014:** Expected deadline ...
How to apply?

1. Read the call, identify a relevant topic
2. Find partners
3. Write and submit your proposal
4. Get funded (~10% success rate)!
Thank you!

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http://ec.europa.eu/research/health