

The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities



“Origins, mission and vision of EASH”

R. Klein, Executive Director ALLEA

Founding meeting EASH, Amsterdam, 20 December 2011

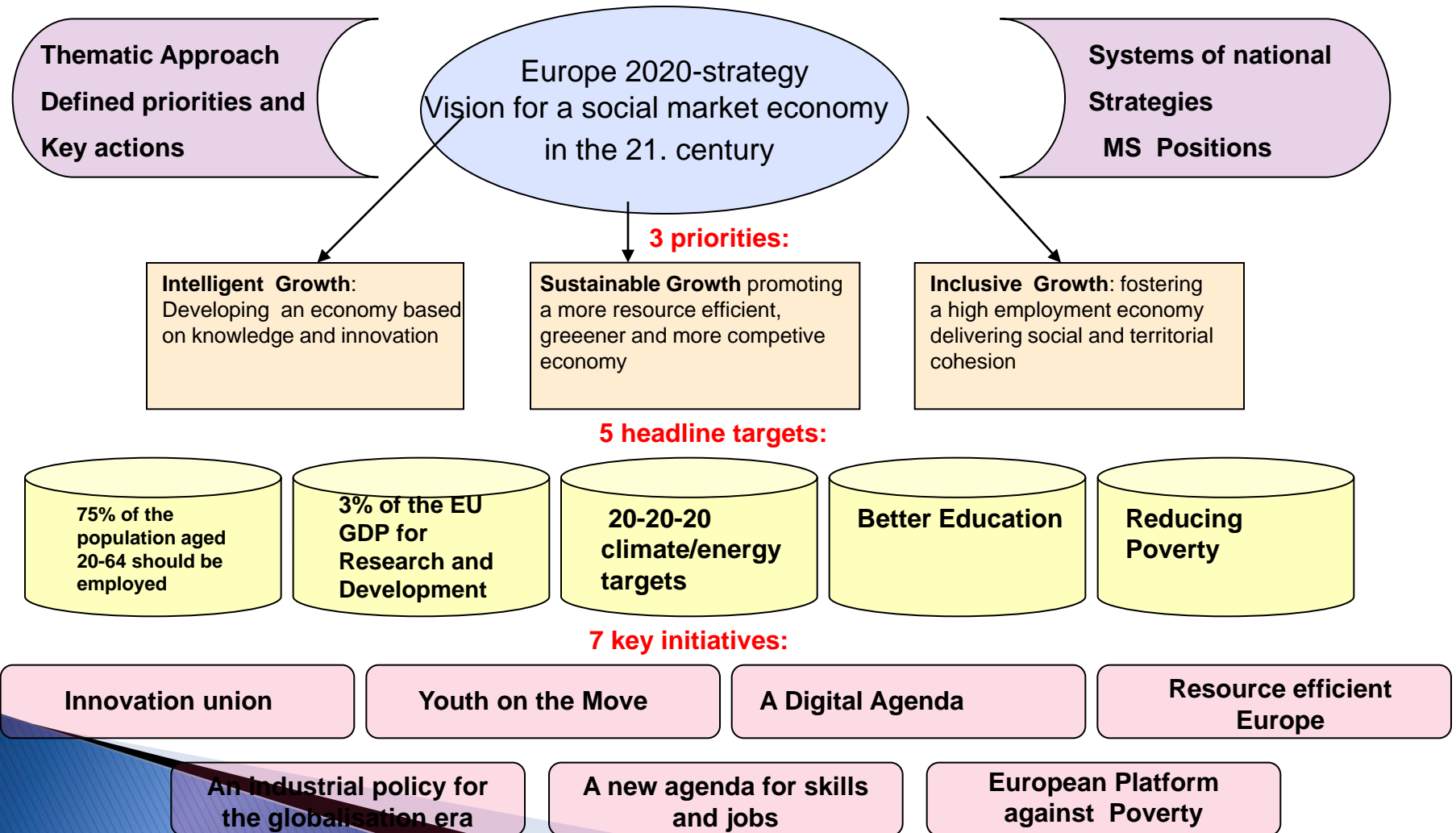


- ▶ **Research funding in Europe**
- ▶ **FP Budget:**
 - Total ca. 18 Bio. (FP6) / ca. 51 Bio. (FP7) over 7 years
 - of which for SSH ca. 270 Mio. / 620 Mio.
- ▶ **Basic assumption:** 95% national, 5% European FP funding
Reality: leverage effect of FP (ERA: priority setting; “Grand Challenges”)
- ▶ **Outlook for 2014/2020 :**
Danger of no SSH-focused research programme
while addressing societal Grand Challenges under “Horizon 2020”
- ▶ **European Research Area** (ERA) Framework (target: 2014)
> coordination of MS science policies (also weighting of areas?)
- ▶ **No. of researchers:**
Ca. 380,000 out of a total of 1,2 Mio. (in HE & public sector research)

(Figures provided in Net4Soc presentation, June/July 2011)



Europe-2020-Strategy: Architecture and objectives



Mobilising the SSH community (1)



- ▶ **In parallel** (December 2010):
 - **ALLEA / British Academy** Inter-academy WS on the role of SSH in the future FP: “GC Understanding Europe”
 - **National meetings** organised by Net4Society partners (e.g. Germany, Italy)
 - **Etc.**
- ▶ **WS German Research Ministry / Net4Society “SSH Future Scenarios”**
Establishment of the Interagency Task Force for SSH in Europe
- ▶ **SSH Task Force meetings** (incl. ALLEA, ESF SCH/SCSS, Net4Society, ECHIC, ERA-Nets, etc.)

Request to include a 6th Challenge in “Horizon 2020” (focusing on SSH-lead research)

“GC Understanding Europe in a global context: towards innovation societies”

endorsements by NCPs and by many members of the PC

Presentation “GC Understanding Europe” to the Europ. Commission / discussions with MEP’s

- ▶ **ALLEA / Royal Academies:** Brussels, 31 March 2011 : WS with DG Research SSH & Task Force

Task Force partners: position papers / responses to Green Paper, stressing importance of SSH

- ▶ **Net4Soc, ALLEA , Task Force:** Brussels, June-July 2011:
 - making the case for the 6th challenge at stakeholder and member states workshops
 - making the case for inclusion of SSH in programme design of all other Grand Challenges



- ▶ **Grand Challenges approach accepted for collaborative research, but:**
- ▶ **Key SSH themes for “Europe 2020” to be treated with priority, such as**
 - knowledge and innovation (smart),
 - better governance at all levels (sustainable)
 - diversity and inequality (inclusive)
- ▶ **Europe must solve lack of inclusiveness (political, economic, cultural...)-** concern about technology-focused approaches (e.g.: ageing; security); SSH research can provide the necessary insights and policy guidance
- ▶ **All Societal GC’s need SSH lead analysis**
Transversal inclusion of SSH research needs to be relaunched, especially the role of culture, education and world views



- ▶ **Agreement on Open Letter to the Commissioner**
(opened on 28 Oct. 2011, so far ca. 23.000 signatures)
Next steps: “celebrity signatures”, hand over
- ▶ **ALLEA /Brit. Academy: meetings of Interagency Task Force for SSH with EC cabinet and Commissioner**
(April, Sept., 10 Nov.2011: London:
Speech of Commisioner Geoghegan-Quinn
with strong endorsement of important role of SSH in Horizon 2020
- 30 Nov 2011: Publication of proposal for Horizon 2011**, incl. a 6th challenge
“Inclusive, innovative and secure societies” (SSH + security res.: 4 Bio.)

Next stages:

2012 Negotiations in MS, Parliament etc. (budget; role of SSH etc.)



► Issues deserving intervention:

- Research and **Innovation** (> SSH as advice givers or as researchers?);
Can impact of SSH also be critical reflection on agendas / assumptions?
- Overall role and budget for SSH (SSH only in segment “inclusion”?)
- Relationship to “security” component (technology-driven research?);
- Role of “science in society”?
- Research Infrastructures and Digital Agenda;
- International Cooperation (INCO): “Actor Europe”?;
- Regional research potential (end of “regions of knowledge” programme?);
- Consequences of ERA Framework decisions on national funding etc.;
- Education and Higher Education (mobility?; modernisation?; “skills”?);
- SSH presence in other Grand Challenges / Joint Programming Ini’s
(interaction with more DG’s)



▶ Mobilising SSH community across Europe

- Interacting at EU and national level (diversity; inclusiveness)
- Interacting at discipline / field level (ERA awareness; lobbying)
- Interacting at stakeholder level (user multilogue)

▶ European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities

Step 1 (producers), such as:

- umbrella science organisations (academies, research councils, min. etc.)
- internat. / European university and research institute consortia
- subject associations / unions (European / internat.)
- selected multi-disciplinary national research performing organisations
- networks (Net4Soc; ERA-Nets)

Step 2 (users), such as:

- foundations and civil society organisations;
- non-academic stakeholder groups
- internat. organisations



Mobilising the SSH community across Europe in order to

- ▶ articulate, through a single voice, the strategic promotion of SSH research,
- ▶ offer, where appropriate, a single contact point and platform for interaction with the varied fields of SSH research in Europe (transmit, multiply, collect),
- ▶ feature achievements of SSH-research across Europe,
- ▶ create platform(s) for debating original, interdisciplinary, intersectoral research,
- ▶ advance discussions about SSH-related research infrastructures,
- ▶ facilitate access for potential users of SSH research to relevant knowledge,
- ▶ strengthen the capacity of SSH research communities to engage in policy discussions and to advise policy,
- ▶ encourage mutual learning between different institutional settings across Europe (and, eventually, beyond),
- ▶ develop a consistent argument about the nexus between a well-endowed, sustainably nurtured basic research environment and the capacity to produce innovating research for the use of society at large.



Next Steps :

- ▶ Membership (categories; formalisation; representation; interaction with members)
- ▶ Registration (AISBL: to be registered in Belgium),
- ▶ Statutes
- ▶ Aim etc (degree of specificity; possibility of development)
- ▶ Sustainability (funding & contributions in kind)
- ▶ Structure: Board (members; election by GA); Exec Committee (president and vice-presidents <categ.>); Treasurer; secretariat
- ▶ Committees (membership? policy? ...)
- ▶ Activities (security research? education policies and research?...)
- ▶ Website
- ▶ Meetings (general assembly: AISBL; further cycle? thematic?)



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