



## Research Funding and Opportunities for Collaboration in the Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe

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### Outline

#### Introduction

#### Part I: Overview of opportunities and funding schemes

- Introduction to research landscape in Europe
- Schemes for research funding and research collaboration in Europe:
  - European Commission
  - European Science Foundation, including COST
  - National research councils, academies, universities, other org

#### Briefing NUS and NTU

#### Part II: Policies, priorities and tips for proposal writing

#### Question / answer session



## Purpose and aim of the workshop

- Humanities and Social Science scholars at universities in Singapore
- Promoting more activities in HSS, share best practices:
  - Link up with researchers in Europe and beyond
  - Develop multi-team research programs and collaborations, find relevant research partners
  - Exchange results and added value of working together
  - Respond to calls for proposals in Europe in pro-active way
  - *NETWORK FUNDING, NOT RESEARCH FUNDING*
- Priority areas / thematic approach vs. bottom up approach
- How to prepare a proposal, including attention points



## European research landscape

- Research as contributor to tackle the challenges of contemporary Europe, all complex in nature
- Developing the knowledge society and economy, achieving sustainable growth, Lisbon agenda
- Europe's major societal issues require strong involvement and contribution from Humanities and Social Sciences, towards more 'evidence based policy making'
- Understanding society, beyond science and technology
- **European Research Area** – Introduced in 2000 by EC
  - Internal market for research in the EU, free circulation of researchers and knowledge, without barriers and for the benefit of European economy and society



## Framework Program

- EC funds research mainly through so-called Framework Programs (FP)
- Currently FP7, running from 2007 – 2013
- Main instrument for funding research in Europe:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)
- Organized around four pillars: **Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities**, each with specific programs
- Increasingly more opportunities for HSS scholars
- Policy and societal relevance, interdisciplinarity, team work



## European Commission: HSS

- Socio-economic and humanities research
- To support research and activities aimed at providing the basis for *policy development*, and improving insight and understanding of the key underlying trends and factors driving these developments
- At the service of other policies, measuring and assessing *impact*, providing input to increase overall consistency and coherence, and improving knowledge base in these fields
- HSS opportunities in each of four pillars Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities (networking / individual funding)
- HSS budget for FP7 623 Million Euro in total, spread over period 2007 – 2013



## European Commission: HSS

- Five major areas in relation to challenges for EU:
  - Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society
  - Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective
  - Major trends in society and their implications
  - Europe in the world
  - The citizen in the EU
- Cross-cutting areas:
  - Socio-economic and scientific indicators
  - Foresight activities



## European Commission: HSS

- Collaborative research / transnational teams
- Problem-oriented
- Policy-relevant
- Comparative
- Multidisciplinary
- Strong emphasis on dissemination of results
- Integration of gender issues
- New focus on the international / global dimension, humanities, methods of analysis and assessment



## European Commission: HSS

- Selected projects:
  - Support the Lisbon agenda [*make the EU the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, and respect for the environment, by 2010*]: Knowledge society and economy, evaluation of policies, education
  - Support ERA: Economics of innovation systems, entrepreneurship
  - Are global: Address the role of the EU, impact on regions, geopolitics, international trade, human rights, climate social issues
  - Contribute to sustainable development strategies and regional development: Indicators, rural activity and agriculture, corporate social responsibility, urban issues
  - Analyze societal trends: Demography (ageing, migration), family, work conditions, consumer behavior, cultural interactions



## FP 7: Cooperation

- Supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation
- Gain or consolidate leadership in key scientific and technology areas
- Budget: 32 413 Million Euro, to support cooperation between universities, industry, research centers and public authorities throughout the EU and beyond
  - Collaborative research (Collaborative Projects, NoE, ...)
  - Coordination national research program (ERA-net, HERA)
  - Joint Technology Initiatives (incl. private sector)
  - Technology Platforms (develop Strategic Research Agenda)
- Specific area: Socio-economic sciences and the humanities



## FP 7: Ideas/European Research Council

- Funding for individual teams and projects
- Selection criterion: excellence
- Curiosity-driven (= bottom-up), support across all domains
- Two calls: early career grants, advanced career grants
- No thematic priorities, five review panels for HSS:
  - Individuals and organizations
  - Institutions, behavior, values and beliefs
  - The human mind and its complexity
  - Cultures and cultural diversity
  - The study of the past and of cultural artefacts
- Both schemes heavily oversubscribed



## FP 7: People

- Increased mobility of researchers for career development, world wide
- Declared interest by non-EU countries to increase exchange of researchers with EU
- “Brain drain”: risk of no return
- Marie Curie Program (4,7 Billion Euro for 2007 – 2013):
  - Fellowships
  - Staff exchange
  - Life long learning grants
  - Industry-academia partnerships and pathways



## FP 7: Capacities

- Addressing Research Infrastructures (RI): Databases, IT tools and methodologies, data archives etc
- European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap, implemented October 2006
- SSH RI projects:
  - Council of European Social Science Data Archives
  - Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure
  - Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities
  - European Observatory for the Human and Social Sciences
  - European Social Survey
  - Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe



## FP 7: Further information

- CORDIS web site: [http://cordis.europa.eu/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html) for **calls, partners, contacts** and **projects**
- Practical guide to funding opportunities research and innovation: [http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html)

### Note

- Preparation of work program (= priorities) for FP 8 underway
- Various ways to influence priority setting
- Working groups, consultations, surveys etc
- Opportunity to increase impact for HSS !!



## European Science Foundation (ESF)

- Membership organization, founded in 1974
- Offices in Strasbourg, France and Brussels, Belgium
- 80 MOs, 30 countries, beyond EU, non-governmental
  - Combat fragmentation
  - Create critical mass
  - Advance science
- Partnerships outside Europe
- MOs include agencies:
  - Research funding
  - Research performing
  - Academies



## ESF's mission and means

- ESF provides a common platform for its Member Organizations in order to:
  - Advance European research
  - Explore new directions for research at the European level
- In all scientific domains, strong HSS
- Through its activities, ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context
- Expanding activities beyond Europe
- Budget: ca 45 Million Euro
- Budgets networked through ESF: ca 1 – 3 Billion Euro



## Activities

- Exploratory and strategic workshops (mainly bottom-up), foresight studies
- Networking science, creating platforms for new collaborations
- Management of transnational research programs
- Quality assurance, impact studies
- Policy coordination (for example: Humanities in the European Research Area, Social Science research in Central and Eastern European countries)
- No direct research funding; all about networking



## Exploratory Workshops

- **WHAT** One-off meetings, new directions in research, explore emerging research fields, potential for follow-up, interdisciplinary
- **CRITERIA** Innovative, European-scale (and beyond), potential for follow-up, quality of applicants and proposal
- **FUNDING** 15.000 Euro
- **TIMELINE** Call open every year in February, deadline in May, activities start from February the year after – call for 2010 workshops opens 26 February 2009
- **OUTPUT** Joint project or program development, publication, etc



## Exploratory Workshops: Examples

- Applying Semantic Web Technologies To Medieval Manuscript Research
- European Contract Law And The Welfare State
- Interdisciplinary Water Management In European Agricultural Landscapes
- Exploring Creative Cities; The Cultural And Economic Values Of Cultural Industries Clusters
- Music And The Brain: New Perspectives For Stimulating Cognitive And Sensory Processes
- The Ecology Of Crusading: The Environmental Impact Of Conquest And Colonization In The Medieval Baltic
- Evidence-Based Environmental Design For Older People: From Initiation To Dissemination, Enhancing The Paradigm Of Design Research
- Technology And Religion: Structural Affinities And Cultural Challenges



## Forward Looks *The flagship instrument*

- **WHAT** Develop medium to long-term views and analyses of future research developments, with the aim of defining research agendas at national and European level
- **CRITERIA** Excellence, feasibility, impact
- **FUNDING** Roughly 150 kEuro for project of 1 – 1,5 year
- **TIMELINE** Continuous open call
- **OUTPUT** Report with recommendations, 'research agenda', joint programs etc
- **EXAMPLE** Security research, new media & new media literacy, ageing, higher education beyond 2010 [plus under development: Humans in Outer Space, with ESA]



## ESF Research Conferences

- **WHAT** Thematic conferences, often interdisciplinary, themes linked to venue and co-sponsor
- **CRITERIA** Excellence, forward looking element
- **FUNDING** ESF plus local co-sponsor (currently: Linköping University, Sweden, for HSS conference series) – *scheme searching to extend beyond Europe!*
- **TIMELINE** Annual, preparations ca 2 years
- **OUTPUT** Possibly conference proceedings
- **EXAMPLE** Imaging War: Intergenerational Perspectives, Reforming the European State System in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, The Right to the City: New Challenges, New Issues



## Research Networking Programs (RNPs)

- **WHAT** Networking of already financed national programs and projects, leading senior and younger researchers, developing further collaboration, not necessarily interdisciplinary
- **CRITERIA** Scientific quality, level of envisaged impact, European added value, structure and budget
- **FUNDING** 90 – 250 k Euro per year, a la carte funding by ESF MOs
- **TIMELINE** Submissions by 1 November, recommendations for funding by May, decisions from November year after
- **OUTPUT** Joint publications / book series, follow-up



## RNPs: Examples

- Selected examples of running programs:
  - Standard drugs and drug standards [case study in Part II]
  - The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective
  - European Social Cognition Network
  - Globalizing Europe Economic History Network
- Selected examples of completed programs:
  - Representations of the Past: The Writing of National Histories in Europe
  - Asian Studies Program
  - Changing Media, Changing Europe
  - From Natural Philosophy to Science
- Dedicated web pages (proposal, reports, activities, teams)



## European Collaborative Research Programs (EUROCORES)

- **WHAT** Competitively selected, bottom-up developed research programs, with 'real' new research funding for transnational collaborative research projects plus networking component
- **CRITERIA** For themes – excellence and added value, creation of critical mass; For projects – excellence and coherence
- **FUNDING** 5 – 15 Million Euro, by ESF MOs, managed through ESF
- **TIMELINE** 20 months from program development to project funding (!!), yearly call for themes with deadline in June
- **OUTPUT** High-level collaborative research publications



## EUROCORES: Examples

- Programs in varying stages:
  - The Evolution of Cooperation and Trading
  - Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 to the Present
  - Modelling Intelligent Interaction - Logic in the Humanities, Social and Computational Sciences
  - European Comparisons in Regional Cohesion, Dynamics and Expressions
  - European Collaborative Research Project (ECRP I, II, III and IV)
  - Cross-national and Multi-level Analysis of Human Values, Institutions and Behaviour
  - Higher Education and Social Change
- Dedicated web pages (proposal, reports, activities, teams)



## ESF further information

- **Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)**  
[www.esf.org/human](http://www.esf.org/human)  
[humanities@esf.org](mailto:humanities@esf.org)
- **Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)**  
[www.esf.org/social](http://www.esf.org/social)  
[scss@esf.org](mailto:scss@esf.org)
- ESF general web site: [www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)
- ESF calls for proposals: <http://www.esf.org/activities/calls-and-funding.html> plus dedicated contacts



## COST

- COST = European Collaboration in the field of Scientific and Technical Research
- Cooperation among scientists and researchers across Europe, intergovernmental agency
- Thematic “Actions” support:
  - Workshops, conferences, exchange visits, dissemination, publications, training schools
- Bottom-up, competitive selection, international peer review
- Funding 80 – 90 k Euro per year per Action
- Continuous open call
- *Humanities underrepresented!*



## COST: Examples

- Examples of running COST Actions (= Networks)
  - Tributary Empires Compared: Romans, Mughals and Ottomans in the pre-industrial world from antiquity till the transition to modernity
  - Gender and Well-Being: Interactions between Work, Family and Public Policies
  - Health and Social Care for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities in Europe
  - Science and Technology Research In a Knowledge-based Economy
  - New Challenges of Peacekeeping and the EU's Role in Multilateral Crisis Management
- Example of ESF – COST synergy: Landscape Studies
- **Domain Committee for Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)**
- [www.cost.esf.org/isch](http://www.cost.esf.org/isch) plus further contacts via web page



## National Research Councils

- Usually the research funding body on national level:
  - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
  - Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
  - Swedish Research Council (VR)
  - Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences
  - UK's AHRC and ESRC
  - French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
- Funding for basic and / or applied research, all domains
- Budget usually comes through ministries



## National Research Councils

- *Open competition* for research funding for PhDs, postdocs, but also research teams, research centers, collaboration, networking, workshop grants etc ~ Tier 2
- Separate from research funding in universities ~ Tier 1
- Call for proposals
- Peer review by review committee = recommendations
- Decision making body = decision
- Award and management of running grant (various models)
- Main European RC's member of ESF (links via web site)



## Academies

- European context: Academies usually have advisory role on science and research
- Research performing rather than research funding
- Foresight studies, advisory reports
- Research institutes, Young Academy programs
- Funding for networking, workshops, conferences, chairs
- European Federation of National Academies of Sciences and Humanities ALLEA ([www.allea.org](http://www.allea.org)) – membership org.
  - Exchange information and experience, science and society advice to members, excellence in science, independent from political and governmental interests
- Association of Academies of Science in Asia: [www.aasa-net.org](http://www.aasa-net.org) (limited HSS, via interdisciplinary approach)



## Universities & other organizations

- Research funding ~ Tier 1 (cp. networking funds)
- Administered internally, in independent way
- Research positions: PhDs and postdocs, equipment etc
- Other research funding organizations:
  - Max Planck Gesellschaft, Volkswagen Stiftung (Germany)
  - Riksbanken Jubileumsfond (Sweden)
- Other dedicated and / or private funds on national level:
  - Universities usually publish overview (book) of funds available and criteria for applying; check with overseas research partners
- Way of administering funds may vary considerably



## Setting up successful collaborations

- Have your research funded on national level: Excellence
- Know what you want and with whom
- Get information from funding organization: priorities, calls
- Know your field of research: who / what / where / when / why
- Take pro-active approach in searching for opportunities
- Establish contacts [conferences, (exploratory) workshops]
- Take global approach & think beyond single project funding
- Humanities scholar in ivory tower ☹

### MORE PRACTICAL TIPS AND EXAMPLES IN PART II



## Briefings NUS and NTU

### Part II: Policies, priorities, proposal writing

### Question / answer session



# THANK YOU

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## Policies & priorities

- EU Framework – Thematic calls specifying priorities, policy relevance:
  - Urban science, sustainable development
  - Stem cell research, (bio)ethics
  - Renewable energy, climate change
  - New media, security research, religion, (Classical) Asian Studies (!!)
  - Consumer safety, industrial competitiveness, ...
  - Interdisciplinary approach to contemporary challenges
- Or fully bottom-up : blue sky research, no thematic priorities
- Call announcements, organization's web sites, research agendas, annual and research reports, **subsidy guides**



## Successful proposal writing

- Reminder from Part I:
  - Have your research funded on national level: Excellence
  - Know what you want
  - Get information from funding organization: priorities, calls
  - Know your field of research: who / what / where / when / why
  - Take pro-active approach in searching for opportunities
  - Establish contacts [conferences, (exploratory) workshops]
  - Take global approach & think beyond single project funding
  - Humanities scholar in ivory tower ☹



## Successful proposal writing

- **Focus:** Network proposals, proposals for international collaboration
- Overview and practical tips on how to get from call for proposal to submission, and increase your chances of getting your proposal awarded
- Example from ESF context – A successful Research Networking Program
- How to learn from unsuccessful applications
- Checklists
- Attention points



## Successful proposal writing

- Starting points:
  - You have an (excellent) idea for collaboration, and want to link up with colleague scholars in the field
  - You are the main proponent / principal investigator / contact person, or you are in contact with a colleague from Europe as main proponent
  - You have the outline of your project ready – independent of deadline
  - You have identified your co-proponent(s) / contact person(s) and project members
  - You know the submission procedure: A specific call, or continuous submission, and have the deadline by when to respond
  - You have informed the research partners in you network / proposed project about the upcoming call and submission deadline



## Successful proposal writing

- ✓ Start the preparations in time – never too soon
- ✓ Check whether submission is on-line; create account
- ✓ Check whether there is a form or whether it is free format
- ✓ Know the deadline – deadlines are non-negotiable
- ✓ Read the call text, guidelines for submission and FAQs
- ✓ Read the call text, guidelines for submission and FAQs again
- ✓ Read them n more times – identify any unclear points
- ✓ Discuss the requirements with your co-proponents
- ✓ Decide whether the call is appropriate for what you want – not the other way around
- ✓ Check eligibility criteria (thematic, age limit, activities, ...)



## Successful proposal writing

- ✓ Contact funding organization with questions – there are no stupid questions
- ✓ Adapt outline of proposal according to call, without compromising your ideas. Otherwise: re-consider submission
- ✓ Thematic vs. bottom-up? Review procedure and panel?
- ✓ Criteria for evaluation / assessment / peer review?
- ✓ Match requirements and activities proposed in your proposal
- ✓ Members of your network – identify responsibilities, tasks
- ✓ Balanced composition of your team(s): geographical spreading, gender balance, early career vs. more senior members, ...
- ✓ Timeline, milestones, progress reporting, outcome, results
- ✓ Leadership, management and reporting structure



## Successful proposal writing

- ✓ Budget – realistic, flexible and well argued. Check guidelines for eligible costs and re-calculate (more than once)
- ✓ Try to see examples of successful proposals in earlier calls
- ✓ Need to inform university? Include names (non-)reviewers?
- ✓ Check with funding organization for technical errors in draft (well in advance)
- ✓ Discuss draft and comments with co-proponents
- ✓ Have outsider check proposal before submitting (2 levels)
- ✓ Check typos, spelling, grammar, references, budget, lay out, ...
- ✓ Submit in advance of deadline, preferably a few days
- ✓ Get acknowledgement of receipt and file number



## Successful proposal writing

Then you wait ... while your proposal is being peer reviewed

### Peer review:

- Proposals sent to experts in the field, not related or involved in proposal, and without conflict of interest, for their argued opinion
- Criteria for networking proposals differ from ones for research proposals !! Criteria should be published in the call
- Some processes allow rebuttal (reply to comments from reviewers)
- Dossier = proposal + reviews + comments => review panel
- Recommendations from panel => decision making body



## Successful proposal writing

- If successful: congratulations! Sometimes: conditions apply
- (Program management may be topic for next workshop)
- If unsuccessful – Learn from errors and mistakes and try again:
  - Ask for reviews, if not communicated before
  - Ask for feedback from panel / decision making body
  - Reasons: Quality, level of funding, number of applications, ...
  - Check with funding organization (oral report; ranking) and RSOs
  - Take comments seriously, do not get discouraged (only not applying will guarantee you something, namely not getting any funds)
  - Ask further advice from (successful) colleagues
- Proposal writing is a skill: learning by doing



## Example of successful RNP

- *Standard Drugs and Drug Standards – A comparative historical study of Pharmaceuticals in the 20<sup>th</sup> century*
- Launched: March 2008, running until February 2013
- Budget: ~ 120 kEuro per annum
- Topic: The analysis of standardization in the development, regulation, marketing and use of modern pharmaceuticals
- Standardization as key concept:
  - Standardizing the objects of production
  - Standardizing state administration
  - Standardizing bedside practices
- <http://drughistory.eu> and [www.esf.org/drugs](http://www.esf.org/drugs)



## RNPs: Characteristics (recap)

- **WHAT** Networking of already financed national programs and projects, leading senior and younger researchers, developing further collaboration, not necessarily interdisciplinary, advance frontiers of science
- **CRITERIA** Scientific quality, level of envisaged impact, European added value, structure and budget
- **FUNDING** 90 – 250 k Euro per year, a la carte funding by ESF MOs, duration 4 – 5 years
- **TIMELINE** Submissions by 1 November, recommendations for funding by May, decisions from November year after
- **OUTPUT** Joint publications / book series, follow-up



## RNPs: Requirements as in call

- Successful proposal have addressed / demonstrated:
  - High scientific quality of the proposal
  - The right group of scholars
  - Added value of being carried out at a European level (rather than by individual research groups at the national level)
  - Sharing of knowledge and expertise
  - Developing new techniques – databases, analytical tools
  - Training opportunities for young scientists
  - Open character, possibly global dimension
  - Creation of interdisciplinary fora
  - Realistic budget



## DRUGS: Characteristics of program

- Interdisciplinary: sociologists, economics, medical administrators, historians, biomedical sciences, business
- Financial support from: Germany, Belgium, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, Denmark, Switzerland, UK
- Key concept = standardization
- Program structured in four teams:
  - Antibiotics (US market: 25 billion US\$ by 2010; cultural differences)
  - Cardiacs (managing blood pressure, cholesterol, ...)
  - Biological drugs (vaccines, sera, vitamins)
  - Phychochemicals (tranquilizers; socio-cultural context)
- Postgraduate / Postdoctoral program (exchange visits)
- Yearly cross-team conference



## DRUGS: Characteristics of program

- Total of 22 proposal submitted in 2006 call
- Peer review, ranking and recommendation by ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (during 2007)
- Funding secured early 2008 from MOs on à la carte basis
- Two proposals recommended and launched early 2008
- Why did DRUGS make it?
  - Excellent proposal, strong proponents, excellent members, timely
  - Interdisciplinary character, thematic structure, across national teams
  - Mix of early career and more senior scholars, added European value
  - Yearly team workshops, conference and PP Program (!!)
  - Potential to go beyond Europe
  - Realistic but flexible budget (publication plans)
  - Preparatory workshop plus preparations as of early 2006 (+**contact!**)



# THANK YOU

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