

The Importance of SSH Research to Horizon Europe

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Horizon 2020 still works with a technological paradigm

- Products invented, rolled out to Market, and provide solutions
- E.g. traffic management flow techniques
- ▶ HSS offers an alternative definition:
 - Transformation of the way we live and the things we do

- ▶ Imagination
 - Hypothetical futures developed and assessed
 - Philosophers: hypotheticals: Plato's Crito
 - Literature: Invented worlds: Rêve d'avenir: allows to explore the potential with different worlds.
- ▶ History/Archaeology
 - Enables one to explore other situations with some knowledge of consequences
- ▶ Both enable expand range of issues to include non-material, emotional & affective parts of life and values

Social Science Methods

- ▶ Modelling
 - Enable researcher to revisit alternative scenarios without laboratory conditions
 - Enable to simplify enquiry by looking at a few variables
- ▶ Can be qualitative or quantitative
- ▶ Humanities & Social Sciences offer distinctive ways of studying and evaluating potential social innovation

Example: Urban Transport

- ▶ **SC₄ Call:** „Urban mobility is in transition. This is a result of, for example, changing user needs; emerging transport technologies; new transport services using new business models; and new institutional and financing structures.“
 - Research & Innovation actions:
 - Investment & management of transport network
 - New business models
 - Challenges of areas undergoing rapid economic change
 - Reducing congestion & car usage
- ▶ Suggests focus on technocratic solutions to existing problems, not looking forward to ways of working and living which will create problems and solutions in 2030 or 2040.

How reform Horizon Europe?

- ▶ Look at design of process
 - Let scientific imagination prevail
 - Involve HSS in the design of calls
 - Involve HSS in the evaluations of calls
 - Involve HSS in the monitoring of performance of calls
 - Make scale of bids fit the scale of HSS research methods

Thank you!