

CESAER



Workshop

Effectively Fund Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research

A joint event organised by UNICA and CESAER

14th October 2020

10:00–12:00

Participation is free, but registration is compulsory via [this link](#).

The workshop addresses existing barriers to achieving high-quality integration of SSH in STEM-led projects under the EU funding instruments, presents proposals on how to overcome them and develops recommendations for funders.

This event is jointly organised by the [Task Force Link SSH with STEM](#), the [Task Force Competitive Funding](#) and the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe ([UNICA](#)) and is part of the [CESAER Annual Meetings 2020](#), which this year takes place fully online.

FINAL PROGRAMME

Importantly, all presentations of maximally 30 minutes have been recorded and put them online for viewing before the workshop and only allow short interventions of maximally 10 minutes by the presenters followed by Q&A during the workshop. The videos can be watched here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLu45BsSife4GQ9802FbrMvbMDKndNnNUB>

10:00-10:05 Welcome address by Luciano Saso, President of UNICA and **David BOHMERT**, Secretary General, CESAER

10:05-11:00 Session 1 Presentations and Q&A on how to improve funding for inter- and transdisciplinary research

Moderator: **Henrik PEDERSEN**, Aalborg University Copenhagen and Chair of Task Force Link SSH with STEM

Anders Kristian MUNK, Associate Professor at Aalborg University Copenhagen: STEM SSH integration: perspectives from SSH at the University of Aalborg

Wendy SONNEVELD, Senior Policy Adviser European affairs, Ghent University

Aliyah MORGENSTERN, Professor, Sorbonne Nouvelle University: Stimulations and drawbacks in the cooperation between SSH and STEM scientists: submission of a synergy grant application on multimodal communication

Iago OTERO, Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Centre for Mountain Research (ICMR) and **François BUSSY**, Vice-rector for Research and International Relations, University of Lausanne: Financing interdisciplinary research, the challenge to go beyond institutional seed funding

11:00-12:00 Session 2 Panel discussion and Q&A on the recommendations to funders on how to better support inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration through EU funding instruments

Moderator: **Jonathan SECKL**, Vice Principal and Moncrieff-Arnott Professor of Molecular Medicine, University of Edinburgh

Olivier KÜTTEL, Head of International Affairs and Delegate to the President, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

David BOHMERT, Secretary General, CESAER

Jens KREISEL, Vice-Rector for Research, Full Professor of Physics and Materials Sciences, University of Luxembourg

Maryam HANSSON EDALAT, Head of Office for Research, Engagement and Innovation Services (REIS), Stockholm University

David BUDTZ PEDERSEN, Professor of Impact Studies and Science Communication and Director of the Humanomics Research Centre, Aalborg University Copenhagen

Background

Inter- and transdisciplinary research presents new opportunities for cooperation between specialists with diverse backgrounds in both the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Such engagement - bridging different subjects, methodologies and research fields - allows complex problems to be addressed from various angles simultaneously. Moreover, bringing knowledge and ideas from different disciplines within one approach can act as a catalyst for innovations and more creative solutions to address grand societal challenges, such as COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the efforts to achieve deeper integration of SSH disciplines into the European research funding programmes, the success so far has been limited. The most recent statistics from 2017 show that the share of the overall annual budget going to SSH partners has gone up from 7% in 2016 to 8.5% in 2017. For topics flagged for SSH, the share of programme budget went up from 20% to 23% in this period. However, depending on the threshold of measurement used, only between 41% and 56% of projects with SSH involvement demonstrated levels of SSH integration considered to be 'good'.

The workshop will address the existing barriers to achieving high-quality integration of SSH in STEM-led projects under the EU framework programmes for research and innovation, present proposals how to overcome them and develop recommendations for funders.