



# Evaluation of the impact of the Framework Programme on the formation of the ERA in Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH)

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The social sciences and humanities have been very responsive to the Commission's political declarations and policies to develop the European Research Area (ERA). This is the report from a study aiming to evaluate the contribution of the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) parts of the Framework Programme on the European Research Area in SSH. At the end of the 5th Framework Programme (FP), the 3rd call of the Socio-economic Research Key Action included two themes which were clearly influenced by the ERA discussion: Theme 4 - The development of European infrastructures for comparative research in the social sciences and humanities; and Theme 5 - Support activities to stimulate the development of social sciences and humanities in the ERA. In FP6 ERA objectives were incorporated into "Priority 7 on Citizens and Governance in the Knowledge Based Society", and especially in its use of Networks of Excellence (NoEs) and Integrated Projects (IPs) which aimed at structuring the research scene. The study examined the impacts of these programmes in four domains: the research policies for SSH in Member States, the structuring effects of the new instruments; the importance of the support for research infrastructures in the context of the SSH programme; and the impact of the programme on the careers of participating researchers.

