



Florence, 4 June 2018

PRESS RELEASE: Don't forget the Social Sciences

EUI responds to the Public Consultation on the next EU Research and Innovation Programme

The EU is operating in a changing global environment characterised by the calling into question of multilateral institutions, profound societal changes, long-term demographic and migration trends, and the rise of identity politics.

Against this background, social sciences continue to play a fundamental role in interpreting developments and laying the foundations for informed choices on the part of decision-makers. **Evidence-based policymaking is vital in helping the EU meet the manifold challenges it faces today.** "High-level research in the social sciences and humanities is required to produce this evidence, providing lawmakers with the necessary theoretical and practical advice to take well-grounded decisions for the benefit of Europe" – said **EUI President, Prof. Renaud Dehousse.**

The European University Institute intends to live up to its role and has released a position paper addressing '*The Dynamics of Change in Europe*' in response to the European Commission's invitation to contribute to the public consultation on the next EU Research and Innovation programme. It sets out some of the numerous ways in which research is conducted at the Institute and underlines the importance of social science and humanities research in the understanding of a changing European landscape.

Continued innovation in methods and practices will guarantee that the EUI remains at the cutting-edge of social science and humanities research. However, the changing nature of modern research is driving up costs, meaning it has rarely been more expensive to undertake important and impactful work. EU support is therefore crucial in maintaining the EUI's position at the forefront of the academic community.

The EUI's position paper seeks to underline the enduring importance of that support, and to encourage the European Union to ensure that the role of the social sciences and humanities in research and innovation is maintained and enhanced in the development of the next programme for research and innovation.

Thanks to consistent support from the EU and from its member states to its research activities, the Institute has over 40 years of experience producing research to help make sense of a changing Europe. More information on our research activities – which vary from in-depth studies on the Eurozone to migration, energy and climate change and security – are described in the position paper. A more exhaustive summary of the EUI's activity and endeavour may be found on our website.

Press Office – EUI Communications Service

e-mail: eui.press@eui.eu | phone: +39 055 4685 437

www.eui.eu | twitter: [@EuropeanUni](https://twitter.com/EuropeanUni) | facebook: [@EuropeanUniversityInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanUniversityInstitute)