Can we risk increasing the gap between European citizens and science, technology and innovation?

Important issues for a prosperous European Research Area[i]

A prospering knowledge-based Europe is based on a systematic and flowing interaction between civil society, policy makers, researchers and industry. Through its support for research and innovation, Europe seeks to root scientific and technological advancement deep into society.

To achieve the goals set out in the Europe 2020 Strategy, Responsible Research and Innovation actions[ii] (RRI) need to be correctly implemented in Horizon 2020 to guarantee societal interaction and dialogue. This will ensure citizens' and society's interaction and dialogue with science, technology and innovation.

Actions required to ensure Responsible Research and Innovation in Horizon 2020

> **Ensure that there is a specific Science for and with Society programme positioned within 'Excellent Science' of Horizon 2020** to further develop and pilot good RRI actions, to increase awareness of RRI issues and to promote interactions between all the players within the European Research Area. Bringing science nearer to society and tackling the challenges that come with RRI are more of a challenge for the science system itself than for society and should be treated in the same way as nurturing excellent ideas, mobility of researchers, exploring future and emerging technologies as well as infrastructure support. It is important that sufficient budget is clearly allocated to the Science for and with Society programme.

> **Ensure that Responsible Research and Innovation, RRI - is mainstreamed into all future EU Research and Innovation funding programmes**. This can be done through cross-cutting and targeted actions and specific evaluation rules. However, this must not be done at the risk of Responsible Research and Innovation becoming too vague, as it is by nature a part of the definition of **excellent science**.

> **Support the Amendment no. 978 to Horizon 2020,** which introduces **Science for and with Society programme** in the Priority 'Excellent Science'.

These actions would significantly improve a practical integration of the societal dimension of ERA in Horizon 2020, passing from political recommendations to a clear roadmap in which a better and more society oriented research and innovation will be possible. SiS actions are cross-cutting but need to be coordinated as a special action line within Horizon 2020.

What is the risk?

The cost of no action regarding securing a specific budget line for the Science for and Society programme is: lack of excellence in research, loss of innovations and markets, unfulfilled use of human capital and increased societal distrust in research and innovation. This could result in Europe not finding its path towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the risk of increasing the gap between Euroepan citizens' trust and science, technology and innovation. **This is why we need a specific Science for and with Society programme in Horizon 2020**

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[i] This document presents the position of the SiS.net - National Contact Points for FP7 Science in Society programme. Our vision builds on first-hand communication with stakeholders representing the extremely diverse landscape of Science in Society actors. SiS.net is financed by EC's FP7 SiS programme.

[ii] **Responsible Research and Innovation** (RRI) is a transparent, interactive process in which societal actors and innovators become mutually responsive to each other with a view on the ethical acceptability, sustainability and societal desirability of the innovation process and its marketable products. RRI includes ethics, gender, societal engagement, governance, open access, science education.