

Towards a New Transatlantic Dialogue in the Social Science and Humanities

27-28 September 2016 - Brussels

Format	2 days of workshop sessions
Time	27th and 28th September 2016
Location	Royal Flemish Academy of Science and the Arts

As the Trans-Atlantic Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (T-AP) embarks on its fourth year, it aims to look forward to future activities.

T-AP is therefore organizing a special two-day event to discuss the prospects for continued and enhanced cooperation in the funding of impactful, international collaborative research in the social sciences and humanities.

Background

Formed in October 2013, the Trans-Atlantic Platform is a consortium of key humanities and social science funders in South America, North America and Europe. The Platform enhances the ability of funders, research organizations and researchers to engage in transnational dialogue and collaboration. T-AP's primary focus is the development of a sustainable "platform" that can support and facilitate the launch of international funding opportunities in the social sciences and humanities. As part of this focus, it also provides a forum for funding agencies to discuss challenges and opportunities for international research collaboration, conducts engagement activities with funders and researchers to scope potential funding programme themes, and heightens awareness of the crucial role the social sciences and humanities play in addressing 21st century challenges.

Purpose of the workshop

The event has two aims:

1. To share and discuss best practices in establishing programmes with impact for our societies on both side of the Atlantic;
2. To help shape the future of social sciences and humanities research and its vital role in the transatlantic interconnected research agenda.

In order to understand how T-AP and other funders' networks could build upon current activities and engage in future activities that bring maximum value to the research community, the workshop will be structured around the following two themes:

- What are the best practices of funding international collaborative research in Social Sciences & Humanities and how can funders' networks and organizations align their activities to create added value for being more complementary, efficient and effective in both sides of the Atlantic?
- How can international and interdisciplinary funding programs be designed to promote Social Sciences & Humanities research that can contribute timely evidence to inform decision making in policy and other sectors?

Workshop Outputs

Through keynote lectures and plenary discussions, the event aims to take a major step towards greater collaboration among funding organizations, funders' networks and other stakeholders. T-AP will prepare an event report that summarizes workshop discussions and provides a vision for greater collaboration among funders' networks and other stakeholders, including the development of international funding opportunities that result in social sciences and humanities research that can inform government policy making. We intend for the report to serve as a touchstone for future discussions and fruitful collaborations, particularly among funders, networks and other stakeholders in Europe, the Americas and Africa.

It is anticipated that 50-70 participants will attend the event. These activities will complement the activities of other relevant networks and groupings such as Net4SOCIETY, HERA and NORFACE. The event will be linked to a T-AP Steering Committee meeting.

Targeted Audience / Participants

- T-AP partners: representatives of funding organizations from South America, North America and Europe.
- Other funding agencies (not currently T-AP members)
- International Research funding networks/platforms, including (but not limited to) NORFACE, HERA, the Belmont Forum, EqUIP, ERANet-Lac, ERAFRICA, Future Earth, Joint Programming Initiatives, the Global Research Council, and information networks such as ERA-Can+ and Net4Society.
- Researchers
- European Commission officials from the Directorate of International Cooperation in DG Research and Innovation (DG Research)
- NGOs, advocacy groups, other funders of research

Program

Day 1 – Tuesday 27 th September	
Time	Activity
10:00-10:30	Registration
10:30-11:00	Opening session – Welcoming remarks, introduction to T-AP, objectives for the workshops (Setting the scene)
Workshop 1: Strategic Objectives for International Research Funding Platforms	
11:00-12:30	<p><i>Objective: Determine how the range of existing networks (such as HERA, NORFACE, Belmont Forum, Bonn Group-Open Research Areas, EQUIP, and ERA-Net LAC, T-AP and Future Earth) can collaborate in order to leverage each other's activities, prevent duplication and ensure that each network brings unique added value.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of the diversity of the funding platforms in SSH in Europe and Americas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For a better understanding of the mandates and strategic direction of existing networks / platforms - <i>Representatives from the various networks will be invited to present their network – its unique contribution to the research funding landscape</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Knowledge sharing among networks: Lessons learned, best practices, challenges and opportunities for funding international collaboration <p><i>Participants will be invited, possibly in small groups or a “world café” format, to discuss challenges and opportunities for funding transatlantic collaborative research</i></p>
15:00-15:30	Break
15:30-16:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Prospects for collaboration between funders networks and other stakeholders <p><i>Participants will be invited to explore the possibilities for cooperation, alignment or complementarity in their activities, current or future in a transatlantic context</i></p>
16:30-17:00	Summary of discussions, and wrap-up
17.00 -18.30	Social event

Day 2 – Wednesday 28th September

Workshop 2: From Research to Policy Making: New Challenge for International Funding Platform?

Time	Activity
9:00-10:00	Day 1 recap and introductory remarks on science advice to policy
10:30-12:00	<p><i>Objective: Determine how funding platforms can mobilize academic researchers to support the knowledge needs of policy makers</i></p> <p>Mobilizing research knowledge to inform policy issues. Possible questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the relationship between academia, granting agencies and policy makers on both sides of the Atlantic? - How can international research funding platforms enable effective mobilization of research knowledge for policy making
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	<p><i>Objective: Discuss conditions for funding internationally to inform policy makers</i></p> <p>How to design funding opportunities to support the knowledge needs of policy makers. Possible questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What models of funding are suited for this purpose (grand challenge, rapid response, other)? - How to determine themes for international collaborative research?
15:00-16:00	Concluding remarks

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