

Project at a glance

Acronym:	PLATON+
Title:	"Strengthening the role that Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) have on the ERA* Development"
Contract No:	217154
Funding scheme:	Coordination and Support Action
Coordinator:	International Environment and Quality Services North Greece Ltd (Q-PLAN N.G., Greece , www.qplanng.gr)
Duration:	1 January 2008 – 30 June 2010 (30 months)
Person Responsible:	Mr. Dimitris PAPAGEORGIOU – papageorgiou@qplan.gr , (+30) 2310-411-191
Short description:	<p>PLATON+ is an EU-funded initiative aiming to increase awareness of European research in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and popularise relative research results in technological oriented research areas.</p> <p>A wide range of activities (such as policy-oriented publications, policy dialogue meetings, international conferences, training courses, etc) will be developed in order to further demonstrate the value of socio-economic research and assist researchers from other disciplines understand which socio-economic issues are most important for them and how they can benefit from them.</p> <p>Thus, PLATON+ will facilitate access to valuable information on socio-economic research results and promote the participation of organisations active in the respective field, in projects under the technology oriented areas.</p>
Website:	http://www.platonplus.net
Overall budget:	1.270 K€
EU funding:	997 K€
Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agency for the Promotion of European Research (<i>APRE, Italy, www.apre.it</i>) ▪ The Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences (<i>ICCR, Austria, www.iccr-international.org</i>) ▪ Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation (<i>TETALAP, Hungary, www.tetalap.hu</i>) ▪ Leibniz Universitaet Hannover - Uni Transfer (<i>LUH, Germany, www.tt.uni-hannover.de</i>) ▪ Wroclaw Centre for Technology Transfer of Wroclaw University of Technology (<i>WCTT PWR, Poland, www.wctt.pl</i>) ▪ Hill & Knowlton Eesti AS (<i>H&K, Estonia, www.hillandknowlton.ee</i>) ▪ The Economic and Social Research Institute (<i>ESRI, Ireland, www.esri.ie</i>) ▪ ALBA Graduate Business School (<i>ALBA, Greece, www.alba.edu.gr</i>) ▪ Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (<i>INSEAD, France, www.calt.insead.edu</i>) ▪ ALMA Consulting Group (<i>ALMA, France, www.almacg.com</i>) ▪ The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (<i>TUBITAK, Turkey, www.tubitak.gov.tr</i>)
EC Scientific Officer:	Ms. Louisa ANASTOPOULOU

* ERA – European Research Area

<p>Aim and Objectives:</p>	<p>PLATON+ is a Supporting Action aiming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to disseminate socio-economic research results and (b) to capitalize socio-economic research results and assets across the other disciplines <p>The ultimate goal of the project is to exploit horizontally the competences of European researchers in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) field for the benefit of European research, achieving integration of the SSH research in the technology-oriented research under the 7th Framework Programme. More specifically, the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>Examine, assess and classify (map) SSH relevant research results</u> that can potentially contribute to the further improvement – advancement of technology-oriented research (e.g. ICT, Nanotech, biotech, agro-food, etc.). The following activity areas of the 6th Framework Programme will be examined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society (FP6-CITIZENS); ○ Information Society Technologies (FP6-IST); ○ Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health (FP6-HEALTH); ○ New and emerging science and technology (FP6-NEST); ○ Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems (FP6-SUSDEV); ○ Food, Quality and Safety (FP6-FOOD). ✓ <u>Create a pool of SSH relevant projects and results</u> (e.g. report, studies, methodologies, etc.) that can be applied in or be of value for technology-oriented research projects (e.g. to generate ideas, design better projects – closer to societal needs, produce products / services with enhanced acceptability from the users, meeting future needs – taking into account future needs / trends, etc.). ✓ <u>'Popularize' SSH relevant research results and topics</u> by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ providing tangible examples; ○ developing several policy-oriented publications; ○ classifying (mapping) SSH results & areas to facilitate 'navigation' of non-SSH users, making SSH integration more friendly to non SSH researchers; ○ organising Policy Dialogue meetings in all partners' countries; and ○ organising international conferences. <p>To increase the impact and added value of SSH-related research results, PLATON+ will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ create an interface among SSH, non-SSH research and policy making communities, and disseminate SSH results to them; ⇒ enhance systematically awareness and understanding on SSH across key actors in research projects (e.g. project coordinators, scientific coordinators, research managers); ⇒ examine and determine the role / contribution that SSH researchers can have throughout the lifecycle of a non-SSH research project; ⇒ support actively the participation of SSH research organizations and researchers to non-SSH research projects and to SSH-related projects under non-SSH themes of FP7; and ⇒ engage non-SSH experts & other organisations, such as SME groupings (i.e. associations, clusters, chambers, etc) more actively in the European SSH research.
<p>Beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research community both in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities field but also in other technology-oriented disciplines. ▪ Policy / decision makers at European, national and regional level ▪ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) ▪ Business community

	<i>Notice: different activities are designed to address the needs of each target group</i>
Collaborators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project partners: 12 organisations from 10 countries (EU27 + Turkey). ✓ Similar initiatives, namely EU-funded projects and independent organizations that share the same objectives with PLATON+. ✓ SSH Research community, namely EU-funded research projects and scientists, in the field of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities.
Activities	<p>↳ <u>Conventional Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion – publicity campaign (including e-newsletter) ▪ Info-days / workshops ▪ Networking / partnering events ▪ PLATON+ website ▪ Policy Dialogue Meetings / Round Tables ▪ International conferences <p>↳ <u>“e-Services”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizations’ Collaboration Profile database for partner search ▪ Research idea(s) database ▪ Individual experts (scientists) database ▪ SSH-relevant results (studies, publications, etc) from research projects database <p>↳ <u>“Advanced Services”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training sessions to provide to non-SSH researchers and the business community training on SSH issues and research results ▪ “SSH integration in non-SSH research projects”, namely to demonstrate the benefits and exploitation of research results in the field of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities into other disciplines (technology-oriented research projects) <p>↳ <u>Publications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “SSH Fact Sheets”: a 1-page ‘popularised’ description of a socio-economic ‘hot’ topic or research project result that will include tips/guidelines that may help the targeted non-SSH researchers to understand how the particular topic can/should be addressed within their research activities. ▪ “SSH Policy Briefs”: a short document (similar to the SSH Fact Sheets) that will effectively communicate socio-economic relevant research results and topics to policy makers and CSOs. ▪ “SSH Policy Reviews”: a short document (similar to SSH Policy Briefs) that will address a socio-economic research sub-area (i.e. the research results of a number of projects in a domain) targeting policy makers and CSOs. <p><u>What are SSH ‘hot’ topics?</u></p> <p><i>“SSH ‘hot’ topics are socio-economic issues that have a significant social, economic political and cultural impact on the European Union. Their understanding may assist policy makers, Civil Society Organisations, technology researchers and the business community to act proactively to emerging trends and challenges.</i></p>
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Preparatory phase: develop the projects ‘infrastructure’, namely a) identify the “SSH hot topics” and collect relevant information from the respective research projects, b) create the pool of experts and research projects, c) develop the portal and d) develop the publications ✓ Activities phase: organize project events, operation of the project’s databases and provision of the “Advanced services”. ✓ In parallel, the collaboration with the research community and similar initiatives will be continuously in operation while publicity and promotion actions will be

	implemented through out the project life cycle.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Web portal (including the project's on-line databases and e-Library) ⇒ Analysis of the European funding and research landscape with focus on Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSH issues that are addressed within the FP6 and FP7 thematic areas and priorities ▪ Involvement of SSH related research organizations in research projects under FP6-IST, FP6-HEALTH, FP6-NEST, FP6-FOOD and FP6-FOOD ⇒ "Survey of Needs" targeting Civil Society Organizations and policy makers to assess the use of existing scientific/academic SSH research projects' results. ⇒ Infodays/workshops (15) ⇒ Policy dialogue meetings (10) ⇒ Networking sessions (10) ⇒ Training sessions (based on simulation games) (11) ⇒ International conferences (2) ⇒ SSH Fact Sheets (20) ⇒ SSH Policy Briefs (10) ⇒ SSH Policy Reviews (5)