



**The European Educational Research Association, EERA, &
The European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction, EARLI**

EERA e.V. | c/o FU Berlin | Arnimallee 12 | 14195 Berlin

To
the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science
Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

July 6, 2011

Dear Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn,

Thank you for the 'Analysis of public consultation'.

As you know, we have expressed concerns on the Common Strategic Framework laid out in the Green Paper. Our main concern is that the strategy does not mention social science, humanities or educational research as means to explore and solve the challenges facing Europe or as having a role in the innovations meant to address those challenges.

We insist that solutions for grand challenges must include the human factor. This is not because we represent those sciences, but because societal, economic and other challenges always include human beings and relations. Therefore there needs to be room for the research that addresses those relations: social science, humanities and educational research.

In the summary of the analysis of the consultation we believe we can see a trace: 'EU should support all stages in the innovation chain' (page 3) which indicates that the soft sciences need to be present at all stages. This is one solution, which has been brought forward in the

consultation responses. Another, as important, is to name a challenge that primarily addresses social science, humanities and educational research.

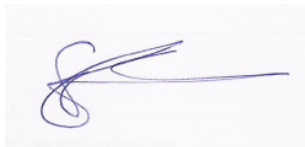
This has also been proposed in the responses. We can refer to our response to the hearing and the position paper: 'Understanding Europe in a global context: transition towards inclusive and innovative societies.' (net4society)

With this letter we hope to persuade you and your Directorate General to include 'soft sciences' in the work on the Horizon 2020.

Kind Regards



Leif Moos, President of EERA (representing 29 national, European associations)



Sari Lindblom-Ylänne, President of EARLI (representing 2000 members from all over Europe)