Invitation for the seminar hosted by Mr. Dimitrios Papadimoulis MEP, Vice-President to the European Parliament:

“Towards a Social and Democratic Europe: Accelerating the Societal Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities Research”

Investing in scientific research is important, however how can we better grasp and further stimulate the societal value of these investments? Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in particular delivers innovative insights that help tackle issues like unemployment, inequalities and migration while it also informs our debates about the future of democracy and governance. However, the societal value of SSH research is often underestimated.

In this seminar, distinguished experts in the field address how Social Sciences and the Humanities contribute to a better understanding and provides potential solutions and innovative insights for a wide range of societal challenges on EU level. The seminar is hosted by the Horizon 2020 CSA ACCOMPLISSH (Accelerate Co-creation by setting up a Multi-Actor Platform for Impact from Social Sciences and Humanities).
Dimitrios Papadimoulis is Vice-President of the European Parliament, head of SYRIZA delegation.

Papadimoulis is born in 1955 in Athens. Graduated from Varvakeio Junior High School of Athens and studied at the School of Civil Engineering of NTUA (National Technical University of Athens); He has worked as an engineer and business executive (1980-2004); His first term in the European Parliament was in 2004-2009, shortly afterwards in the Greek Parliament (2009-2014), and he was re-elected as MEP in the 2014 European elections.

In July of that year, he was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament with 42.1%, a percentage of positive votes, which in his second re-election in January 2017 reached 73.5%. The new Bureau, in which Dim. Papadimoulis continues to represent the Delegation of the Left, will run the European Parliament until July 1, 2019. He is the only Greek and the only representative from the Left at the Presidium of the European Parliament.

He is a regular member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and substitute member of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI).

Sharon Smit is Director Sustainable Society at University of Groningen since 2012. Before that she worked at several governmental organisations in the field of Strategy and Policy Development. Both on a personal and professional level she is highly interested in building bridges and connections between people and between organisations. She is convinced that the role of academia is changing and develops models and methods for science to have (more) societal impact.

Sharon is coordinator of the ACCOMPLISH project, which stands for: Accelerate co-creation by setting up a multi-actor platform for impact from Social Sciences and Humanities. Beside this, she is the strategic coordinator of the European Platform for Energy Research in the Socio-economic Nexus (PERSON) and the Socio-Natural Hazards Institute.

Gábor Sonkoly (CSc, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1998; Ph.D. EHESS, Paris, 2000; Dr. habil. ELTE, Budapest, 2008; Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2017) is a Professor of History and Chair of Historiography and Social Sciences at Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest. He is the Vice Dean for General Affairs at the Faculty of Humanities.

He is the author of Les villes en Transylvanie moderne, 1715-1857 (2011) and Historical Urban Landscape (2017). He published three monographs in Hungarian, edited four volumes and wrote some seventy articles and book chapters on urban history, urban heritage and critical history of cultural heritage. He presented at more than hundred international colloquia and was a guest professor in eleven countries of five continents. He is the scientific coordinator of TEMAG Erasmus Mundus European Master’s Course entitled Heritage, Territories and Development. He is Member of the Panel for European Heritage Label. He is the Knight of the French Order of Academic Palms (2011).

Mladen Popović was educated at the University of Groningen where he did his Master’s and Doctorate studies. After post-doctoral fellowships in Leuven and Groningen, Popović was appointed in 2010 in a tenure track for the chair of Old Testament and Early Judaism, with special attention for Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Since 2015 Popović is appointed as Full Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism. He is also Director of the Qumran Institute.

In October 2009 he received a VENI research grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) for his project ‘The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Jewish War against Rome (66–70): New Sources, New Perspectives’.

In February 2016 Popović received together with Eibert Tigchelaar (KU Leuven) a NWO-FWO grant for their project ‘Models of Textual Communities and Digital Palaeography of the Dead Sea Scrolls’. The University Board of the university of Groningen has appointed Popović as Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies for a period of four years as of 1 September 2017.

Professor Duncan Gallie CBE FBA is an Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford and Professor of Sociology in the University of Oxford. His research has focused on comparative European studies of the quality of employment and of unemployment. Most recently, he has published on issues of inequality in work conditions, job insecurity and participation at work. He has served on the Scientific Advisory Committees of several European research institutions – IRESICO, L’IFRESI, CREST-GENES and the Paris School of Economics in France and The National Institute of Social Research in Denmark.

Gallie has advised the French government as a member of an expert group on psychosocial risks at work. He was a member of the EU Advisory Group on ‘Social Sciences and Humanities in the European Research Area’ for the Sixth Framework Programme. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of a recent OECD initiative to provide guidelines for monitoring the quality of work. He served as Vice-President Social Sciences (2004-2006) and then as Foreign Secretary and Vice-President of the British Academy (2006-2011).
### Programme

**Venue**  European Parliament, Brussels  
**Date**  November 21 2017  
**Time**  8.45 - 12.30  

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<td>8.45 - 9.00</td>
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<td>9.00 - 9.30</td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.00</td>
<td>Opening by Mr Dimitrios Papadimoulis MEP, Vice-President to the European Parliament</td>
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| 10.00 - 10.15 | Intervention by Sharon Smit (Coordinator Horizon 2020 CSA ACCOMPLISSH, Director Sustainable Society, University of Groningen, The Netherlands)  
Sharon Smit will share the important findings of the ACCOMPLISSH project and sketches the mindset shift of the Social Sciences and Humanities and the effect for its societal impact on EU challenges. |
| 10.15 - 10.30 | Professor Gábor Sonkoly (Professor of History, at the Faculty of Humanities at ELTE University of Budapest, Hungary)  
Prof. Sonkoly is a distinguished expert on issues of cultural heritage. He is the Scientific Coordinator of the European Master’s programme “TEMA” Erasmus Mundus. He will talk about the importance of SSH research on culture, and of course its future in FP9. |
| 10.30 - 10.45 | Professor Wolfgang Merkel (Professor of Political Science at the Humboldt-Universitat zu Berlin, Germany)  
Prof. Merkel is director of the research unit ‘Democracy: Structures, Performance, Challenges’ at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) and Professor of Political Science at the Humboldt-Universitat zu Berlin. He will address the (future) of democracy and democratisation, taking into account social democracy and social justice. |
| 10.45 – 11.15 | Coffee break                                                        |
| 11.15 - 11.30 | Professor Mladen Popović (Professor for Old Testament and Ancient Judaism, with special attention for Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands)  
Prof. Popović is Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies. In December 2014 Popović received an ERC Starting Grant for his project ‘The Hands that Wrote the Bible: Digital Palaeography and Scribal Culture of the Dead Sea Scrolls’. He will address the importance of the Humanities for the current societal challenges related to migration and the role of religion and their role in FP9. |
| 11.30 - 11.45 | Professor Duncan Gallie (Professor of Sociology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom)  
Prof. Gallie is one of the most renowned experts in the field with a long and very successful academic career, having also been acted as Vice-President Social Sciences of the British Academy (2004 -2006) and Foreign Secretary of the British Academy (2006-2011). He will address the importance of SSH research on labour markets, employment, inequalities and their role in FP9. |
| 11.45 - 12.20 | Panel-discussion / Questions from the audience                      |
| 12.20 - 12.30 | Final statement by Mr. Dimitrios Papadimoulis MEP            |