



## SSH knowledge brokerage for regional-level governance

[SSH CENTRE](#) (*Social Sciences and Humanities for Climate, Energy aNd Transport Research Excellence*) is a project funded by the European Commission and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

The project aims to enhance the contribution of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) to accelerate the EU's transition to carbon neutrality by better engaging SSH researchers with stakeholders across research, policy, and business.

Under the project, a programme will be launched on **SSH knowledge brokerage for regional-level governance**.

### Aim

The programme aims to experiment with greater involvement of SSH researchers in local government policies in support of decarbonisation. It will involve 30 Early Career Researchers (ECRs)<sup>1</sup> in SSH disciplines, organised in six teams, to develop small knowledge brokerage<sup>2</sup> initiatives to support as many European cities engaged in decarbonisation policies. Other cities will be involved in the programme.

### Phases

The programme is organised in three phases.

**1. Recruiting and matching phase.** The first phase (March to September 2023) is focused on recruiting 30 ECRs. After the selection process (July 2023), participants will be organised into six research teams, which will be coupled with a hub and a city. The first meeting between each team and representatives of the cities will be organised online in September 2023.

**2. Training phase.** During this phase (September 2023 to January 2024), the ECRs will be involved in an online 20-hour training on knowledge brokerage for policy work to be held from 20 to 24 November 2023 (half a day each day). During the training, a second meeting between each team and representatives of the cities will be held.

**3. Implementation phase.** This last phase (January to July 2024) focuses on the implementation of six small knowledge brokerage initiatives for policy work (one for each city) to support the cities in pursuing their decarbonisation aims through the identification, organisation, and transfer of relevant SSH

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<sup>1</sup> In the framework of the project, ECRs are defined as researchers at the postgraduate level and above currently working in SSH disciplines who have not been principal investigators on a grant over €100,000.

<sup>2</sup> Knowledge brokerage can be referred to as a set of practices to manage the increasing social variability of contemporary society by providing intermediation among the diverse social groups and social actors to favour knowledge transfer and exchange and propel mutual engagement and coordination.

knowledge. The initiatives will be planned by January 2024. Then, each team will work autonomously to develop the planned products. At mid-term (April-May 2024), a 2-day City Hub Workshop (one in each city involved) will be organised with the participation of the research team, local administrators, stakeholders, and other actors from other cities. The workshop will also include a city tour with local stakeholders to get feedback on the work done by the team so far. Each team will produce short briefings of their findings at the end of the programme (July 2024). Each initiative will be supported by one of the SSH CENTRE consortium partners.

### **Benefits for the cities**

The main expected benefits for the cities are:

- Receiving advice on policy work
- In-depth analysis of burning topics for the city
- Networking with other cities
- Involvement in a learning programme
- Involvement in the SSH CENTRE activities
- Implementation of a study tour in the city involving ECRs, local stakeholders and other interested cities

### **Involvement of the cities**

In general, cities should be involved in the following activities:

- A first meeting with K&I and ECIT to present the project and start thinking about the policy priority topics to be addressed by the ECR team (March 2023)
- A second meeting with K&I, ECIT and other SSH CENTRE partners to continue reflection and narrow down the policy priority topic (March to May 2023)
- The promotion of the call for ECR in their country and beyond (March to May 2023)
- The first online meeting with the ECRs team to have an exchange on the initiative (September 2023)
- The second online meeting with the ECRs team during the training (20 to 24 November – the time slot will be set by June at the latest)
- Occasional online exchanges with the team during the implementation phase (January to May 2024)
- The co-organisation of the 2-day City Hub Workshop (April-May 2024) - K&I and ECIT will give full support in planning and running the workshop.