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PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: K4U - Knowledge For Use [K4U]: Making the Most of Social Science to Build Better Policies

FUNDING PROGRAMME: Horizon 2020

CALL: Horizon 2020 - ERC-2014-ADG

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: Social Science and Humanities - Philosophy and history of philosophy - Social policies, welfare and educational systems

HOST DEPARTMENT/CENTRE: Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Prof. Eleonora Montuschi

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 2.092.125,00	€ 29.000,00

ABSTRACT:

'Research is an investment in our future' says Horizon 2020. That's only true if you know what to do with it. When it comes to social policy, we don't really know how to put our research results to use. K4U aims to remedy this. K4U will construct a radically new picture of how to use social science to build better social policies. This picture will be founded on an ambitious philosophical study of the technology of social science including a thorough reconceptualisation of objectivity, deliberation and the role of values in the science/society interface.

Current work, primarily by the evidence-based policy and practice movement, focuses on knowledge production: encouraging high quality studies and vetting them. Little attention goes to knowledge use: How is social science knowledge to be used in policy design and deliberation - how should it be used so that policy outcomes are more effective and more reliably predictable and competing values and points of view are respected in policy choice and implementation?

K4U will provide not just a theoretical but a practical understanding- for users: intelligible and practically helpful to those who need to estimate and balance the effectiveness, the evidence, the chances of success, the costs, the benefits, the winners and losers, and the social, moral, political and cultural acceptability of proposed policies. The philosophical approach of K4U is broadly Popperian. It views 'science and technology as a means of understanding social problems and responding to them' and it emphasises the concrete and detailed, where the real content of general philosophical concepts and claims is embodied and interrogated.

K4U is a showcase for the kind of philosophy that makes a difference to real life - philosophy for practice. And it will launch an entire new field in philosophy: the philosophy of social technology.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
01st November 2015	31st October 2020

PARTNERSHIP:

1	University of Durham	UK	Lead Partner/Coordinator
2	Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Italy	Partner
3	London school of economics and political science	UK	Partner

WEBSITE: available after the beginning of the project