

Addendum to:

Roadmap Thematic Digital Competence Center – Domain Social Sciences and Humanities¹ (Version 1.1, June 2022)

Since the launch of the TDCC SSH in February 2023, the programme has moved from an initial start-up phase into active implementation. Over the past years, the TDCC SSH has brokered and supported a growing portfolio of projects addressing challenges in FAIR data and software practices across the Social Sciences and Humanities.

This addendum expands on the activity clusters described in the Roadmap under 4. *Investment plans* in order to provide clearer guidance to prospective applicants on the types of project ideas that are encouraged for Challenge Projects moving forward. As the bottleneck funding has been dispersed, the addendum is intended to clarify the scope and intent of the Challenge Projects call from 2026 onwards.

4.1 Investment plans: challenge projects, 2026 onward

Challenge Projects from 2026 onward are expected to contribute reusable outputs, strengthen collaboration across institutions and sectors, and support longer-term improvements in research data and software practices.

Challenge Projects should be explicitly aligned with national and international developments, including [SSHOC-NL](#) and the [SSH Macroscope](#). They should complement, rather than duplicate, the work of existing research infrastructures, local DCCs, service providers, and previous projects.

To date, TDCC SSH Challenge and Bottleneck Projects have addressed a wide range of SSH-specific needs, and a list of funded projects is maintained as part of the programme's public documentation.² Future Challenge Calls will continue this trajectory, with proposals expected to demonstrate alignment with the Roadmap's activity clusters as clarified in this addendum, and to contribute to a more coherent, inclusive, and sustainable digital research landscape for the SSH domain.

Activity cluster 1: FAIRification of data and software

Within this cluster, projects may focus on improving the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of research data and software in the SSH. This can include work on standards, metadata practices, workflows, or tooling that supports FAIR-by-design approaches, particularly where existing solutions do not yet adequately address SSH-specific needs.

Activity Cluster 2: Raising Awareness

Within this cluster potential projects may focus on awareness, knowledge sharing, and digital readiness in relation to FAIR data and software, within research performing organisations including art academies and applied arts institutions, as well as heritage institutions such as museums, archives and libraries.

Activity cluster 3: Knowledge enhancement

Within this cluster, Challenge Projects may focus on strengthening expertise and shared understanding around digital research practices in SSH. This can include developing guidance, methods, or community-driven resources that support researchers and research support professionals in navigating complex data and software challenges.

¹ <https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Roadmap%20TDCC%20SSH.pdf>

² <https://tdcc.nl/projects/project-initiatives-ssh/>

Activity Cluster 4: Addressing Pressing Issues

This cluster has gained urgency due to technological and societal developments since 2022. Challenge Project topics in this area may address, for example:

- The responsible use of generative AI in SSH research and related issues, particularly in relation to sensitive or copyrighted data
- Dependencies on commercial platforms and “big tech”, including risks of vendor lock-in for SSH tooling
- Data and software sovereignty, including decolonial approaches to access and reuse, for example in relation to the Dutch Caribbean
- Bias, access, and representation in data collection, infrastructures, and computational methods

Potential projects could build on challenges already identified in the Roadmap or outputs from previous TDCC projects.

Activity Cluster 5: Building and Maintaining a Network

Network-building is both an activity cluster and a cross-cutting principle of the TDCC SSH. While many Challenge Projects contribute directly to strengthening networks, this cluster is largely addressed through the ongoing work of the TDCC SSH team itself. Challenge Projects in this area may focus on reinforcing collaboration between communities, infrastructures, and support professionals, or on creating sustainable models for knowledge exchange and coordination.