

Funded by the European Union

SoReCom Joint-IDP Sapienza Supervisory Board Integrated Meeting

- **Date and time:** December 21, 2015; h: 15:00-16:45
- **Location:** European/International Joint PhD in S.R. & C. Research Centre and Multimedia Lab, first floor.
- **Participants:**
 - **SoReCom Joint-IDP Sapienza Supervisory Board Members:** Annamaria de Rosa, Bruno Mazzara, Giovanna Leone, Paola Passafaro, Laura Dryjanska Dryjanska (invited participant as responsible of the operational coordination of the daily activities of the doctoral trainees).
Justified absences: Mauro Sarrica (abroad for institutional research mission in Australia) and Elena bocci (health problems)
 - **Integrated with one member from the Executive Committee** (prof. Andrei Holman, University AliCuza Iasi, Romania: via Skype), **and one member from the SoReCom Joint-IDP SB** (Martha de Alba (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa, UAMI, Mexico: via Skype)
 - **Integrated with the two elected ESR's representatives:** Mihaela Gherman (physically present) and Borja de Madaria (via Skype).
- **Agenda:**
 - a. **Implementation of the 13 actions approved by the REA as replies to the recommendations**
 - b. **Schedule the next meeting in January 13 (h:15:30-16:45), 2016 aimed at:**
 - i. **Scheduling the agenda for collective and individual ESR's meetings with the tutor and co-tutors for the project individualization**
 - ii. **Discussing the Program of the 29th International Lab Meeting - Winter Session 2016 (Rome - Italy, 24th - 27th January 2016)**

Prof. Mazzara assumed the role of keeping the time and Dr. Laura Dryjanska of taking notes of the meeting.

a. Implementation of the 13 actions approved by the REA as replies to the recommendations

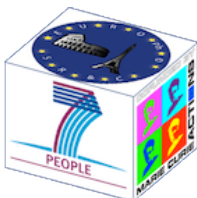
Accordingly to the agenda, the main goal of the meeting is to check the **Implementation of the 13 replies to the recommendations approved by the REA** during the meeting held in Brussels on Friday November 27 (see e-mail from the REA dated December 3). Therefore the focus is on the actions implemented or to be implemented, not to restart to discuss their contents, which were already widely discussed and approved by the majority of the ESRs, the associated partners and finally by the REA.

1. The **reply to the first REA recommendation** concerns the **innovation in the management structure**.

- The **action 1.a.** already pursued was the designation of Prof. Leone, as ESR's coordinator, in line with the approved document. Borja de Madaria asked if it meant that prof. Leone would have individual meetings with each fellow. Prof. Leone has to yet decide and communicate the dates of the meetings. She will send e-mails to each fellow, to ensure her presence at the lab for an onsite direct contact with the ESRs, their day-by-day co-tutor and the main tutor, by taking the meetings in a very flexible way and thinking together through the cooperation. A clear communicative rule will be elaborated, to be respected by all the actors involved.
- Concerning the **action 1.b.**, following oral and written invitation by the project leader (on behalf of Sapienza Supervisory Board) formally sent on December 4 and a remind sent on December 14, the first two representatives have been elected on December 16. Borja wanted to point out that the rotational basis was not yet clearly discussed by the fellows. They want to do it, but still need to work out a procedure.
- The third **action 1c.** was implemented by designating Prof. Andrei Holman (University Ali.Cuza, IASI, Romania) as representative member from the *SoReCom Joint IDP Core Executive Committee* and Martha de Alba (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa, UAMI, Mexico) as representative member from the associated partners belonging to the *SoReCom Joint-IDP Scientific Supervisory Board*. Both professors integrated in the SoReCom Joint – IDP Sapienza Supervisory Board enlarged committee have been the most active in promoting successful applicants among the SoReCom Joint-IDP ESRs. They will ensure further co-ordination between these three important committees of the management structure. They have both participated in the first meeting of the integrated committee via Skype.

2. The **reply to the second REA recommendation** concerns the **less rigid time management** has been implemented since the first day of the return of the ESRs to the lab (Wednesday December 2) after their secondment abroad, allowing them to work three predefined days at the lab (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and 2 pre-defined days a week from home or elsewhere – as announced well in advance (see e-mail November 20).

- Following Borja and Mihaela comments about the need to further discuss with the fellows about the pre-defined days, Prof. de Rosa replied that the predefined days were designated taking into account the co-



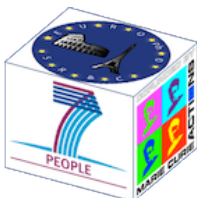
Funded by the European Union

ordination need with the human resource devoted day by day 8 hours/day 5 day/week aimed at providing direct and punctual feedbacks to the ESRs. To have alternate days to check not only the quantity, but the quality of the material produced by the ESRs has been evaluated as more adequate, because the quality control of the meta-theoretical analyses is a very time demanding task requiring personal feedback to be more easily provided face-to-face individually or in small groups. Prof. Passafaro explained that this quality control of meta-theoretical analyses is the fundamental pre-requisite of further research steps aimed at empirical analyses. Dr. Laura Dryjanska confirmed that recently she was not able due to time shortage to check the quality of meta-theoretical analyses, but just to record their quantity and to a time-consuming activity of sending written reminders to the fellows who did not accomplish their tasks by the planned deadlines. She also emphasized the need for updating the basic Excel file. Prof. Leone asked Mihaela to mention to the fellows the importance of timely updating the basic file of the bibliographic repertoires.

- Both fellows agree with the need for more supervision and feedbacks and all professors agreed that this will improve even more at group and individual levels, stressing the importance to devote their time resource to the research progress rather than to group dynamics management, mostly based on misunderstanding of the rules, roles, functions and responsibilities, often originating misconducts (like non authorised absence from the lab, lack of respect of deadlines and simple tasks, like updating the basic files of the bibliographic and meta-theoretical analyses repertoires).
- Prof. de Rosa stressed that few fellows have misunderstood the flexible work time from home or elsewhere, because in the current stage of the research program the ESRs should continue to be dedicated to the meta-theoretical analyses also when they are working from home. The monitoring table of the research progress clearly shows the decreased or absolute lack of productivity from the time of having introduced the flexible time work. Indeed the ESRs need to respect the full time nature of their job contract and the need to monitor their research activity progress by using the implemented tools, in order to ensure equal and fair distribution among all the ESRs and to respect the project and individual timeline, preventing the collapse of the team work and of therefore of the overall project and the risk of individual failures in reaching ESR's project milestones (including the thesis defence by 3 years). Therefore - independently from the adoption of a flexible working schedule (three days in the laboratory and two days from remote location every week), *"the researcher must devote him/herself full-time to his/her initial training"* (Grant Agreement Annex III, Art. 3, comma 3.a). Any authorized absence should be compensated with work done in another flexible time by the ESR to fulfil the individual and shared research goals.
- Borja stated that in his opinion it was clear to everyone. Mihaela specified that meta-theoretical analyses are crucial for the PhD thesis and the actual writing of the theses will take place in a subsequent phase during the third year.
- Prof. Leone stressed the risks of anxiety that should be controlled applying the timeline and reaching the milestones, as defined in the EC contract. When Borja stated that he personally needs some days just to think about the goal, Prof. Mazzara added that it is necessary to find a way to hurry up to reach the goal of concluding the total number of 10.000 meta-theoretical analyses by the end of November 2016, while respecting the deadlines in order to have time to actually make the empirical analyses and write the theses in the third year since December 2016.
- Prof. de Rosa discussed the different phases of research, clarifying that historical framing (and therefore the need to accordingly prioritise the list of publications to be meta-theoretically analysed from the oldest to the most recent, from the most relevant authors to the followers, from the paradigmatic school leaders to those who just use the theory as research framework, etc.) is helpful to interpret the data, based on quantitative and qualitative tools, like the interviews with the protagonists of the theory and the researchers working in the scientific field.

3. The **reply to the third REA recommendation** was discussed starting from a request of Prof. de Rosa to Mihaela about her idea of "individualization".

- Mihaela replied that she is trying to draw hypotheses concerning her focus, referring to Kuhn's theory and sociology of science, enriching her background knowledge. Prof. de Rosa appreciated that Mihaela correctly understood the "individualisation" of her work not in contrast, but in synergy with the overall research program, reminding that - as all members belonging to Sapienza Supervisory board (as mono-contractor beneficiary) and colleagues belonging to the Executive Committee and the wider Supervisory board have confirmed replying to the REA, to change methodology or approach means to change the project itself. Therefore - in agreement with the approved reply to the third REA recommendation the individualisation of the project will not imply to change the research focus or its methodology, that - after one year of dedicated training - would be a disaster for the time to degree of the ESR and for the fair task distribution among the whole research team of the 13 ESRs. According to Mihaela other fellows also feel the need to have individual meetings, which would clarify the connection between the data analyses and their PhD theses. Prof. Mazzara agreed that the professors are



Funded by the European Union

also anxious to discuss scientific and theoretical issues with the fellows and to do not deviate energies and efforts from the research goals and scientific contents, which have been clearly defined both in the approved EC contract and in the ESRs call for fellowship.

- A calendar of monthly individual meetings with each ESR, the project leader, the day by day co-tutor, the second supervisor and when needed the ESR's co-ordinator will be established in the next meeting of the integrated Sapienza Supervisory Board immediately after the Christmas holidays on January 13, 2016. These meetings will be aimed at identifying the best "individualisation" strategy to enlarge the theoretical framework and the literature cited, the training and networking opportunities offered to the fellows, in accordance with their individual needs, their own interests and disciplinary backgrounds in a realistic way compatible with the approved project timeline, deliverables and milestone. In agreement with the approved reply "The individualisation strategy will also include different paths of data-analysis (e.g. multidimensional analysis, textual analysis of the abstracts and of the video-interviews, etc.) by crossing different data and meta-data to be defined in relation to each ERS' specific individual focus. As already foreseen multiple strategies of data-analysis will allow both to develop comparative analyses of integrated and individualised data sets that will fit within the scope of the overall and individual research focus."
- Prof. de Rosa also added that submitting conference abstracts jointly with some of the fellows has been a good occasion to reflect upon the data in their respective research domain. This action was and will be still pursued as an intermediate step to formulate research questions and shape interpretative paths of data analysis and results, preliminary to the PhD thesis writing or article preparation.

4. The **reply to the fourth REA recommendation** concerning the possibility to update and improve the personal career development plans, has been implemented starting from

- the request sent on September 4 2015 individually to all ESRs, abroad for their secondment, and their co-tutor/s at the host institutions, inviting them to express their needs as far it concerns: "how to improve at the best your secondment and your career development plan with the support of the co-tutor, coherently with the research and individual need in a compatible and realistic way to respect individual and project timeline for deliverables and milestones (as in the Annex I to the EC contract)."

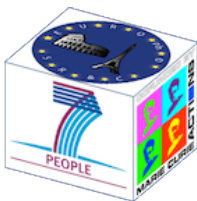
The fellows and the associated partners were invited to revise the ESR's career plans previously elaborated, by updating them integrating the complementary training, research and/or networking opportunities offered to the ESRs during their secondment abroad.

- A double check of the career development plan and the report about the ESR's secondment will allow to identify any additional information to be inserted in order to revise and update the PCDP.
- In addition the career development plans will be integrated (when needed) in order to ensure that for 2016 each ESR will attend two International Conferences, including:
 - the 2016 International Conference on Social Representations (ICSR) in Marseille (14th-17th September 2016) - already planned at the time of the Annex I;
 - the recently announced EASP *Small Group Meeting in Honour of Serge Moscovici* (Paris, 17th-18th November 2016), by encouraging the ESRs to prepare joint submission, showing empirically the degree of articulation in the scientific production of the social representation theory with other theories elaborated by Serge Moscovici himself and by social psychology at large in various thematic areas and in different geo-cultural contexts;
 - an international conference in domains relevant for the individual research focus.
- Each ESR will be encouraged to submit before the end of the contract (September 2017) at least one article for a peer review journal.

5. The **reply to the fifth REA recommendation** concerning the secondments was implemented pursuing – before and during the ESRs' abroad mobility period "September 1 – November 30) – the several actions already described in the document approved by the REA (see the document sent to and approved by the REA on 27/11/2015). The pre-assumption is that the secondments mobility plans and the scientific training events – included in the three years time perspective of the ESRs' personal career plans - have been planned for the period September 1 – November 30 and concerted with the partners at network level since the negotiation of the Annex I, depending on specific scientific reasons and distribution tasks among the partners according to their expertise in relation to the paradigmatic, methodological, geo-cultural and thematic criteria that have guided the articulation of the unified project in 13 research foci.

Before their departure, the ESRs have been assisted from the administrative and prepared from the scientific point of view in specific meetings and by formal e-mail, also aimed to jointly plan the research progress to be achieved during the 3-months period.

All the representatives of the host institution for the ESR's secondment were informed since the approval of the project of the confirmed dates of the secondment. Moreover, before the ESRs arrival, several reminders were sent to all the associated partners via e-mail and in a preparatory on-line meeting since March 2015. In particular:



Funded by the European Union

- On the 18 March 2015 we informed the partners of the forthcoming project activities, among which the foreseen 3-month secondment period
- On the 22 March 2015 when we restated the content of the email dated 18 March 2015
- On the 23 March 2015 during the SoReCom Joint-IDP Supervisory Board Meeting
- On the 21 May 2015 the partner was formally asked to communicate to the ESR the contacts of the person and/or office that can provide logistical information and support about practical and administrative issues
- On the 11 June 2015 the project coordinator sent the ESR's personal career plan to the partner and stated again the tasks that the ESRs had to fulfil during the 3-month secondment period, as established in Annex I of the Grant Agreement
- During the general meetings held in Rome at the Lab on 16 and 17 July 2015
- On 4 September 2015 the coordinator wrote to have some feedbacks from both the partner and the ESR about the first day of the secondment
- The project coordinator has also contacted several times the associated partners by e-mail and by phone calls to get feedbacks about the ESR secondment. All the associated partners (except for the Swiss Universities) have replied constructively to provide their feedbacks

The official websites of the Universities and the non academic Institution have been also consulted to check that officially all the institutions were open, with the administrative offices, departments infrastructures and library accessible, and the fact that in some cases the courses only started on the middle of September were not at all a problem because the ESRs were not supposed to follow regular courses, but to develop mainly their research tasks in agreement to the Annex I.

Once the abroad mobility period has been completed, the secondment experience and the research progress acquired by each ESR during his/her 3-months period have been also shared with all the ESRs and assessed by Sapienza Supervisory Board by:

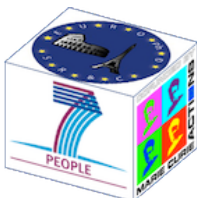
- organising two specific meetings on December 2 and 9 of "*Welcome back to the lab*" aimed at sharing the secondment experience with the other fellows and the members of Sapienza Supervisory Board.
- requesting individual written reports to each ESR about their 3-months secondment experience, including information about:
 - experiential dimension about his/her cultural relocation, also mentioning the logistic aspects at host institutions (like access to physical and digital bibliographic resources, to research infrastructure and computing facilities, working space, etc)
 - his/her progress on the unified research program and his/her individual focus (specifying the meta-theoretical analyses conducted during this period, new retrieved PDFs, his/her participation in the online Skype monitoring meetings, etc.)
 - the video-interviews he/she has conducted, including the names of all interviewees and the language in which the interview was conducted and date,
 - the scientific events in which he/she participated during this period (such as seminars, training schools, conference, etc.),
 - the complementary training and/or research activities
 - the networking opportunities
 - the presentations he/she has performed or lectures he/she has given
 - the progress of the students under his/her supervision (if applicable)
 - any other issue he/she considers relevant and worth sharing, even from the experiential and cultural point of view (like social events, national holidays, festivals, museum, etc.)

After having checked the correctness of the information provided and in particular the research materials submitted and made accessible, these reports are currently under evaluation by Sapienza Supervisory Board.

6. The **reply to the sixth REA recommendation** concerning the virtual library moves from the assumption – as confirmed by the ESRs representatives and colleagues participating in the meeting – that the *SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library* is not only a goal for further dissemination, but a specific research tool to build data and meta-data in order to carry out the empirical meta-theoretical analysis and to apply multidimensional statistics. Prof. de Rosa reminded that the delay occurred in the access to the new platform was partly due to the lack of accuracy in the data quality control concerning the bibliographic items information by the ESRs, causing a failure in the first massive data import, for which each fellow before the renewal of his/her contract for the 2nd year declared to intensify his/her commitment on this research activity also during their secondment to recuperate the delay in the first year of activity and partly due to the underestimation of its complexity by the enterprise in charge to build the new digital infrastructure.

She confirmed what already stated in the document sent to/approved by the REA that:

- in order to balance the amount of publications to be analysed within the project time-span, the new retrieved



Funded by the European Union

PdF beyond 10.000 references will not be taken into consideration in the following steps. ESRs' tasks will be re-distributed accordingly;

- the new massive import of the data has been successfully completed during the absence of the ESRs from the lab for their secondment;
- currently the new platform is being implemented by the one-user testing phase that will be extended to more users;
- after having completed successfully the testing phase of the new platform, the ESRs will be able to insert the meta-theoretical analyses from the current grids in word into the new web-platform;
- the 2016 Winter Session of the International Lab Meetings (25th-26th January 2016) will be completely focussed on the three main working groups conducting meta-theoretical analyses, aimed at reconstructing the development and dissemination of the scientific field through the various geo-cultural contexts, the paradigmatic orientations and the multiple thematic domains. The goal is to promote ESRs sharing ideas about results acquired, cross-checking each other's work and developing conference presentations as preliminary step to prepare shared publications.

7. The **reply to the seventh REA recommendation**, concerning the appointment of the co-supervisor required a remind by prof. de Rosa about the roles of the main supervisor (as project leader), of the day-by-day co-supervisor, of the second co-supervisor from Sapienza Supervisory Board, and co-tutor from associated partners are clearly distinct in the Annex I, as below:

- the *project leader as main tutor*, in constant coordination with the expert post-doc dedicated full time (8 hours 5 day/week) for the entire work time in the daily training and coordination and monitoring the research activities of the entire collaborative team of the 13 ESRs,
- *another supervisor from the main host institutions* (even from other Departments) belonging to *Sapienza Supervisory Board*, active both at individual and team level of the ESRs (sharing responsibilities for training, monitoring and evaluating research progress)
- *a co-tutor from associate partners* responsible during the secondment to host the fellows (*who have no direct involvement in the scientific project led by the scientist in charge of the beneficiary, but have other kind of complementary responsibilities in participating in the contract as associate partners, like: being active in promoting applicants and contributing to the dissemination of the call, being responsible for hosting the fellows, being available for the video interviews, offering eventually additional networking opportunities or complementary research training at the host institutions, being available as key lecturer during the summer schools and other network training events essential for improving the ESR's research training coherently with the Annex I*).

Prof. de Rosa mentioned that a solution – compatible with the distinct roles above mentioned – has been explored for the two fellows who have required additional co-tutor, but there was no time to go into detail during this meeting and update view will be addressed in the next meeting. Given the lack of time, the ESR Borja de Madaria mentioned the need to discuss this issue a bit more in depth during the individual meetings, for example he would like to have a new additional co-tutor.

Prof. Leone repeated that a better organization is necessary, respecting the scientific commitments and interests that should be the most important. Prof. Leone will send a list of rules that hopefully will help the better understanding of the basic lab attendance rules to be respected by everyone and to prevent misconducts.

The ESR Mihaela Gherman agreed that continue polemic discussions and bureaucracy issues should not take up too much of everyone's time.

8-13. The **replies to the** last five REA recommendations were defined quite obvious and there was no need to discuss, since they suggest to adopt actions already implemented.

- To close Prof. De Alba suggested for the representatives to collect other fellows comments before the meetings. She wished everyone Merry Christmas.
- Prof. Holman also greeted everyone.

The meeting was concluded 45 minutes later than expected at 16,45 in a friendly atmosphere

The Agenda of the **next meeting** in January 13, 2016 (h: 15:30-16:45) foresees:

- Scheduling the agenda for collective and individual ESR's meetings with the tutor and co-tutors for the project individualization
- Discussing the Program of the *29th International Lab Meeting - Winter Session 2016* (Rome - Italy, 24th - 27th January 2016)