

## **Twinning Project: ‘Greek Heritage in European Culture and Identity’ (GrECI)**

### **Networking and Training Workshop**

**14-15 December 2023**

**Amphithéâtre Maison des Sciences de l’Homme (MSHE), Université de Franche-Comté (ufc) - Besançon, France**

The GrECI project organised at the uFC in Besançon the first of a series of Networking and Training workshops aimed at humanities ECRs (Early Career Researchers, WP4). This workshop was also planned in keeping with the project’s objectives to enhance the Research Management capacity of the consortium, advance its capacities in the preparation of competitive research proposals, and promote longer-term collaboration among the research management administrators of the three partners (WP2).

In line with the above, the workshop was structured around six sessions. The objective of the first session was to discuss European Networks, since such collaborations are the infrastructure for successful funding applications (ECR and otherwise). Marieke Steenbergen, the director of the International Office of the uFC, spoke about STARS EU (Strategic Alliance for Regional Transition) as a successful example of a research network between European universities. The aim of this alliance is to merge the activities between partners in research and education, by means of setting an “inter-university campus” with joint governance and inter-regional collaboration. Multilingualism, interdisciplinarity, future-oriented skills and training are the key concepts for STARS EU participants. STARS EU funds research in seven priority areas, centered on major societal challenges.

Continuing on the topic of European research networks, Frédéric Le Belhomme, responsible for European networks and lobbies at the Research and Development Department of the uFC, introduced the topic of European research networks for Humanities and Social Sciences, as a way of addressing major fragmentation issues within these fields. These networks can promote sharing of scientific information offer opportunities for disseminating research and create international partnerships. His presentation highlighted these benefits as a way of encouraging participants to join SSH European Research Networks.

On behalf of Ioana Crugel, Antoine Wojcik offered the research management perspective, by clearly presenting the steps that should be followed by a researcher who aspires to start her/his own European corporation project. From the research questions, to finding the right international partners and the final signatures of the agreements, Wojcik gave an explicit overview of the whole process, stressing that from the very beginning to the end of this process it is essential for the researchers to seek administrative help and guidance.

The second session was centered around job opportunities for humanities graduates. Laurianne Masson introduced one of the most extensive European networks for researchers, the Euraxess network, which offers information and support services to researchers and research institutions. Euraxess also provides tools for PhD candidates and advice for career development, through collaboration with other institutions or platforms, such as “The Association Bernard Gregory” and “My DocPro Platform”.

Anne Monneret, the alumni network manager of the uFC, talked about the importance of the alumni network of the University in the job search for Humanities graduates. Addressing the alumni of the University, she invited them to join the alumni network as members. The alumni

network gives its members the opportunity to be in touch with one another, to post their CVs online within the alumni platform, becoming visible to companies who are also members of the platform.

Frédéric Spagnoli, Associate Professor and head of the MA Programme “Rare Books and Digital Humanities” of the uFC, presented an overview of the tools and research initiatives within the framework of the MA Programme, which combines the study of cultural heritage with the use of new technologies and digital infrastructure. This programme strives to offer students both practical skills linked to the study of rare books, and familiarity with all the digital tools available.

The second day of the workshop was comprised of three sessions, mainly focusing on applications for funding in the Humanities, as well as presenting the personal experiences of early career researchers in the post-doctoral stage. Mathieu Servant, an associate professor of Cognitive Sciences at the uFC, spoke about the European Research Council ERC starting grant applications, focusing on impact and excellence. As a successful applicant himself (section SH4 of the ERC starting grant applications, “The Human Mind and its Complexity”), he described the main steps in applying for an ERC grant and some of the tools that can lead to achieving funding.

Staying on the topic of impact and excellence on grant applications, Maria Fallica, a global post-doctoral researcher at Sapienza University, spoke about the global Marie Curie fellowship applications, using her own project ‘Folie: Folly and the Feminine in the Renaissance’, as a case study of a successful proposal.

Iana Atanassova, an associate professor at the uFC, and head of the Research Centre for Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Research (CRIT), and member of the Institut Universitaire de France, spoke about the construction of excellence in an interdisciplinary context. In her presentation, she described her journey in constructing excellence when defining her research topic of scientific uncertainty in the Social and Human Sciences.

As interdisciplinarity is a key aspect of funding schemes, in the fourth session, Maria Cristina Manzetti, a YUFE post-doctoral researcher at the University of Cyprus and member of the *GrECCI* consortium, shared her experience in forging an interdisciplinary career path in the Humanities as an archaeologist engaged with questions from intellectual history/history of emotions using digital approaches. Manzetti employs digital technologies, like GIS, to map the emotions of European travelers of the Grand Tour in Greece and to create emotional ‘deep maps’ of their experiences. Her presentation demonstrated the impact of interdisciplinarity in creating new perspectives and reaching innovative conclusions.

The two last speakers, Chiara Gazzini and Ana Carmona Aliaga, presented their research topics and experience as post-doctoral fellows within the *GrECCI* team. Gazzini’s research centers on the Greek and Latin letters of Manuel Chrysoloras (1360-1415), aiming to provide a critical edition of his works and explore their circulation and reception in sixteenth-century Europe. Aliaga’s research concentrates on the French humanist Loys Le Roy (1510? -1577), investigating the role of Greek tradition in shaping his political response to the religious conflicts of his time. From a personal experience point of view, the discussion revolved around obstacles ECRs may face, the extent to which their choice of subjects was their personal choice, and the steps that had led them to their current position.

The final session, titled: ‘Mapping the future of humanities graduates and early career researchers’, chaired by the *GrECCI* project coordinator, Natasha Constantinidou, consisted of a lively discussion between the participants, where they had the opportunity to share what they learned from the workshop, including their main takeaways or things which they did not expect

to hear. The concluding session highlighted the main themes of the workshop, while giving participants the opportunity to share their unique perspective and experience.