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## **Scientific Report**

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I will briefly report on my activities during the STSM, correlating them with the main objectives, as they were formulated in my Work plan.

### **Objectives of the stay**

1. Work with the group of researchers from the University of Amsterdam on the data gathered in the comparative research based on an experimental design with 15 countries. The main purpose of the STSM is to clean and merge all databases from 15 countries.

During my stay at ASCoR, I worked with Michael Hameleers on merging and cleaning the SPSS data files for 14 countries that delivered the data in time. We also organized skype meeting with Carsten Reinemann and Nayla Fawzi, to clarify various issues regarding these processes. We finished merging and cleaning, we delivered one clean data file to the coordinator of the Working group 3. We also kept a syntax of our work, so that it could be both verified and, if needed, adjusted.

2. Plan for future data analysis: standardization of the way researchers from various countries should analyze the data, in order to have a general coherent approach.

With Michael Hameleers, we computed scales (measure reliability for all of them), and run the first analyses regarding direct and indirect effects of framing media messages in populist ways. We delivered a first report on direct and indirect effects, with the syntax of all our work.

3. Learning how to conduct a moderation analysis, with the purpose of making sense of the data gathered in the joint research conducted within the WG3.

During the data analysis (Objective no 2), I learned more about moderation analysis, possible further investigation of effects for the experiment we conducted within WG3, but also for further research.

In addition to that, I had a very productive meeting with Andreas Schuck, expert in mediation analysis, and learned how to use PROCESS macro of SPSS, and run mediation analysis.

4. Strengthen and possibly grow the network of dedicated scholars working on the topic of populist communication.

I believe that a STSM is an important opportunity to strengthen and possibly grow the already established network of scholars working on populism. Working with Michael Hameleers, and meeting other scholars from ASCoR helped enhance the professional relationships and strengthen the network of scholars that is already working within the Action.

### **Contributions to the objectives of the COST action**

1. Contribution to some of the directions of academic inquiry, as defined in the AIM of the action (as proposed in the MoU): “defining and explaining populist communication as well as examining the similarities and differences between European societies with respect to the effects on citizens, and more widely European societies and the European public sphere”.

As a result of the STSM at the University of Amsterdam, all members of the Management Committee included in the WG3 and working on the experimental design will benefit in the sense of having databases ready to be analyzed. I finished all the work for which I applied for a STSM at the University of Amsterdam, and delivered a single dataset for all countries, as well as first insights into the findings of the comparative experiment across 14 countries. This is the first important step into making sense of the data and understanding effects of media content on citizens, as well as on European societies in general.

2. Contribution to two main objectives of the COST action: 1) initiating comprehensive comparative research on populist communication through working together with other members

of the international research team and 2) building a network of dedicated scholars and a basis for comparative research, as explained above.

I believe my stay at the University of Amsterdam contributed to both main objectives of the COST Action, in the sense of not only initiating, but actually nurturing comparative research on populist communication, and strengthening the network of scholars already working together for more than 3 years now on populist communication.