

## SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) – SCIENTIFIC REPORT

The STSM applicant submits this report for approval to the STSM coordinator

**Action number: IS1308**

**Action Title: Populist Political Communication in Europe: Comprehending the Challenge of Mediated Political Populism for Democratic Politic**

**STSM title: Perspectives on populism in Europe: between left populism (Spain) and right populism (Austria).**

**Host Institution: Wien University, Vienna, Department of Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences. Institute of Journalism and Communication.**

**STSM start and end date: 05/01/2018 to 06/04/2018**

**Grantee name: Rubén Tamboleo García**

### PURPOSE OF THE STSM/

(max.500 words)

As a PhD student and a Early Career Investigator I am working at the Rey Juan Carlos University on topics related to populism. One of the opportunities of my researching center is the “International Mention” for my thesis, and for that purpose a stay of three months in another foreign researching institution is required.

My PhD work is about populism with the title “Effects of populist discourses on public opinion in Spain”. The work is growing up thanks to the COST project, and the successful finalization of the thesis could be a profit for new international projects about the topics that are related to the present action.

Another motivation was to continue with previous acquisitions of knowledge and further integration in the network of the COST project, with precedents like my participation in the past Training School “Disentangling populism: Reception and effects of populist communication. Bucharest, Romania, 8-12 May 2017”. Thanks to that Training School, I had the occasion to meet Professor Jörg Matthes (Head of the Department of Communication at Wien University) one of the members of the COST project. Also I was supposed to follow up on my work in Spain with the research and experiment of the 16 countries participating in the research of Working Group 3 of the Action.

The first basic aim was to establish a comparative clear definition on populism, types and a classification with the help of the knowledge of the Action (some work here is still pending).

The second basic aim was to compare the cases between left populism (Spain) and right populism (Austria and also the regional populist nationalism (Spain) and the national populist nationalism (Austria).

The third basic aim was to learn the best ways on how to measure the populist for the democratic politics.

The fourth basic aim was work with the datasets of the both countries after the finalization of the cleaning process of the results for the examinations, analysis and some conclusions. This aim is special because follows the labor of the Working Group 3 within 16 countries.  
And with the topic of my thesis, to continue working in the network for participation in future actions.

### **DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS**

(max.500 words)

The Short Term Scientific Mission has been precious for the setting of a strong methodological base for the study of populism phenomenon applied to the results of the scientific experiment of manipulation carried out for the members and collaborators of the Working Group 3 of the Action: between them Professor Boomgaarden and Professor Matthes of the host institution.

From the very beginning, my researching visit had the full support of the Department of Communication. My visit was communicated through the Department Council and the newsletter of the Institute of Journalism and Communication Science [https://publizistik.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/i\\_publizistik\\_komm/NL02022018.pdf](https://publizistik.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/i_publizistik_komm/NL02022018.pdf) and thanks to that I had the support and the help of the members and I have felt very welcomed.

I can only have words of gratitude to the full team of Professor Boomgaarden: with the support of Esther Greussing, Tobias Heidenreich and Rachel Edie; and very special mentions for the sessions, discussions and new lessons of Jakob-Moritz Eberl and Fabienne Lind. With them I've been learning about how to approach new concepts and methodologies: like tabloids (because in Spain sensational journalism is less important) and about methodology how to measure through framing and coding. They have been fundamental part of my work at the University. Administrative support for my full Access as Visiting Research Fellow thanks to Julia Barta too. Professor Boomgaarden advanced to them in a very short time my Visiting Stay and he directed and opened my full possibilities of work there. Without Professor Boomgaarden this incredible opportunity of STSM would have been lost.

Within the time of this STSM, the participation in the deliberations of the Working Group 3 in the Final Action Conference (in which I was Deputy Director of the Local Organizing Committee) was very clarifying for the next steps and possibilities with the dataset that we have, after the experimental survey of the project.

The rest of the work carried out is described inside the main achievements of the STSM.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED**

(max. 500 words)

With the comparison between the characteristics of a populism typically from the left (the case of Spain) and a populism typically from the right (the case of Austria) I made important steps on the work of my research line.

There is a special new area of research in Austria with the entrance for the second time of the extreme populist in the national government: the previous examination of the impact in the media as

exploratory research for clarification of concepts for my thesis and for future investigations. This would be crucial to our understanding of populist politics.

Also, in Spain, we have the regionalist nationalism populist movements, that requires particular attention. For that, is important too, the comparison between Spain and Austria: Spain have regionalist nationalist and Austria have the nationalism as a national politic movement.

With all of that, I've been trying to maximize my learnings on conceptualization of populism, classification of populism, methodologies on how to measure and analyze the populism and the case study of the national right Austrian populism.

So, according with the scientific objectives of the Action I have been working specifically more on the topics of Working Group 3: Citizens and populism such as political knowledge and perceptions of social reality, social identity (nationalism deeper), attitudes towards minorities (refugees case in Austria and migration in general), trust in democratic institutions, participation in politics, and political preferences. But it would have been impossible for the success of my mission if I won't work also on the topics of the WG I and II about Populist actors as communicators, The media and populism. I'll be keep doing work on that after this STSM. Within the STSM I was picking some dependent variables of the experiment to work with the statistical program and to see the first differences.

I was also learning about new methodologies applied to my Ph.D and my research work, specially how to measure the populism. For that the discussions with the researchers of the Department were a great opportunity.

I have accomplished these things:

- ✓ Literature review of populism in the library of the University of Vienna and some very important material of members of the Department. I have worked with the bibliography and resources that I can not work in my home country.
- ✓ I did a clarification of the concepts close to populism.
- ✓ Interviews with Professors Boomgaarden and Matthes about the methodologies and trends on how to measure and how to analyze populism.
- ✓ Discussion with the members of the Faculty of Social Sciences related with my core topic of populism.
- ✓ I have collected the maximum of data and references to examine after my Short Term Scientific Mission.
- ✓ I did an examination of the competitive political parties and media actors in Austria. Introduction to a very new social reality to me: the Austrian political and sociological sphere with news and a map of media actors in Austria: Television, radio and newspapers with its type (general, outlets) and his approximation (left, center, right).
- ✓ Writing the full aspects of the conceptualization of populism, for the core of the thesis and for a specific paper whit the comparison and the new trends for the very new and unique government of Austria (paper 2 as follows).
- ✓ First analyses of the datasets of the both countries. Selection of immigration as dependent variable for paper 3.

The nearby most important achievements will the next scientific papers:

1. Effect(s) of the populist message with a manipulation experiment: how it can affect public opinion in Spain. First results.
2. Perspectives on populism in Europe: between left populism (Spain) and right populism (Austria). Some conclusions of a manipulation experiment.
3. Effects of manipulation on attitudes about immigrants: differences between Austria and Spain.

### **FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)**

(max.500 words)

We'll be cooperating in further European projects in communication and political communication, and the topic of populism will be kept as very relevant according the evolution of our countries and the situation in Europe. Specially I'll be suggesting to work on nationalism.

Dissemination and improving of my work:

In three nearby conferences I am currently applying with different abstracts to present my work and it could be improved accordingly the inputs of the events if I am accepted.

1. National Seminar for Early Stage Investigators in Political Science and Public Administration in Barcelona, Spain. May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.  
*Paper proposed: Effect(s) of the populist message with a manipulation experiment: how it can affect public opinion in Spain. First results.*
2. International Conference: "In the name of the people: representing the people in twenty-first century politics. Pamplona, Spain. November 22-24 2018.  
*Paper proposed: Perspectives on populism in Europe: between left populism (Spain) and right populism (Austria). Some conclusions of a manipulation experiment.*
3. International Workshop: Europe's Tidal Waves: Migration and Populism. King's College London | JMCE & MigPop | 19 June 2018.  
*Paper proposed: Effects of manipulation on attitudes about immigrants: differences between Austria and Spain.*

These scientific events have partial economic support for participants.

After the conferences, I'll be submitting my papers to journals of high scientific impact. Free open access journals would be preferred.

And the whole work will finalize with the defence of my PhD thesis with a member of an European Institution for the "International Mention" of my home institution, according the regulations (The member could be a member of the University of Vienna but no the responsible of my research here).

Rubén Tamboleo García

April 2018