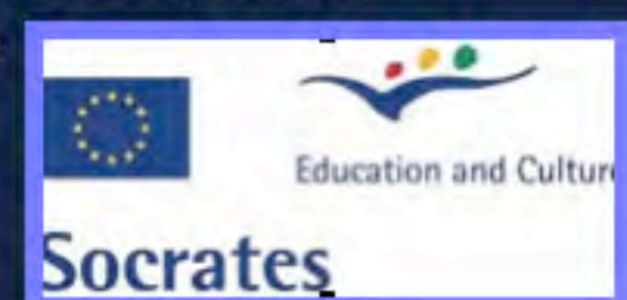


The Thematic Network of Excellence on Social Representations and Communication

<http://www.euophd.eu/SoReComTHEmaticNETwork>



The So.Re.Com. Thematic Network of Excellence
the unique transnational Social Science "network of networks" approved by



linking the worldwide Scientific Community inspired by Social Representations and Communication studies



The So.Re.Com. Thematic Network of Excellence start-up



Since its founding in 1996, the European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication - recognised in 2000 as a Marie Curie Multipartner Organisation site by the E.C. DG-Research, as "BEST PRACTICE" by the E.C. DG-Education and Culture and the Italian Ministry for Higher Education - has, in 2004, developed into the So.Re.Com.THEmatic NETWORK.

Co-ordinated by the University of Rome "La Sapienza", already possessing longstanding expertise in the management of a large research and training network, it aims to further enlarge the international role of community training inspired by a co-operative logic of a "network of networks."

This network operates in all European Countries open to transnational co-operation through hundreds of other institutional partners and individual members of the International Association on Social Representations under the auspices of EC programmes with non-member statuses, such as EC/USA co-operation, EC/Canada co-operation, the Alfa programme for Academic Training in Latin America, and has more recently been involved in partnerships in Asia and Africa.

This "network of networks" is also sponsored by prestigious governmental foundations such as the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (Paris) and maintains links with other Partner Universities, including institutions in Eastern European affiliate countries, involving staff mobility of and young research trainees on Socrates Institutional Contracts. Moreover, it is open to scientific co-operation with other transdisciplinary European networks specialised in O.D.L., such as EuroPACE, for the development of a collaborative Virtual European University, and advanced learning centres and companies.

Thematic area

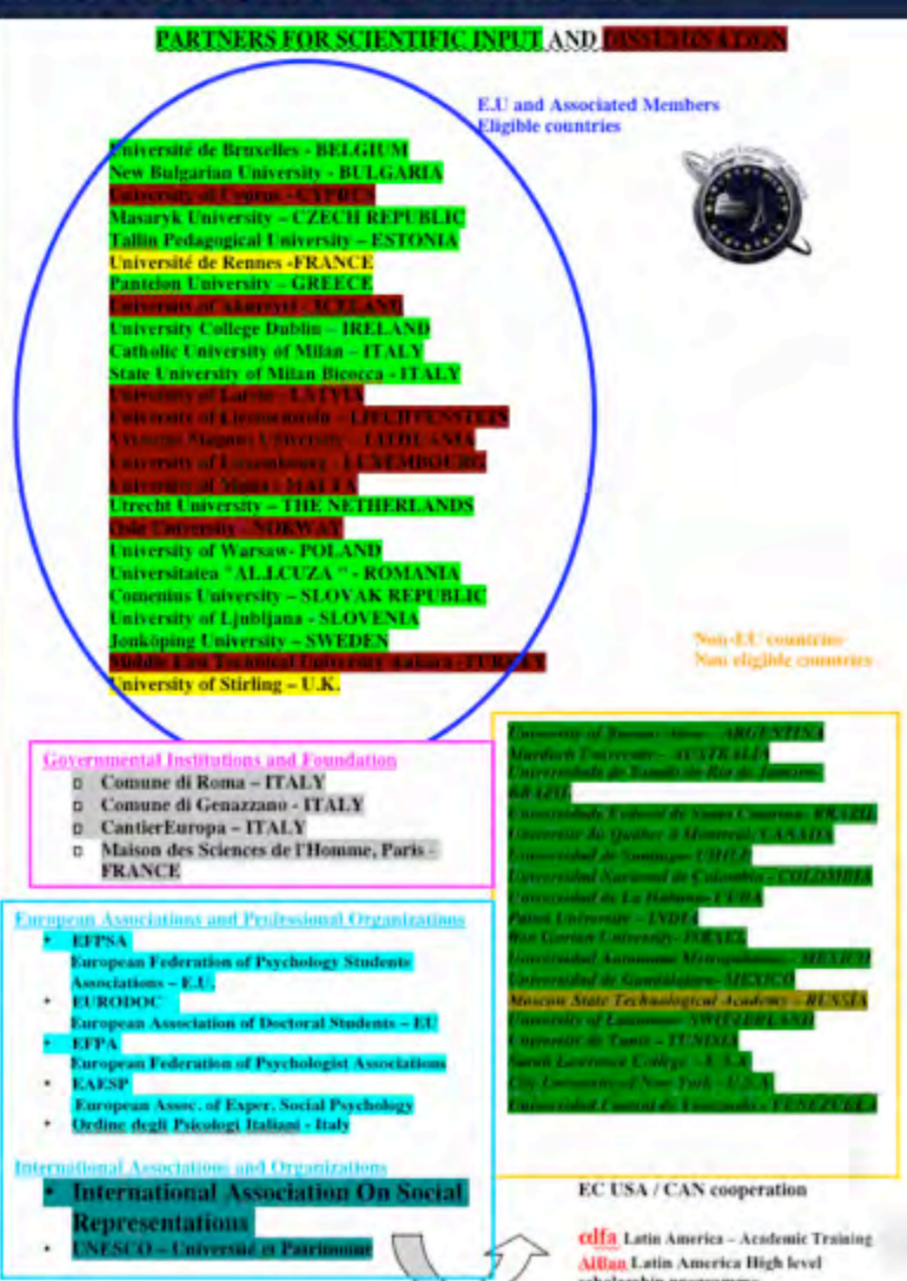


Studies of "what" people know - and "how" it relates to the social groups to which they belong and to the media - have been concerned with the social construction and representation of a particular object (e.g. health-illness, environment, new technologies, politics, economics, European integration and enlargement, minority groups, immigrants and racism, human rights, etc.) and its related scientific theories transformed into everyday knowledge.

The So.Re.Com. Thematic Network of Excellence



The So.Re.Com. Thematic Network of Excellence



New Partners of the So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETWORK of excellence



So.Re.Com.THEmatic NETWORK functional components



Main Objectives

The objectives of the So.Re.Com.thematic network, guided by the European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication are:



1) to create and disseminate research-based knowledge on societal issues relevant for European policies and to train doctoral candidates for careers in which teaching, research or decision-making must be grounded in a thorough understanding of the interplay of social phenomena;

Main Objectives



2) to produce and disseminate web-based multimedia tools aimed at the diffusion of research-based knowledge of particular interest both for academics and professionals in the field of social representations and communication.

Main Objectives



3) Promoting synergy between research and education via a "network of networks" that covers interdisciplinary themes of Social Representations and Communication, linking European and world-wide academic, professional, international institutions and e-learning specialised companies;

Main Objectives



4) Highlighting the European "style of excellence" in research and research training on social issues; jointly executed research programmes and concerted scientific activities are carried out by established international research teams working together in a long-term perspective and inspiring training activities and supervision of young researchers by senior experts.

Main Objectives



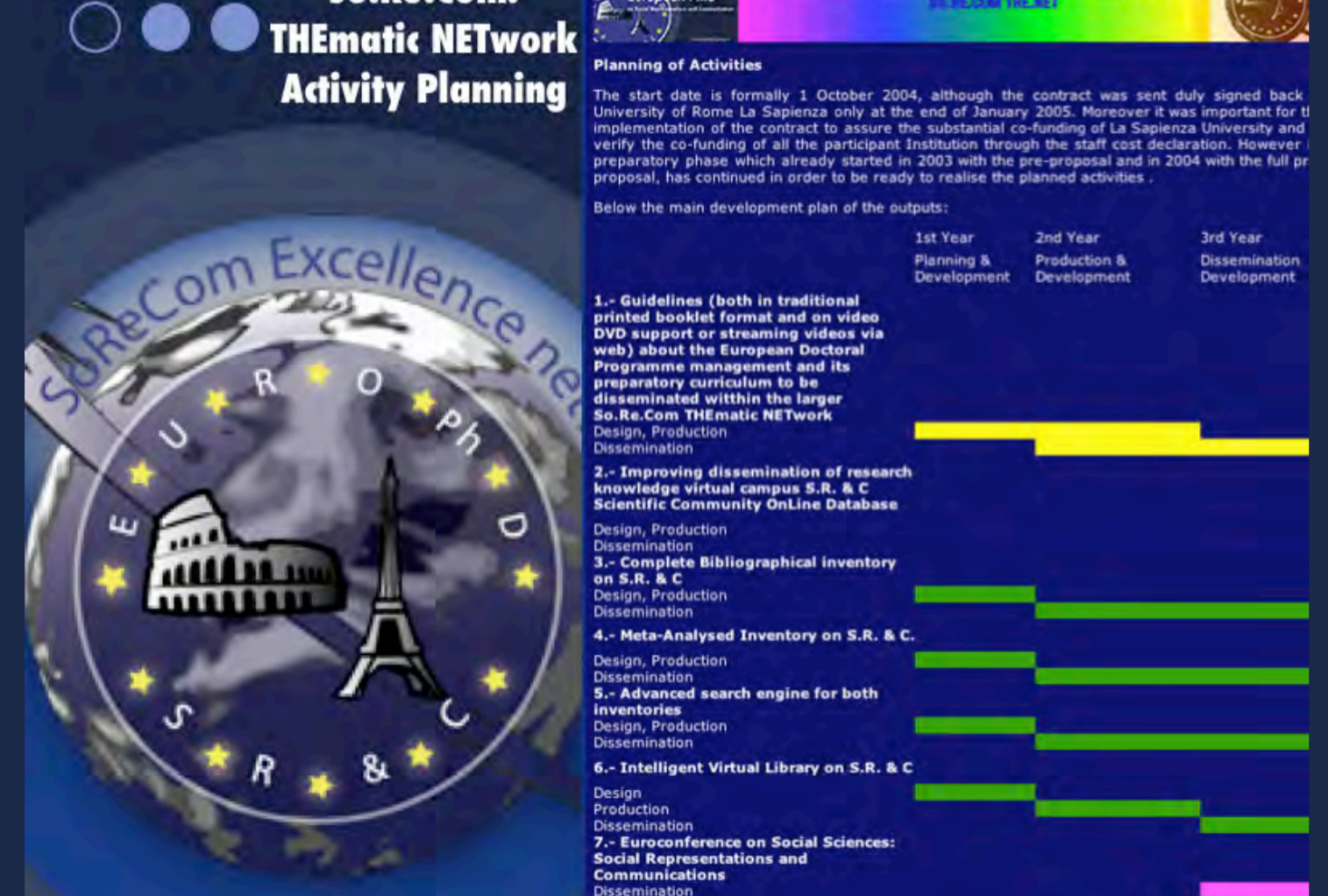
5) Encouraging "best practices" in developing European Joint Doctorates as well as the harmonization of the Masters curriculum in Social Psychology and Communication.

The important Role of Innovative ICT technologies

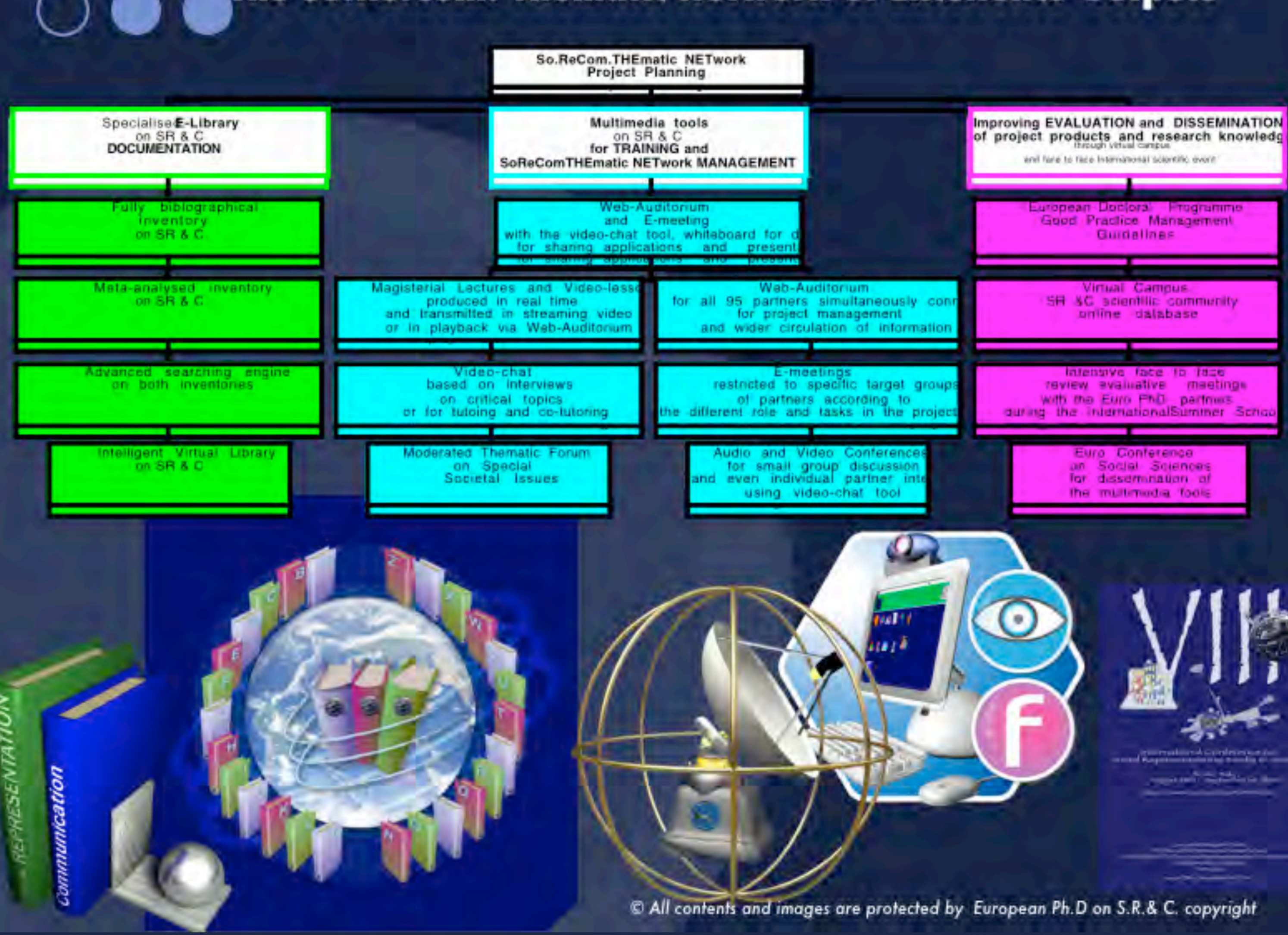
Relying on advanced networking technologies, the So.Re.Com. Thematic Network of Excellence has constructed a "virtual context": a wide range of highly-developed online systems and specifically designed resources, including: a specialised e-library, an advanced search engine, comprehensive on-line bibliographic inventories, virtual laboratories, internet/web-based interactive conferencing systems, including audio and video conferencing tools, an access whiteboard for application-sharing, presentation, recording and playback of the sessions, learning management systems, a media streaming server.

ICT is therefore both the tool and the goal of So.Re.Com. Thematic NETWORK project management.

The different outputs have substantially contributed to the development of the European Ph.D. on S.R. & C. website by constituting a PARTIAL for the entire field of Social Representations and Communication.



The So.Re.Com. Thematic Network of Excellence Outputs



Benefits from the creation of the SoReComTHEmatic NETWORK



The theory of Social Representations was born in Europe in the early 1970s and for 20 years was developed mostly exclusively by European researchers. It has spread around the world.

One benefit derived from the creation of a network of excellence is the re-establishment of the worldwide intellectual leadership of European Social Psychology. It includes: to make the European knowledge base available to the world; to link social psychology processes, conceptual and methodological, quality of life, health, neuroscience, technology, visible and systematically available both for specialised circles of social scientists and others outside academia.

Another complementary benefit is to increase and enhance the "visibility" of higher education institutions and research centres, both in the area of research and to create a mechanism to pool the scientific and political institutions, thereby increasing the added value of comparative social science studies in areas of importance for EU citizens.



The co-ordination and planning of the numerous research teams and thematic sub-groups reinforces a strong link between research activities and training by developing researchers in the making.

By expanding these activities for the benefit of researchers outside the European Ph.D. network, the programme created and developed a powerful dissemination system based on traditional face-to-face scientific events integrated with web-based training and cooperative learning.

led by European scientists, these activities have established and reinforced a wide scientific community both in and outside Europe's borders via a dedicated Portal and web-orientation interactive system, which enables links between international physical and virtual mobility.



The European Ph.D. Research Centre and Multimedia Lab



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Annamaria Silvana de Rosa
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SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA