

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: CA19131

Grantee name: Roxana Coman

Details of the STSM

Title: Shared legacies: domestic textiles from the Benaki Museum of Modern Greek Culture and their counterparts in Romanian collections

Start and end date: 01/05/2023 to 30/06/2023

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Description of the activities carried out during the STSM. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

According to the grant application submitted in November 2022, and with the support of the Benaki Museum of Modern Greek Culture, the STSM' work plan has been implemented as follows:

WP1: The activities developed in order for an efficient implementation of the work package were the following: a) using the Benaki Museum Library for thorough and in-depth review of scholarship produced on the topic, and familiarizing myself with the production, usage, techniques, fabrics, and transmission of Ottoman era textiles in Greece; b) with the support of Xenia Politou, Aegeas AMKE Curator of Modern Greek Culture, engaging with the pieces exhibited in the permanent display of the museum, the particularities of specific regions, chronology, types of textiles; c) with the support of Xenia Politou, Aegeas AMKE Curator of Modern Greek Culture, working with the museum database to be able to observe more examples that were not on display, and select a number of 15 pieces for close-up observation.

WP2: The scheduled activities were updated regularly and agreed upon with Xenia Politou. The training has benefited from the close cooperation with the Benaki Museum of Modern Greek Culture representative, who facilitated the access to the museum database, the textiles in the storage, and to image reproductions to be used for documentation and the deliverables in the STSM. The 20 to 30 examples have been selected as a result of it.

WP3: The data collected, and the training have already been used for the preliminary results of the STSM, namely a deliverable in the form of a blogpost submitted to be published on the OII website. With the title: **Behold, here comes the bride: textiles, women, and marriage in the Benaki Museum of Modern Greek Culture**, it explores a particular type of domestic textiles, those associated with marriage, their uses, production, meaning, and similarities with Romania. Additionally, a draft of the

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

article is already in preparation with the working title: **Threads of heritage: domestic textiles in 17th and 19th centuries Ottoman Empire beyond the ethnographical turn.**

An added bonus was the Benaki Museum exhibition, Tales of Tools, opened on May 16, dedicated to predominantly Greek but also European traditional wood-carved tools used in spinning, sewing, knitting and embroidery as well as in various small-scale weaving techniques. The exhibition also had an interesting workshop regarding a technique used in weaving cotton belts using perforated cards.

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Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

The main expected outcomes of the STSM, namely, to enhance training and knowledge exchange according to EuroWeb Capacity building 1 and 3, to contribute towards creating a trans-European scheme, and to produce deliverables, has been achieved. I have had the opportunity to work with specialists in Greek textiles, and I have a finalized form for the one of the deliverables and a draft for the second one.

The training has had a significant impact on my previous skills and knowledge, to the extent that it has added to the information about textiles in Romanian and Istanbul museums and offering the opportunity to apply for a specialist attestation in Romania, with the Ministry of Culture, focusing on textiles. Working with Xenia Politou and benefiting from her expertise, it has facilitated an intense exchange of knowledge and facilitated the brainstorming for a project concept to be developed, possibly as an ERC Consolidator Grant.

As mentioned, one of the deliverables of the STSM is finalized, the blogpost which will be published on the Orient-Institut website and shared across social media. The initial draft of the article is extensive, the next months being dedicated to finalizing it, using the previously collected data for textiles in Romanian collections. Using the Directory of Open Science Journals, I will identify the appropriate journal to submit the article and will share it with the EuroWeb Working Group coordinator and team members once published.

Additionally, the compiled bibliography list, the blogpost on the OII website, and the expertise will be shared with the members of the EuroWeb Cost Action and be used for developing subsequent projects.

(max. 500 words)

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