

THE SO.RE.COM. "A.S. de ROSA" @-LIBRARY: A MULTI-PURPOSE WEB-PLATFORM IN THE SUPRA-DISCIPLINARY FIELD OF SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

The goal of this contribution is to present the mission and knowledge domain of the *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library*: a multi-purpose web-platform for integrating scientific documentation, networking and training in the field of *Social Representations and Communication* (So.Re.Com.).

Social Representations and Communication is a supra-disciplinary area of the social sciences, and in particular from the optic of Social Psychology, inspired by the Social Representations Theory, one of the most important theories of the social construction of knowledge. Founded by Serge Moscovici in 1961, the study of social representations, originally specifically European, is currently a multilingual, worldwide supra-disciplinary field with a substantial body of literature. The field of Social Representations represents a unifying meta-theoretical perspective on the social construction of knowledge and its relation to socially situated practices in the dialogue between expert and lay people knowledge and media.

A main characteristic of this *supra-disciplinary field* is its *great consistency in terms of epistemological and theoretical inspiration* and its rich diversity both:

- from the paradigmatic point of view
- in terms of methodological approaches
- from the thematic point of view
- with respect to the applied contexts and domains of expert and lay knowledge production and transmission: education, health, economics, environment, tourism, politics, organisations, media industry, etc.

Born from a personal bibliographic inventory, initially including almost 500 specialized references in the field of *Social Representations and Communication*, the *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* has been transferred into an ad-hoc designed relational data base and implemented in 1996 on the common web site of the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication*: <http://www.europhd.eu>. Currently including almost 10000 references, and a vast and growing collection of bibliographic entries, it is built on an on-going multi-year project led by the director of the *European PhD on Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab* who is also the creator and the program director of the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication* and of the *So.Re.Com. THEMatic NETwork* (prof. Annamaria Silvana de Rosa). She has designed specific web-tools for the purpose of conducting an empirical meta-theoretical analysis of the complete body of literature on Social Representations. This *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* is a multiform digital environment of integrated relational databases conceived in the logic of the semantic web, including a series of web interfaces aimed to integrate *documentation services* (bibliographic repository, meta-theoretical analysis repository, intelligent @-Library) with *networking* (interactive web-videoconference, on-line So.Re.Com. virtual community) and *research training* (European/International Joint PhD "Virtual Campus": video-courses in streaming, distant tutoring and co-tutoring, on-line trainee evaluation, etc.), thus stimulating a rich and ever-growing research and learning environment that is advantageous to research team members, trainees and experts alike.

Keywords: *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library*, multi-purpose web-platform, scientific documentation, networking and training, Social Representations and Communication.

1 INTRODUCTION: MISSION AND KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN OF THE SO.RE.COM. "A.S. DE ROSA" @-LIBRARY, A DIGITAL TOOL FOR MORE THAN DOCUMENTATION PURPOSES.

The goal of this contribution is to present a brief description of the So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library, as a digital tool for integrating scientific documentation, networking and training purposes in the field of Social Representations and Communication (So.Re.Com.).

Social Representations and Communication is a supra-disciplinary area of the social sciences, and in particular from the optic of Social Psychology, inspired by the Social Representations Theory, one of the most important theories of the social construction of knowledge. Founded by Serge Moscovici¹ in 1961, the study of social representations, originally specifically European, is currently a multilingual, worldwide supra-disciplinary field with a substantial body of literature. It involves leading scholars from both social psychology and the social sciences: sociology, anthropology, education, economics, linguistics, semiotics, marketing, environmental studies and communication and media studies. The field of Social Representations represents a unifying meta-theoretical perspective on the social construction of knowledge and its relation to socially situated practices. Studies of "what" people know – and "how" it relates to the social groups to which they belong and to the media – are concerned with the social construction and representation of a particular object (e.g. health-illness, environment, tourism, new technologies, politics, economics, European integration and enlargement, minority groups, immigrants and racism, human rights, etc.) and how its related scientific theories are transformed into everyday knowledge. The "objects" studied have a strong societal impact and important practical applications in political, economic and all the social spheres (Moscovici, 1961/71, 2000, 2003; de Rosa, 2011b, 2013a, 2013b; Jodelet, 2009).

A main characteristic of this supra-disciplinary field is its great consistency in terms of epistemological and theoretical inspiration and its rich diversity both:

- from the *paradigmatic point of view* - as developed by the "structural approach" to S.R and central core theory; by the "social positioning approach", guided by the socio-dynamic perspective; by the "monographic" and "anthropological" approaches; by the "dialogical", "conversational" and "biographical-narrative" approaches, and by the integrating "modelling" approach;
- in terms of *methodological approaches* (qualitative, monographic, anthropological, experimental, descriptive, structural, visual-figurative, multi-methodological, etc.) developed by the network research teams in a synergic and complementary way;
- from the *thematic point of view* - as expressed in the variety of research topics. These relate to hot societal issues in contemporary society, including: Science and Social Representations (S.R.); Culture, Globalization and S.R.; Communication, Media and Social Representations; Collective Memory, Identity, Gender, Politics, Health, the Environment, Education, Economics and Finance, Marketing and Organizational Contexts, Risk and Community Life, etc.
- with respect to the *applied contexts and domains of expert and lay knowledge production and transmission*: education, health, economics, environment, tourism, politics, organisations, media industry, etc.

Therefore the So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library is a repository open to trans-disciplinary digital scientific contents, both theoretical and empirical contributions with multi-methodological research approaches (experimental and field work).

Born from a personal bibliographic inventory, initially including almost 500 specialized references in the field of Social Representations and Communication, the So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library has been transferred into an ad-hoc designed relational data base and implemented in 1996 on the common web site of the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication*: <http://www.europhtd.eu> (see de Rosa, 2000, 2006; 2008a, 2009 a, 2009 b, 2010, 2015; de Rosa, Picone, 2007). It is built on an on-going multi-year project led by the director of the *European PhD on Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab* who is also the creator and the program director of the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication* and of the *So.Re.Com. THEMatic NETwork* (Annamaria Silvana

¹ Honorary programme director of the European/International Joint PhD on Social Representations and Communication

de Rosa²). She has designed specific web-tools for the purpose of conducting an empirical of the literature on Social Representations (for more details see: de Rosa, A.S. 2000, 2008b, 2011a, 2013a, 2013b). Therefore the *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* supports access to multiple digital resources, repositories and tools implemented on the EuroPhD website:

- a) the *comprehensive bibliographic repository* includes information limited to the classic bibliographic details (authors, year of publication, title, journal, volume, issue, journal pages, book editor, book title, book pages, location, publisher, congress, congress location, manuscript, University report, keywords, abstract, author's Institution denomination and Country/Continent, but also indexes from the bibliometric tools Impact Factor and SJR).
- b) the *meta-theoretical analysed repository* includes the grids of the "meta-theoretical analyses" of the corpus of the specialized field (both theoretical and empirical literature) filled according to the web-tool and guidelines designed and developed by A.S. de Rosa (1994; revised version: 2004; deeply revised version: 2014).
- c) the specialized *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* holds a very rich documentation of PDF texts, videos and multi-media scientific and training materials in the field of Social Representations and Communication, built-up over two decades with an enormous effort of teamwork coordination and assessment by its creator and project leader.

The *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* is supported by an advanced search engine hyper-linked with the above-mentioned repositories and it is integrated with the most comprehensive *physical library worldwide specialised in the Social Representations and Communication literature*.

Located at the University of Rome Sapienza, the state-of-the-art *Research Centre and Multimedia Lab* is a fully equipped high-tech facility that is the nerve centre of the *European/International Joint PhD programme in Social Representations and Communication*, the training structure of the wider *So.Re.Com. THEMatic NETwork*. Recently (2012) transferred from its previous historical location opposite Campidoglio (Piazza d'Ara Coeli, 1 - Rome) to another larger wonderful location in the very heart of Rome at the top of Aventino Hill (Piazza Cavalieri di Malta, 2 - Rome) overlooking the capital's historical archaeological and artistic-architectonic centre, it guarantees technical support for training and management activities, including real-time interactive exchanges with all participants and partner institutions and a vast network of other similarly equipped research centres around the globe. The *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* represents - among other infrastructures - one of the dedicated facilities at the Sapienza coordinating university, that allow for flexibility between face-to-face and open distance learning interactive contexts and innovative practices adopted not only for scientific documentation and networking research co-operation, but also for training purpose of early stage researchers in the meta-theoretical analysis of the literature in social representations.

The coordinating institution of both EU-approved the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication* (<http://www.euophd.eu>) and the *So.Re.Com. THEMatic NETwork* (<http://www.euophd.eu/SoReComTHEmaticNETwork>), the University of Rome Sapienza, the largest university in Europe, is the home of the state of the art *Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab*. In addition to Sapienza's patrimony of 155 libraries and its great investment in digitalising content³, the specialized *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" physical and @-Library* has the necessary innovative e-infrastructure to integrate its three pillars: scientific documentation, interactive networking and research training.

This *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* is a multiform digital environment of integrated relational data-bases conceived in the logic of the semantic web, including a series of web interfaces aimed to integrate *documentation services* (bibliographic repository, meta-theoretical analysis repository, intelligent @-Library) with *networking* (interactive web-videoconference, on-line *So.Re.Com. virtual community*) and *research training* (European/International Joint PhD "Virtual Campus": video-courses in streaming, distant tutoring and co-tutoring, on-line trainee evaluation, etc.).

2 Annamaria Silvana de Rosa, Ph.D. Full Professor of Psychology of Communication and Social Representations. Creator and Program Director of the E.C.-approved European/International Joint Ph.D. in Social Representations and Communication (<http://www.euophd.eu>) and of the *So.Re.Com. THEMatic NETwork* (<http://www.euophd.eu/SoReComTHEmaticNETwork>). - Faculty of Medicine and Psychology - Sapienza University of Rome - Piazza Cavalieri di Malta, 2 - 00153 Rome, Italy; E-mail: annamaria.derosa@uniroma1.it

3 for more details about the new on-going development of the Sapienza Digital Library and the related project Google Books see: Di Iorio, A. Schaefer, M. Guercio, M. Ortolani, S. and Bertazzo, M. 2013; Magarotto, A. 2013; see also: <http://sapienzadigitallibrary.uniroma1.it>; http://w3.uniroma1.it/biblioteche/risorse_elettroniche.htm

Once the migration into an open access platform will be completed, the *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* will answer the increasing demand for multi-lingual access to multi-format targeted scientific documentation in the trans-disciplinary research area of Social Representations and Communication, and will guarantee easy access and more equitable dissemination of scientific, scholarly and multimedia products, thus granting prompt access to users from disadvantaged areas in the world where information and training are difficult to obtain.

To accomplish these goals, its creator and project leader, by coordinating a large team of human resources with different degree of expertise, is collecting since many years the scientific documentation published in the field all over the world and not exclusively produced by the members of the *So.Re.Com.Thematic Network*. The ultimate goal is to make it accessible to anyone, anytime, anywhere, therefore disseminating resources otherwise dispersed and fragmented in several universities, public and private research centers and governmental institutions.

2 FOR A RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT "BASED ON" AND "AIMED AT" THE INTEGRATION OF THREE MAIN PILLARS: SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION, NETWORKING AND TRAINING PURPOSES.

The *European/International Joint PhD on S.R. & C. Research Centre and Multimedia Lab* is dedicated to research and training needs for both doctoral candidates and highly experienced researchers, individually or in cross-national research teams. Full-time staff is available during the workweek to provide assistance to users. It integrates three main research pillars:

- **DOCUMENTATION:** The *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* contains (see Fig. 1):
 - a *comprehensive bibliographical repository* of the literature on Social Representations, currently including almost 10000 references, and a vast and growing collection of bibliographic entries
 - a *meta-theoretical analysed repository* of the literature on SR, currently including almost 3000 meta-analysed articles or book chapters;
 - an *advanced search engine* hyper-linked with both above-mentioned *repositories*;
 - an *Intelligent @-Library* specialising in S.R. & C. that currently holds more than 1000 texts available for online consultation and full text search, as well as hundreds of videos, courses and recorded interviews.

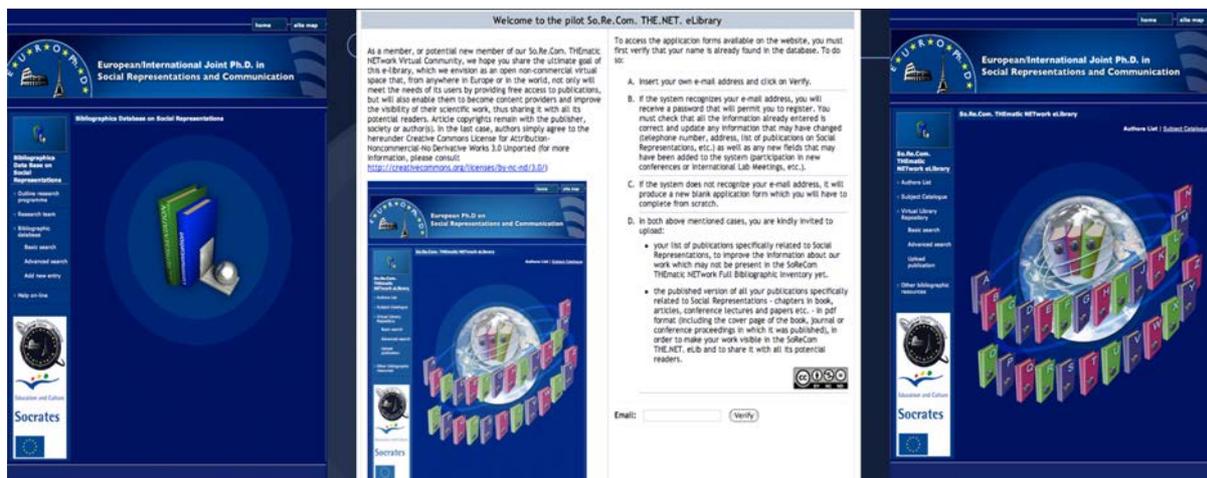


Fig. 1. The *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" bibliographical repositories and @-Library*

- **NETWORKING:** Its advanced communication and research capabilities not only connect participants with the laboratory but also with the 3000 member world-wide *SoReCom Thematic Network* and other similarly equipped social science research centres both in and outside Europe. Its web-based system is highly flexible and easily adapted to provide support for long and short term training needs. The *SoReCom THEMatic NETwork* on-line virtual community includes:

- members' personal and institutional contact information, "individual scientific profiles", and web-services like:
 - "news and calendar of scientific events",
 - multi-point interactive co-operative research tools,
 - on-line conference management system for participant registration, submission of abstracts, papers, power point presentations as well as symposia, thematic sessions, round tables, posters, abstract reviews, information for participants, editing and publishing,
 - SoReCom THEmatic NETwork @-NEWS;
 - newly designed management service for "Virtual meetings with authors or book presentations".
- **RESEARCH TRAINING:** The European/International Joint PhD in S.R. & C. and the SoReCom integrated "Physical and Virtual Campus" includes (see Fig. 2):
 - European PhD on S.R. & C. Web-Auditorium multi-point web videoconference interactive system,
 - guidelines for developing research trainees' skills in meta theoretical analysis of Social Representations literature and the use of bibliographic *repositories*,
 - distance tutoring and co-tutoring based on: personalised access to European PhD on S.R. & C. research reports and on-line evaluation of trainees' research reports at the initial, intermediate and final stages,
 - on-line video-lectures in streaming,
 - interactive web-video-interviews with the protagonists in the scientific field,
 - European PhD on S.R. & C. research trainees' inventory,
 - On-line tools allowing research trainees to provide "ratings", i.e. feedback on the virtual training activities and those involving physical mobility, etc.



Fig. 2. Distance tutoring and co-tutoring tools based on personalised access to European/International Joint PhD in S.R. & C. research reports and on-line evaluation of trainees' research reports at the initial, intermediate and final stages

3 NEAR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

As planned developments from the content point of view, we envisage:

- a) an increased critical mass of content and related metadata of the the *So.Re.Com. "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* by the next four years - thanks to the approval by the European Commission of the SoReComJoint-IDP People-Innovative Doctoral Program with the excellent evaluation positioned at the highest ranked (with the total score of the evaluation results: 98,80/100; threshold: 70/100) of the 150 selected projects in 2013 and funded for 4-years contract 2013-2017 among 1175 submitted proposals. The SoReComJointIDP built on the sound experience of both the European PhD in Social Representations and Communication, approved by the EC since 1992 and in operation since 1996, selected as the largest Marie Curie Multipartner

Organisation site in social sciences in the first call of the 5th F.P., and the So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETWORK, a "network of networks" that promotes co-operation between academic, professional research and commercial institutions and facilitates the dissemination of scientific results throughout Europe and around the world (see Fig. 3). It is headquartered at the *state of the art* Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab of Sapienza University of Rome. The SoReComJointIDP project is coordinated by the single participant, the Sapienza University of Rome (Italy), Europe's largest university as well as Italy's finest university in a world-wide ranking of universities. In addition to the project coordinator, this IDP includes a training network of 16 associated partners (13 universities, 2 private companies, 1 public research centres with intensive and extensive cooperation with the private sector) in 8 European countries (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland) and in 6 extra-European countries (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Mexico, United States) (see Fig. 4). This large and diversified training network will provide unique opportunities for interdisciplinary research training that responds to the needs of both academia and private companies. The associated partners have close institutional and scientific relations with the coordinator, as they are all members of the European PhD on Social Representations and Communication and of the SoReCom THEmatic NETWORK. Their participation in the project is essential because they ensure a wide range of complementary paradigmatic, methodological and thematic options offered by international and cross-sectoral research teams within and outside European borders. They will perform vital tasks such as co-tutoring activities (ensuring the multi-paradigmatic and multi-methodological approach to the research training), hosting ESR for secondments and providing valuable training modules during the project's foreseen scientific events. The inclusion of the 6 extra-European partners is also important for several reasons, among which: a) attracting to Europe the best researchers in this scientific field from abroad; b) promoting and developing Europe's excellence in this field; c) contributing to the expansion of this European field of excellence in countries where the penetration of the Social Representation theory is still weak (mainly China and the USA); d) cross-fertilising the European research training environment, thereby improving the multi-cultural exchange of EU and non-EU recruited research fellows from different academic traditions and cultural backgrounds. These extra-EU partners are already involved in research programs in common thematic areas. They thus contribute to disseminating in their countries and contexts the paradigmatic models and methodologies in social representation mainly developed in Europe; strengthen the leadership of European research in this field; and increase the attractiveness of European research institutions abroad.



Fig. 3. The So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETWORK at a glance on global scenario



Fig. 4. The So.Re.Com. Joint Innovative Doctoral Program institutional network

- b) In addition the realisation of the So.Re.Com.Joint-IDP will contribute to disseminating also the meta-theoretical knowledge produced by a new team of 13 Early Stage Researchers (ESR) in strong cooperation with the project leader and the international research teams specifically based on the empirical meta-theoretical analysis of the whole corpus of the literature in Social Representations and Communication, retrieved and filled into the *So.Re.Com. A.S. "de Rosa" @-library*. In fact - thanks to its fully synergic research training structure – the So.Re.Com.Joint-IDP will offers to 13 recruited ESR the opportunity to work together on an on-going integrated and multi-faceted project led by the director of the *European PhD on Social Representations*

and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab in cooperation with the research teams at the core host institution and at the network associated partners – on top of previous multiyear work carried out with the long term purpose of writing a *Biography of the Social Representations Theory* and by access to the best comprehensive specialised library and multimedia documentation centre worldwide. Guided by the main goal of evaluating *the impact of the scientific production driven by the Social Representations theory in the social arena faced with social demand*, the aim is to take stock of the scientific field developed in more than 50 years by conducting an empirical meta-theoretical analysis of the literature on Social Representations, mapping the development of different paradigms, the related research methods, the thematic areas and their impact on the various applied fields within the multi-generational community of scientists and across different geo-cultural contexts. This unified research project framework will be articulated into 13 precise objectives concerning the specific research lines to be developed by each recruited ESR, matching their own interests and area of prior expertise. The Early Stage Researchers will cooperate in meta-theoretical analyses of the specialised literature on Social Representations and Communication, managing data derived from the large bibliographic repositories, contributing to the development of the specialised SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-library created by the So.Re.Com.Joint-IDP program director, etc.. The need for developing both core and wider employment related skills is driven by the goal of making research training of greater relevance for a wider variety of careers both in and outside academia, and internationally and globally more attractive. The unified research framework will provide an integrated training opportunity to maximise the cooperative and joint expertise of both the host institution and associated partners, doing so from the theoretical, methodological and applied perspective of the researches conducted in the 50-year development and diffusion of this scientific field, with a view to monitoring and exploiting its added value to respond to social demand in the multiple contexts of the social arena: from economics to the environment, politics, health and community issues, science communication, etc. Thus clear information on the main research framework and indication of the more specific focuses of each sub-project will orient the content of the application call to be disseminated for the recruitment of new early-stage researchers. This will help optimise the allocation of the selected applicants to the research teams in which they will be included for their research training activities at the main host institution, as well as the choice of the co-tutors and the foreign institutions for their secondments.

- c) Driven by the synergic goal of an integrated development of the documentation tool “of” and “for” other researches (*So.Re.Com. “A.S. de Rosa” @-library*) and the training activities of the International doctoral program - among other training multi-year series of activities, the *Winter Session International Lab Meeting* are specifically aimed at Training in the *meta-theoretical analysis* of the specialized literature on Social Representations and Communication: why and how to map the development of different paradigms, the related research methods, the thematic areas, their impact on the various applied fields and the new emerging research directions within the multi-generational community of scientists and across different geo-cultural contexts. The program includes:
- a. *Key lecture* by the research leader, creator of the twenty-year wide research project and related theoretical-methodological tools and their web implementation aimed at the Meta-Theoretical analysis of complete body of the Social Representations literature
 - b. *Presentations by expert post-docs* and advanced European/International Joint PhD doctoral trainees involving a *multigenerational community of senior and junior scientists* that ranges from visiting post-docs to Euro PhD Alumni (including former Marie Curie Fellows), already well trained in the *meta-theoretical analysis* of the specialised literature on Social Representations
 - c. *Training the early research trainees (ESR)* for developing advanced bibliographic on-line search skills via access to specialised websites and digital libraries, aimed at developing the large specialised full bibliographic *repository* and the SoReCom specialised virtual library
 - d. *Training Guidelines* for integrating bibliographic resources in the physical and digital SoReCom specialised libraries
 - e. *Training the ESR in the meta-theoretical analysis grid* and tools of the meta-theoretical analysis *repository* including the following tasks and methodology:

- i. *Following guidelines and procedures given by the project leader prof. A.S. de Rosa and a specific training, the specific ESR's contribution consist:*
 - ii. *to detect and retrieve publications not yet inserted in the specialized SoReCom A.S. "de Rosa" @-Library, and meta-analyse the whole body of the literature on Social Representations produced according to the "specific individual research focus" over the world and not only in the geo-cultural context/continent of the host institution for mobility stage;*
 - iii. *to fill the new information and upload the related PDF files into the specialized SoReCom A.S."de Rosa" @-Library;*
 - iv. *to carry out statistical analyses on the complete meta-analysed body (extracted from the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library after the integration of the new information);*
 - v. *to produce video-interviews – according to an outline designed by the project leader - with the key scientists who contribute to the development of the paradigmatic approaches to Social Representations;*
 - vi. *to fully describe, visualize (by using also the de Rosa Guidelines for the geo-cultural mapping) and comment the results obtained in intermediate reports and in the PhD thesis (in the double format of detailed report in English and a short article).*
- f. Illustration of the *double quality control system*
 - g. *Co-ordination and planning session* for the organization of weekly individual and group ESR small meetings on the transversal common tools of the overall research program and the specific goals of each of the research focuses.
- d) The opportunity for intensive research training offered to 13 recruited ESR at the main host leader institution will be integrated by complementary well targeted secondment opportunities at various associated network partners, chosen in function of the specific research focus of the list of individual projects to maximise the cooperative and joint expertise of both the host institution and associated partners, from the theoretical, methodological and applied perspectives. The complementary training stages at host institutions will also offer the ESR opportunities for networking and for further integrating physical and virtual international mobility.
- e) The wide supra-disciplinary, multi-methodological and thematic possibilities offered by the training network and into which the research projects developed by the doctoral candidates admitted to the *European/International Joint Ph.D. in Social Representations and Communication* will be inserted, are enhanced the wide range of experts and world-class visiting researchers invited to participate in the programme's intensive training "stages", multi-point videoconferences, tutoring and co-tutoring for individuals and small groups, and various on-line training tools (European Ph.D. web-auditorium, forum discussion, virtual library, video-courses, etc.).

As planned developments from the technical point of view, we also envisage:

- a) to implement a management service innovation that will enable users to *"virtually" meet authors of the @-Library's content on demand*, creating a new kind of forum to discuss critical articles, important research and promote new publications. This will increase interaction between documentation, networking and research training (in case of jointly coordinated demands from early stage researchers and leading experts and famous authors belonging to the So.Re.Com. Thematic Network and its training structure of the European/International Joint PhD);
- b) to transfer the digital repertoires contents and meta-data in a new web platform from the current one built on the *web-object to Drupal*, more widely used for wide repositories and relational data base of digital libraries;
- c) to pursue its integration in the larger Sapienza Digital Library, while keeping our autonomy in the content management and quality control system to update data and meta-data. This new step planned to integrate the specialized *SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-library* into the main University of Rome "Sapienza" Digital Library will improve accessibility, use and exploitation of our existing pilot @-library. Centralized management will contribute in the near future to minimize costs and exploit Sapienza's existing expertise and infrastructure, by facilitating and increasing multi-language open access to multicultural and multi-format digitalised scientific documentation and networking and training activities. It will provide a critical mass of content

and related metadata for inclusion in the European Digital Library and improve dissemination of European research.

The SoReComTHEmatic NETwork guarantees the internationalization of the European dimension of the many projects realized since 1992 upon selection within highest competitive international calls and approval by the European Commission, Ministries of different European Countries and International Associations, including the last So.Re.Com.Joint-IDP People project approved in 2013, which will run until 2017. With academic and extra-academic partners in all 27 EU countries, institutionally and scientifically linked to worldwide research centers and universities⁴, the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-library represents an added value in the social sciences on themes important not only for EU citizens and policymakers. Expanding access via new web interfaces will dramatically increase our programme's capabilities, optimising what we have already achieved and expanding this initially Europe based source of knowledge to other cultural areas in the world.

Therefore the developments of the So.Re.Com. “A.S. de Rosa” @-library from the content and technical point of views – supported by the approval of the SoReCom IDP People project - will be *facilitated by* and will *contribute to* improve interaction among the three pillars of the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab*, as coordinator of the SoReCom THEmatic NETwork: documentation, training activities and networking.

4 CONCLUSION

The unique combination of a European/International Joint doctoral programme and a scientific network including academic and extra-academic partners – in 2013 once again approved by the European Commission as the top project 2013 People Innovative Doctoral Programs (So.Re.Com.Joint-IDP) - is, in fact, an integrated physical and virtual campus where initial research trainees and experts from academia and the public and private sectors can come together to learn, share, create and disseminate knowledge. We offer a progressive system for training early stage researchers through active research. Research training takes place in international environments, both academic and in industry, and includes specifically designed intensive didactic “stages” in multilingual and multicultural settings. This includes access to the specialised physical and virtual library on Social Representations (the So.Re.Com. “A.S. de Rosa” @-library), meta-theoretical analysis of the literature on Social Representations and Communication, tutoring and co-tutoring for research projects, active participation in International Lab meetings and International Summer Schools, advanced training in multi-methodological qualitative and quantitative design, software for statistical data analysis and results visualization, e-learning activities via interactive video-conferences, training in complementary skills, scientific networking, and active participation in international conferences, etc.

This integrated face-to-face and open virtual space, accessible from anywhere in Europe or the world, not only meet the needs of its users by providing easy access to publications and metadata and many other kinds of digital multi-format documentation (printed, pictures, audio-videos), but also enables them to quickly become content providers and co-producers. The multigenerational nature of this interactive knowledge community guarantees cross-fertilisation of ideas between senior scientists and early research trainees, as well as between experts from within and outside of academic circles, including policy makers interested in research on societal issues and their relevance in social contexts. Therefore, open access to the integrated physical and virtual SoReCom THEmatic NETwork infrastructure will allow the members of this knowledge community to continue to grow. The newly designed web-service for enlarging interactive facilities of the So.Re.Com. “A.S. de Rosa” @-library not only gives research trainees access to documentation, but in the physical and virtual space of this infrastructure also they can also meet authors and each other to discuss new publications and critical research areas.

In conclusion, as briefly described, the So.Re.Com. “A.S. de Rosa” @-library – among other documentation and training tools available at the European/International Joint PhD on Social

⁴ The So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETwork is formally linked with other prestigious research centres in the North and South America, including the Groupe d'Étude sur l'Interdisciplinarité et les Représentations Sociales (GEIRSO) in Canada, the Centro Internacional de Estudos em Representações e Subjetividade - Educação (CIERS-ED) and Centre International de Recherche en Représentation e Psychologie Sociale (CIPREPS) in Brazil, the Centre International d'Études en Représentations et Pratiques Sociales (CIEREPS) in Argentina. In Asia and Africa we cooperate with the Foundation for Social Representations Studies in Indonesia, as well as centres in Tunisia and Israel.

Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab – provides an integrated digital tool for scientific documentation, networking and training purposes in the supra-disciplinary field of Social Representations and Communication, thus stimulating a rich and ever-growing research and learning environment that is advantageous to research team members, trainees and experts alike.

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