

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION

BRIEF

Action number: AGA-CA17132, ECOST-STSM-Request-CA17132-43699

STSM start and end date: 2019-03-19 - 2019-03-30

Grantee name: Luke Joseph BUHAGIAR

Home institution: University of Malta, Msida, Malta

Host Institution: Lisbon University Institute (ISCTE-IUL), Lisbon, Portugal

Research interest:

Luke J Buhagiar is a PhD student in social psychology at the University of Malta. His research interests concern methodology, argumentation, social representations theory and coalitional psychology. Specifically, his main interest lies in developing better methods for studying intergroup relations within a social representations framework. His PhD work focuses on the social representations of Arabs in the Maltese public sphere.

STSM Summary:

The purpose of the STSM was to exchange expertise concerning (a) interlinkages between psychological/argumentation data and the policy/legal sphere, and (b) the methods used to study such interlinkages. More specifically, the purpose was to study how an emerging argumentation model used to analyse qualitative data can be improved, such that it becomes capable of incorporating policy/legal considerations within a social representations framework. Relevant literature concerning the model and the policy/legal sphere was shared, and a workshop was also conducted where the STSM grantee presented his work on the emerging model and its socio-cognitive underpinnings. The potential intersections of the model with the policy sphere were studied and discussed in detail, and feedback was provided during and after the workshop. The STSM grantee also networked with the Host's research team and attended research presentations. The main results of the research completed during the STSM were the following: (a) exposure to new ways of studying social representations whilst incorporating the policy sphere; (b) a move towards a more systematic and parsimonious model that still respects the idiographic nature of the data collected; and (c) a move towards better application of this model in survey research..