

## SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION

### BRIEF

Action number: AGA-CA17132, ECOST-STSM-Request-CA17132-43453

STSM start and end date: 2020-01-26 - 2020-01-31

Grantee name: Sara GRECO

Home Institution: USI – Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, CH

Host Institution: UCLouvain, Louvain-La-Neuve, BE

#### Research interest :

Sara Greco's has developed an approach to argumentation as a reasonable way to handle disagreement and prevent or resolve conflicts. She has published widely on argumentation in dispute mediation and other collaborative settings, using methods from argumentation theory, discourse analysis and linguistics; and has contributed to the development of analytical concepts to analyze empirical data. In the past months, and in relation to CA17132, Greco is progressively approaching not only conflicts at an interpersonal level but also societal controversies, on topics such as fashion sustainability.

#### STSM summary :

CA17132 is centered on the claim that part of the current problems in policy debate may be (at least partially) explained, if one looked at argumentation *gaps*: between citizens and policymakers' argumentation, between normative theory and institutional practice, and between normative theory and citizens' practice of argumentation (MoU 2018, p. 5). The main aim of this STSM visit was to develop a first framework and annotation system to understand how such gaps manifest in empirical data in public policy argumentation. In connection to the focus of this action on environmental public policy, the topic of fashion sustainability was selected because of the enormous impact in terms of environmental and social problems created by fashion materials, cycle of production and supply chain, as well as waste. The STSM strengthened collaboration between the grantee (Prof. Sara Greco, leader of WG1 – empirical working group within the Action) and the host (Prof. Barbara De Cock, vice-leader of WG1).

The main tangible results have been the annotation of a complex dataset and the preparation of a presentation for the upcoming conference “Reasons, Citizens and Institutions. International Conference on Argumentation and Public Policy” organized within CA17132 (4-6 March 2020, University of Wrocław, Poland). The intention of the grantee and host is to receive feedback at the conference and then develop the presentation into a full paper to be submitted to a scientific journal in the following months. Greco and De Cock plan to extend their collaboration on this topic and the reciprocal exchange of methodological approaches in the next years, as based on the collaboration made possible through this STSM and the Action in general. At a broader level, Greco and De Cock also plan to extend the analysis to more European countries and more languages, depending on the availability of other members of WG1 – empirical working group within the Action. In this sense, the results of this STSM visit will be used as a platform for collaboration for the whole working group.

Approved by Prof. Barbara De Cock  
Head of the Linguistic research unit, UCLouvain (host institution)