

## Scientific Report Short Term Scientific Mission

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Reference COST Action IS1305

STSM Type: Regular (from Portugal to Belgium)

STSM Applicant - PhD student: Maria José Duarte Freire

From FCSH – Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas – Universidade Nova de Lisboa - Lisbon

[maria\\_josea@yahoo.com](mailto:maria_josea@yahoo.com)

STSM Topic: Lexicographic, lexicological and terminological study of new signs in Portuguese Sign Language

Host: Prof. Dr. Frieda Steurs

[frieda.steurs@arts.kuleuven.be](mailto:frieda.steurs@arts.kuleuven.be)

Institution: University of Leuven – Antwerp

### 1 Purpose of the STSM

The purpose of this STSM, that happened in the starting point of my PhD investigation, which will last for the next three years, was to get acquainted with the investigation work and methodologies carried out by the investigators at KU Leuven – Antwerp in what Sign Language Linguistics is concerned.

### 2 Description of the work carried out during the STSM

As scheduled, my STSM began on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 and ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2014. It took place at the University of Leuven in Antwerp.

I was very well welcomed by Professor Myriam Vermeerbergen who took me to the University “Faculteit Letteren” and showed me around and introduced me to the colleagues I would be in contact for the week.

Later I was received by Professor Frieda Steurs who also gave me a warm welcome. We talked about my research objectives and this talk was very good for me as it helped me to build new perspectives on my research in what the terminology area is concerned. Professor Frieda Steurs gave me information on several projects on terminology research including in the field of sign language terminology, especially in medical and law terminology, which is an important subject for my research on neologisms in Portuguese Sign Language (LGP). Professor Frieda Steurs also gave me access to recent bibliography in this field of research which will be of great help to me.

During the week I worked with Professor Myriam Vermeerbergen, Prof. Kristof De Weerdts and Prof. Carolien Doggen and also with a PhD Student at the University, Isabelle Heyerick. They were all excellent and I learned a lot from them. I had the opportunity to share, observe and talk about their work and this variety of experiences was very rich for me.

Professor Myriam Vermeerbergen is without any doubt an expert on signed language linguistics, with a lot of interesting and important published research work and also a very generous person. Our conversation and the knowledge she shared with me is of a great importance for my future research in my PhD. We talked about several publications on the subject, some of them very recent ones, which will help me greatly with my research. I also

had the great opportunity to attend some of her classes with the classes from the bachelor in Applied Language studies, which included classes on sign linguistics.

I also shared ideas and insights on sign language interpretation and some of its linguistic aspects with a PhD student at the University, Isabelle Heyerick, who also gave me an important logistic support accessing some printed materials.

I had the great opportunity to attend some of the classes of professor Kristof De Weerd and Professor Carolien Doggen on Flemish Sign Language and cultural aspects of Deaf community and Deaf Education.

It was very important for me to share their knowledge and to exchange ideas and strategies.

I also had the chance to make a presentation and share some information about Portuguese Sign Language, language and culture, in one of professor Kristof's classes which I think captured the interest of the students.

I wish to thank all for their kindness and professionalism especially to Professor Frieda Steurs, Prof. Myriam Vermeerbergen, Prof. Kristof De Weerd, Prof. Carolien Doggen, and your PhD student Isabelle Heyerick. I also appreciated the kind support given to me by the staff at the secretary services, the library and the canteen.

In special I would like to thank professor Frieda Steurs for accepting my request for this STSM at de University Leuven in Antwerp and for the support given to me during this week.

### **3 Description of the main results obtained**

I think this was a very enriching experience that will give me a great help in an academic point of view to initiate my research program for my PhD investigation. As already mentioned I had the opportunity to meet with investigators of sign language linguistics, and terminology with whom I exchanged some reflections concerning my work that will be a great contribute for my research at this stage. I also had access to information and very interesting and recent bibliography which will also be very valuable for my work.

### **4 Future collaboration with the host institution (if applicable)**

I believe that it will very positive to maintain contact with the "Faculteit of Letteren" of KU Leuven – Antwerp Campus in the near future and exchange information and knowledge on lexicology, lexicography, terminology and sign linguistics studies.

### **5 Foreseen publications resulting from the STSM (if applicable)**

Some time from now, when I have advanced a little more with my own research and studies it may be possible to have some work published.

### **6 Other comments (if any)**

Thanks and best regards  
Maria José Duarte Freire  
14.11.2014