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SUMMARY REPORT CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Contributor(s):	Michał Choptiany[*] Patrick Pasture[**]
Institution:	[*] University of Warsaw [**] KU Leuven
Contact:	Michal.Choptiany@al.uw.edu.pl

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1 INTRODUCTION

Communicating about the RETOPEA project, which ran from May 2018 to October 2022, was challenging not only because of the innovative nature of the project itself, but because the intrinsic diversity of the project both in its diachrony (the transition from the research phase to the teaching phase) and synchrony (the coexistence of teaching activities and stakeholder consultation). A dissemination and communication strategy was defined in the first months of the project (customarily treated by many projects as a combined document, in the case of the RETOPEA project it was split into two separate reports, D7.1 and D7.2) and the main information channel of the project, the retopea.eu website, was established (see the initial design in D7.3).

In the course of its duration, team members of RETOPEA took part in a significant number of ca. 90 presentations given to scholarly conference and seminar audiences of various profile and size and about 50 presentations addressed at a broader audience and different groups of stakeholders, with particular focus on educators and policy-makers. These presentations (documented in detail in four progress reports D1.2–5), especially in combination with online promotion materials and already published or forthcoming presentations stemming out of these papers, make a significant set of actions aimed at creating a lasting awareness of the project's goals and output and by this create a necessary (yet not sufficient) condition for the sustainable further existence of RETOPEA as an educational tool and platform, a kind of teaching format that can be used in different social, cultural and institutional settings. While it is difficult to overestimate the importance of this channel of communication with the academic community and broader audience, equally important for the project was the series of general meetings. The consortium has organized four general meetings, in Mainz, Granada, Warsaw and Ohrid, in which stakeholder workshops were integrated in the general meeting itself, meaning that members of the Advisory Board and invited stakeholders, usually representatives of institutions important for particular group of interest, discussed all issues in joint meetings. Internal affairs were discussed during the meetings of the slightly extended Steering Committee, which included not only co-PI's but also some senior researchers.

This document aims at presenting a brief overview of the four general meetings and a number of workshops involving the stakeholders with particular focus on the activities related to communication and dissemination.

2 GENERAL MEETINGS

2.1 Mainz (May 2018)

The kick-off meeting in Mainz, organized in May 2018 (M1) was designed to be an internal meeting and among its main goals were the establishing of key performance indicators, creation of further co-dependencies and synergies between the WPs and discussion of possible scenarios of interactions with different groups of stakeholders. Due to this fact the general meeting of 2018 does not fall directly into the scope of the present report. It is worth mentioning, however, that from the point of view of CED actions, the meeting created an opportunity to discuss the strategies related to communication and dissemination, launch the initial version of project's website and discuss the way members of the WP7 team may and should address the output of specific WPs. These discussions were continued in the coming months during preparation of D7.1–4 and were subject of regular overview during the meetings of the Steering Committee that were organized on a quarterly basis.

2.2 Granada (September 2020)

The meeting in Granada, originally conceived as the first opportunity for the project team to meet with the representatives of various stakeholders, has been brutally verified by the realities of COVID-19 pandemic. The in-person meeting, scheduled for March 2020, has been postponed and was eventually held entirely online in September 2020. The character of the meeting made it impossible to create conditions for open and creative discussion and interaction with various groups of stakeholders. The public event that had been planned had to be cancelled. Also the plan to film short interviews with participants had to be re-designed and Michal Choptiany together with Alicja Bielak (UniWarsaw) have set up a plan to make short films and written interviews with participants that have been periodically disseminated on the social media. Instead, the members of the consortium have produced at home a series of short videos for the initiative "Faces of RETOPEA" and also short written interviews. Another initiative is the "Clipping of the Week", uploaded on Thursdays. All of them are materials to maintain the interest of the followers in the different social media. Additionally, researchers of WP2 and 3 have elaborated short interviews to reflect on the aims of the project, the work done and the perspectives for the future.

All of these interventions in the social media have replaced somehow the plan for filming that had been established with the occasion of the mid-term meeting in Granada and that had been planned to produce short interviews at several different scenarios of the city

with members of the consortium as well as the edited pieces of the planned public event at FUNDEA.

2.3 Warsaw (May 2022)

The sessions on interfaith dialogue, cultural policy an education during the Warsaw meeting on 16-17 May 2022 were livestreamed via project's Facebook profile and recorded for further publication on project's YouTube channel. Another item on the agenda, John Wolffe's key note lecture on the introduction of problems of toleration and intolerance into the school curricula, was also livestreamed and used as one of the promotion materials showing the project's core ideas and values as well as the specific tools that can be implemented by the educators. The meeting created also an opportunity to officially launch the volume of studies co-edited by Riho Altnurme, Elena Arigita and Patrick Pasture (*Religious Diversity in Europe*, Bloomsbury 2022) and included a discussion and presentations from a number of authors who contributed to the volume and were connected to WP2 or WP3 during the first phase of the project.

The meeting in Warsaw created an opportunity for exchange of ideas between various groups of stakeholders: educators (represented by EuroClio and EFTRE), organizations dedicated to religious dialogue (representatives of United Religions International), policy makers (European Parliament), and GLAM sector (Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews).

A more detailed description of the discussions held in Warsaw in hybrid format can be found in D1.8 (submitted together with a report on the meeting in Ohrid and originally planned as D1.7).

2.4 Ohrid (September 2022)

The meeting in Ohrid, 15-16 September 2022 brought together the RETOPEA teams, including advisory board members, with representatives of the various stakeholders, including experts in education and interconvictional dialogue, at European as well as grassroots level (even teenagers who had made docutubes, and who actively participated in the meeting) representative of different worldviews and religious communities (from religious 'nones' over 'new spirituality', Scientology, Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism (different denominations), Orthodoxy. The agenda included (i) a roundtable on the report "Religious Peace and Toleration: Can we learn with history", (ii) a session on Clippings, Docutubes, Badged Open Course: Achievements and next steps, as well as (iii) a roundtable

on the report on Educational Policy in formal and informal contexts and on Cultural Policy, which were recorded with a view to use them for communication purposes. In addition to that, a number of interviews with participants has been made, including external experts invited to the meeting, and this material shall be used further on the project's website and its social media channels. UniWarsaw will make these recording available after editing.

At the meeting also ways to disseminate the results of the project were discussed and decided (see relevant section of D 1.8). These included:

(a) a substantially revised website including videos produced during the meeting. What is worth stressing is the fact that the website has been redesigned to make it more accessible to the public and its sections have been readjusted to different types of users (academic, educator, teenager), with the information more easily accessible with accompanying materials that guide the user through the material presented, in particular through the clippings.

(b) the policy reports will be sent to all stakeholders from the database D 6.3 as starting point. In addition, different stakeholders have agreed to further disseminate the reports. The appeal to established stakeholders organizations such as EuroClio and EFTRE for education and United Religions International and Religions for Peace as regards interfaith dialogue was the main strategy that we had outlined from the start of the project, and its implementation was one of the main issues discussed at the Ohrid meeting. It is now carried forward and yields visible results, as is apparent in joint webinars and in information on the respective organizations' websites.

As mentioned above, the details of the meeting held in Ohrid can be found in a joint evaluation report submitted to EC as D1.8.

3. DISSEMINATION BEYOND THE CONSORTIUM MEETINGS

RETOPEA contributed to activities organized by interconvictional organizations, such as webinar 'Can history help? Creative approaches to peace making and tolerance in Europe' on the occasion of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, on 24 Feb 2022 organized in Berlin by URI and BARAZA which created an opportunity to Patrick Pasture, Stefanie Sinclair and John Maiden to discuss the main assumptions of the project and present a number of conclusions that have been drawn from the docutubes workshops. RETOPEA (represented by John Wolffe and John Maiden of OU) also presented its activities to a group of Albanian young people and educators of URI on 3 October 2022, while Patrick Pasture joined a webinar on

the "Religious Toleration - how we can foster it?" organized by the European Interfaith Youth Network of Religions for Peace on 17 November 2022 (World Toleration Day). The last initiative shows clearly that the further communication on the project's results, through the maintenance of the website and social media profiles, referring to the project in presentations and taking on the role of project's 'ambassadors' by team members is essential for securing its lasting impact and goes well beyond the official framework of 54 months of the project.

Furthermore, EuroClio has opened its website to include a special section on the educational material of RETOPEA, guaranteeing a large exposure among teachers and educators in history and citizenship in Europe. The Thomas website for Catholic religion teachers in Flanders (incl. Brussels) will dedicate an article on RETOPEA, while the Flemish network of Catholic Schools in Flanders – by far the main organizer of secondary education in Flanders and Brussels – will also propagate the results and has invited the team to present the project at their national board. They have also expressed their willingness to promote RETOPEA's outcomes among their international network. Also the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe of the Council of Europe has expressed its interest in the results of RETOPEA, in particular in light of the new Joint Project of the European Union and Council of Europe aiming to bring together innovative ideas on history education, 'Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory – HISTOLAB'.

In addition, RETOPEA has been present in a number of other gatherings to promote the docutubes in different settings. Stefanie Sinclair (The Open University) and Elena Arigita (University of Granada) participated in the workshop 'Engaging with history through filmmaking: The RETOPEA project' at the histoCON 2022 International History Festival on *Shared Past? Divided Memories*?, on 9 Sept 2022, which drew a lot of attention also among a non-European audience and showed untapped potential of the methodology.

It is also worth mentioning that apart from the initiatives aimed at establishing collaboration with institutions that play leading role for specific groups of stakeholders, the team members involved in initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the project among narrower groups like history educators and consultants whose expertise dwells largely on the knowledge of history. To this end in March 2021 the project organized an online panel with Bram De Ridder and Violet Soen on historical consultancy and their understanding of public history while the educational branch of RETOPEA held two webinars on the production of docutubes addressed at history teachers and educators working in informal settings in June 2022. These actions should be read as examples of attempts made at reaching out to

various groups and building alliances on various levels with one aim in mind, i.e. the creation of a stable presence of the project's toolbox and format within the institutional and educational landscape.

Finally it can be mentioned that KADOC has organized an exhibition on Freemasonry and religion which was also presented as a RETOPEA activity. Unfortunately, because schools were not prepared or able to free time after Covid, it turned out impossible to organize a docutube workshop as was initially planned. However, the educational format established by RETOPEA will be used in future activities of KADOC, which makes it an essential element of KU Leuven's exploitation plan of project's results and, above all, shows once again that the series of meetings with stakeholders during the formal period of the project makes in fact only first chapters in the history of its implementation and embedding within the educational and cultural landscape of European society.