

UNIZA participation in COST Action IS1310

Slovak scientists inspired COST Actions IS1310 SLOVAK SCHOLARS' CONTRIBUTION TO COST ACTION IS1310 – REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

Report from:

Management Committee members in **COST Action IS1310** from Slovakia:
prof. Dušan Katuščák, (University of Žilina) and Dr. Eva Kowalská (Slovak Academy of Science)

Slovak scholars are participating in the ongoing **COST Action: COST IS1310 Reassembling the Republic of Letters, 1500-1800. *A digital framework for multi-lateral collaboration on Europe's intellectual history.*** (Prof. Howard Hotson, Oxford; project duration 2013-2018).

The outcome of Slovak scholars' engagement in the COST Action IS1310 is embodied in national level the interdisciplinary project called:

Intellectual Heritage and Scientific Communication 1500-1800 with Slovak Relations as Part of the European History and Identity (INDED), and prepared by experts from following academic fields: Historical Science and Archeology, and Library and Information Science (social aspects).

The project was prepared within the framework of the grant scheme of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) (*APVV*)

Date of project submission: November 10th, 2015

Supposed and required costs from SRDA grant scheme: 100 000,00 €

Supposed date of project approval/disapproval: March 2016

Principal investigator: prof. PhDr. Dušan Katuščák, PhD.

The strategic goal of the INDED project, its material focus and scientific as well as technical content, is to create and cultivate a necessary environment for competent partnership of Slovak researchers on the national level in order to start and, subsequently, to actively engage in and develop a multilateral scientific cooperation on the European level. The project outcomes will be focused on innovative approaches in making available the knowledge of scientific communication and intellectual heritage of the modern age to the public as well as to the community of scholars.

The general goal of the project is derived from understanding that the present level of information and communication technologies offers means with the help of which it is possible, for the first time in history, to reconstruct the network of scientific, scholarly, and personal relationship among the European intellectuals of the modern era. At the same time, we are now able to widely distribute the results and input of Slovak specific, intellectual written heritage that is found in the European context, while also promoting new forms of scientific collaboration.

To achieve the objective of the INDED project this is focused on the following strategic objectives:

- (1) historiographical review and documentation of informal scientific communication between scholars as part of a cultural creation in Europe;
- (2) coordination of intense debate of librarians and archivists, IT specialists and researchers in order to create a digital system, whose purpose is to collect documents for the pan-European digital information space;
- (3) to participate in the COST action IS1310 and on the national level to design compatible tools for navigation, analysis and visualization of massive data capture to facilitate new forms of international and interdisciplinary scientific collaboration, thereby consolidating a new virtual space standard presentation of written heritage;
- (4) to experiment with this standard and adapted system and to engage the wider public to use the results of scientific cooperation in this crucial phase of European cultural and intellectual integration.

International cooperation and active participation of Slovakia in the COST Action, as well as in any further development of research in the area of documentation, interpretation and modern presentation of intellectual heritage in the European cultural environment is conditioned by collaboration on *national* level within Slovakia. The collaboration of institutions and individuals on national level is one of the scientific and organizational goals of the project.

As the project is connected to an existing framework of international scientific cooperation within the COST IS1310 Action, we are persuaded that this platform will be effective for the preparation of common international projects, publications, conferences, and other outputs from common, bilateral and multilateral research and development activities, as well as a shared utilization of devices and laboratory equipment.

Dušan Katuščák