Report of the Kick-Off Meeting

**SLAFNET**

“Slavery in Africa: a dialogue between Europe and Africa”

URMIS/IRD - University of Nice
5 - 7 July 2017

**Venue**: Campus St-Jean-d'Angély
SJA 3 - MSHS - URMIS
3, boulevard François Mitterrand
Nice

The overall objective of the project is to establish a top-level scientific network of several institutions and research groups from Europe and Africa on the field of slavery studies. It aims at focusing mutual efforts of 13 partners with extended and complementary competences in their respective research fields and at gathering multidisciplinary expertise in slavery-related issues by encouraging the exchange of young and senior researchers from both continents.

This network will be the first of its kind in the world. Our aim is to conduct research on both historical and contemporary slavery and forced labour and to emphasize its international dimension. One of the main goals of this project is to bridge disciplinary and regional area studies or initiatives, to encourage dialogue and to engage in collaborative research. It will involve African and European researchers from various disciplines from different parts of the world with complementary skills. It will enrich the analysis of the underlying local situations and address the impact of slavery and slave trade on population histories in Europe and Africa.

This project is composed of three components (training, research, diffusion) and aims to address the main objectives of the RISE programme such as:

- The promotion and support scientific and technological cooperation between African and European researchers working in research institutions and universities;
- The development of new collaborative linkages that will result in innovative ideas;
- The building of the capacities of junior researchers;
- The encouragement of exchanges and synergy between researchers, by supporting their mobility and establishing a sustainable network and reach out various communities within and outside academia.

The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development organised as Coordinator of the SLAFNET project a Kick-Off Meeting, which took place recently in Nice from the 5th to the 7th of July 2017.

The Kick-Off Meeting brought together all members of the consortium and has provided an opportunity for an update on the main objective of the project, the drawing-up of a joint working plan and the launching of initial actions. This meeting has also allowed to clarify the position and contribution of each partners, to remember administrative procedures and rules related to the European Commission and to discuss staff exchanges necessary to carry out this research project.

This appointment has been also the opportunity to air concerns and raise issues, rather than necessarily resolve all outstanding problems.

**Participants:**
ABUNGU Patrick - National Museums of Kenya - MUSK
BONACCI Giulia - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development - IRD
COTTIAS Myriam - French National Center for Scientific Research - CNRS
D’ALMEIDA MENDES Antonio - University of Nantes - UNant
MALIK Iftikar - Bath Spa University - BathSpa
MECKELBURG Alexander - University of Hamburg - HLCES
N’GAIDE Abdarrahamane - Cheikh Anta Diop University - UCAD
NYANCHOGA Samuel - Catholic University of Eastern Africa - CUEA
OMER Ahmed - Addis Ababa University - AAU
OTELE Olivette - Bath Spa University - BathSpa
RODRIGUES José Damiao - University of Lisbon - FLUL
ROSSI Benedetta - University of Birmingham - UoB
TEELOCK Vijaya - University of Mauritius - UoM

**Project Management Team:**
BALLARIN Marie Pierre (coordinator) - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development - IRD
MEUNIER Myrna (project manager) - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development – IRD

**European affairs Officer**
TREMEGE François - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development – IRD
Session 1
History and origins of the Slafnet Project
Administrative and financial aspects of the RISE projects

Marie Pierre Ballarin, coordinator of the Slafnet project, presented the origins of this collaboration.

The SLAFNET project arose from different initiatives all over Africa and Europe that emerged in the early 2000’s.

In October 2014, was held a conference entitled “Slavery in Africa: Past, Present, Legacies” at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi. This three-day’s conference brought together more than 60 scholars, all over the world and represented an important moment on Slavery studies in Africa.

This event broached topics that were previously considered taboo subjects and encouraged to bridge gaps, to stimulate dialogue and to break new grounds in research. Its success was owed to a European-African collaboration of different scholars and institutions from France, UK, Senegal, Kenya, Cameroon.

In addition to SLAFCO, we benefit today from our collective track record that represents a solid foundation on which we are now building on:

- For about ten years, IRD, via URMIS built strong partnerships with Kenyan (MUSK and CUEA) and Ethiopian (AAU) institutions, and initiated research programs on slavery studies.

- URMIS was already a partner of the CNRS via the Associated International Laboratory CIRESC (International Centre for Research on Slaveries), that headed the EU programme EURESCL (2007-2012), that studied the legacies of slavery in the construction of European identities.

- The CNRS (CIRESC) has been collaborating closely through research and training programmes for many years with UCAD (CARTE - African Centre for Research on Slave Trade and Slavery in Dakar, Senegal, founded by Prof. Ibrahima Thioub). The Department of African Studies and Anthropology at UoB (Dr Benedetta Rossi) had also a strong working alliance with the UCAD (CARTE).

- The University Yaoundé 1 (LETS) in Cameroun had already established partnerships with UCAD (CARTE) as well as the University of Nantes (UNant, Centre de Recherche en Histoire Internationale et Atlantique - CRHIA) through different programs related to Slavery Heritage.

- In February 2015, the University of Mauritius (UoM) organized a conference on the occasion of the commemoration of the 180th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Mauritius to which members of the project from France (CNRS, IRD) and Kenya (NMK) contributed.

- In Fall 2015, the IRD organized a workshop that added to its network other scholars and institutions working in different parts of Africa and Europe, including the Hiob Ludolf Centre for Ethiopian Studies (HLCES, UHAM), which is tightly related to AAU and also involved in scientific activities and programs concerning the history and the memory of slavery in Ethiopia
The October 2015' workshop had for main objective to reinforce this emerging scientific network of research on Slave Trade and Slaveries in order to look for opportunities of funding at an international level.

The elaboration of the SLAFNET proposal allowed us to link with Bath Spa University in the UK to build programmes on the legacies of the British Empire that will enhance collaborations with the French institutions (UNant, CNRS) as well as with African partners (LETS, CUEA, UoM).

Lastly, thanks to the involvement of the FLUL, UNant, UCAD and UoM, we intend to reinforce the participation of lusophone regions in the project, in both the Atlantic and the Western Indian Ocean.

The overall objective of the project is to establish a scientific network of several institutions and research groups from Europe and Africa on the field of slavery studies.

It aims at focusing mutual efforts of 13 research groups with extended and complementary competences in their respective research fields and at gathering multidisciplinary expertise in slavery-related issues by encouraging the exchange of young and senior researchers from both continents.

One of the main goals of this project is to bridge disciplinary and regional area studies or initiatives, to encourage dialogue and to engage in collaborative research.

It involves African and European researchers from various disciplines from different parts of the world with complementary skills.

It will enrich the analysis of the underlying local situations and address the impact of slavery and slave trade on population histories in Europe and Africa.

The SLAFNET network will be aimed at:

- Strengthening existing partnership and creating new opportunities between collaborating institutions
- Creating common methodological frameworks between the different researchers involved in the network
- Supporting the building and/or the reinforcement of research teams on slavery in Africa and Europe
- Providing academic knowledge on the legacies of slavery and its intricacies with heritage, identity, memory and land claims in different regions affected by slavery
- Contributing to the identification of heritage sites related to the legacy of slavery.
- Conserving slavery heritage and translate it into a tool for the economical empowerment of communities
- The encouragement of exchanges and synergy between researchers, by supporting their mobility and establishing a sustainable network and reach out various communities within and outside academia.
This project is composed of three components (training, research, diffusion) and in doing so we hope to address the main objectives of the RISE programme such as:

- The promotion and support scientific and technological cooperation between African and European researchers working in research institutions and universities
- The development of new collaborative linkages that will result in innovative ideas
- The building of the capacities of junior researchers

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The RISE program is based on the mobilities of the members involved it the SLAFNET project and has specific rules.

François Tremege presented the all administrative and financial aspects of the RISE projects.

→ RISE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

As a reminder, the RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges; sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market. RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries). Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of a joint research and innovation project. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

Project Implementation Summary:

- Project implemented through the secondment of staff

- Eligible staffs members: 3 conditions
  - Linked/actively engaged within the sending institution at 6 months and considered staff under national laws
  - Being an ESR/ER/TECH/ADM/MNAG
  - Full time equivalent

- Eligible secondments: North/South and South/North

- Cost categories:
  - Top-up allowance (2000€): subsistence cost
  - Research, training and networking costs (1800€): travel expenses (travel tickets + visa costs) and the collective activities of the network.
  - Management and indirect costs (700€)

- Eligibility of the top-up allowance:
  - Eligible staff members
  - Type of secondments
- Duration of secondments
- Content of secondments

- SLAFNET financial disposition:
  - Used of the unit cost
  - Contribution to the hosting costs bear by the project partner organizations
  - Contribution to the management and networking activities

- Keeping records: only for the use of the top allowance

- How to organize a secondment. Secondment declaration and secondment attestation;

For further details, please consult the power point presentation attached to this report.

**Sessions 2 & 3**
**Workpackages: Update and Description**

These brief reports are aimed at providing clear deadlines and information regarding the tasks and the task leaders activities. During the kick off meeting in Nice in July 2017, leaders of the different workpackages had individual talks for each participant involved. They agreed to the following schedules and activities.

Scientific activities are dynamic processes that will be favoured by collective activities or/and by academics’ engagement during various secondments.

**WP1 - UNDERSTANDING CITIZENSHIP, MARGINALIZATION AND INJUSTICES IN POST-SLAVERY SOCIETIES IN EUROPE AND AFRICA**

**Moderation: Olivette Otele (Bath Spa - WP1 Leader)**

**Main objectives of the WP1:**
- Conduct a comparative analysis of the social, political and economic experiences of slave descendants in post-slavery societies – inclusion, exclusion and its effect on national cohesion.
- Study the issue of reparations claimed for Atlantic slave trade and slavery, which has become an international political debate. Consider the role of African intellectuals and political leaders.
- Craft a conversation between various countries and cultural areas that are facing similar issues with regards to slave descendants and their claim to citizenship and rights, but in very different contexts - Dialogue between East Africa, the Western Indian Ocean islands and the Atlantic World.

**Task 1.1 Inclusion: The Political Mobilisation of Slave Descendants (leader: CUEA)**

**1.1.1 - Summer school/ Conference in Mauritius (April 2018).**
There will be series of activities co-organised By V. Teelock (University of Mauritius) and B. Rossi (University of Birmingham). The summer school will also include an international conference entitled
“Between Slavery and Post-slavery: Citizenship, Dependence, and Abolitionism in Contemporary African societies”. 20 participants and members of Slafnet will attend the Summer School and will get involved in these activities.

1.1.3 - Summer School in Kenya (July 2019).
These include training sessions organized by S. Nyanchoga (CUEA) and MP. Ballarin (IRD).
The Summer School will involve activities with postgraduate students and members of Slafnet. This very practical training is aimed at providing all participants with resources to further their training in specific archival material as well as in writing/presentations skills.
Hosts and participants will also engage in the work done by CUEA and more specifically examine the ways in which the collaboration between CUEA, civil society and activists fosters a propitious terrain for an on-going dialogue. Resistance to some narratives will also be presented and possibly analysed.

Task 1.2 African Intellectuals and Politics facing Slavery (leader: CNRS)

1.2.1 - Contribution and participation in CIRESC’s seminar (November-June 2018).
This is an on-going activity that will be tailored to take into account the needs of African participants. An opportunity will be provided to engage with guest speakers invited by the CIRESC. This is also a dynamic series of activities that will combine, academic discussions through seminars with research methods regarding the engagement of African intellectuals and other source material about post-slavery societies. Researchers from Kenya, Ethiopia and Mauritius will attend these seminars.

1.2.3 - Workshop on Africa and Reparations (March 2019).
This workshop will take place in the final conference for the funded research REPAIRS (beneficiary: CNRS / M. Cottias). It will provide a space for African researchers working on the question of reparations to present their work and to engage with national and international researchers working on the question of reparations and their links with salient issues such as social justice, citizenship, etc., and their impact on social cohesion.

Task 1.3. The Legacies of the British Empire and Reparations (leader: Bath Spa)

1.3.2 Archival training in Bath (January-March 2018 and 2019)
African scholars will be provided with in-depths training about archival material on the British Empire in Bristol, London and Oxford. Bristol holds thousands of audio and video material as well as letters and diaries about British settlers and their interaction with the local populations. These under-used sources could be of value for researchers in secondments in Bath. Oxford also holds material about Empire (the Ashmolean, the Bodleian etc.). The National archives (Kew) and the British Library will also be of great use for seconded researchers. Training will involved practical access to these sources with the support of various archivists.

- Course “Slavery and Emancipation in 20th Century Africa” – B. Rossi (03-23 March 2018 and 2019)
This is an extensive course that will provide participants with the opportunity to engage in an in-depth analysis of the history of emancipation of slavery as well as to focus on specific case studies. This course will foster engagement with various scholars’ sources material. It will also delve into the methodological approach that is crucial to comprehend the complexity of these particular histories. This course is organised around seminars and participants are provided with reading material well in advance.
DELIVERABLES

D.1.1.1 2 Proceedings of the Summer School (UoM / UoB).

D.1.1.2 Curriculum for the research centre on slavery studies (CUEA / IRD)

D.1.2 First European-African Conference on Slavery Studies (University of Nice/IRD)

D.1.3 Exhibition on Citizenship and Slavery in Africa 2018-2020 (NMK/AAU/IRD)

D. 1.4. Proceedings of the Workshop Africa and Reparations (CNRS)

WP2 FORGETTING AND REMEMBERING SLAVERY IN EUROPE AND AFRICA
MODERATION: ANTONIO DE ALMEIDA MENDES (UNANT - WP2 LEADER)

Main objectives of the WP2 :

• Interrogate the dynamics of the silence on slavery in different countries and analyse the memory of slavery among particular groups and communities in Europe (Portugal, France) and in Africa (Ethiopia, Senegambia, Portugal, Senegal)

• Collect and use primary sources (archives, prints, interviews) in order to analyse the social and political stakes of forgetting and remembering slavery in both continents.

• Examine the work of memory and its complex interactions in a lusophone context both on the European and African sides where forced and coerced labour shaped social relations. However, unlike in France or Britain, in Portugal the issue of slavery is generally absent from the history of the nation-building, even though it was one of the earliest actors of transatlantic slave trade.

• Examine the role played by Ethiopian and African American intellectuals and politicians in “silencing” slavery in Ethiopia for ideological reasons will be thoroughly analysed. On the other hand, the collection and analysis of the many slave voices that have no public visibility will offer ground-breaking insights into the social fabric of contemporary Ethiopia.

Task 2.1. Social Memories of Slavery in Ethiopia
Task leader: IRD, France

2.1.1 – Mapping the slave routes in Ethiopia: memories, trajectories and political significance of slavery in Ethiopia. Research in Archival centres in the UK and in Germany, field trips in Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and Gamo regions, and in Addis Ababa. Giulia Bonacci and Alexander Meckelburg

2.1.2 –Summer School on Teaching Slavery in East African societies: preparation of conference communications with posters and oral presentations (France, UK, Germany; Kenya, Ethiopia), AAU - M 23 (April 2019)
Task 2.2. Social Memories of Forced Labour in the longue durée in the lusophone world
Task leader: FLUL, Portugal

2.2.1 - Collection of data – Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Mozambique

2.2.2 - Two training sessions, with the aim to present the corpus of Portuguese sources and to access various Archival centres, FLUL – M8 and M20
Visits of the archive centres which conserved primary documentation for the history of Africa and for the history of slavery will be organized by the researchers from the University of Lisbon integrated on the project SLAFNET. Historiographic workshops will be organized during the stay of the African researchers in Lisbon

Task 2.3 - Social Representations and Collective Memory in three Senegambian societies: wolof, pulaar, maure
Task leader: UCAD, Senegal

2.3.1 - Collection of data: archives and oral history in European archives centres (Portugal and France)
Collect and use primary sources (archives, prints, interviews) in order to analyse the social and political stakes of forgetting and remembering slavery in both continents

2.3.2 – Workshop on Circulations between Europe and Senegambia – UCAD – 16-19 juillet 2018
The conference will examine the work of memory of Slavery in Senagambia or in Mediterranean societies. Slavery is absent from the history of the nation-building of Portugal or Senegal, even though this countries were one of the earliest actors of transatlantic slave trade. We would like to understand the apparent inexistence of claims of slave descendant's communities and to engage the dialogue with African contexts, in particular in three Senegambian societies where stigma related to slavery remains very strong.

DELIVERABLES

D 2.1. Proceedings of the Summer School and seminars related to it

D 2.2. Production of a synopsis of a film on Social Memory of Slavery in Ethiopia

D 2.3. Synopsis of a film on Social Memories of Slavery in Senegambia and Portugal –

D 2.4. Proceedings of the Workshop Circulations between Europe and Senegambia

WP3 HERITAGE AND PUBLIC HISTORY
MEDITATION: ALIOUM IDRISOU (LETS - WP3 LEADER) / MARIE PIERRE BALLARIN (IRD)

Main objectives of the WP3:

• Trace the history and legacies of the reluctant places of memories on slave and slave trade by identifying and interrogating their various sites

• Interrogate and theorize the notion of “Reluctant sites” in terms of memorialisation and memories in the sites included in the study

• Connect various isolated testimonies and experiences on the slavery and slave trade sites together with others from Cameroon, Senegal, Kenya, Mauritius and Europe
Task 3.1. Rethinking Reluctant Places of Memory (leader: LETS)

3.1.1 - Methodological workshop on Reluctant sites (July 2019)

There will be series of activities co-organised by Alioum idrissou (LETS/Maroua) and Marie Pierre Ballarin (IRD). The methodological workshop is aimed to visit sites in different places in Cameroon such as Far North and North, Adamawa (Palaces of Lamibe), West (Chiefdoms), North West (Fon’ Palaces), South West (Bimbia), and Littoral (Wouri river) to consolidate gathered materials. This will be done in conjunction with archivists and scholars working in the field.

Task 3.2. Remembrance and Tourism (leader: UCAD)

3.2.2 – Training session in writing, presentation skills and data analysis (July 2018)

This training will be organized by UCAD in conjunction with UNantes and FLUL. It will involve activities with post-graduate students and members of Slafnet. It aims at providing all participants with resources to further their training in specific archival material as well as in writing/preparation of conference papers (posters and oral presentation), presentation of data, and construction of an article (Senegal, Cameroon, France, UK)

3.2.3. Workshop on Heritage Management and Museum Study (October 2019)

This particular workshop will be organised by the UNant in conjunction with Bath Spa, the Liverpool Museum. It will focus on a comparative analysis of tourism museums policies, heritage sites and social memory in the different countries involved (Senegal, Kenya, Mauritius, Cameroon, UK, France).

Task 3.3. Mapping out Reluctant Sites of memory in Post-slavery spaces: the Case of Bath Spa (leader: Bath Spa)

3.3.1 - Workshop “Contemporary British views on Empire through memorialization” (February 2019).

While members of the network will be hosted by Bath Spa University, this workshop aims at partners, doctoral and postdoctoral students about understanding Contemporary British views on Empire through memorialisation (ie. the use of artefacts, museum studies and urban planning in Britain). These will be done in conjunction with archivists and scholars working in the field.

3.3.2 - Audio-visual training (November 2019)

This training, organized by the CNRS (CIRESC) will involve activities with post-graduate students, seniors researchers and technicians Slafnet. This very practical training is aimed at providing all participants with resources to further their training in specific audiovisual skills for research.
DELIVERABLES

D 3.1. Map of Sites of Slavery and Slave trade in Cameroon (LETS)

D 3.2. Proceedings of the methodological workshop on Reluctant sites (LETS/IRD)

D 3.3. Research publication from the workshop Heritage Management and Museum Study (UNant/Bath Spa)

D 3.4. Synopsis for a documentary on Citizenship and Marginality: Biographies of Slave Descendants (CUEA / AAU / IRD)

WP4 DATABASES ANALYSIS

MODERATION: VIJAYA TEELock (UoM - WP4 LEADER)

Main objectives of the WP4:

- Making an inventory and assessment of existing databases and to lay down the foundations of new databases, one specialized on Ethiopia, and another specialized on the South West Indian Ocean and Mauritius with the aim of providing access to slave trade and slavery data to researchers.
- Create an online searchable inventory of materials on slavery and the slave trade in the West and South west Indian Ocean from existing inventories etc scattered in various countries
- Develop capacity building to create and maintain databases in the countries concerned: Ethiopia
- Complete the Origins Project of Mauritius – Mozambique chapter (Dependent on funding for field work in Mozambique)

Task 4.1 An Inventory and assessment of Existing Materials and databases on Slave trade in Africa and the Atlantic (leader: UNant)

Geographical area to be covered for the study of slavery and slave trade resources:
- Mauritius, Rodrigues, Reunion, Agalega, Seychelles, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania (and if possible Madagascar as a major source of slaves in 18th and 19th centuries)
- Ethiopia and adjutant areas like Sudan and Kenya, which can be especially extracted from British colonial sources of the 20th century

4.1.1 Training in software and databases management (June 2018)

The main objective of this task is to make an Inventory of materials on slave trade and slavery in the Western Indian Ocean, Eastern African as well as the Atlantic World. During the discussion, the consortium realised that Mauritius was Mauritius was more in advanced in its reflection but lacked the technical skills to advance further. More collaborative discussions are underway to agree upon a comprehensive and balanced program of work.

These include training sessions and activities already validated:
- Training in database management and provide logistical support and advice at the University of Nantes
- Training: Introduction to Greenstone (AUF) and African Data Archive
Task 4.2. Slave trade and slavery database for South West Indian Ocean (Leader : UoM)

4.2.1. To update the searchable list of ships arriving in the Mascarene Islands at Mauritius and Reunion (compiled in 2009-2011) with assistance of University of Nantes

4.2.2. To receive training in managing existing slave trade and Slave register databases and Civil status records relating to slaves with assistance of University of Nantes

UNant will host training end June 2018 and 2019 of Mauritius and Kenya Technical persons and all researchers in database management and provide logistical support and advice to Mauritius researchers and technical staff during their month in Nantes.

4.2.3 Slave ownership database

Creation of a “Tracing slave-ownership database” with assistance of UNant and Legacies of British Ownership project (University of Bath Spa to facilitate as part of WP 1)

Task 4.3 Life trajectories: from Mozambique to Mauritius – the Origins of People of African Descent in Mauritius (leader: UoM)

This task is more focused on the projects developed by Mauritius. It includes three key components.

1. To locate the geographic and cultural origins of Mauritians of Eastern African descent
2. Tracing the slave route from Mozambique to Mauritius
3. To compile genealogies of slaves and slave-owners and other Mauritians

- FLUL will provide training in archival research in Portuguese and Mozambican archives in Mauritius as Mauritian researchers are unable to attend January 2018 training.
- FLUL will also provide a research assistant to assist when archival research in Portugal takes place (July-August 2018).
- FLUL might also participate officially in Origins project.

Task 4.4: Conceptualization of a database on Ethiopian slavery (Leader: HCLES)

This task is led by HCLES. In order to model the complex relationships among heterogeneous types of primary data, the Ethiopian team of SLAFNET plan to design, develop and implement a triple-store database. The team has applied to a French-German (ANR-DFG) research grant in March 2017 called “Slavery, Slave Trade, and the Legacies of Slavery in Ethiopia (SlaTE)” but will be receiving reply only in December.

If SlaTE is successful, a significant technical cooperation will be developed within SLAFNET and will lend the services of their IT person to the East Africa Database.

DELIVERABLES

D 4.1 - Analysis of databases related to slavery and slave trade (UNant)

D 4.2 - Report setting guidelines for a database structuring data on Mauritius: Analysis and Inventory of
D 4.3 - Workshop on *Slave origins, slave routes from Mozambique to Mauritius*, with a public ceremony to publicise completion of project (UoM)

D 4.4 - Report setting guidelines for a database structuring data on Ethiopia (HCLES / AAU / IRD)

**Session 4.1**

**Validation planning and Secondments**

**Mildation: Marie Pierre Ballarin (IRD)**

The whole session was dedicated to the validation of collective activities and secondments tables.

- **Collective activities:**

  During the whole project different collective activities will be organized by the consortium. The activities implemented will concern all African and European institutions in an effort of combining skills and giving equal opportunities to members of the project. The staff exchange and cross-mobility programmes involving senior (ER) and junior (ESR) researchers as well as technicians between the EU and Africa and the Western Indian ocean will allow us to implement activities such as:

  - Organization of Summer schools and/or training sessions open to postgraduate students, PhD students and senior researchers in the partnering institutions.
  - Contribution of scholars and scientists to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes during their mobility, both in Europe and Africa.
  - Supervision of students during research and fieldwork campaigns. Fieldwork will provide training activities in data collection procedures for students.
  - Field trips in Europe for African teams in order to enrich their bibliographical and documentary investigations and reinforce their inclusion in international scientific networks.
  - Networking activities include Workshops, Conferences, Summer schools etc. on both continents.

  For further details please consult the table attached to this report.

- **Secondments:**

  Each institution had to provide a list of secondments to prepare the SLAFNET proposal. During this session the eligible secondments were reminded. It was an opportunity to discuss about lists of participants and motilities. All partners returned to their institutions with a list of participants that must be validated and returned to the staff management in the next few days.
Session 4.2
Communication Strategy

MODERATION: MYRIAM COTTIAS (CNRS) / MYRNA MEUNIER (IRD)

During this session the consortium discussed how a good communication can be used to the successful implementation of the SLAFNET project.

It was distinguished during the open exchanges of views two types of communication:

- **External communication**

  The external communication will be focused on the diffusion of information, in order to address, disseminate and deliver messages, results, and publications concerning the project to a wide audience.

  We decided to use the tool “Hypotheses”, which is a platform for humanities and social science research blogs.

  Hypotheses hosts several thousand blogs covering all areas of the humanities and social sciences. The texts are in open access. Hypotheses publishes content in a wide range of languages. Founded in 2009, Hypotheses now hosts several thousand blogs, produced by a vast community of bloggers from countries the world over. The platform receives over a million visits each month.


  A social media presence will be useful: twitter account, facebook, LinkedIn.... that can be later linked to the hypotheses account

  We already created a logo and an email address for the project. We also plan to create for the team management a specific email signature including the logo in the next few days.

  **Logo:**

  ![SLAFNET](SLAFNET.png)

  **Email:** slafnet2020@ird.fr

- **Internal communication**

  The internal communication is the function responsible for effective communication between all members of this project. How can we efficiently work together? The consortium needs different tools to collaborate, communicate and share documents.

  We decided to try different possibilities (Collaborative platform: IRD, CNRS, Framsoft) and see which of these approaches will provide the best system for us.

  A collaborative platform developed by the IRD is to be opened (Share point – contact made with the IRD Central Informatics Service – Mrs Michaux, DDUNI).
Next steps.....

At the end of the session, it was decided a work programme:

- Workpackage Leader responsibilities:
The leader of each Workpackage has the responsibility to write a report on the discussion held during the Kick-Off Meeting - Deadline: July 15th, 2017

- Workpackage Team responsibilities:
Each WP Team has to provide a work plan to clarify the project timetable - Deadline: End of August

- Institution responsibilities:
Each person in charge of secondments has to complete and validate the list of members – Deadline: July 15th, 2017

The team management decided also to organise regular meetings with the Workpackage Leaders in accordance with the European Commission. These meetings will take place every 6 months in order to follow and evaluate the progress of the SLAFNET project.

As you can see below, we will also use milestones to mark specific points along the SLAFNET project.

Milestones List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Related Package(s)</th>
<th>Work Package(s)</th>
<th>Lead Beneficiary</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Report of the kick-off meeting</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>IRD</td>
<td>M6</td>
<td>Delivery of report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Completion of the first methodological trainings on archives centres in Lisboa and London - FLUL - Bath Spa</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td>BathSpa, UNant FLUL</td>
<td>M6</td>
<td>Reports published on website</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Organisation Summer School - UoM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>BathSpa</td>
<td>M8</td>
<td>Workshop reports, literature reviews, and Summer-Schools results published on website.</td>
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