MIG@NET, "Transnational Digital Networks, Migration and Gender"
3rd STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – DRAFT AGENDA
Athens, 18-19 January 2012

The 3rd Steering Committee meeting took place in Athens on 18-19 January 2012. The meeting was attended by members of all partner organisations. The main purpose of the meeting was the update on the progress of the research undertaken in each thematic work package and the upcoming tasks and steps of the project.

The meeting started with a presentation of the "Overall progress of the project" by the Project coordinator Dimitris Parsanoglou. After giving an overview of what has been done during the 1st Phase (March 2010-October 2010), D. Parsanoglou presented the progress achieved so far in the framework of the 2nd Phase of the project (November 2010-June 2012). Reference to the general progress of the research, to the Thematic workshops organised for each thematic WP, and to the deadlines ahead for the deliverables of each WP was made.

It was decided that all partners-coordinators of thematic WPs should deliver their first draft of their thematic Synthesis report by the end of May 2012 to the Scientific Advisor of the project, prof. Dina Vaiou. After discussions with her, it was decided that each report should not exceed, if possible, the limits of 15000 words/50 pages.

Another issue discussed among participants was the dissemination strategy of the project, particularly since research has advanced and thematic reports will be drafted in some months. Two main ways of dissemination have been discussed. Firstly, possibilities for publishing articles or even an issue in peer-reviewed journals have been set as a goal to explore. Secondly, participation in conferences where results emanating from the research conducted within the project will be pursued either collectively as project or individually as specific thematic WP teams. For this purpose, partners decided to participate through a MIG@NET panel in the "Digital Crossroads: Media, Migration and Diaspora in a Transnational Perspective" conference in Utrecht, on 28-30 June 2012. Additionally, at least one WP team, that of WP5 "Communication and Information Flows", will participate in the International Congress "E-diasporas Atlas/Transnationalism" in Paris, on 23-25 May 2012.

Upcoming meetings/events

Participants have suggested that since most of the partners will participate in the "Digital crossroads" conference, the next Steering Committee meeting could be held in Utrecht just before the conference. It was also suggested by Symfiliosi to hold a European Public Policy meeting in Cyprus during the 2nd semester of 2012, when Cyprus takes over the European Council presidency. It was decided to ask the Project officer at the EC whether there is the possibility of an additional European public policy meeting or whether we can instead of organising eight national public policy meetings to organise a common one in Cyprus.

Finally, partners have decided to hold the Final International Conference in January 2013, in particular during the week from 23 to 28 January. Some first invitations will be sent to potential keynote speakers until June 2012 and the programme of the conference will be discussed and finalised during the 4th Steering Committee meeting in the end of June 2012.

The second part of the first day was covered by three parallel working group sessions, during which WP teams discussed on the thematic field research with specific emphasis on the remaining issues before the completion of the research and the drafting of the thematic reports. Each WP team set internal deadlines and procedures for the completion of the reports before the review by the project's Scientific Advisor.

Research and digital media: the game

The second day of the meeting consisted of a plenary session where feedback from each WP working group was provided by WP coordinators, and a thorough discussion on research and digital media between partners and digital game experts.

During the discussion digital game experts have made a demonstration of parts of the game as they have developed so far, explaining how they have used research material they have received by the Greek and German partners. They have demonstrated in a very illustrative way how material, such as interviews, photographs and notes from fieldwork can be used in order to create the game environment and content. Digital game experts insisted on the necessity to receive more material from other partners as well, because the game up to now remains essentially focused geographically on the Greek and to a lesser extent on the Italian cases (material from WP4 "Border crossings"), and thematically on Borders (WP4), Sexualities (WP8) and Social Movements (WP9).

Following the suggestion of the Scientific Coordinator of the project, prof. Maria Stratigaki, a procedure of systematic exchange between researchers and digital game experts was decided. The digital game experts will provide through a platform developed in the internal pages of MIG@NET website instructions for the development of scripts based on research findings. With the help of storyboards and examples of multiple uses of research findings in playful situations, researchers will be able to provide content that is necessary for the development of the game. The main objective is to create a space of interaction between research and artistic work, avoiding documentary-type presentation of information or mere fiction based on impressionistic views on migrants' lives.

Common was the assumption that the work done so far for the game is not only interesting but impressive, while reluctance and even objections formulated by some during the 2nd Steering Committee meeting seem to be overcome.