

## Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission<sup>1</sup>

**Action number: Cost Action 21129**

**Grantee name: Anna Bączkowska**

### **Details of the STSM**

**Title: Political communication of women on immigration and immigrants e-mothers forums: “third spaces” approach to expressing opinions**

Start and end date: 08/04/2024 to 22/04/2024

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

The goal of the STSM was to have joint research on discursive qualities of political talk focusing on expressing subjective opinions on migration and migrants in female-dominated parenting forums with the aim to reveal whether the primarily non-political forum is used by forum discussants as a sheltered environment for women to freely discuss controversial topics. The assumption is that women resort to such practices, in the Internet social media called “the third space”, as they are often marginalised or criticised and depreciated in online political discussions.

During my stay at Charles University in Prague I carried out several crucial activities. Firstly, I had consultations with my Host, Dr Lenka Vochocova, who helped me detail the methodology of (1) data collection, (2) sampling method, (3) variables selection and description. Secondly, I established contact with other colleagues from the Department of Media Studies, Dr Jana Rosenfeldova (also a member of this Cost Action) and Jan Miessler. Dr Jana Rosenfeldova, along with Dr Lenka Vochocova, joined the project as a co-author. Thirdly, I gave a guest talk to students of Media Studies and Journalism from Charles University on the use of corpus and computational linguistics in analysing media discourse titled “COMPUTATIONAL TOOLS IN MEDIA DISCOURSE STUDIES”. Fourthly, I gathered data from sample forums for a pilot study to verify the rationality of the variables on which we decided with Dr Lenka Vochocova. We also agreed on the research questions and combined them with our type of data, variables and the theoretical framework of the “third space”, i.e., the sheltered environment for women to freely discuss political topics. Due to the complexity of the methodology in terms of data sampling, the process of data collection is still in progress. Finally, I communicated the decisions on the methodology of data sampling, collection and coding variables to other co-authors of the planned paper and set a timeframe for them to collect their part of the data. Both the sampling method and the variables turned out to be more complex than I had expected in the pre-grant period, and thus, the tentative methodology had to be substantially changed and detailed. Data annotation according to the established

<sup>1</sup> This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

criteria/variables, due to their complexity, proved to be a time-consuming process and hence it is still in progress.

### **Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities**

My stay at Charles University proved to be a very fruitful time, during which I learned about the methods of analysis used in media studies, which enriched the methodology of data sampling and analysis that I had used before in my papers based on some linguistic traditions. Due to the complexity of the methodological framework Dr Lenka Vochocova proposed during our consultations, not all planned goals have been achieved yet the time spent on detailing methodological issues (the many questions and doubts I had) was extremely efficient. As a result of the discussions we had, both with Dr Lenka Vochocova and partially with Dr Jana Rosenfeldova, I managed to achieve the following outcomes:

1. I drew up the "Sampling Methods Guideline" that will be applied by other co-authors from Poland while gathering data for the planned paper.
2. I prepared the "Code Book" for our analysis with 40 variables and 7 metadata criteria. The Code Book introduces codes for all variables, offers their descriptions, and provides examples to illustrate them. During my pilot study, some of the originally proposed variables were still readjusted, expanded, and redefined to meet the conditions of social media discourse features.
3. I prepared "Guidelines for Annotators" based on the pilot study I did in the second week of my visit at Charles University. The guidelines describe difficult cases that posed classificatory problems during my pilot annotation and suggest how to deal with them. This information is key for the other annotators, whom I also familiarised with the Guidelines during my stay in Prague.
4. We decided with Dr Lenka Vochocova on the Research Questions and the planned publication venue.
5. We decided on a tentative timeframe for further research and paper writing.
6. We planned our next, online meeting with Dr Lenka Vochocova and Dr Jana Rosenfeldova.

The paper is tightly connected with the Action objective of exploring ways of expressing opinions, which focuses here on (1) social media discourse (specifically – for women and parents), (2) expressing opinions by women online, (3) discursive strategies used by women when expressing opinions on political and social issues.

In future research, it is planned that once all the data are collected, a corpus based on this sample will be compiled, and a corpus-based analysis will be conducted of the data at hand to complement the manual qualitative and quantitative analysis.

The follow-up collaboration thus includes: writing the paper together with Dr L. Vochocova and Dr J. Rosenfeldova; and before that: performing statistical calculations with the help of Dr J. Rosenfeldova; providing the theoretical framework embedded in gender studies and the "third space" phenomenon by Dr L. Vochocova; possible further assistance and clarification in the course of data coding; finally, submitting the manuscript to the publisher.