

Mid-Term Scientific Report *ForSeaDiscovery* Marie Curie – ITN

Work package 1, ESR 2, Leiden University

1. Research Outputs

Leiden University's contribution to the *ForSeaDiscovery* Marie Curie-ITN project takes place within the boundaries set by the grant agreement and inscribed in work package 1. According to the grant agreement, Leiden University outputs can be summarized to:

1. Compile data on timber supply to Portuguese shipyards (16th through 18th centuries)
2. Identify sources of timber supply for main Atlantic Portuguese shipyards
3. Process of timber selection, acquisition, mechanisms of trade, trading networks and shipping (transport)

In the beginning of ESR2's contract (December 1, 2014), it was agreed that ESR 2 would be responsible for leading the research and compilation of the data for timber supply (see point 1 of grant agreement). For that, sources were located in the notarial archives of the city of Amsterdam. These sources provide an overall view of the timber trade from the Baltic into Iberia (and other parts of Europe) during the Early Modern period. To these sources ESR 2 has added the information gathered through the Leiden PI's personal data base on Iberian trade. These two samples have resulted into:

1. c. 2000 entries of ships transporting wood and shipbuilding materials from the Baltic into Iberia between 1580 and 1770s. This data has been set in an excel format and will be added to the matrix-data base of the *ForSeaDiscovery* project held in the CSIS in Madrid. These registries allow for:
 - a. identification of trading routes
 - b. listing of businessmen behind the wood trade
 - c. amounts, typologies and conditions of imported wood
 - d. price for product and shipping costs
2. 70 page long summary of commercial contracts supporting the wood trade in the Northern European seaboard towards Iberia, whereby the following can be inferred:
 - a. credit networks supporting timber imports
 - b. distinction between free-traded wood and contracted wood
 - c. merchant networks behind timber trade
 - d. portfolio management of merchants behind de timber trade (general business organization of the enterprise)
3. In the next phase of the project this data should be added and complemented by the data provided by the University of Groningen and in so doing define the business concern behind timber trade in the Northern European seaboard towards Iberia

2. ESR2 Training

ESR 2 has followed the trajectory of her cohort within the context of the *ForSeaDiscovery* training activities. She has:

1. Workshops
 - a. Actively participated in the Workshop that took place in Madrid in January 2015
 - b. Actively participated in the Workshop that took place in Groningen in May 2015
 - c. She was absent of the Workshop that took place in Madrid in October 2015 (see attached letter for further details)
2. Secondments
 - a. Actively took part of a 4 week secondment at the University of Groningen between April and May of 2015 (as can be attested by the PI at University of Groningen)
3. Leiden University Training
 - a. Training in Economic and Social History Graduate School, N W Posthumus (first year completed, second year incomplete – see attached letter for further details)
 - b. Academic English Course (completed)
 - c. Active participation in international conferences:
 - i. AHA, New York, January 2015 (joint action with PI)
 - ii. FEEGI in Europe Conference, Leiden, June 2015
 - iii. European Association of African Studies, Paris, July 2015
 - iv. CHAM Conference, Lisbon, July 2015