

## Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Reflections

### 'Celebrating collaboration' - COST Action 15221 – We ReLaTe

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<b>Host institution and country</b>	Piaget Institute, at Vila Nova de Gaia (Porto), Portugal
<b>Dates of visit</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup>	March 2019

**STSM Title** Towards Frontier Taxonomies – Identifying Patterns and Articulating Insights across COST Action 15221 Data Sets

**My STSM** involved looking qualitative data associated with the Action, and in some instances comprehensively analysed, in order to identify discordant patterns and themes with a view to providing a nuanced and coherent discussion of the data and to move towards generating insights which will contribute to the next phase of the Action. It was hoped that the mechanisms for a functional centralised supports model might emerge, based on an analysis of the functional and dysfunctional supports that comprised the disconnected and/or fragmentary mechanisms described in the data.

**The most significant thing that I learned from my STSM** was that, in spite of the huge diversity across our higher education institutions, not least in terms of resources and supports, there is great potential to learn from what others are or are not doing to synergise supports from teaching, learning, research, and writing in higher education.

**I very much enjoyed** the opportunity to conduct “hands-on” research with qualitative data sets. Having recently completed a PhD in English Literature, I was really enthused by the extent to which the skills required for analysing modernist literature, where techniques like stream of consciousness and fragmented narration are commonplace, could prove useful in this type of research. To have been able to figure this out in beautiful Porto was also a major plus!

**My advice to colleagues considering an STSM:** these opportunities are definitely worth pursuing, especially if you are an Early Career Investigator, and don't be put off if your previous research experiences don't seem a natural fit for the project that interests you – that alternative perspective might just be the most valuable thing you have to offer.

**And finally,** thank you to my host institution for making me feel so welcome in Porto and to the COST Action 15221 – We ReLaTe Management Team for making this professional adventure possible.