



## **Introduction Speech “Improving Discovery and Collaboration in Open Science”**

### **GoTriple Vision**

Thank you to the Max Weber Stiftung for welcoming us in Bonn and in such a nice place! Thank you in particular to director Harald Rosenbach and his team for all the organisation and the warm welcome.

TRIPLE project started almost a year before being approved by the EC. In January 2018, - if I'm not mistaken - most of the consortium partners started to work on an idea... the building of a multilingual discovery platform for SSH resources. We have built more than a platform, not only because we have a great number of key exploitable results, and amongst them the platform, but also because of what has been built between us. We are a consortium of 21 partners, with about 90 people involved from 13 countries. All together, we have developed a better knowledge of ourselves, of our differences (cultural, technical, personal), we have developed a strong sense of responsibility between us, to be able to bring support to each other whenever it was needed. We try to work for the common goods and I can not express enough how grateful I feel for that. Everything we did in the TRIPLE project reflect the values shared by the consortium and a certain vision of the world.

However, between the idea and its result today, the world changed and we are no longer in the same context.

The world is changing and evolving very fast. Digital technologies are increasing human potential at a speed that is almost impossible to measure. And here we are, embarking on a journey for better or for worse. But it is also a time of change, of possibilities, where everything is to be done and built.

And we have a responsibility here, as Europeans, as members of the scholarly community, as men and women, as parents, as citizens. Our responsibility is not to let the worst happen. It is also to build the future, to prepare a better future for our children, our families, our planet.

And for this, we need the humanities and social sciences; because they provide a unique capacity to provide a better understanding of the needs and challenges of our fellow humans, in particular in this moment of history, under the threat of mutual fear, epidemics, wars, climate change, economic disorder and of increasingly frequent ill-being.

We know all this. Most of us share it, but it is difficult to play a role - apart from one of complacency or impotence - in what is taking place. However, this is where Europe, on the one hand, but also research in the humanities and social sciences, can play a decisive role.

Europe first, because it federates, as says its motto : “United in diversity”. Because, although imperfect, it brings people together, it organises, it facilitates. Because it defends a number of



values that few powers today are prepared to defend in this way. Of course, not everything is perfect, and everyone can differ in their evaluation of European policies implemented. Nevertheless, there is a very solid, very powerful basic foundation which is based on essential, founding values: Human Dignity, Freedom, Equality, Human Rights... And even its aims (promote peace, promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, and protection of the rights of the child...for instance). Those are our values that deserve to be defended.

Then the humanities and social sciences. These disciplines play a crucial role in shaping society's understanding of human behavior, culture, history, and ethics. They provide a means for critical analysis and interpretation of social and cultural issues, and have the potential to inform policies and decision-making by their findings. They also provide a forum for exploring and understanding diverse perspectives, which helps to foster tolerance and empathy, and contributes to a better-informed and more just society.

I am deeply attached to this expression. It's great to work in a field called 'humanities'. It is extraordinary to think that we are going to try to advance research on humans, on ourselves, on society. It is the one that has built our values. It is the one that values the debate of ideas, the discussion across divergent points of view, the interpretation. It is the one that reflects contradictions and seeks to understand them. It is the one that studies the evolution of our humanity by better identifying our needs, our resistances, our fears, our resilience. It is the one that considers the ways of life, the ways of being, the thoughts, the dreams, the ideals, the engines that propel us. Of course, other sciences can contribute to this, It is not a question of being exclusive.

But it is a fact: All these words that affect us, all these serious terms (values, ideas, knowledge, culture, history, community, society etc.) are core concepts for our disciplines because they bring reflexivity to the pillars of our societies. That's why I am a fervent lover of the humanities.

And it seems to me that the humanities also have this capacity to complement other scientific discoveries, to enable us to understand them better or to see what is at stake, because each time, they are necessary to put the human aspect back into the current thinking.

Working in research, and even more so in the humanities and social sciences, means being committed. That is our *raison d'être*. We are committed to values. And that is what we are doing, what we have done with the TRIPLE project, and more broadly in the OPERAS infrastructure that I have the immense pleasure of co-coordinating.

In the context that I briefly and caricaturally outlined at the beginning of my speech, I did not mention this very trendy policy of ours, which is Open Science. This is a surprising expression when you think about it. For has science ever really been closed? I don't think so. So what does it signal? Well, it's the assertion of positive and committed values. It's not really new, but it's a public display, loud and clear, of what's at stake and the role of research. It signals the desire to further reduce borders, to facilitate knowledge exchange, to work better, as scholars, with and for our societies.



And of course, this comes at a time of incredible and phenomenal openness made possible by the new technologies but - surprisingly - also at a time of withdrawal, for several reasons which can be fear of the Other, worries about climate change, war, diseases...

Not to be closed to the world.

This is why technologies allow openness but they are not enough. We need more than that: values.

Open Science is about promoting, valuing, taking care of diversity? But this also creates challenges that we all experience and for which we need to be equipped. Because some people think that this openness will reduce their space, that it will not change their way of life (too much), that it will disrupt their daily lives too much.

Open Science also has its drawbacks. Supported by major political powers or wealthy institutions, it can also turn into a new kind of instrument for imperialism, more discreet, less visible, to standardise practices and lifestyles.

The balance is fragile and unstable. The line is thin and it is up to us, as scholars, to maintain the balance, even to tip the scales so that diversity is made visible without leading to a reductionist harmonisation for the benefit of the most powerful.

This is, I believe, what we have set in motion with GoTriple.

Let's imagine together what would be a better future with GoTriple:

Tomorrow, researchers in Europe - and even elsewhere - will have access to a powerful service to develop collaborations and identify outputs and data that they would have overlooked without it: a single access point.

Tomorrow, these same researchers will be able to be identified as experts by journalists and civil society actors in order to answer questions with high societal stakes and to counter easy and unconstructed speeches or opinions propagated everywhere, not without consequences...

Tomorrow, there will be a tool that will regularly disseminate the topics on which researchers are most involved (trends... by country, by language, by discipline to indicate the main issues identified according to certain filters).

Tomorrow, a company that wants to work on equality issues at work will be able to make a request to this tool to obtain a report of the latest research on the subject.

Tomorrow, a public administration that is facing difficulties in managing the consequences of climate change for the populations will be able to draw on the work of social sciences researchers to reach conclusions and recommendations.

In the future, the risks of isolation of elderly people can be better anticipated and managed by families and nursing homes.



Tomorrow, the differences - but also the similarities - between linguistic and cultural communities will be better perceived so that our global world does not turn into a so-called clash of civilisations.

Tomorrow, a global tool - because it has been thought of as an instrument for promoting diversity - will allow us to think locally, or should I say: “glocally”

Tomorrow, there will be a service that will support mutual understanding between cultures, facilitate communication, promote cognitive development, enable access to diverse sources of information and cultural expression and support linguistic diversity. These are some of the main added values of multilingualism.

Tomorrow, research in the humanities and social sciences will have a more rapid impact on political and strategic decisions at least at the local level... to work for the well-being of everyone.

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Tomorrow, there will be a European discovery platform for social sciences and humanities that will dramatically improve resource discovery for research libraries, especially by targeting their own disciplines or audience - depending on their specialisation and help them support the reuse and repurposing of research data, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and reducing duplication of effort but also promote best practices for data management and preservation, ensuring that valuable research data remains accessible for future generations. Research libraries will be able to use a discovery platform to offer new services such as data visualization, analysis, and interpretation, to support the research community and engage with wider audiences...

Tomorrow, citizens and societies will be able to discover social sciences and humanities resources through a European discovery platform that will contribute to strengthening societal values as it will

1. promote critical thinking: access to a diverse range of resources and perspectives can encourage individuals to critically examine their beliefs and values, promoting greater understanding and tolerance.
2. Foster cultural understanding: the platform can provide access to cultural expressions and heritage, promoting understanding of diverse cultures and helping to preserve cultural diversity.
3. Support informed decision-making: access to reliable and evidence-based data and research can inform policymaking and decision-making, promoting more just and equitable outcomes.
4. Encourage active citizenship: the platform can empower individuals by providing them with access to information and resources, enabling them to engage with and shape their communities and society.

And the examples are still numerous... All this is the future of GoTriple, the future GoTriple!

This is why we need a discovery platform! And not a finding platform. A finding platform is focused on helping users locate specific data or resources they already know the existence of. It is typically used to search and access specific datasets, collections, or repositories, and



provides tools for searching, filtering, and retrieving data; while a discovery platform is designed to help users find, access, and discover research data and resources. It provides a platform where users can explore a wide range of resources, including datasets, publications, and other relevant materials. A discovery platform is an access point to both serendipity and cultural diversity.

And before tomorrow, there is today. Today, there is a humanities and social sciences resource discovery service that has already collected millions of data (not only in Europe) and is working to make them visible even in rare languages. 11 languages are supported in each of the 27 humanities and social sciences disciplines. Today - yesterday - we made the choice of multilingualism -which is a difficult one - with strong focus on smaller European languages. Part of the values we share is diversity and this is why multilingualism is an asset in GoTriple. Multilingual individuals and societies are better equipped to navigate a complex and interconnected world. Additionally, multilingualism supports inclusive education and helps bridge social and economic gaps. Multilingualism is an added value for a European discovery platform for social sciences and humanities data because it:

1. **Increases accessibility:** a multilingual platform makes data and resources accessible to a wider audience, including researchers and citizens who may not be fluent in English.
2. **Supports cultural diversity:** a multilingual platform acknowledges and respects the cultural diversity of Europe, reflecting the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the continent.
3. **Promotes inclusiveness:** a multilingual platform can help to break down language barriers, fostering greater collaboration and inclusiveness within the research community.
4. **Improves searchability:** a multilingual platform can improve the discoverability of data and resources by enabling users to search in their preferred language.

Today there is a European Humanities and Social Sciences Resource Discovery Service which provide several benefits, including:

1. **Improved access to research data:** a central platform can help researchers, policymakers, and the public access and reuse data, leading to greater collaboration and impact.
2. **Better data management and preservation:** the platform can promote best practices for data management and preservation, ensuring that valuable research data remains accessible for future generations.
3. **Increased visibility and impact:** a platform can raise the profile of social sciences and humanities research, increasing the visibility and impact of knowledge produced in these disciplines.
4. **Support for interdisciplinary research:** a platform can facilitate cross-disciplinary research, encouraging researchers to explore new avenues and expand the scope of their work.



5. Increased efficiency: a central platform can streamline the process of discovering and accessing data, saving time and resources for researchers and stakeholders.

This is what we are doing. It is happening. It's all ready to go. And if, all together we look a little bit over the horizon, we'll see the potential of GoTriple. Today is the final conference of a project but it is also the birth certificate of GoTriple, an innovative platform to address the societal challenges of our world, to engage with the scholarly community and to facilitate knowledge exchange in a global and changing world.

So for me it is a special moment, full of emotions but above all, full of expectations. We already have promising results. The future that we envisioned together is underway and we must now make it happen.

Thank you for listening.

Suzanne Dumouchel, scientific coordinator of the TRIPLE project