

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: E-COST-GRANT-CA22145-f1a38740

Grantee name: Alex de Voogt

Details of the STSM

Title: Analyzing Mourra

Start and end date: 27/06/2024 to 03/07/2024

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Description of the activities carried out during the STSM. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

At Brest University, I worked with Lisa Rougetet in her office and developed a publication on the game of Mourra by comparing its strategic properties with that of rock-paper-scissors and n!à. We reached out to a contact at a leading popular science journal in France who encouraged us to use this outlet. The article is mostly finished but still needs illustrations and further editing before submission.

During our work we explored several other possibilities for research and publications. We reached out to an editor and were invited to translate a short French sixteenth century text about games, which is scheduled to be published this July. Another text in German, also related to the history of games and mathematics, is scheduled for December. In addition, we explored possible articles on the game of Sorry! of which the hybrid properties are of particular interest. In sum, the collaboration was much more productive than just the initial idea of analyzing Mourra and several possibilities are now available for the future.

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

¹ 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.

Description and assessment of whether the STSM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the STSM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

We finalized a first draft of an article on Mourra in comparison with similar games. This was our first and main objective as it has an ethnomathematical approach, merging our expertise on math history and ethnography.

We submitted and are waiting for the publication of a translation for the journal ROMChip entitled "Translation of Étienne de Flacourt's Fifangha rules (1661)". COST Action is acknowledged in the publication.

We intend to follow-up our collaboration not only to finalize the above projects but also to publish a translation from German of Emanuel Lasker's text from 1930 on Nim-games again for the journal ROMChip, as well as produce an analysis of the game of Sorry! as a hybrid card and board game.