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<http://p3.snf.ch/project-190161>

**Virtual Research Environments and Ancient Manuscripts, 10-11 September 2020, Dorigny Campus (CH). Org. Claire Clivaz (SIB, Lausanne) and Garrick Allen (Dublin University), Selected slam session and posters:**

**Kaspar Gubler (Universität de Berne): The VRE of the SNSF SPARK Project "dynamic data Ingestion for server-side Data Harmonization" as a tool for Ancient Manuscripts.**

The aim of the SNSF project SPARK by the medievalist Dr. Kaspar Gubler is to dynamically import data from any data source via an interface (API) into an VRE (virtual research environment nodegoat) and to centrally sort and harmonise these data within the VRE according to a common ontology to provide users with a comparable view of the data, such as research data but also scientific studies. The data sources in the SPARK project originate from three selected research projects in the field of digital, contextualized prosopography within Europe (1200-1800). The advantage for these projects is that they do not have to adapt their database structures to the common ontology, as the data harmonisation is only implemented on the VRE server (pull principle). The harmonisation will result in a new meta-database that can enable previously unknown insights or generate new questions. To keep the data import on the VRE server simple for the user, the so-called DDI module (dynamic data ingestion) will be developed for the VRE nodegoat by LAB1100, a spin-off of the university of Amsterdam. Using the example of the three prosopographic databases of projects in Bern, Bologna and Paris, the data harmonisation will then be carried out as a case study. Thanks to the harmonisation in the new meta-database, about 200'000 learned persons with their study and career data can be evaluated and visualised (on maps, in networks or in time series). This meta-database can thus provide insights, for example, into patterns of migration in Europe in the Middle Ages and thus offer research access from a macro perspective. At the same time, the individual data sets of the meta-database can be enriched with further information, for example with written works (full text) of the persons, which can be linked with other data types, for example with the authors themselves, but also with other texts or places. In addition, the VRE also allows to bring objects (texts) with no or vague dating into a logical order, for example in a text collection (relational dating).

The DDI module and VRE are not a rigid 'boutique solution' limited to specific data, but an open system for any type of data, such as persons, objects (texts), institutions, places or even spaces. The presentation of the SPARK project at the conference will therefore show how the newly developed technology could be used to collect, store and analyse (visualise) ancient manuscripts using macro and micro perspectives.

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