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ReIReS
Research Infrastructure
on Religious Studies

Press Release

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ReIReS Officially Launched in Bologna

The Horizon 2020 funded project "Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies" (ReIReS, GA 730895) held its kick-off meeting in Bologna, March 7-8, 2018. Participants from 12 European institutions from 7 countries met to discuss the project's organisation, to learn how they can best collaborate using each other's competences, as well as to gain insight into the further development of the project.

ReIReS is a starting community whose aim is to create a unique and groundbreaking research infrastructure on religious studies within the European Research Area.

In the vision of the 12 institutions, religion plays a key role in nowadays European society. Shared knowledge and academic reflection can stimulate a peaceful coexistence and avoid religious illiteracy. Therefore, proper research instruments are of high importance. ReIReS will offer transnational and virtual access to the most significant tools and sources in the field of religious studies. This offer is unique, because it combines data of major European research institutions, thus offering knowledge that is of high importance not only for scholars, but also for decisionmakers from society and policy. Young scholars will be trained in how to use these tools for their research. Besides, the project will work on impact on the European society as a whole, because it also aims at advancing knowledge and innovation in the understanding of multi-religious societies.

The consortium consists of the following institutions:

1. Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII, Italy.
2. Sofiiski Universitet Sveti Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria.
3. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.
4. Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche, Italy.
5. Universität Hamburg, Germany.
6. Uniwersytet Warszawski, Poland.
7. Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany.
8. École Pratique des Hautes Études, France.
9. Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte, Germany
10. Brepols Publishers NV, Belgium.
11. Stichting Refo500, Netherlands.
12. Theological University of Apeldoorn, Netherlands.

ReIReS started in February 2018 and will continue for three years. It will receive funding from Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under grant agreement No 730895.



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At the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Professor of medieval and modern church history Dr. Claus Arnold (department of Catholic Theology) initiated the project. The library of the theology department of the university including the Jewish Library, which contains the remains of the former Jewish congregations of Mainz, the Hymnbook Archive of JGU, the Wissenschaftliche Stadtbibliothek and the Martinus-Bibliothek are part of the research infrastructure of the project. With this project organised by local project coordinator Alexandra Nusser M.A. and Prof. Arnold the historic book treasures of city, church and university are brought together in order to gain more international visibility and to make them accessible for scholars from all over Europe.

More information about the project may be found at www.reires.eu.

Not for publication

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Subtitle picture: Representatives of the participating institutions in the courtyard of Fscire, Bologna. Left to right Roxanne Wyns (KU Leuven), Marcello Verga (CNR), Jan Driesen (Brepols), Anna-Maria Totomanova (Uni Sofia), Claus Arnold (JGU Mainz), Karla Boersma (Refo500), Paul de Jongh (Brepols), Rudy Demo (Fscire), Michal Choptiany (Uni Warsaw), Alberto Melloni (Fscire), Marco Büchler (IEG), Chiara Palladino (IEG), Guiseppe Veltri (Uni Hamburg), Libera Pisano (Uni Hamburg), Mathijs Lamberigts (KU Leuven), Alexandra Nusser (JGU Mainz).

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