



Success story of H2020 Twinning project: NOTRE

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Open Days Festival
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Cyprus University of Technology



Social Computing Research Centre



SCRC is the multidisciplinary **Social Computing Research Centre** of the Cyprus University of Technology aiming to address research and educational needs in the area of Social Computing in Cyprus.

The Centre's projects are typically cross-disciplinary embracing Social Computing in a broad sense and focusing on influencing research strategy, policy and practice. SCRC consists of a highly skilled interdisciplinary young team bringing under common umbrella faculty members from the Cyprus Interaction Lab the Microsoft Computer Games and Emerging Technologies Research Lab, the Visual Media Computing Lab and the Network Science and Systems Laboratory. SCRC fosters a rich environment of collaboration between Departments of the University, within Cyprus, Europe, Canada and Africa.



Social Computing Research Centre



Academic Team

12 Academics

3 Departments

Support personnel:

- PhD Students
- Research Associates
- Technical Personnel



Panayiotis Zaphiris
Professor - Multimedia and
Graphic Arts
Director of SCRC



Yorgos Zotos - Emeritus Professor
Communications and Internet
Studies



Andreas Lanitis
Associate Professor
Multimedia and Graphic Arts



Nicolas Tsapatsoulis
Associate Professor
Communications and Internet
Studies



Sotirios Chatzis
Assistant Professor
Electrical Engineering, Computer
Engineering and Informatics



Aggeliki Gazi
Assistant Professor
Communications and Internet
Studies



Fragiskos Papadopoulos
Assistant Professor
Electrical Engineering, Computer
Engineering and Informatics



Andri Ioannou
Assistant Professor
Multimedia and Graphic Arts



Despina Michael
Assistant Professor
Multimedia and Graphic Arts



Michael Sirivianos
Assistant Professor
Electrical Engineering, Computer
Engineering and Informatics



Vasiliki Triga
Assistant Professor
Communications and Internet
Studies

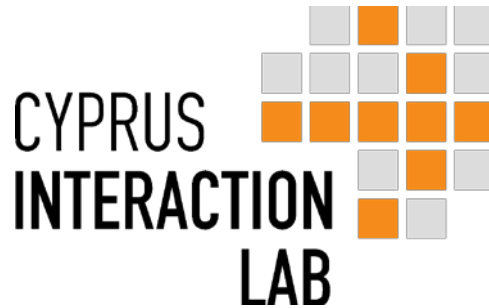


Herodotos Herodotou
Lecturer
Electrical Engineering, Computer
Engineering and Informatics

Cyprus Interaction Lab



Technology for Learning, for Play, for Social Change



The Cyprus Interaction Lab at the Cyprus University of Technology studies the interaction of people with technology in various fields. The lab aims to: understand and enhance users' experience and interaction with technology understand the significant supporting and mediating role of technology in promoting learning, communication & collaboration, and social change, in varied circumstances and contexts.

Cyprus Interaction Lab



Technology for Learning, for Play, for Social Change



Research in the Cyprus Interaction Lab revolves around three main research themes:

- 1) Embodied Play for Learning using Technology,
- 2) Affordable, Digital, Collaborative Spaces, and
- 3) Emerging Technology, Inclusive Design and Social Change

NOTRE

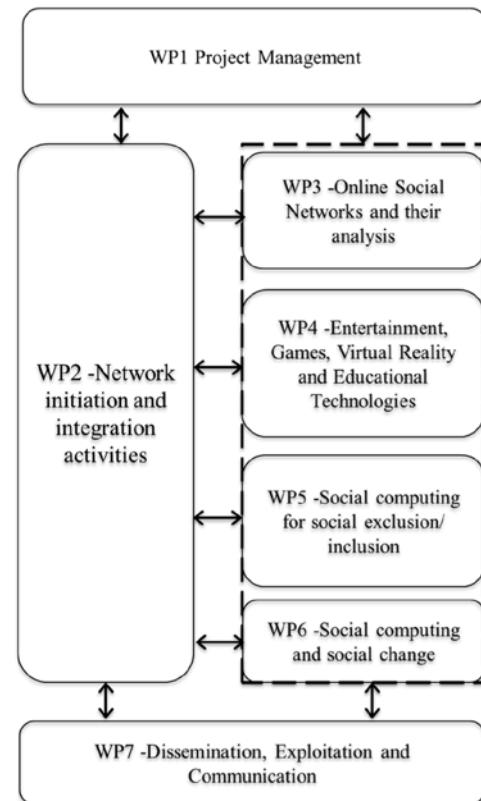
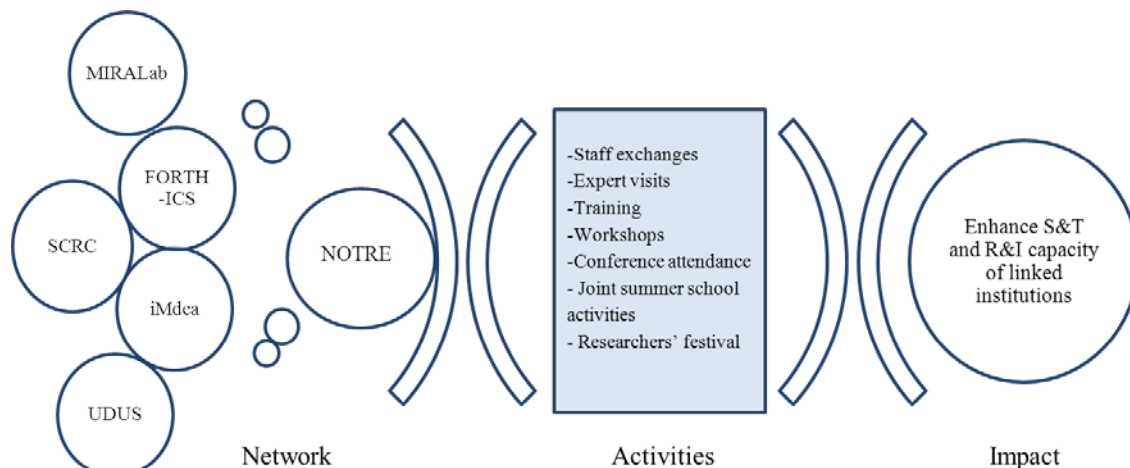


NOTRE aims to enforce excellence and strengthen the presence of the Social Computing Research Centre (SCRC) of the Cyprus University of Technology by establishing a network with external partners in Germany, Greece, Spain and Switzerland.

Objectives



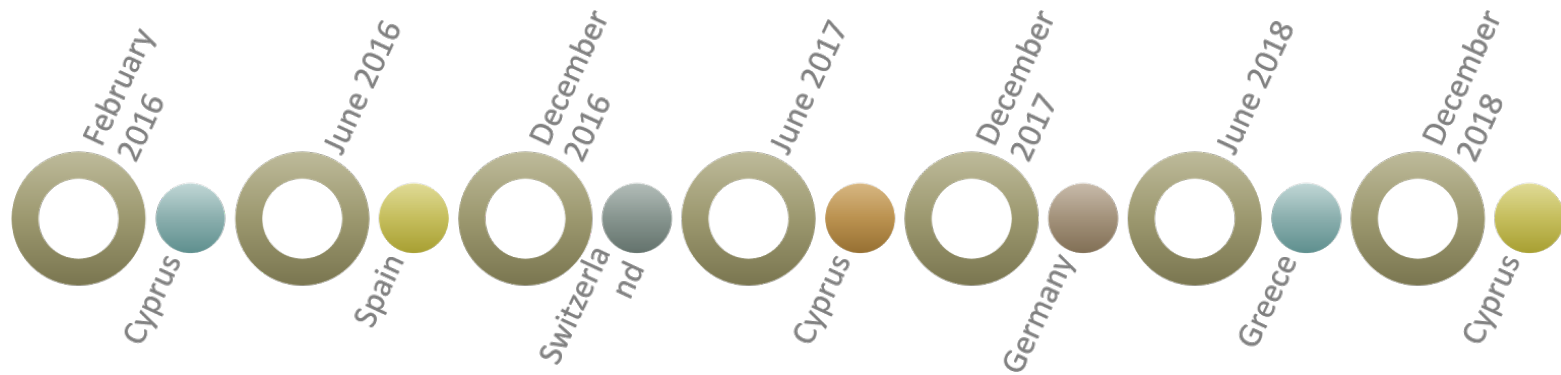
About NOTRE



Kick-Off (Cyprus, January 2016)



Timeline



Objectives



Description of NOTRE Objectives

The driving force behind this project is the development of a network that will strengthen and enhance the research and innovation potential and capacity of the Social Computing Research Centre (SCRC) - and Cyprus as a low performing member state - in the field of Social Computing.

The 3 main objectives:

Objectives



Description of NOTRE Objectives

1. To **strengthen work in the domain of Social Computing in Cyprus.**

This will be achieved through: **collaborations, networking events and training sessions** between SCRC and the four internationally-leading partners, under the proposed NOTRE Network.

The successful completion of this objective will be assessed by measuring the improvement of SCRC's, as well as its partners', research outcome against the four defined variables of the Composite Research Excellence indicator (i.e., **publications in high impact factor venues, number of citations of research personnel, number of patent applications, and number of ERC awards**).

Objectives



Description of NOTRE Objectives

2. To **strengthen the potential of the SCRC team** to produce a community of skilled researchers with a strong research capability in computing research and understanding of other domains, particularly social sciences, which are needed to deliver the benefits of Social Computing.

Within our objectives is **the acquisition of expertise so as to be successful in future H2020 calls. Through the success in H2020, the centre can establish a critical mass of researchers.**

The successful completion of this objective will be assessed by monitoring: a) the number of active SCRC researchers and; b) research outcomes that involve the cooperation of researchers from different disciplines.

Objectives



Description of NOTRE Objectives

3. To **ensure the long term sustainability of Social Computing research in Cyprus.**

This objective will be fulfilled through a systematic effort to turn SCRC into a self-sustained research group that will operate with its own resources. The fulfilment of this objective will include efforts to attract adequate external research funding (including from industrial sources), efforts to attract funding for specialized educational activities in Social Computing, and efforts to commercially exploit the centre's research results.

The successful completion of this objective will be assessed by monitoring the level of self-sustainability (e.g. through the number of funding proposals submitted/accepted) throughout the duration of the project.



Consortium progress in line with DoA for the full duration of NOTRE

COORDINATOR:

- Student Exchanges (3 week PhD level)
- Expert Visits + on-site training attendance [3+3] (from SCRC academics/researchers)
- Workshops at International Conferences
- Attendance to conferences
- Short-term staff exchanges

PARTNERS:

- Student Exchanges (3 week PhD level)
- Expert Visits (from non-widening institutions to SCRC)
- On-site training courses

Proposal Writing



Training Sessions during Project Meetings

A/A	Applicant	Project Title	Call	Date of Submission
1	Andri Ioannou	Centre for STEAM Education, Research, Science Communication and Innovation	H2020-TEAMING-2017	2017
2	FORTH-ICS /Andri Ioannou (SCRC)	A breakthrough theoretical & technological platform for learning and teaching innovation and entrepreneurship skills for young children through an everywhere learning experience	H2020-ICT	2017
3	Sotirios Chatzis	Sign Recognition	H2020-MSCA-IF-GF	2017
4	Panayiotis Zaphiris	Social Computing Research Centre of Excellence	H2020-TEAMING-2017	2017
5	Sotirios Chatzis	DeepAML	H2020-MSCA-ITN-EID	2017
6	Michalis Sivirianos	cOLlective awareness for a sustaINable web economy	H2020-ICT-11	2017
7	Herodotos Herodotou	High Performance Machine Learning over Distributed Big Data Streams	H2020-ICT-16	2017
8	Nicolas Tsapatsoulis	Collaborative Online Deliberation to Unleash Citizen Engagement	H2020-ICT-11	2017
9	FORTH-ICS /Sotiris Chatzis (SCRC)	myTechMate: Improving personal efficacy for persons with Parkinson's disease	H2020-ICT-23	2017
10	UC3M /Andri Ioannou (SCRC)	CoVRA	H2020-ICT-20	2017

Research Dissemination I



Training Courses

- “Detection, Prediction & Monitoring on Online Social Networks: Leaders, Trends and Outliers”, Madrid 2016
- “Virtual Humans”, Geneva 2017
- “Serious Game Designs and Game Models”, Cyprus 2017
- “Design of Social Technologies for Enhancing the Quality of Life of People with Disabilities and the Elderly”, Cyprus 2017
- “Computer Graphics for Social Applications for Health”, Cyprus 2017
- “Social Impact of Social Applications for Social Change – The Case of Voting Advice Applications”, Cyprus 2017

Further training courses planned for Germany, Cyprus, and Greece in 2017/2018

Research Dissemination II



Workshops and Conferences

- International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management in Mediterranean Countries (ISCRAM-MED), Madrid 2016
- Pacific Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery & Data Mining (PAKDD), Auckland 2016
- EuroMed 2016: Digital Heritage. Progress in Cultural Heritage: Documentation, Preservation, and Protection, Cyprus 2016
- 22nd International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces Companion, Sonoma 2017
- International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, Vancouver 2017

Research Dissemination II



Workshops and Conferences

- Latin American Conference on Complex Networks (LANET), Puebla 2017
- General Conference of European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Oslo 2017
- 1st International Workshop on Virtual Reality, Gamification and Cultural Heritage (VRGCH' 2016)
- IAMCR- 2017 Conference, Cartagena, Colombia
- 1st International Symposium on Intergroup Communication, Thessaloniki, Greece

Dissemination – Spain Event



Dissemination – Cyprus Event



'Social Computing Research Center' Panel Discussion:
**A day in the life of a
UX Researcher at Google**



Notre Social Computing is a project funded by the European Union under the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The project aims to develop a social computing framework that can be used to design and evaluate social computing systems. The project is led by the Social Computing Research Center at the University of Cyprus.

#notresocial
@notre_social
notre.socialcomputing.eu



Summer School Cyprus



SCRC Summer School 2017



This event is supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme through NOTRE project. NOTRE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 692058.

Outreach and Public Awareness



NOTRE website including press releases and newsletters

notre.socialcomputing.eu

Social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/notre.project

twitter.com/notre_social

Open public events: e.g. Cyprus Researchers' Night 2016

Talks on TV and radio shows (*planned for 2017/2018*)

Impact



Some Key Indicators

The increasing importance of Social Computing in Cyprus is recognised by the **Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus** which has awarded SCRC a 'legal entity' status as a **Research Centre**.

18 grants applications as applicant and partner to 14 applications for the total sum of **9,460,894.78 EUR**.





Some Key Indicators

SCRC is managing a **Marie-Skłodowska Curie RISE** research project with a total budget of 2,160,000.00 EUR of which 580,000.00 EUR are directed towards the Centre

An **H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017** where the Cyprus University of Technology and the PI of NOTRE are partner has been successful and will wield two PhD studentships

An **H2020-TEAMING** project (**RISE**) where members of SCRC are involved has received funding 40M EUR in total (EC, State Funds and other sources as match-funding).

What have we learned?



Tips and Tricks

- TWINNING does not fund research therefore it is challenging to achieve its objectives with no other sources of funding.
- Previously existing collaborations and links with proposed non-widening institutions are highly encouraged and will have a positive impact in your application.
- EC encourages synergies but be careful of double-funding.
- Do not underestimate dissemination (website, newsletter, social media)
- Project Management of TWINN takes time, you need a person for this
- Plan ahead your collaborations (joint paper writing, funding applications).

Thank you!



Questions?

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<http://notre.socialcomputing.eu>

<http://socialcomputing.eu>

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