

Ilaria Galasso

I visited HeLEX from January 14, 2017, to February 2, 2017 for my doctoral research fieldwork on the societal impact of precision medicine, as a Short Term Scientific Mission within the COST Action IS1303 "Citizen's Health through public-private Initiatives: Public health, Market and Ethical perspectives".

My visit at HeLEX was very well organised thanks to the diligent assistance of the Centre Administrator, and it resulted in a very productive experience for my project and very enriching for me and my education, even surpassing my highest initial expectations.

The HeLEX centre proved to be a uniquely stimulating framework for my researches, and the HeLEX team was exceptionally hospitable, collaborative and helpful towards me.

By staying based at HeLEX, I had the unique opportunity to discuss my research and my activities with the team, getting continuous relevant and constructive feedbacks and suggestions, as well as to learn and to keep myself updated about the works of the members of the team. More specifically, I had the opportunity to regularly participate in the weekly meetings during which HeLEX people share the progress of their works; moreover, I was also offered the chance to give an informal seminar to the team by presenting and discussing my PhD research project.. In addition to this, I had many opportunities for very constructive exchanges and feedbacks: several members of the team offered me semi-formal individual meetings in which they provided feedback by discussing my research project in depth, and of course I had many very helpful informal exchanges through every day conversations in the office.

By observing and experiencing the HeLEX research environment, and through all the exchanges with the members of the team, I had the opportunity to rethink and to improve parts of my research project in the light of the references and the suggestions collected, and to consider new directions for analysing the societal and ethical concerns related to precision medicine.

During my visit, I also did my research fieldwork very successfully: I was performing qualitative interviews to collect and compare impressions and opinions of key experts in precision medicine projects and, as a counterpart, of prominent public health practitioners. To this aim, I had to set up interviews in different locations (Oxford, London, Cambridge and Hinxton), and also in this respect the HeLEX people were extremely supportive and gave me fundamental help by providing suggestions and directions.

To conclude, I am especially satisfied with my visit at HeLEX: hosted so kindly by the team, my visit was definitely and uniquely productive and enriching both from an academic and from a personal point of view.

In addition to the significant contribution they provided to improve the quality of my research, I am especially grateful to the HeLEX people for their hospitality and for their friendship: they really made me feel supported and fully integrated in the team during my visit.