Historical Cooperation on Early Modern trade and social networks. A multidisciplinary approach

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This paper aims to do a brief presentation of the research project of the Portuguese team of the TECT/ EUROCORES project DynCoopNet. It is composed of four parts: the presentation of theoretical guidelines of our project; the documental corpora compiled in Simón Ruiz archive; a summary presentation of the instruments and methodology we agreed to follow in order to answer to a common conceptual and analytical grid: the one of TECT and DynCoopNet (software; databases architecture; …), as well as some preliminary results in terms of network visualisation and historical GIS.

A. Theoretical guidelines

From the conductor background presented at the DynCoopNet proposal to TECT, we'll try to address the theoretical framework of the project which guide the empirical work centred on Simón Ruiz, a new Christian merchant, representative of an extended trade and financial network, which company archive is kept at Valladolid. Cooperation levels, cooperation mechanisms, partner choice criteria are some of the main subjects to be analyzed.

B. Sources

Although the archive of the merchant has several documental series, the Portuguese team will focus on the bills of exchange (more than 21000) and the merchant correspondence with Portugal (more than 10 000 letters), dated from 1553 until 1597. Those sources will be submitted to a transdisciplinary approach.

C. Methodological tools

Based on systematic data gathering, visualisation and analysis of serial records, *Time Link*, the database software chosen, is a computer tool specially developed to support micro-

historical research with a strong emphasis on network analysis and prosopography. The system is been developed at the University of Coimbra.

D. From semantics to network and geotagged visualisation

Under DynCoopNet Project, the study of cooperation and trade networks in the First Global Age will be visualised in terms of historical GIS and network analysis software. Preliminary results of the research will be presented.