The cooperative network *Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies* is born from the European Research Foundation Research Networking programme of the same name. Funded during the years 2009-2014, it aimed at facilitating cross-cultural academic dialogue and active exchange in the field of Oriental manuscript studies with the focus on the Mediterranean and North African cultural areas.

The work has been organized in five thematic areas: codicology and palaeography, philology/text criticism, digital approach to manuscript studies, cataloguing, and manuscript preservation. In a series of workshops, common approaches were achieved that will serve as standard for contemporary and future orientalists and manuscript scholars. A handbook presenting the first results of the network appeared in 2015.

Following the decision of the Steering Committee and associated scholars, the Network has decided to continue its activities also after the completion of the ESF Research Networking Programme.

Since 2015, the COMSt network is affiliated to the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at Universität Hamburg. The Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies Bulletin is a peer-reviewed biannual open access journal.

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