**What is CRMsoc?**

CRMsoc is a formal ontology for integrating data about social phenomena and constructs that are typically recorded by humanities and social science scholars based on their analysis of documentary evidence. While the scope of CRMsoc is still under development at the moment the following areas of analysis have been identified to be of interest and to fall within this scope:

* Characteristics of human beings, as individuals or groups.
* Social relations, including between people, between people and groups, and between groups.
* Rights and duties.
* Economic activities, including relations between people and things, such as financial transactions leading to ownership.
* Plans, including expressing proposed activities and legislation.
* Evaluations, including assessing risks and estimating the value of things.

CRMsoc uses and extends the CIDOC CRM (ISO21127) as a general ontology of human activity, things and events happening in space-time. It uses the same encoding-neutral formalism of knowledge representation (“data model” in the sense of computer science) as the CIDOC CRM, which can be implemented in RDFS, OWL, on RDBMS and in other forms of encoding.

**What is the idea?**

The CIDOC CRM is a general ontology whose classes and properties primarily reflect common concepts used in documentation systems of memory institutions. These systems primarily revolve around collections. In social and historical research documentation systems also include concepts about our understanding of complex social constructs and relationships which are not necessarily linked to collections but which are essential for their interpretation. To maintain the generic nature of the CIDOC CRM these concepts have been formalised as classes and properties in CRMsoc. CRMsoc is harmonised with the CIDOC CRM and it defines how the two are connected.

CRMsoc can be used to describe economic transactions, rights held by people and groups, historical phases and the description of plans. As a high level conceptual framework for data integration the CIDOC CRM and the CRMsoc extension will provide interoperability of existing models devoted to specific historical subdomains (e.g. political, intellectual, social, economic history). In order to achieve this task the CRMsoc is developed on the collaborative ontology management environment OntoME (<http://ontome.dataforhistory.org/>) through a publicly documented workflow: models of local databases and distributed information system are first imported and described in OntoME; then properties and classes are aligned with existing ones in the CIDOC CRM and CRMsoc; finally, new classes and properties are created, if needed, according to the modelling rules of the CIDOC CRM, expressing the multifaceted vision of a large research community with robust concepts.