

E-bulletin

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DEAR READER,

Welcome to the first issue of CD-ETA E-bulletin, which features news from CD-ETA project activities and Europe.

You received this E-bulletin because you have been included in a mailing list of potentially European stakeholders identified by CD-ETA project partners. If you wish to unsubscribe from this mailing list, please visit CD-ETA website.

www.interregeurope.eu/cd-eta

Each issue contains information about the project activities and important news from the European institutions and the digitization community. We hope that you will find the information interesting and useful for your work and you will keep up-to date with the CD-ETA project!

CD-ETA project-team!



First meetings of Local stakeholder groups. What has happened?

In Bulgaria:

On June 13th, 2016 in the city of Pleven was held the first meeting of local stakeholders. It was attended by 20 representatives of museums, libraries, institutes, professional associations, Medias, companies for software and hardware.

They were identified and listed following problems: lack of a clear, unified idea about the concept of digitization; differences in software interface for objects description; lack of enough experts; differences in the digitization of different types of cultural and natural heritage.

There is a conservatism regarding the process of digitalization of natural and cultural heritage and at this stage there is no concrete answer to the questions why and for whom to digitize its sites. To overcome the conservatism, there must be strong political will and progressive thinking on the part of the responsible ministries and institutions. Gaps have been highlighted in the digital storage of TV, radio and film work, which are also a part of the cultural heritage.

The problems in digitization of natural and cultural heritage are not technical, but mainly legal and organizational. By legal point of view stands unspecified the issue related to copyright and by organizational side must find a solution to the limitations in the right of access.

Was shared the idea of building a mobile digitalization center which will help to avoid wasting human and financial resources.

The following conclusions were achieved:

- It is not possible to work with single software, but that does not stop to observe uniform standards and those standards should be drawn from the practice.
- it must be elicited a focus on which to work during the project.

In Italy:

The first stakeholder meeting organized in Tuscany, took place on July the 25th 2016 in Florence. The event was attended by 14 stakeholders and team members and was aimed to identify problems and perspectives in cultural and natural heritage digitization process.

After the discussion and debates the participants in the meeting arrived at the following conclusion concerning Tuscany region:

STRENGTHS

1. An ecosystem of multiple actors active in the field of digitization already exists, creating a sound environment for further improvements ;
2. Huge presence of natural and cultural heritage in the Tuscany Region;
3. High interest of private stakeholders on the topic;
4. Possibility to develop networking experience;
5. High experience on research and innovation topics related with exploitation of digitization contents.

WEAKNESS

1. Limited experience and cooperation with « Europeana » platform ;
2. Limited inter-operability of formats ;
3. Lack of knowledge on legal issues concerning data protection in local public entities;
4. Personnel and funding shortage;
5. Too many standards;
6. Lack of cooperation among local stakeholders

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Exploitation for tourism purposes of digitized data;
2. Development of a brand “Digital patronage” of the Florence heritage, already globally renown.
3. Possibility to develop new business models

THREATS

1. Resilience of supports/device adopted for digitization;
2. Lack of experience on legal protection/royalties for endorsing private-public partnerships;
3. Risk of data “cannibalism” from international corporates.



In Estonia:

Estonian stakeholders first meeting took place on June 15, 2016 at Viimsi in The Estonian War Museum – General Laidoner Museum for 20 participants from different sectors (Ministry of Culture, museums, private enterprises).

On governmental level, Estonia has put lots of efforts to structure digitization process. Operational programme for the Digitization of Cultural Heritage for year 2016-2020 is almost ready and it will be approved in the end of this year or in the beginning of next year. Estonian museum can use centralized museum informational system (MuiS) that was launched already in year 2008. Also, different guidelines and standards for digitization are under development.

Museums put lots of time and efforts to prioritize in which order collections should be digitized. Also, entering the data into the system needs lots of time. MuiS is already old and does not meet the requirements of the museum workers and public users. Currently, there is ongoing process to analyze how the needs of museums could be covered by MuiS in the future.

All museums are interested in optimizing workflows to increase productivity in digitizing museum collections. This is something that Estonian War Museum develops and tests also during CD-ETA project. There is also a need to be more active in crowdsourcing (using ajapaik.ee or similar solutions) to complement the information inserted into MuiS.

In general, museums think a lot how to use digitized information for developing new products and services. Interest towards new technologies is big (360 photos, virtual tours, 3D museums) but very often it stumbles because of lack of finances or know-how.

To address those issues Estonian War Museum initiates in close cooperation with stakeholders a workshop to discuss about the re-usage of digitized data and how to formulate the ideas and problems for future developments.



In Slovenia:

The first local stakeholder group meeting in Slovenia had two editions.

The first introductory Stakeholder group meeting in Gorenjska took place on 14 April 2016. Regional development agency of Gorenjska (BSC Kranj) presented to the stakeholders the CD-ETA project. The topics of digitization in Slovenia, CD-ETA goals and activities and the cooperation with stakeholders were all discussed. Participating stakeholders explained the current situation on cultural heritage digitization, with a focus to immovable cultural heritage and its labelling, which is required by the Cultural Heritage Protection Act from 2008. This (unified) labelling is seen as an important aspect and opportunity for advanced digitization of cultural heritage in Gorenjska. At the meeting 12 people took part, including representatives of Regional Development Agency, regional museums and institutes, municipalities and Association of Historical Cities of Slovenia.

The second edition took place on 16 June 2016 after the project Kick-off meeting in Sofia (Bulgaria). Stakeholders were presented the content of the kick-off meeting, the project timeline and upcoming activities. The state-of-the-art analysis was discussed and the stakeholders were asked to participate in its elaboration. They were also invited to take part in the upcoming Interregional Workshop in Romania, planned for September 2016. Altogether 9 people took part, including the representative of Ministry of Culture.

In Greece:

The first working group meeting of stakeholders in Western Greece, that are directly or indirectly related to the cultural and natural heritage, was held on **Wednesday 6th July 2016** by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Management of University of Patras, which participates as partner in the project «**Collaborative Digitization of Natural and Cultural Heritage, CD-ETA**», Programme "INTERREG EUROPE".

The meeting attended 9 representatives from local and regional bodies, research institutes and entities associated with culture.

The Research Team of the project (Prof. V. Papadakis, P. Papadatos & E. Arvaniti) presented to the working group the project, its objectives, the expected results and how they will be able to improve the regional digitization policies of cultural and natural heritage. The members of the Working Group will have the opportunity to gain new experiences and knowledge from the visits to the Good Practices of digitization of cultural & natural heritage that have already been implemented in the partner regions, to learn about new technologies and digitization methodologies, network with research and cultural institutions from Europe, contributing in this way with their ideas and recommendations towards the creation of the Action Plan addressed to the RWG, the responsible authority for the implementation of the "**Western Greece Regional Operational**

Programme for Investments (ROP) for growth and jobs 2014-2020” which the Action Plan aims to enrich.

Additionally, the Stakeholder’s Working Group was informed about the planned activities of the project, the Thematic Seminars to be organized in the partner’s regions, as well as the interregional training workshops that will be organized specifically addressed to the stakeholders of each Working Group.

After the end of presentations, a constructive discussion followed among the stakeholders and the research team. Initially, each representative presented the current state of art in their area related to digitization practices and needs, initiatives that have been launched for this purpose and important cultural monuments that need to be digitized, since they are cultural and natural landmarks for their region.



In Spain, region Valencia:

Mancomunitat of La Ribera Alta held the meeting on 19 July 2016 in order to discuss various issues related to the digitisation of La Ribera’s heritage.

In order to promote knowledge about the project matters among the participants and to facilitate their contributions, the methodology applied at the meeting was based on four phases:

- Presentation to introduce the European project CD-ETA
- Surveys filled by all attendees (at the same meeting).
- Structured discussion to get information.
- Obtaining a final document of conclusions with the inclusion of all contributions collected.

Representatives of the following organisations: Algemesí City Council, Alzira City Council, Carcaixent City Council, Llombai City Council, Villanueva de Castellón City Council, Consortium of La Ribera., Federation of Local Associations of Commerce, Industry and Services of La Ribera., Mancomunitat of La Ribera Alta, Mancomunitat of La Vall d’Albaida, Association ‘Xúquer Viu’, Agroecology Network ‘La Sembra’, Several private organizations related to TIC and new technologies.

The conclusions can be organized into three major sections,

which are:

- Current situation of La Ribera’s natural and cultural heritage.
- Outstanding projects for digitising our heritage and trouble to carry them out.
- Objectives and priority projects for the future.



In Romania:

The first meeting of the local stakeholders within CD-ETA took place at headquarter of Harghita County Council, on 2nd August 2016.

At the meeting participated the representatives of those institutions and organizations, whose are working in some way in the professional field of the preserving of natural and cultural values patrimony, or on the discovering and establishing the county values register or whose have begun the digitization activity or are working with digitization from several years. At the meeting participated 40 people from which 29 from local stakeholders.

Mrs. Zonda Erika, CD-ETA project manager emphasized the role of the local stakeholders and their importance in project implementation, because their participation and active contribution is absolutely necessary for the evaluation of the actual situation, evaluation of the existing problems, further activities, trends connected to the digitization process of natural and cultural patrimony. The project offers the opportunity for local stakeholders to gain experiences and good practices related to the digitization of natural and cultural values, to participate in the project events, workshops and seminars organized abroad.

During the meeting as problems were identified the lack of funding for digitization, the lack of trained personnel and the dissipation of digitized resources.

It considers important to undertake the local level values inventory by each settlement, and in this case the micro regional associations would have an important role.

The participants of the meeting considered that will be necessary to establish a certain criteria and a data collection

sheet concerning the values.

We emphasized the importance given by us to the local stakeholders who actively works and undertakes the project challenges by editing and elaborating in that way the strategies related to digitization, the good practices and their appliance, in order that can help us in the digitization of the counties values.



In Spain, region Palencia:

The Foundation Santa Maria la Real of Historic Heritage has started identify stakeholders in collaboration with Foundation Piedad Isla. Both entities have a long term history of collaboration. Foundation Piedad Isla started the process of digitization ten years ago working with the collection of negatives produced by Mrs. Piedad Isla, a former female photographer that captured the daily life in the north of Spain, in an isolated rural area in which the social changes have impacted so clearly. She really understood that the traditional way of life in the rural areas was involved a big transformation process and know this archive is a great source of ethnographic knowledge. The Foundation Piedad Isla opened the experience and shared the lessons learned to the Foundation Santa Maria la Real needed of managing of a huge collection of photographs related to Romanesque Art in Spain. Both entities organized also training courses for unemployed people to increase their competences with digitizing and cataloguing skills.

We decided to collaborate in CD-ETA in the first stage in order to identify stakeholders and participating in the Rumanian meeting. Maximiliano Barrios is Vice president of Foundation Piedad Isla and, at the same time, responsible of digitizing the Romanesque Encyclopedia of Spain that is offered through the portal www.romanicodigital.com

After selecting more than 120 stakeholders in which appear public bodies such as Regional Government, Universities, Provincial and local authorities, different archives from the parish and bishoprics, private entities like cultural, industrial or ethnographic institutions and finally private collections from

citizens, we decided to organize a first meeting in Valladolid in order to start the collaboration between stakeholders. In the 27th of September 2016 we will met in our premises with the following program:

- * CD-ETA project introduction
- * State of the art and challenges of digitized archives in Castile and Leon.
- * Definition of a common work plan for next year.

We hope to create a regional network to foster the collaboration of all different entities that actively participate in the sector in order to increase the opportunities that a digital society offers today.

At the same time the Foundation Santa Maria la Real is working to coordinate a workgroup of European Entities in the framework of the Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage (JHEP) focusing on activity 41. 'Methodology development for assessing the cultural and socio-economic value(s) of digital cultural heritage'



First interregional training workshop in Miercurea Ciuc, Romania

During the period September 5–7, 2016 was held the first Interregional training workshop under CD-ETA project. The event was hosted by Harghita County Council, Romania. Local stakeholders, stakeholder representatives from partners' countries, visiting speakers took part in the event.



All project partners presented the current state-of-art of digitization of natural and cultural heritage in their countries. It was noted a remarkably big difference in the various regions.

Bulgaria is the only EU country:

- ✓ Without National digitization strategy or single concept in the field of digitization of natural and cultural heritage
- ✓ Without single register and actual database of cultural and historical heritage
- ✓ Without single and user – friendly built Information System
- ✓ Without common museum software for automatic control and inventory of exposition collections

In **Greece**, until recently the level of digitization of cultural and natural heritage was in primary level and the most digitization projects were dealing with documents and libraries. The last five years, the Greek Ministry of Culture has launched initiatives aiming at the digitization of the tangible (mainly) cultural heritage of Greece.

In **Slovenia** is being supported a detailed register of natural heritage, (www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si), movable and immovable, tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Since 2008, the Register is available online also via interactive map. (<http://giskd.situla.org>) The Slovenian Register of immovable cultural heritage is one of more comprehensive and advanced in Europe.

In the region of Valencia, **Spain** specialists have are targeted mainly to digitization of the natural heritage. In this connection exist several ideas, some of them are:

- ✓ Few works done in the Ribera Alta Region for the Heritage Digitalization.
 - ✓ This heritage is not available for the citizens through webpages, internet, etc.
 - ✓ There are official rules about digitalization of documents but no for digitalization of other kind of heritage. We need a common EU standard for a quality digitalization of our heritage.
 - ✓ We have an important immaterial heritage and we need to digitalize this kind of heritage: traditional fests and culture, music, etc.
 - ✓ Multiple local archives of our municipalities haven't a good conditions for their preservation (humidity, temperature, rooms, lights, etc.). Many archives have an important historical documents to be preserved.
 - ✓ In order to improve the digitalization, the local authorities need to involve other public administration (nation, region, province, etc.).
 - ✓ Other important heritage are old pictures of culture and nature. We need to digitalize them.
 - ✓ Importance of the traditional agricultural landscape heritage. This heritage is near to disappear and we need to digitalize it for its preservation. Current change of uses.
 - ✓ Several important Natural Parks suffer with forest fires. It's a priority to map this kind of heritage because of this danger. Digitization technologies was fundamental to support the widest public experience of real estate promoted by Tuscany Region recently. The aim is to promote valorization and/or purchase, along with preservation, of a wide set of historical buildings and sites under its management. The announcement, published on July 2016, is based on an online catalog.
- In castilla y León, Spain existen:
- ✓ Public Archives: Province historic archives; Municipal archives; Museums; Universities
 - ✓ Private Archives: Catholic Church; Family archives and personal collections; Foundations and Associations; Companies
 - ✓ Digital Repositories (Content aggregators) : Digital library of Castile and León; BUCLE repositories (Public Universities in Castile and león)
- Santa Maria la Real del patrimonio histórico fundation have made digitalization and cataloguing of Encyclopaedia of Romanesque Art in Spain; More than 80.000 digitalized and catalogued; 4.000 texts and 7.000 architectural plans (www.romanicodigital.com)
- Estonian** Museum Information System MuIS worked since 2010 as public portal. (www.muisee) It owned by the Ministry of Culture and developed in cooperation with partners. MuIS in 2016 has:

- ✓ 2.9 mln objects
- ✓ 980 000 objects with 1+ images
- ✓ 700 users (museums)
- ✓ 250 000 views of public portal in a month.



Three external speakers from Bulgaria, Romania and Estonia held training on topics: Technical and financial parameters of digitalization; Existing standards in digitization and possibilities for their synchronization; Principles of collaborative digitization and possibilities for their application.



The presentations of Svilen Stoyanov from Bulgaria, Dan Matei from Romania and Kadri Nigulas from Estonia were not just theory, but consisted a lot of examines by topics.

Interview:



In this issue we meet you with PhD Toshov Spiridonov - Director of Historical Museum of the city of Harmanli, Bulgaria

• How do you assess the current state of art of digitization of natural and cultural heritage in Bulgaria?

Current status of digitization in the true sense of the word is none. There are separate institutions, mainly museums, which benefit from European projects to obtain equipment, mostly expensive and more productive than their one-off needs. So in fact are received very different products - software purchased technique that at some point is being abandoned due to depletion of the need for it; a web site is being created where are published some pictures ... But when there is no government policy on the issue thing are like this. Bulgaria has lagged for years in comparison with the countries around us.

• Obviously you insist things get changed?

Yes! Digitization should be understood as a multi-stage activity - first to perform "The counting of wild rabbits", i.e. to be brought into prominence the cultural heritage, in parallel, to be established an information system that "crosses" the available data, and to be overcome the huge differences in the views of individual participants in the process.

• Where is the problem of digitization?

The problem is multilateral and acts in three basic lines in three things. First comes down to government policy - when there is none, everyone does what he wants, what he knows or what he has been told by someone. The digitization of cultural heritage, especially in the museums is something that is both complicated because there are a variety of species and types of items to be digitized, yet is simply because it depends solely on the director to be started and done. Years ago there was a Japanese organization - JICA, which began to digitize museums and we saw till where it achieved - to nowhere. And it's not because they haven't done their job properly (and they were not able to do their work due to other reasons), but because there was no one on the Bulgarian side to take matters into their own hands and to continue. It is necessary a lot of work by funders, curators and directors. Secondly because most Bulgarian museums live with the thought that "someone" has to create software to gift it to the museums.

Present-day Bulgarian society does not tolerate such things - everyone has to work and to "deal" himself - he receives a salary! Another problem is - and this is the third reason - that the Ministry of Culture should not be dealing with the problems of software and must create a framework in which to situate the efforts of museums and businesses. This means the Ministry to write what conditions must meet the software, what fields are required and what not (I believe all data are obligatory!), what should be the technical parameters of the separated devices that will be used for digitization. In other words, must rewrite the law to the needs of the software, i.e. what we have already done before 2005!

• **What do you personally do about this?**

I have about 40 years of experience in digitization of cultural heritage. I have work since 1978; I have gone through all kinds and forms of automation. Since 1998 in DIOS Association, of which I am President, we develop information systems DAGIS (Digital Archive for GIS), which is fully operational by 2005, and by 2010 the system works quite real in the Historical Museum of Harmanli. The system is reported almost every year on National meetings of museum workers in the Ministry of Culture, I got in touch with all state bodies that have at least some relation to the digitization of cultural heritage - the answer everywhere is the same one - or no, or negative.

• **What do you expect from your participation in the project CD-ETA?**

I expect to be taken serious decisions. I expect not only to speak, and it very much, but also to be taken practical actions on the unification of the general steps for digitalization, and in parallel to start fast work by the introduction of cultural heritage in the informational system. I will actively participate in the project because appreciate it as an opportunity to achieve good results in the digitization of cultural heritage in a relatively short time.

• **How do you imagine the work on the project CD-ETA?**

I'm a bit complicated to answer this question, not because I do not know what to say, but because we may slip a little at the idea of how to make the project much more functional for everyone. It is not possible you not to get an impression of the lack of the main users of the result of digitization - museums.

I think it requires in parallel with the work of your organization in policy making on the introduction of digitization to start work on the practical implementation of digitization. I'm not talking about giving "some money" for digitization or the creation of single software - it is solving of another type of task. I'm talking about the announcement of digitization projects - and these can be museums, architectural organizations and environmental organizations - I do not know other organizations - such as

municipalities, to deal with cultural heritage, unless if they are dealing with 3D digitizing of unmovable cultural monuments. But then they again cannot do without museums or organizations of the architects. And in many museums is not even known the exact number of exhibits in the museum.

- A moment ago you mentioned for Information System DAGIS. Is there a chance to review it online?

Yes - the system is fully accessible through the Internet at <https://dagis-bg.eu>. Open access can be obtained by introducing a `guest` in the fields for username and password. For full access is needed to contact me, to be presented to declare the nature of their interest and to receive certain access.

Useful information:

Digitalization vs Digitization

Advantages of digitization/digitalization

- Quick access to information in the context of contemporary information society;
- Protects analog materials from frequent use that lead to their deterioration;
- Allows backing up of all types of digital media (optical, magnetic, flash drives) for their eternity;
- Allows easy access of all stakeholders to valuable materials;
- Provides the only way to contact with unique documents (maps and old books, unique photographs of historical value, unique natural values, audio or video clips, local traditional songs and others.);
- This is the most efficient method for promoting the local values;

Differences

Digitalization

- Allows conversion of analog materials into generic digital formats;
- Digitalized material is recorded in raw form;
- Allows access to a wider audience to digital formats of the values that can be promoted more easily through electronic communications;
- Could be practically realized by anyone;

Digitization

- Allows the transformation of generic digital formats into specific ones;
- Digitized material can be processed subsequently for its improvement;
- Allows acquisition of valuable information through their overlapping;
- can be performed only by experts using specialized software;
- creates a specific material for each area of interest;

DIGITALIZATION

Transforming of natural and cultural values into digital formats, which could be identified by every computer (analog – digital)

- Using basic formats:
 - For static images – formats .jpg, .bmp, .gif, .tif, .png;
 - For moving images – formats .mkv, .avi, .mpeg4;
 - For documents – formats .txt, .pdf;
 - For sounds – formats .mp3, .wav, flc;

DIGITIZATION

Processing of digital data into digital formats that can be processed by experts for achieving valuable information

- Using specific formats:
 - For static images – formats .ecw, .sid, .ers, .geotiff, .tgz;
 - For moving images – formats .h.264, .avi, .mpeg4, .asf, .flv, .swf;
 - For documents – formats .doc, .pdf, .xls, .dbf, ;
 - For sounds – formats .flac, .aac, .aiff, .lpmc;
 - For vectors – formats .dxf, .dwg, .shp;

Conclusion

Digitization/digitization means information and it can reach up to anyone, anywhere, in all ways and at any time.

Chiorean Adrian
Project assistant manager
Harghita County Council

Upcoming events on the project:

- In October and November 2016 all project partners will organize and hold the second stakeholders groups meetings;
- Between 31.01 - 02.02.2017 in Valencia, Spain, will be organized the first Thematic Seminar on "Digitization of natural heritage";
- In March 2017 will be organized the third local stakeholders groups meetings.

For more information, please contact the project partner in your country.

