

PROJECT PRESENTATION: EUROPEANA 1914-1918

Vesna Injac*
National Library of Serbia

INTRODUCTION

National Library of Serbia (NLS) is a full partner in the European Library project (TEL) since July 2005. TEL project is realized under the authorities of CENL – the Conference of European National Librarians. All digital collections of NLS, as well as the Union catalog of Serbia are accessible on the TEL portal.¹

Because of the proven success of the collaboration, NLS was entrusted by TEL in 2007 to coordinate the first pan-European project - “European Roma digital collection”, which had its promotion on the TEL portal in

March 2010 through the virtual exhibition “Roma journey”.² All digital collections of NLS, over TEL as an aggregator for European national libraries, are available on the website of Europeana, the portal of the European cultural and scientific heritage which is kept in libraries, museums, archives and institutions in charge of audiovisual material, and whose prototype was launched in April 2008.³

Today, Europeana enables free access to about 15 million digital items (texts, photos, maps, books, letters,

¹ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org>

² http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/exhibition/roma_journey/eng/index.html

³ <http://www.europeana.eu/portal>

newspapers, magazines, journals, music records from the cylinder to DVD and radio shows, videos from movies to TV shows), and more than 1500 different European institutions included their digital resources. Europeana is funded by the European Union (EU) through a variety of general and individual projects. Europeana 1914-1918 project is one of those individual projects that are financed by the EU.

CIP ICT PSP

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), which runs from 2007 to 2013, includes three segments: Information and Communication Technologies - Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) and Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE). For three of these programmes, in the period from 2007 to 2013 the following funds are attributed: ICT PSP 730 million €, EIP 2,170 million €, IEE 730 million €.

ICT PSP aims to encourage the efficient use of information and communication technologies (ICT) by citizens, public sector, public administration and business entities. The main objective of the programme is to encourage innovation and competitiveness through the widespread implementation of ICT in economic and public sector. Implementation of ICT in industry, small and medium enterprises results in the creation of new products and services, while the use of ICT in public administration results in more efficient and high quality administration, both for economy and for citizens.

Serbia has joined the CIP Programme on 23rd October 2009, when the Memorandum of Understanding for Accession was signed. For the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Memorandum was signed by Ms. Jasna Matic, the Minister of Telecommunications and Information Society at the time, and for the European Commission by Ms. Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Information Society and Media at the time. By

signing the Memorandum, the Republic of Serbia became a full member of the CIP Programme in 2010, which means that all interested and relevant entities of the Republic of Serbia, may participate in the programme and submit project proposals under the same conditions as EU Member States.

EUROPEANA 1914-1918

Europeana 1914-1918 project is an EU project for which funds have been approved through the CIP ICT PSP - The European digital library. It was the fourth EU Framework call that lasted from 21st January to 1st June 2010, and the type of project is a pilot project B: Theme 2 - Digital libraries.

In all previous European projects the NLS participated with its own funds, because it did not have the right to receive funds from the EU. However, since the signing of the above mentioned Memorandum the NLS has had the right to apply for EU projects. So, through the project Europeana 1914-1918, NLS for the first time receives funds from the EU for building digital libraries. EU funds for projects are 50% and other 50% of funds should be provided by partners.

Full project title is “Europeana 1914-1918: Remembering the First World War – a digital collection of outstanding sources from European national libraries”, its acronym is Europeana 1914-1918. Financing Contract was signed in November 2010 with the European Commission in Luxembourg (Grant Agreement no. 270 894, Ms. Patricia Manson, the Executive Director). The total project value is € 5,399,894, while EU funds are € 2,699,946 (50%). The payment is done 45 days after signing the contract in the amount of € 1,439,970. The remaining means are paid after the reports of 12, 24 and 36 months of the project. NLS receives € 73,905, and it has to invest the same amount itself, namely the Ministry of Culture of Serbia is bound to do it, which is not certain to happen, although Serbia has signed

already mentioned Memorandum. The NLS did not dare to apply for more funds, because it is not sure who will cover the total cost at 50%.

- Project partners are:
- State Library in Berlin (coordinator),
- French National Library,
- National and University Library in Strasbourg,
- Central National Library in Rome,
- Central National Library of Florence,
- Royal Library of Belgium,
- British Library in London,
- Royal Library of Denmark,
- Austrian National Library,
- National Library of Serbia
- Humboldt University, Berlin,
- Central Institute for Unique Cataloguing of Italian libraries in Rome.

The project duration is 36 months, from May 2011 to May 2014. Since the 2014 will be the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, it is obvious that the interest of a broad audience, as well as researchers and professionals will be increased for all topics related to the First World War. During the project over 500,000 freely available documents about the First World War from all national library partners will be included on the portal of Europeana. Selected content and documents will be varied according to the experiences of groups and individuals they represent in the view of ethnic, political, ideological and religious orientations, as well as to positions of all parties involved in the war. Europeana 1904-1918 will include many different types of documents: old and rare books, old magazines and newspapers, manuscripts, music scores, maps, fiction, novels, children's literature, religious literature, reference books, paintings, original works of art, diaries of soldiers, prayer books, guides, posters, photos, postcards, cartoons, comic books, letters, reports, memoirs, pamphlets, leaflets, medals and banknotes and so on.

The project has four Working Packages - WP:

1. WP1 - Coordination and management of the project, assessment and monitoring (coordinated by the State Library in Berlin)
2. WP2 - Coordination of content and enlargement of the network of partners (coordinated by the Royal Library of Belgium)
3. WP3 - Digitizing and full-text creation / OCR, aggregation to Europeana (coordinated by the Austrian National Library)
4. WP4 - Dissemination and educational activities (coordinated by the British Library in London).

Concise description of the activities of the working packages:

WP1 - Project administration and financial coordination, creating the web-based working environment, evaluation and quality control, risk management, project documentation, correspondence and meetings with the European Commission.

WP2 - Workshop on principles of material selection, selection of material, a questionnaire on the interests of researchers, enlargement of the network of partners.

WP3 - Workshop on the plans of partners to include the digital contents, digitization planning, digitization of documents in accordance with the plan, planning of input of metadata into Europeana via TEL, contacts with Europeana, entering metadata into Europeana, presentation of digital documents in Europeana.

WP4 – Media communication (the promotion of the project web site), learning microsite for learning support (to make the contents and ideas of the project accessible to a broad audience, particularly schools, in an engaging and interactive manner), a regional workshop on the importance of the project (the presentation of the best practices examples of reusing of contents for purposes of research and education - Strasbourg, London, Copenhagen, Rome and Belgrade), the organiza-

tion of various events and at least four physical exhibitions in early 2014 (in the national libraries of Belgium, France, Germany and Great Britain). Here are some other planned activities:

- Workshop on development of standard metadata for digital documents,
- Survey of researchers' interests,
- Enlargement of the network of partners onto other European projects and organizations (such as Europeana Local, CENL - Conference of European National Librarians, TEL - The European Library, etc.), other libraries, archives, museums and historical societies with significant contents about the First World War,
- Workshop about creating a database of full-text documents with OCR technology,
- Workshop on the aggregation of documents in Europeana via TEL,

- Virtual exhibitions on the sites of partner institutions,
- Creation of a project website,
- Several conferences for researchers, students and teachers in partner libraries,
- Printing of promotional materials (leaflets, posters, catalogs).

Through the project Europeana 1914-1918 NLS will include the following documents in the Europeana portal: printed books (about 150 books of religious literature, war novels, manuals, travel reports, guides and instructions), music and musical sheets, journals, newspapers, pamphlets and brochures, picture material (photos, postcards with and without pictures), maps and plans, manuscripts and various other materials, about 1200 documents in total.