



Project Cross Border E- archive

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NEWSLETTER

February`2014 –
June`2014



Panel discussion at the closing conference of the project. From left to right: Mr. Armands Magone, Director of Culture information systems centre, Ms. Mara Sprudza, Director of the National Archives of Latvia, Mr. Mikhail Elisevich, Commercial Director of St. Petersburg Information and Analytical Centre, Ms. Svetlana Shtukova, Chair of St. Petersburg Archival Committee, and Mr. Indrek Kuuben, Director of the Historical Archives of Estonia

Welcome to the final issue of the newsletter!

Two years ago we started a new journey and today we have come to its successful conclusion. It has been a challenging but all in all a satisfying journey.

Before crossing the finish line of the project it is time to look at what we have achieved from February to June 2014.

It was a very active and productive time that allowed us to finalize most of the project activities and launch the online platform – a new virtual archive, where users at all levels and geographic locations are able to make connections between their personal lives, histories and their shared cultural heritage.

We have actively promoted the project in a wide range of communication channels and took part in many international and national events, like two high level conferences in March hosted in Athens, Greece by the Hellenic presidency of the EU, an international workshop on digital curation, organised by LIBER in Vienna, Austria on 19-20 May and the Annual Event of the ENPI Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross border cooperation programme in Gatchina, Russia on 3-4 June. Furthermore, two international conferences were organised in the framework of the project – conference “Global Experience in Digital Archives Development” devoted to unification of Russian and European standards of digitizing in St. Petersburg, Russia on 31 March – 1 April, and the closing conference of the project “Digital Archives and Historical Cross Border Heritage” in Riga, Latvia on 19-20 June, which gathered a wide range of stakeholders for a dialog about topics related to preservation of the cultural cross border heritage and digitalization in memory institutions. Besides, the final session of the steering group of the project was organised in Riga, Latvia on 24-25 February to review project’s results and its achievements, as well as to determine the functionality and sustainability of the newly developed online platform and the scope and vision of the future collaboration.

The respective time period also involved turbulent reporting and operational events, such as on-spot inspections and other bureaucratic procedures in all partners’ organisations. We are putting in our best efforts to finalize this process however intensive communication with liable institutions is still on-going.

It is hard to believe how fast the time has flown by. I am truly happy and proud for this platform finally being up and running after two years of hard work. People of the cross border area will now have a unique access to the shared history and culture in their native languages and English, it will save both time and money for researchers and other target groups. Moreover, this experience developed much stronger cooperation between all involved stakeholders, which I believe is an important achievement and opens the door for future cooperation possibilities. I hope that many people will gain from this valuable tool and future generations will use the portal for creating new links on the personal level and also a much larger scale.

Again, I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Indra Auzane, Project manager

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MARKS CONCLUSION OF THE PROJECT “CROSS BORDER E-ARCHIVE”

On 19-20 June a large scale international project on cultural heritage digitization "Cross Border E-archive" was completed with a closing conference "Digital Archives and Historical Cross Border Heritage". A two day programme of special events, which were held in Riga and Jurmala (Latvia), gathered a wide range of stakeholders – professionals, IT experts and members of the archival community in Estonia, Latvia, Russia and Lithuania – for a dialog about topics related to preservation of the cultural cross border heritage and digitalization in memory institutions.

At the opening session of the conference warm welcoming remarks were given to all conference participants and guests by H.E. Mati Vaarmann, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the Republic of Latvia, Mr. Rihards Kols, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, and Ms. Unda Ozoliņa, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat of Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme.

After that the audience was introduced to activities and results produced by the project and to a newly launched online platform "Cross Border E-Archive", which includes archival materials selected and digitalized in the course of the project.

Project manager Indra Auzane gave an overview about the project and its successes and achievements over the past few years summarizing the main outputs, results and benefits of the project.

Experts from Estonian, Latvian and Russian archives introduced the audience to the content of the portal and documents, which are made available online

in four thematic collections – *Church books*, *Maps*, *Student files* and *Other materials*. These documents reveal a great part of historical evidence of the deep common history of the cross border area of Estonia, Latvia and Russia, which has affected people's lives at personal, cultural and political levels.

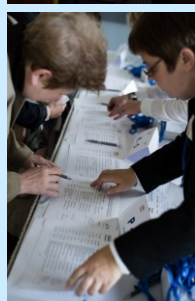
Professor Aadu Must, external expert of the National Archives of Estonia on research activities, gave an overview about two collections – *Church books*, which is an essential resource for family history research, and *Maps*, which allow researchers to define more exactly the birthplaces of their ancestors, the names of those places, the administrative affiliation and helps to determine the exact position of those places nowadays.

Leading archivist of Department on Documents Use and Publishing of Central State Archives of St. Petersburg Ms. Olga Saltanova presented various personal documents of the cross border area residents, which are included in the collection *Other documents*.

Expert of the National Archives of Latvia Mr. Valdis Stals held a very thorough presentation about the collection called *Student files*, giving an extended impression of the prominent graduates and professors from the Tartu, St. Petersburg and Riga higher educational institutions of the XIX century and early XX century, as well as their leading role in the development of the national self-esteem of Estonian and Latvian nations.

During the second session of the conference representatives from a number of culture and memory institutions, such as archives, libraries and museums, presented a selection of technological solutions for digitalizing the cultural heritage.

Memorable moments from the closing conference:

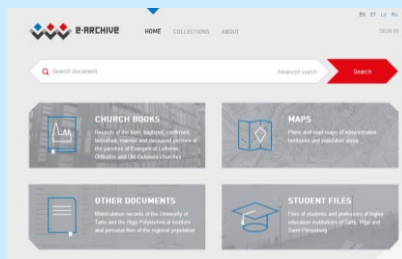


NEW ONLINE PORTAL “CROSS BORDER E-ARCHIVE” LAUNCHED

The newly launched online portal “E-Archive” is the most visible outcome of the project “Cross Border E-archive” and includes archival materials selected and digitalized in the course of the project. The platform in four languages – English, Estonian, Latvian and Russian – is available under the web address www.earchive-estlatrus.eu.

As a result of the project, over 11,000 digitalized documents (texts, photographs and maps) and over 500,000 images have been made available. The documents belong to the 19th and early 20th century, and they refer to the territory of Estonia, the city of Riga and the Latvian regions of Vidzeme and Latgale, as well as the city of St. Petersburg and the region of Leningrad in Russia.

The digitalized archive documents are offered to users of the portal within four thematic collections: 1) Student files; 2) Church books; 3) Maps; 4) Other materials.



Mr. Edmunds Vanags, Chairman of the Association “Ideju Forums”, and Mr. Artem Vorontsov, Information systems chief specialist and developer of St. Petersburg information and analytical centre present the newly launched online portal at the closing conference

STUDENT FILES

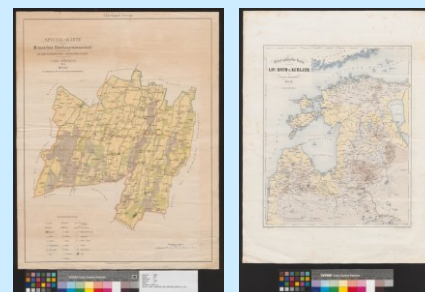
Collection includes files of students, rectors, well-known lecturers and professors of the higher education institutions of St. Petersburg, Riga and Tartu from 19th and early 20th century, such as student certificates, extracts from registers of birth, life descriptions, photographs, passports, exam results, as well as diplomas and documents relating to their professional and scientific activities.



MAPS

There are more than 100 maps and plans in this collections that best reflect the cross border area and villages where Estonians, Latvians and Russians lived together at 19th and early 20th century, as well as roads connecting the settlements.

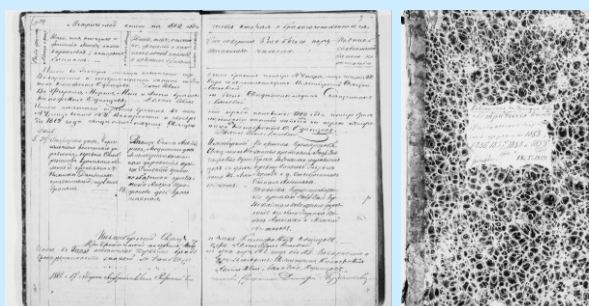
The accessibility of the maps in digital form allows researchers to define more exactly the birthplaces of their ancestors, the names of those places, the administrative affiliation and helps to determine the exact position of those places nowadays.



CHURCH BOOKS

Church books are one of the key documents for family history research that help to trace family roots through records of births, baptisms, marriages, and burials.

Collection includes church books of the parishes of Evangelical Lutheran, Orthodox and Old Believers churches in the cross border area of Estonia, Latvia and Russia.



OTHER MATERIALS

This collection includes various personal documents of residents of the cross border area and optant files, provided by Central State Archives of St. Petersburg, as well as students' matriculation records from the Riga Polytechnic Institute and the University of Tartu and confessional records of some parishes in the area.



REPRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



Project representatives from Culture information systems centre – Ms Indra Auzane and Ms Kristine Paberza participated in the conference **“Heritage First! Towards a Common Approach for a Sustainable Europe”** hosted in Athens, Greece by the Hellenic

presidency of the EU on 6-8 March. The aim of the conference was to stress the decisive and distinct contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable economic and social development, with a view to enhancing the potential of cultural heritage as a key resource for delivering the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy.

The conference was attended by policy makers, researchers, representatives of member states, international organisations and other stakeholders.



Project manager Edmunds Vanags from non-governmental organisation “Ideju Forums” participated and represented the project in two significant international data forums – **EU level conference “European Data Forum 2014”** that took place in Athens, Greece on 19-20 March and the **3rd Liber Workshop on Digital curation** that took place in Vienna, Austria on 19-20 May.



EDF 2014 brought together all stakeholders involved in the data value chain and encouraged the exchange of knowledge and ideas leading to the strengthening of the European data economy and its

positioning worldwide. EDF 2014 included keynotes from global experts in the field, presentations, panel sessions and a 2-day exhibition. Focusing on recent developments (Open Data, Linked Data and Big Data), EDF 2014 balanced between technical, application and socio-economic issues.

The gained experience in conference is particularly useful for e-archives project, as successful and less successful multilingual data exchange systems were considered during several working group meetings, which exactly is the e-archive solution challenge, combining archival documents in different languages, as well as a combination of metadata body, which

also has a number of languages.

In the conference in Vienna the need to unambiguously locate and access the digital resources was discussed, and associate them with the related metadata is an essential requirement for managing, accessing, reusing, retrieving and preserving huge amounts of cultural and intellectual resources. There was discussion, for example, about a reference model of inter-networked archival repositories is planned. These digital archives could provide citability of contents and offer a variety of standardized interfaces for flexible re-use of managed resources and objects. For future works will be need to move beyond concept of data, need to move beyond the focus on description, as well process capture, preservation & verification actions.

On 3-4 June project representatives from Culture information systems centre, the National Archives of Latvia and St. Petersburg State Unitary Enterprise “St. Petersburg Information and Analytical Centre” participated in the **Annual Event of the ENPI Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross border cooperation programme** that was held in Pavlovsk and Gatchina, Russia.

During the two day programme participants of the conference witnessed the opening of the Grand Cascade in Pavlovsk Park. The Grand Cascade was restored within one of the ENPI CBC projects “Two pearls of the landscape parks in Eastern Europe”.

In the conference “Joint solutions for the benefit of Estonia, Latvia and Russia border regions!”, which was held in Gatchina on the second day of the event, several plenary sessions were included –

“Development of the border-crossing and logistics in the Programme area”, “Encouraging business and entrepreneurship – success stories”, “Cross border cooperation for future – benefits for children and prospects of future cross border cooperation programmes”. The conference showed the results that have been achieved in the spheres of tourism and technology development, as well in people-to-people cooperation with several presentations of successful cooperation projects, as well as through a visual exhibition „Children in projects focus”.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNIFICATION OF RUSSIAN AND EUROPEAN STANDARDS OF DIGITIZING SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISED IN ST. PETERSBURG

On 31 March – 1 April St. Petersburg State Unitary Enterprise “St. Petersburg Information and Analytical Centre” successfully organised a conference **“Global Experience in Digital Archives Development”**, which was devoted to unification of Russian and European standards of digitizing and organised in the framework of the project **“Cross Border E-archive”**. The event was held in St. Petersburg (Russia) at the Ambassador Hotel and gathered a number of

stakeholders from Estonia, Latvia and Russia – project partners, local authorities, archival experts and users skilled in the field. Participants were informed about the Estonian, Latvian and Russian experience in the area of digital archives development and standardization and introduced to the main output of the cross border cooperation project – online platform **“Cross Border E-archives”**.

During the panel discussion the framework for future cooperation was proposed and discussed, and viewpoints of field experts exchanged.

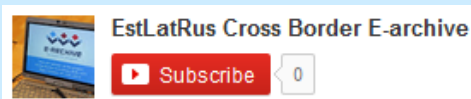


PROJECTS VISIBILITY – OUR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

To promote the ENPI CBC Programme, the project “Cross Border E-archive”, cross-border cooperation and its results various promotional items and audio-visual materials have been produced in 2014: document folders, note pads, pens, pencils, USB Flash Drives, textile bags, raincoats, as well as project video in four languages.



The project capitalization video “Cross Border E-archive to Discover Historical Heritage of Estonia, Latvia and Russia” in four languages is available on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFsiaAPGxmAkvWcS8TTMvg>



CLOSING RECEPTION OF THE PROJECT AT THE JURMALA OPEN AIR MUSEUM



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