



Project
Cross Border E-archive

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NEWSLETTER
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The chairman of St. Petersburg Archival Committee Svetlana Shtukova (from the right) and the director of SPIAC Evgeny Korabelnikov welcomes the guests in the work meeting (more about the event in page 4)

Welcome to this year's first issue of the newsletter!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, which offered a good possibility to reflect on the passing year and form new aspirations and determinations for the coming one. I am very hopeful you took the chance to start 2014 on a positive and optimistic note with hopes and expectations for the successful and exciting 6 months laying ahead for the project "Cross Border E-archive". This is now time to put any disappointments there were in 2013 behind us and to mobilize ourselves for the final stage of the project implementation.

This Newsletter reports about the results achieved during the time period from October 2013 to January 2014.

Among these, we have an interesting report about the exhibition at the Riga Technical University (RTU) in Latvia that was opened on 9 October 2013 in the framework of European Cooperation Day, followed by a public seminar held jointly and successfully by the project and the RTU. Also, you have a chance to read more about Beneficiary representatives participating in the biggest European research and innovation event: 'ICT 2013 - Create, Connect, Grow' in Vilnius, Lithuania on 6-8 November 2013, as well as about project manager of the National Archives of Latvia participating in the XX International scientific and practical conference 'Records keeping in information society: effective electronic records management' in Moscow, Russia on 20-21 November 2013 and other local events in Latvia and Estonia.

Besides, on 3-4 December the third steering group meeting of the project, round-table discussions with archival experts, and portal developers meetings were held in St. Petersburg, Russia to discuss the current issues of the project and ways to move forward.

Here I would like to underline those issues mostly debated about during the round-table discussions and meetings - key activities that have to be completed in order to launch the portal e-archive: research work, digitalization, portal development and involvement of archives of St. Petersburg in project implementation. All project partners agreed on the final metadata for selected documents and on the action plan for moving forward. Portal developers confirmed that the first test version of the portal will be launched in February 2014.

Last but not least I would like to inform you that our project has been extended until 30 June 2014, which allows us to complete all activities in due time. Moreover, following ongoing reporting and operational events over the past months the 2nd interim report of the project has been approved by JMA and the next pre-financing instalment from the CBC ENPI Programme was awarded in October 2013, enabling the work on further activities of the project. The 3rd interim report has been also finalized and provided to JTS in November 2013.

All in all, this has been a busy but nevertheless rather successful time for the E-archive, taking small but steady and very necessary steps towards the main goal. We are now looking forward to a similarly active and productive beginning of 2014.

Again, I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. And as always, you will receive all relevant news and up-to-date information regarding the project and its activities through the upcoming news issues.

Indra Auzane, Project manager

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SEMINAR AND EXHIBITION IN RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY MARKS THE EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY

On 9 October 2013 an exhibition „Riga Polytechnicum. File Nr. RP 1863–1899” was opened in the atrium of a newly renovated building of the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of the Riga Technical University (RTU) and a public seminar was held jointly by the project „Cross border E-archive” and the Riga Technical University. The audience was introduced to the project, exhibited documents, the history of RTU and the history of higher education in Latvia in the context of scientific and technological progress. The event took place in the framework of European Cooperation Day.

The exhibition tells about outstanding historical personalities who were active in the XIX century – students, graduates and lecturers from the Riga Polytechnicum (RP) (now – RTU). RP was the first institution of higher education in Latvia and the first institution of higher education in applied sciences in the Baltics.

The exhibition is marking the 151st anniversary of the foundation of the Riga Technical University. It is also marking a number of significant anniversaries of the Latvian higher education – the 150th anniversary of the beginning of studies at the Riga Polytechnical Institute, the 150th anniversary of the higher

education in Latvia in chemistry, civil engineering and agriculture, the 150th jubilee of a prominent Latvian scientist Paul Valden and the 160th jubilee of a Baltic-German chemist, Nobel Prize winner (1909) Wilhelm Ostwald. The exhibition and event concept was initiated jointly by the project „Cross Border E-archive” partner organisations: Culture Information Systems Centre, the National Archives of Latvia, and by the Riga Technical University to promote the history of RTU, the Estonia-Latvia-Russia CBC Programme and the Project, and to demonstrate its first results.

The aim of the project is to develop a fully accessible and searchable online database (e-archive) showing special collections of documents that are stored in archives of Estonia, Latvia and Russia and will be digitalized within the project’s lifetime. The exhibited personal files of students, graduates and lecturers from the Riga Polytechnicum will form one of these collections, and all exhibited archival documents will be presented in the future e-archive.

The exhibition „Riga Polytechnicum. File Nr. RP 1863–1899” is planned to be a travelling exhibition and will be placed in many buildings of the Riga Technical University in the coming months.

Memorable moments from the seminar and exhibition in RTU:



LOCAL ACTIVITIES OF PROJECT PARTNERS

Participation in the XX International scientific and practical conference „Records keeping in information society: effective electronic records management”

Project manager at the National Archives of Latvia Valdis Stals participated in the XX International scientific and practical conference “Records keeping in information society: effective electronic records management”, which took place in Moscow (Russia) on 20-21 November last year in the building of the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History. The conference was organised by Euro-Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, Federal Archival Agency and All-Russian Research Institute of the Management of Documentation and Archival Files in collaboration of the Russian State University for the Humanities and Russian Society of Historians – archivists.

In the event more than 300 participants took part including the guests from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan,

Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine and France. The main topic of the conference was an important task in the nowadays archival work – the efficient and thriving management of the electronic documents that is overall challenge for the archives of many East European and post-Soviet countries.

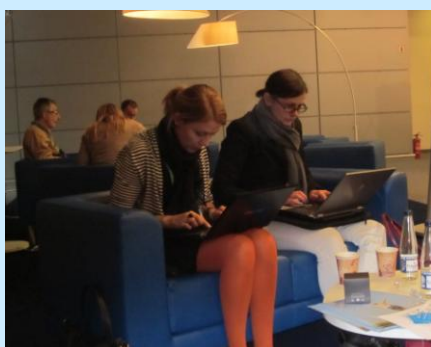
The presentation “*Cross Border e-Archive*” – a project for acquisition of the cultural heritage of Estonia, Latvia and Russia by the project manager Valdis Stals was given in the first day of the conference during plenary session. Participants from Poland, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and the University for Humanities as well as the Latvian Cultural Society of St. Petersburg showed interest in project’s development and further collaboration with the National Archives of Latvia.



Participation in the biggest European research and innovation event “ICT 2013 - Create, Connect, Grow”

On 6-8 November 2013 Project manager Indra Auzane and other representatives of Culture Information Systems Centre participated in the biggest European research and innovation event “ICT 2013 - Create, Connect, Grow” that took place in Vilnius, Lithuania and was organised by the European Commission in partnership with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

During the Event several great and important activities were ongoing like conference, exhibition, social networking, investment forum and others. Participation of Indra Auzane in the Event was one of the planned Project activities as the main aim of the Project is digitalisation of the archival materials.



WORKING VISIT IN ST. PETERSBURG

During the first week of December last year project partners from Latvia and Estonia arrived in St. Petersburg to participate in several important working meetings and round-table discussions organised by the project partner from Russia – St. Petersburg Informational and Analytical Centre (SPIAC).

Crucial meeting was held at the Archival Committee of St. Petersburg at the beginning of the visit – December 3. The meeting was attended by all members of the project steering group and the governing board of the Archival Committee and SPIAC.

The chairman of St. Petersburg

Archival Committee Svetlana Shtukova and the director of SPIAC Evgeny Korabelnikov welcomed guests, spoke about the strong collaboration between SPIAC and Archival Committee and presented to the audience projects that were jointly implemented by both organisations.

Ms Shtukova also introduced the audience with St. Petersburg State Archives and presented their system. She highlighted that it would be very interesting and fruitful to work with foreign partners and build strong consortium of high professionals within the field of archives.

After the meeting Svetlana Shtukova invited all participants to the cultural entertainment – visiting the local exhibition “This Old New Year” («Этот Старый Новый Год») that was displayed in the atrium of the Archival Committee, and reflected historical milestones of celebration of New Year and Christmas in Russia. Postcards, invitations, calendars, magazines and newspaper publications, the Christmas-tree decorations, created during different periods since the pre-revolutionary time, were presented at the exhibition and everybody with pleasure remembered old traditions which shrouded celebration of New Year in the recent past.



The session at the Archival Committee was followed by a workshop on the portal and metadata database development in the office of SPIAC. Portal and metadata database developers Sergey Smirnov and Artem Vorontsov gave the presentations about the current status of the portal and metadata database development. Topics for the portal development discussion included portal structure, portal component model, component functions and general requirements. It has been confirmed that the system interface would be translated into four languages – English, Estonian, Latvian and Russian – and the function of comments given by users would be implemented.

Also, the current status of the portal

design was presented by the specialist of “Ideju Forums” Toms Kovkajevs, including all the basic design elements. After presentations lively discussions followed. All project partners agreed on the best solution for the portal moderation – it should be provided by archival specialists from all countries involved (Latvia, Estonia and Russia) in order to moderate eventual user comments in the most efficient way. It has been also agreed that data storage during the project’s implementation period will be provided by SPIAC in Russia. Decision about the data storage after project’s implementation will be made during the last steering group meeting in Riga in spring 2014.

On the following day the round-table discussions and the steering group

meeting were held at Sokos Hotel Olympia Garden in St. Petersburg. All project partners and steering group members participated in these meetings along with the governing board of St. Petersburg Central State Archive and Central State Historical archive. The current status of the project and its progress was presented by the project manager Indra Auzane. After the overall presentation the metadata guidelines and plans for further actions of the project were approved by all members of the steering group.

Meetings in St. Petersburg was a great opportunity for all partners to come together and will help to advance the project and work on further improvements at the final stage of project implementation.