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Digitisation - Bulgaria

Country: Bulgaria

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6.1.A Does legislation or policy in the heritage field include specific provisions (policy or guidance) for digitisation?

Yes

Please indicate different policies

Approach (click to collaps)

Integrated Approach

Data collected in digital format
Data converted in digital format
Digital dissemination

6.1 Commentary

Commentary

Integrated Approach

6.1.A. The legislative protection of the digitalized products is provided for by the **Copyright and Similar Rights Act** (Закон за авторското право и сродните му права) (The Official Gazette No. 56 of 1993, amended in 1994, 1998 and 2000), which in July 2002 was harmonized with the European Union Directive on Data Basis. On 26th December 1974 Bulgaria ratified the Universal Convention on Copyright (adopted in Geneva on 6th September 1952, revised in Paris on 24th July 1971)

The Ordinance on the conditions and procedures for the presentation of properties (Наредба за условията и реда за представяне на културните ценности), in force from 28.03.2014, issued by the Ministry of Culture, Prom. SG. 28 of March 28 2014.) - According to this ordinance digitization and online presentation of cultural properties carried out by museums, libraries and other natural or legal persons, are a means of their promotion. Museums and libraries plan annually funds for digitization, online presentation of cultural properties and storage of digital information.

The draft **National Strategy for the Development of Culture** (Национална стратегия за развитие на културата) also provides for the inclusion of texts on digitization. Libraries are the most advanced in the process of digitizing in Bulgaria. They are followed by the State Archives Agency and some museums and art galleries. Currently online presentation of databases is not sufficiently developed.

In the **Sector strategy of the Ministry of Culture for the introduction of e-governance**

2011-2015, a special place on the digitization of cultural heritage has been set apart.

The archaeological heritage is partially presented by individual collections or more valuable exhibits on the museum websites

The issue of the digitization of cultural heritage is widely discussed in Bulgaria, but there is no single software and approved standard for the digitization of movable and immovable cultural heritage. Some of the museums, galleries, libraries and archives have digitized part of their collections, but few of them are available online.

In July 2012 with decision of the **Managing Board of the 13 Centuries Bulgaria Fund a National Expert Council for digitization** / of cultural, historical and scientific heritage / was set up planning to develop a strategy document and action plan related to digitization of cultural heritage. Funding opportunities for digitization are being sought under European and other programs, conferences are held and best practices are shared.

An integrated information system exists in management of the country – it is provided for by **Decree No. 36 of 14th February 2001 of the Council of Ministers on the Setting up of a Comprehensive Automated Management System** (The Official Gazette No. 17 of 2001). In the field of cultural heritage preservation, although no comprehensive program exists for establishing interactive information awareness, there are certain developments both in the legislation and in the sphere of practice, namely: Digital information system of the archaeological heritage has been set up.

Ordinance on the Establishment, Maintenance and Provision of information by the automated information system Archaeological Map of Bulgaria (Наредба за създаване, поддържане и предоставяне на информация от автоматизирана информационна система "Археологическа карта на България") issued by the Minister of Culture, in force since 19.04.2011. - Automated Information System "Archaeological Map of Bulgaria" is a database that contains information on archaeological sites in Bulgaria. The database of AIS, AMB is created in the National Archaeological Institute and Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS NAIM), maintained and accessed via the Internet. Information from a database AIS, AMB is used only for activities related to the exploration, preservation and promotion of archaeological heritage. The database is protected under the Copyright and Related Rights. Direct access to AIS, AMB are archaeologists who are in employment or business relationship with the Bulgarian cultural, scientific organization, university or department, the activity of which is related to the protection of the archaeological heritage

Digitalisation of the **National Scientific-documentary Archive of the immovable cultural properties** is provided for by Ordinance, issued by the Minister of Culture, which stipulates the procedure for archiving the documentation on them. The National Scientific-documentary Archive will set up and maintain a computer information system concerning the immovable cultural properties of Bulgaria, as well as about those related to Bulgarian history, which are located abroad.

The digital entries of the cadastre plans and maps (also containing data about the cultural properties and their protected areas), of the town-planning schemes and the soil-categories maps, are the subject of Ordinance, issued by the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works. The digitalisation of these documents is of substantial importance to their preservation in that its structural connection with the territorial development plans of population centres is a significant component of the integral conservation of immovable properties.

Ordinance No. 1 of 17th November 2000 details the setting up and maintaining of an information register of the cultural organizations; it has been issued by the Minister of Culture (The Official Gazette No. 97 of 2000).

In The Government Programme for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2018, part "Culture and Spirituality", a number of priorities cover the cultural heritage, including the digitization of cultural properties: **Priority 17.6.**Digitalization of Bulgaria's tangible and intangible cultural heritage

Objective 15:

Digitalization of the movable and immovable cultural heritage and providing of access to electronic registers and a public database for it

Measures:

- Adoption of a long-term National Plan for the Cultural Heritage Digitalization
- Amendment of the Cultural Heritage Act
- Establishment of conditions and taking concrete actions for the realization of projects and programmes in the area of literary heritage

6.2.A Do you have information systems and databases such as intranet, extranet and internet sites concerning heritage (i.e. IT-d

Yes

Approach (click to collaps)

Integrated Approach

6.2.A Integrated Approach:

Internet

Websites:

[Electronic catalogue COBISS/OPAC](#)

[Digital library](#)

[Bulgariatravel](#)

[Heritage BG](#)

[Cultural policies](#)

[European virtual museum](#)

[Digicultbulgaria](#)

Archaeological Heritage

6.2.A Archaeological Heritage:

Intranet

6.2.B Who are the partners in the IT network(s) mentioned above:

Approach (click to collaps)

Integrated Approach

6.2.B Integrated Approach:

Government

Government agencies

NGOs

Universities

Regional Authorities

Local Authorities

Museums

Professional membership organisations

Research institutes

6.2.C Which topics do these IT systems cover?

Approach (click to collaps)**Integrated Approach**

Decision-making
 Heritage management (policy)
 Heritage management (sites)
 Policy and guidance
 Research institutes

6.2.D Is there a major (centralised, organisational level) database system that stores information on:**Approach (click to collaps)****6.2.D Inegrated Approach****Database topics**

Inventories

Protected heritage

Research results

Documentation

GIS data

6.2.D Archaeological Heritage**6.2.D Architectural Heritage****6.2.D Landscape Heritage****6.2 Commentary****Commentary (click to collaps)****Integrated Approach**

6.2.B. Several information systems, although unconnected to each other, exist in the field of preservation and contain the respective databases, which are updated and added to on a regular basis; these information systems are:

The digital entries of the cadastre plans and maps, the town-planning schemes and the soil categories maps for Bulgaria represent these documents in a digital format as ASCII files, which contain graphic and semantic (descriptive, character-digital) information. The information system has been implemented and operates based on MS Access 97, the operational system is Windows 9x/NT/2000, Microsoft Office 97 - Access 97, with software for the Cyrillic alphabet and file packing software (WinZip).

The system is expandable with a view to developing its functionality for multi-user network operation. The information database is an open system, that is, it may be added to and further developed. This allows for its merging with other databases with the same architecture, as well as for connecting of additional modules to the basic information massif. The intention is to prepare a version of the database in English, so that it might service foreign users (investors, businessmen) and be used for presentations during international forums.

The digital information system for the immovable cultural properties in Bulgaria and abroad is being implemented at the National Scientific-documentary Archive, which is a unit within the structure of the National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage; the required equipment for its purposes has been supplied.

The digitization of the museum stocks of the State and municipal museums is under way. The Ministry of Culture and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) are in the process of devising a pilot project for digitization of Bulgarian museums, aiming to present on the internet the riches of the unique Bulgarian cultural heritage.

As participants in the Norwegian partnership programme with a priority to digitalise the movable and immovable cultural heritage funds we aim to facilitate and modernise the access of all European citizens to our historical valuables.

Over the last years, the State has taken more actively part in the process of developing information technologies in Europe and has committed itself to more complicated and complex tasks, requiring although, solid IT resources and competence. Due to the fact that the State administration lacks the necessary capacity, for huge and complex projects concerning strategic and current activities, it relies on outsourcing and on cooperation with European partners within the Sixth and Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union (EU).

Bulgaria takes part in the Multiannuale-CONTENT PLUS Programme of the European Community (2005–2008), aiming to make digital content in Europe more accessible, functional and applicable. The initiative will encompass three spheres: spatial (or geographic) data, educational and cultural content. The programme aims to facilitate access and use of digital content, to raise its quality through developing well-structured metadata bases and to foster co-operation between the owners and users of electronic content in a -lingual and multicultural setting. The programme will also assist the development and connection of the digital collections of libraries, museums and archives in the member States of the EU

.

The University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG) with Bulgarian National Committee of ICOMOS and ACT Sofia equipped a Multimedia laboratory for architectural heritage and started building a database with in the project. Promotion of the use of new technologies in teaching, conservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage in Bulgaria, funded by the British Council. <http://www.nationallibrary.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0192&q=> (Digital Library)

The digitalization of valuable materials from the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library collections started in 2006. In autumn 2007 these digital images became accessible for users through the library's website. Nearly 80 000 files (800 GB of information) have been digitalized so far manuscripts, old printed books, unpublished documents from the Bulgarian Historical Archive and Oriental Department, portraits and photos, graphical and cartographical editions, Bulgarian newspapers and journals from 1844 to 1944 images and their systematical descriptions. Users could search in the Electronic archive through the specialized system DocuWare. The digitalized originals are on free access for users. The Digital Library is structured in several collections according to the type of the included documents. The different collections are subdivided in separate sections.

Electronic catalogue COBISS/OPAC - Catalogue of the National Library contains over 820 000 bibliographical records (March 2011) of the following kinds of documents: monographs: books, dissertations, maps and graphic documents, video records and scores - Bulgarian documents from 1876 to present (for the documents, acquired in 2007, use the old library's catalogue: electronic catalogue ISIS) - documents in other languages, acquired in the National Library from 1992 to present periodicals newspapers, journals and bulletins from

1992 to present articles from newspapers and journals from 1992 to present.

National Archaeological Institute and Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS NAIM) is a participant in the European project of 28 countries **CARRARE, (Connecting Archaeological and Architectural Heritage in Europeana) Best Practices Network**, which won the grant for 2010 - 2013. Expected it to be digitized and included 3D data 2000000 European archaeological sites. Currently been integrated into the Europeana 1,320,652 sites.

Two years in a row (2011, 2012) the Institute in Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences organized international conferences **Digital Conservation and Presentation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage**. The purpose of the venue was popularization of innovations in the area of digitalization, projects and technological developments in the area of digitalization, documentation, archiving and presentation of cultural and scientific heritage.

Since the summer of 2012. Fund "13 Centuries Bulgaria" led the establishment of the **"National Expert Council on digitization"**, whose forthcoming appearance will be in the web address: <http://www.digicult.bg>. The Council brings together representatives of the Bulgarian archives, libraries, museums, galleries and representatives of the Ministry of Culture, scientific and educational institutions. In the last fifteen years on various occasions and initiatives were organized many expert meetings, seminars and conferences, on which were repeatedly delineated strengths and weaknesses in the process of digitalization in Bulgaria.

6.2.D. Automated Information System Archaeological Map of Bulgaria (AIS AMB) is a computer system, by means of which information about the archaeological sites in the Republic of Bulgaria is collected, processed and stored. The database is filled in by the Archaeological Institute and Museum with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) on the basis of source documents made out by experts of the above two institutions and of the historic and archaeological museums, of other BAS institutes and by individuals. Each registration card of an archaeological site, which is approved of for the AIS AMB, is recognized as an authors publication and is protected by the Copyright and Similar Rights Act. There is no public access to the information on the AIS AMB database; it may be used only for activities relating to the study and preservation of the archaeological heritage, and the Minister of Culture specifies the levels of authorized access to the information in the AIS AMB.

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