

Since the beginning of 2011, the "St. P. Hilendarski – 1926" chitalishte library in the village of Inovo has been part of the global network of the Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria Program.

Our desire to try to solve some of the problems of the people in our region led us to submit a project to the Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria Program for a grant to fund an innovative project that we called "Tradition Online". Thanks to its implementation, you can now see the home page of our web portal.

The project was promoted at a press conference for its launch and at the nine information meetings, held in the towns and villages of the project partners and participants, and the web portal was the best way to promote it.

The main objective of the project was to contribute to the sustainable development of local communities, to improve people's economic situation and to create conditions for the development of tourism in Vidin Municipality. By implementing this project, the chitalishte centers of Vidin Municipality have their place on the Internet for the first time ever, i.e. a portal where we can promote the rich cultural heritage of our region (arts, folklore, crafts, local cuisine). Every chitalishte in our region has its place there. They can post pictures, news, initiatives and events, because chitalishte centers are the only cultural and information centers in small towns and villages, preserving the uniqueness and authenticity of local communities. We tried to make it fun and memorable. We created it hoping it will be a bridge between tradition and the future. Through this portal we showed how crafts and traditions which we have kept, preserved and combined with modern technology and means can become a way to increase local people's income and to develop tourism in our region. Project partners included Vidin Municipality, Tsvyat Chitalishte Library in Vidin and the chitalishte centers in the villages of Gradets, Antimovo, Kapitanovtsi, Slanotran, Slana Bara, Bukovets, and Kutovo, thus trying to cover a large percentage of the population of the Vidin Municipality.

By participating in the development of the web portal, the chitalishte centers involved in the project increased their capacity and strengthened their image of institutions that connect with people, understand their problems and exhibit empathy and commitment. In addition to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of our region, they will work to create a mechanism for increasing the income of local people. Library workers increased their capacity, and acquired new knowledge and skills on working globally and with local communities.

We planned and developed an online store as part of the "Tradition Vidin" portal, and jokingly called it "the grocery store". "Tradition Vidin" is the place where we promote our region and create opportunities for increasing the income of local people.

Traditions must be preserved because of one question: "What is Bulgaria?" It is a combination of tradition, culture and past. Nothing starts or ends with us. We need to pass it on and build a bridge between the past and the future, without losing our identity, without losing any trade, or we would be losing the knowledge and wisdom accumulated over the years.