



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*This newsletter provides summarized information on the activities of the
Glob@l Libraries – Bulgaria Program in **July 2010***

TARGET LIBRARIES SELECTION – STAGE 2010

A meeting of the Program Board (PB) of Glob@l Libraries – Bulgaria was held on 13 July in the building of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture. The main subject on the agenda was the approval of a draft list of target libraries under the program's Stage 2010. The PB approved 341 libraries.

Ms. Vanya Grashkina, chairperson of the board of BLIA, proposed the inclusion of additional applications into the list. BLIA submitted their propositions to the PMU for expert evaluation on 14 and 15 July 2010. The PMU has prepared a stand-point, having taken into consideration the comments of the Ministry of Culture, the district coordinators and the field coordinators. The PB is to approve the final list of libraries in Stage 2010.

ICT COMPONENT

The tender for delivery, installation and support of ICT equipment in the 900 target libraries was held and is recorded in the UNDP registry as of 27 July 2010. Finalization of the procedure is expected, along with permission from UNDP New York for starting of talks with the contingent supplier.

The regional IT specialists have submitted protocols of their visits to the 455 target libraries in Stage 2009 to the PMU for analysis. The verification of the readiness of libraries in Stage 2009 for receiving ICT equipment is concluded.

The readiness of the target libraries to accept ICT equipment is defined by the compliance with an aggregate of requirements: there must be at least 3 Schuko electric plugs close to each workstation, and the power grid must be consistent with the number of devices; Internet access must be available in the library; local area networks and power grid must be built; premises must be renovated; suitable heating and air conditioning must be available; desks or tables and chairs must be provided for each workstation.

A resume of the information on the library visits is uploaded to the program portal. As of July 2010, 429 libraries (94%) have renovated the premises where the computers and peripherals shall be installed; 400 libraries (88%) have provided desks or tables and chairs for the workstations; Internet access is available in 394 libraries (87%); 392 libraries (86%) are heated by electricity, gas or solid fuel. Only 50 libraries (11%) in the entire country are fully ready and compliant with all mandatory requirements.

The degree of readiness in providing enough grid power for the approved ICT equipment and installation of the recommended number of electric plugs for each workstation is lower. The power grid in 141 libraries (31%) complies with the requirements. Local area networks and power grid are built in accordance with the requirements in only 89 libraries (20%).

The analysis shows that insoluble problems may occur upon bringing power grids into compliance with the requirements, as well as in cases when Internet service providers cannot ensure bandwidth of 512 Kbit/s or there is no option of cable Internet access, therefore mobile access shall be used.

The second visit for verification of libraries' readiness which shall be mutual for the IT specialists and the district coordinators is planned for two weeks before the equipment delivery.

TRAINING COMPONENT

Common introduction trainings for trainers in the four thematic areas of Glob@l Libraries – Bulgaria were held from 7 to 11 July and from 14 to 18 July in the Expo Hotel in Sofia. The main objectives of the introduction trainings were: to advance the knowledge and experience of trainers for the implementation of effective group training; to create awareness and inclination for assuming the roles of trainers under the Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria Program; to build a uniform, practically oriented approach in training Bulgarian library workers. The total number of participants in the training, including trainers, district coordinators, directors of regional libraries and representatives of the PMU, was 160.

The training agenda and aids were elaborated especially for the Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria trainers, taking into account their specific needs and the competence necessary for training library workers and citizens. In the end of the trainings, the participants had acquired: better personal communicative and emotional competence; understanding of their own style as trainers; knowledge and mastering of principles of training people with experience; deeper understanding of group processes in the course of training; skills in applying various interactive methods of training. The feedback forms of the trainees show a high degree of approval of the training subjects, the balance between theory and practice, as well as the methods of work used by the trainers.



Working in groups



Working in groups



Common session



Working in groups

Thematic trainings of trainers are planned for the middle of October 2010.

COMMUNICATION

Since the beginning of July 2010, Glob@l Libraries – Bulgaria is present in the leading online social networks: Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Globalni-Biblioteki/135588483125880>), Twitter (<http://twitter.com/GlobalLibraries>) and LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/companies/glob-l-libraries---bulgaria-program>). The program team, the district coordinators, library workers and users can use the profiles in social networks as a new opportunity to connect and exchange information.

The majority of activity can be seen in the Facebook page which is joined by new friends of the program daily, photographs and interesting links on library subjects are uploaded and current topics are discussed. The page currently has more than 200 friends who communicate an average of 80 times a week, and publish approximately 15 comments weekly.

In August 2010 we expect to accomplish the following:

- Participation in the annual conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), 10-15 August 2010
- Participation in the meeting of program managers under the Global Libraries initiative in Seattle, USA, 23-24 August 2010
- Specification of ICT packages for libraries proposed for inclusion in Stage 2010
- Preparation of a tender procedure for insurance of the ICT equipment in the libraries
- Preparation of a tender procedure for software support of the equipment
- Preparation of the thematic trainings of trainers
- Final work on the training aids for trainers and trainees
- Start of activities under the project "Libraries and journalists keep vigil on the rule of law, civil rights and social inclusion", a joint initiative of the Center for Independent Journalism, the regional libraries in Stara Zagora, Shumen and Vidin and Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria
- Selection of an advertising agency for production of radio spots for a campaign of Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria