



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2010

This newsletter provides summarized information on the activities of the Program Management Unit under the Glob@l Libraries – Bulgaria Program in March 2010.

STAGE 2010 FOR SELECTION OF TARGET LIBRARIES WAS LAUNCHED

On March 1, 2010 started the acceptance of applications from libraries for inclusion in the Global Libraries Program Stage 2010.

The start of the campaign was announced at the portals of the Program and partner organizations, as well as in national and regional media. Letters informing on the start of Stage 2010 were sent to the mayors of the 264 municipalities in Bulgaria and to all potential candidates – chitalishte and libraries.

It was decided that the application documents will be first submitted to the district coordinators and then sent to the PMU office in Sofia.

The first applications were received at the office of the program from the libraries at chitalishte Prosveta in Ablanitzha village and Progres in Novo Leski village, both located in Hadzhidimovo municipality, Blagoevgrad district.

A special column at the program's portal is dedicated to the most frequently asked questions on the application for Stage 2010 <http://www.glbulgaria.bg/page.php?c=6&d=157>. Applications for Stage 2010 will be accepted until April 14.

INTERNATIONAL BID FOR DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND SUPPORT OF ICT EQUIPMENT IN THE TARGET LIBRARIES.

The invitation to participate in the international bid for delivery, installation and support of ICT equipment in the 900 libraries was published on March 23.

The invitation to bid was published in Capital and Dnevnik newspapers, in the online editions of Computerworld and Economist as well as at the portal www.idg.bg. The full documentation for participation in the bid is uploaded at the Program site at: <http://www.glbulgaria.bg/page.php?c=42&d=176>.

In March the PMU IT specialists prepared a list of the software products, which the target libraries will receive upon delivery of the ICT equipment. The list was referred to the Working Group of the Program for comments.

In March the submission of applications for district ITs under the program Global Libraries – Bulgaria concluded. Over 250 applications from the entire country were received. Interviews with the short-listed candidates will be held in April.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

Analysis has shown that 19 municipalities have not submitted applications by libraries/chitalishte for participation in the Program Stage 2009. Additionally, 11 of the municipalities that have applied in Stage 2009, do not have any classified libraries. Those two groups of municipalities were the focus of the advocacy and communication activities in March. Advocacy teams of the Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria Program visited Maglizh and Pordim municipalities, which did not have any applications in Stage 2009. Talks were held with the mayors of the settlements and representatives of chitalishte municipalities with regard to the applications of local libraries for Stage 2010 of the program. The district coordinators participated actively in the campaign to attract those municipalities.

Target libraries in Pleven, Dolni and Gorni Dabnik were visited to verify the fulfillment of the mandatory requirements for inclusion in the program.

PMU representatives took part in information meetings on the requirements and application procedures for Stage 2010.

TRAINING COMPONENT

The PMU Training Specialist developed criteria for evaluation of applications for trainers under the Glob@l Libraries – Bulgaria Program during the pilot stage:

<http://www.glbulgaria.bg/page.php?c=70>.

Each of the 550 applications received was carefully reviewed and evaluated and 185 of the candidates were invited to an interview in front of a commission consisting of PMU members and key trainers.

Interviews in thematic areas “Information and Communication Technologies” and “Public Library Management” started the last week of March.

The key trainers in the four thematic areas – Information and Communication Technologies, Public Library Management, Modern Library Services, and Soft Skills prepared the first drafts of the training aids that will be used under the training component. PMU teams are presently reviewing the training materials and preparing comments.

It is foreseen that training centers for librarians and citizens will be created. To assess the present capacity, the training specialists from the PMU have sent a survey to the 27 district libraries and 20 of the chitalishte that will receive ICT package 2. The summarized and analyzed data from the surveys will be used to create requirement and standards for the functioning of training centers.

Teams consisting of representatives from the PMU, the Ministry of Culture and UNDP visited the district libraries, chitalishte and municipal libraries in the districts of Lovech, Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Stara Zagora, Yambol, Haskovo, Varna, Dobrich, Shumen, Targovishte and Silistra to examine the conditions and the facilities of the future training centers candidates. The visit also included meetings with representatives of other local training organizations and NGOs.



Visit in the Prof. Boyan Penev District Library – Razgrad

PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN VARNA

During 23-24 March 2010, the Pechno Slaveykov District Library in Varna hosted an international conference “European Digital Library – Modern Approaches and Policies in the Preservation and Dissemination of Cultural Heritage”

The spread of cultural heritage by digitalization of valuable collections and their presentation via the global information networks was the main topic of the presentations and discussions.

The Pencho Slaveykov District Library is presently the only Bulgarian Library ready to deposit original reserves in EuropeanaLocal –a database, part of the European digital library, which collects digital content from regional and local institutes.

The library has digitalized parts of its collections that will be accessible in the Internet via EuropeanaLocal in its next actualization in June 2010.

More information on the conference is available at the site of the library: <http://www.libvar.bg>.



Mr. I. Chipev, Head of Department “Literary Heritage” in the Ministry of Culture welcomes the participants in the conference



Mr. Rob Davies, Scientific Coordinator in EuropeanaLocal

APPLICATION FOR TRAINING OF THE BULGARIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION UNDER THE PROGRAM “BUILDING STRONG LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS”

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation offers grants for the program Building Strong Library Associations.

The training of members from library associations will be led by experts from the International Federation of the Library Associations (IFLA).

The Glob@l Libraries – Program Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Library and Information Association submitted a joint application to IFLA. Three of the nine countries participating in the initiative will be chosen by IFLA to have their associations trained in the corresponding country. The training includes topics such as strategic planning, fundraising, advocacy, working with communities and media and etc. The competition results will be announced in May 2010.

WWW.GLBULGARIA.BG

The portal is being recognized as one of the most effective communication instruments of the Program. According to the data, visits to the site have doubled since the end of year 2009 to reach 6500 in January.

The upward trend in the visits is retained through March.

In April we expect to accomplish the following:

- Conclude the acceptance of applications for inclusion in the program’s Stage 2010 from libraries/chitalishte;
- Begin the processing of data from the applications received;
- Conclude the acceptance of offers for the international bid for delivery, installation and support of ICT equipment for target libraries;
- Hold all interviews for trainers in the four thematic areas;
- Choose the district IT specialists;
- Elaborate the requirements for the training centers and standards for their functioning;
- Conclude reviewing the draft training aids submitted by the key experts.