



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

TARGET LIBRARIES SELECTION – STAGE 2010

A high-priority task of the Program Management Unit (PMU) was the elaboration and discussion by the Working Group (Expert Level) of the draft list of target libraries under the program's Stage 2010.

In the period 2-4 June 2010 in Velingrad the PMU held a meeting with the District Coordinators in order to discuss the elaborated draft lists by district and municipality. The applications from each district and municipality were thoroughly reviewed and analyzed by the corresponding field and district coordinators, as well as by representatives of the PMU, UNDP and the Ministry of Culture.

From 9 to 17 June 2010 the field coordinators, together with District Coordinators, visited 63 applicant libraries in 12 districts and got acquainted with their status on the spot.

During its meeting on 30 June the Working Group (Expert Level) discussed the draft list of target libraries under Stage 2010. The Program Board is expected to review and approve the list of libraries by the end of July 2010.



District Coordinators Iveta Filipova (Kardzhali), Yordanka Valcheva (Smolyan), Nikolina Kotseva (Pazardzhik) are discussing the draft lists for Stage 2010 with Daniel Dakovsky and Luba Devetakova
Velingrad, 2-4 June 2010

VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION IN BULGARIA

From 14 to 18 June 2010 a monitoring visit to Bulgaria was made by Ms. Jessica Dorr, Deputy Director of the Global Libraries Initiative, and Ms. Siri Oswald, Program Officer for Bulgaria, Romania and the Ukraine.

During the time of their visit, Ms. Dorr and Ms. Oswald were acquainted with the development of the program in Bulgaria and the current and forthcoming activities under it.

The representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation also held a series of meetings – with program partners, as well as with representatives of the Bulgarian government who are in relation to the implementation and development of the Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria Program.

ICT COMPONENT

The discussion of the analysis report of offers for delivery, installation and support of ICT equipment for 900 target libraries under the program in the UNDP Headquarters in New York continues.

PMU experts and external consultants are working on the elaboration of tender documentation for an insurer of the ICT equipment in the target libraries.

The verification of the 455 Stage 2009 libraries' readiness to receive the ICT equipment also started in June. The District IT Specialists are sending detailed information protocols to the PMU which are processed and analyzed.

TRAINING COMPONENT

The preparation of a common induction training of the trainers under the 4 thematic areas of the program continued in June. A series of meetings with the trainers of trainers were held. An agenda of the common induction training was elaborated as well.

120 trainers and 28 District Coordinators and directors of regional libraries split into two groups shall be acquainted with effective methods and tools for training of adults. The main objectives of the induction training are: 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 induction training for trainers shall be held from 7 to 11 July 2010 and from 14 to 18 July 210 in the Expo Hotel in Sofia.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

It was announced in June that the project "Libraries and journalists keep vigil on the rule of law, civil rights and social inclusion" developed jointly by the Glob@l Libraries - Bulgaria Program and the Center for Independent Journalism received funding of BGN 18,570 from the recent grant competition by the MATRA /CAP Program of the Dutch embassy in Bulgaria.

The main idea of the project is to create prerequisites for active dialogue between journalists and local communities. The regional libraries in Stara Zagora, Shumen and Vidin shall be partners and mediators in the realization of this dialogue. The projects aims for citizens to use actively the information available in public libraries, and to initiate public debate on current subjects such as fighting corruption, social inclusion, human rights protection, etc. with the intermediation of media. The book "SEPARATION FAILED: form the History of a Social Decease" the authors of which are popular names of investigation journalism shall be presented as part of the project.

The Zahari Knyazhevski Regional Library in Stara Zagora hosted a meeting of library workers and representatives of cultural institutions from the district. The main subject of the meeting was the

forthcoming activities under the Glob@l Libraries – Bulgaria Program. Natalia Georgieva, PR Specialist and Evtim Yanakiev, IT Manager in the PMU presented the training and ICT components of the program.

In relation to the forthcoming upgrade of the portal and its redesign, usability testing with typical portal users started in June. Library workers from 10 chitalishte libraries participate in the first testing. The preferences of 10 individual library users shall also be explored. The objective of the test is for participants to order different categories of information in the most convenient way to be found. The results shall help in the building of a new portal structure in accordance with users' expectations.

In July 2010 we expect to accomplish the following:

- Approval of a target libraries draft list under Stage 2010 by the Program Board
- Conducting of common induction training of trainers under the pilot phase of the training program
- Selection of a contractor for delivery of ICT equipment for target libraries
- Preparation of tender documentation for selection of ICT equipment in target libraries
- Submission of a quarterly report on program activities to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Creation of program presence in online social media