



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

EVALUATION OF TARGET LIBRARY APPLICATIONS – STAGE 2010

The review of 740 library applications for inclusion in Stage 2010 was completed. Each applicant library was assigned a point score according to the methodology for selection of target libraries in Stage 2010.

A draft list was compiled, to be discussed at a working meeting of the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Culture representatives and the Program District Coordinators on 2-4 June in Velingrad. The Program Board is expected to review and approve library applications for Stage 2010 at the end of June.

ICT COMPONENT

In May the evaluation committee comprising PMU, UNDP and Ministry of Culture representatives as well as independent consultants, reviewed the offers for delivery, installation and support of ICT equipment for 900 target libraries under the program. An analysis report of offers was drawn up and submitted to the UNDP Headquarters in New York on 27 May 2010.

An instruction workshop for district IT specialists was held in Sofia on May 20-21. All 31 district IT specialists selected under the program attended and were trained how to verify the readiness of Stage 2009 and Stage 2010 libraries to receive ICT equipment. They learned about the program goals and activities, as well as forthcoming tasks related to verification of library readiness to accept and install ICT equipment. Regional schedules were prepared for on-site visits.



Meeting of District IT Specialists, Sofia, 20-21 May 2010

TRAINING COMPONENT

Selection of trainers was finalized for all four modules of the training program: “Information and Communication Technologies”, “Public Library Management”, “Modern Library Services” and “Soft Skills”.

Trainers will undergo a series of instruction workshops to get acquainted with training standards and training materials developed especially for the Glob@l Libraries Bulgaria Program. General induction training has been planned for the first half of July 2010.

The Glob@l Libraries Bulgaria Program training component was presented at the Annual Meeting of Librarians and Chitalishte Workers in Burgas District, organized by the Burgas Regional Library on 11 May 2010. Diana Andreeva, Training Specialist at the Program Management Unit, presented the training component framework, progress to date, and forthcoming activities.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

On May 19, the Glob@l Libraries Bulgaria Program welcomed Ms Roberta Stevens, elected President of the American Library Association for 2010-2011. Ms Stevens was greeted by the Program Manager Mr. Trendafil Meterev. During her visit, Ms Stevens was informed about the course of the program and shared good practice about library digitalization in the USA.



Mr T. Meterev welcoming Ms Roberta Stevens



Ms Stevens with PMU and BLIA members
From left to right: S. Yaneva, N. Georgieva, A. Derandonyan, D. Andreeva, R. Stevens, E. Milkova

The Glob@l Libraries Bulgaria Program in partnership with the Center for Independent Journalism submitted a project proposal to the Dutch Government MATRA/KAP Program, entitled “Libraries and journalists keep vigil on rule of law, human rights, and social inclusion”.

The project aims to facilitate cooperation between journalists, the regional libraries in Vidin, Shumen and Stara Zagora, and local communities to ensure respect of the law and human rights. It will also strive to establish a new communication mechanism on ‘burning’ social issues between the citizens and the media.

Results under the Building Strong Library Associations Program of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) were announced at the end of May. The joint proposal submitted by the Glob@l Libraries Bulgaria Program and the Bulgarian Library and Information Association (BLIA) was not approved. Three National Library Associations from Botswana, Lithuania and Ukraine, were selected to participate in the IFLA program.

Libraries across this country celebrated the Day of Librarians, 11 May. The Glob@l Libraries Bulgaria Program disseminated promotional materials and brochures on this professional holiday and during the National Library Week at various events hosted by regional libraries across Bulgaria.

WORKING MEETING OF BULGARIA AND LATVIA GLOBAL LIBRARIES TEAMS

From 25-28 May, a team of Program Management Unit, Ministry of Culture and UNDP representatives visited Riga, Latvia. A special brief about the working visit to Latvia will be posted on the program's portal in mid-June 2010.



Ms D. Andreeva in conversation with Ms Inga Niedra, Latvia Program Training Manager



Mr T. Meretev presenting the Global Libraries Bulgaria Program during Program Impact Assessment conference in Latvia

In June 2010 we expect to accomplish the following:

- Implement joint meeting of PMU, MC representatives and Program District Coordinators, June 2-4, Velingrad
- Finalize list of Stage 2010 libraries approved by the Working Group and the Program Board
- Prepare induction training of trainers for the pilot phase of the training program
- Select contractor for ICT equipment delivery to target libraries in Stage 2009 and Stage 2010
- Submit draft proposal of Public Council and Fundraising Strategy to the Working Group
- Host monitoring visit by Ms Siri Oswald, BMGF supervisor for Bulgaria, June 15-18
- Conduct district IT specialists' on-site visits at the target libraries for Stage 2009
- Finalize initial versions of training materials under the program