

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION
OF, AND ACCESS TO, DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE
INCLUDING IN DIGITAL FORM

Country: Bulgaria

Organization or structure responsible for the report: St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library (CMNL)

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Brief description of the consultation process prepared for the preparation of the report: The report uses the institution's reports and activities that are part of the library's strategic goals.

The UNESCO Recommendation - Promoting and creating a supportive, active, stable environment

For some of the institutions working on some of UNESCO's programs, Recommendations for preservation and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form, are known, although not officially promulgated in the relevant ministries and institutions, and the text of the Recommendations is not translated into Bulgarian but is available through the working languages of UNESCO.

The St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library is active in the Memory of the World Programme and the library staff is involved in the preparation of some of the Republic of Bulgaria's applications under this program.

The Republic of Bulgaria has created a good legal basis for dealing with various issues of the institutions involved in the selection, collection, formation of valuable collections of manuscript and documentary heritage, preservation, restoration and preservation of written monuments, processing, scientific disclosure of content of the monuments through various inventories and catalogues. The policy of obtaining the various types of documents (manuscripts, printed publications, archives, etc.) is governed by different laws, regulations and regulations of the respective institutions which manage the respective collections. Among

these institutions are the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library, Archives State Agency at the Council of Ministers, the Scientific Archive and the Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the various public libraries and community centres in the country, where there are specialized valuable collections, as well as some of the big Bulgarian monasteries preserved libraries of manuscripts and old-printed books.

International standards and good practices

The National Library, as Bulgaria's oldest and largest cultural institution, has consistently carried out its legal tasks as the largest archive of the Bulgarian book. The Library is developing activities corresponding to the best practices of European countries in libraries, information science, book science, archival science and Oriental studies. For over ten years, a Digital Library has been actively being developed and filled with collections of fully digitally filmed documents from the specialized library collections of manuscripts, archival documents, early printed publications, Bulgarian printed papers, Bulgarian periodicals, graphic and musical publications, photos and albums. The creation of the Digital Library allows a better access for users from Bulgaria and abroad to the valuable library collections, and through the metadata to the images; the research and popularization activities of various specialists are supported. Some of the earliest and most famous monuments of the funds of the National Library are introduced in the EUROPEANA Library and the World Digital Library.

A good example of the international librarian practice, implemented in the National Library, are the activities of the program "Adopt Book", which involves not only library specialists and restorers, but also various representatives of the public. Through this program the library employees strive to implement the policy to raise awareness of the problems of preserving the Bulgarian documentary heritage. One of the most important international programs of UNESCO, to which the National Library has its long and fruitful participation, is the Memory of the World Register. In the Register are two of the literary monuments stored in the library collection of Slavonic manuscripts as world wealth and significance. The Enina Apostle of the 11th century was included in the register as early as 2011. Two of the 78 new items included in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the period 2016-2017 are Bulgarian. The International Consultative Committee of UNESCO has approved the two nominations proposed by Bulgaria - the Boril Synodic from the manuscript collection of the National

Library and the Tetraevangelia of Tsar Ivan Alexander from the Slavonic manuscript collection of the British Library in London. The National Library is invited to participate in an international team on the presentation of the full collection of Mawlānā Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī manuscripts in the Memory of the World Register for the next session of the UNESCO Commission (2018-2019) with the Maṭnawīye Ma'nawī (Spiritual Couplets). In November 2017, in Antalya, Republic of Turkey, a workshop was held - Meeting for the 25th Anniversary of MoW: Enhancing International Cooperation and Discussing the Possible Joint Nomination of Mawlana's Kulliyat.

Consultation and support mechanisms between government and the parties concerned in the documentary heritage sector

Regarding the consultation and support mechanisms between government and the parties concerned in the documentary heritage sector, the UNESCO National Commission maintains contacts with the Ministry of Culture, which is the principal of the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library. The Library preserves the greatest and collections of national significance of manuscript-documentary heritage. The contacts of the National Commission of UNESCO through the departments of the Ministry of Culture engaged with the library system in the country and the library work give the positive results of the participation of the National Library in the Memory of the World Programme and the inclusion of some of the emblematic Bulgarian manuscripts in the Memory of the World Register.

The Archives State Agency at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria methodologically manages the various archive collections of national and regional importance, including this part of the National Archival Funds, which are kept in the National Library. The processing of the archival documents in the Library is based on the requirements for the processing, classification and scientific description in the archives of the Archives Fund Methodological Code. The National Library has experts under Art. № 96 of the Cultural Heritage Act in the field of manuscript-documentary heritage. In the process of elaboration of measures for preservation and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form, the experts of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association are also included.

Actions to support institutions related to the memory - in the development of policies and standards through research and advices, guided by internationally established norms

In Bulgaria is established a relatively well-functioning system of laws, instructions and regulations, governing the activities of cultural and scientific institutions related to the national memory. Fundamental to the activities of the National Library as the largest public library, with the obligation to develop scientific and applied research activities in the field of library and information sciences, book science, archeography, archival science, Oriental studies and restoration and preservation of literary monuments are:

- The Public Libraries Act,
- The Cultural Heritage Act;
- The National Archives Fund Act;
- The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- instructions and regulations.

The manuscript collections of the Library are part of the national documentary heritage, protected as a cultural value within the meaning of the Cultural Heritage Act, in force since 10.04.2009. According to the Public Libraries Act, in force since 6.07.2009 each library fund is a state or municipal property (Article 55, paragraph 1) and the National Library as a state cultural institution is the owner of its documentary funds. For the collections containing documents from the National Archival Fund the requirements of the National Archival Fund Act shall apply. For collections containing cultural assets, the requirements of the Cultural Heritage Act apply. A National Library Council was established as an expert advisory body to the Minister of Culture.

The collection of Slavonic manuscripts was published through the 5 volumes of the "Inventory of the Slavonic Manuscripts in the Sofia National Library" (Vol.1-1910, 5-1996) and in catalogues of the Bulgarian manuscripts from 11-th to the 18-th century, kept in Bulgaria. The collection of Greek and other foreign language manuscripts was introduced through a brief inventory published in 1973. The archival funds from the period of the Bulgarian Revival and the first decades of the Third Bulgarian State are described in detailed inventory and are included in the 9 vol. "Overview of the archival funds ..." The manuscript-documentary heritage, inscribed in Arabic script was introduced in science by thematic inventories and catalogues, divided by types of document, sciences and settlements.

Core measures and policies for capacity building in the sector

In Bulgaria there are universities, in which bachelor's and master's programs prepare specialists in the field of manuscript-documentary heritage (philologists, historians, archivists, librarians and information specialists, specialists in the field of Bulgarian, Balkan regional and European culture). In the research and university centres, papers are prepared in interdisciplinary topics of the written heritage. Regarding the building of professional capacity in different types of Bulgarian libraries, specialized courses for postgraduate qualification are organized by the professional association of librarians - the Bulgarian Library and Information Association. In the field of humanities, the country has well-trained researchers and specialists, who participate annually in numerous scientific forums, in Bulgarian and international research teams, in Bulgarian, regional and international projects and programs. With its highly qualified specialists, the National Library occupies a prominent place in the research work in the field of book science, the handwritten and printed tradition, archival science and Oriental studies.

In the field of digitization, for years, it has been worked systematically in the national institutions involved in preserving manuscript-documentary heritage (e.g. the National Library, the National Museum of History, the Scientific Archives of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Archives State Agency). The regional libraries, archives and museums participate through targeted projects in the digitization of their most valuable documents of the literary and documentary heritage and uncover historical knowledge important for the community culture.

Thematic or jubilee exhibitions are organized annually in the public libraries, museums and archives. They present valuable collections of the institutions. Most of these exhibitions with digitally photographed exhibits are published on the sites of the institutions for wider and remote access of the community to cultural information. In this sense, the National Library has already established tradition of presenting some of its most important expositions on its site, some of which are included in the series of exhibitions travelling both in the country and abroad.

Legislation and mandates

The St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library is under the direct authority and subordination of the Ministry of Culture. It is a budget institution, the resources of which are

determined annually depending on the state budget and the part of it determined for the activities in the prerogatives of the Ministry of culture. The library is headed by a Director elected by the Commission to the Ministry of Culture after a successful competition, its Deputy Directors, and a Chief Accountant. It is enacted by the Public Libraries Act. The National Library has the obligation to keep the entire Bulgarian printed work in the Archive of the Bulgarian Printed and Other Types of Documents. This national task is laid down in a special law on the compulsory deposit of printed and other works. The special funds containing the manuscript-historical heritage from the Middle Ages to the modern age (IX-XXI century) are governed by the Cultural Heritage Act and the National Archival Fund Act. In its work, the National Library strictly complies with the Copyright and Related Rights Act and does not allow violations in its Digital Agenda for Digitization of printed works and archives. For this reason, the Library has developed rules for the digitization of materials from its special collections. Regarding some archival documents donated to the library by the will of a testament, the donor's conditions for temporary limitation of access (if specified) are respected, in accordance with the country's legislation.

Long-term investments in analogue and digital documentary conservation. Creation of integrated access systems.

The National Library has full electronic information on the country's publishing product (on-line catalogue), which refers to the long-term investment for storing digital documentation (metadata, digitized documents and bibliographic records). The software product COBISS that the National Library has been using since 2010 is part of a collaborative on-line bibliographic system, also used in Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania. The databases are based on accepted international bibliographic description standards and are introduced into international document processing formats. The digital preservation of written cultural heritage in National Library funds is associated with expanding users' access to documents from different collections by making their digital copies. The implementation of the BG0046 project "Digitization and Preservation of the Written Heritage of Bulgaria" is fundamental to the implementation of digitization processes in the National Library. Within the framework of the project, the National Register of Books Issued in Bulgaria (Books in print) is also filled in.

The National Library participates in the creation of integrated systems for access to information through:

- Implementation of new bilingual software for visualization of digitized images and the metadata introduced to them - Digital Library (PC-TM);

- Developed (in collaboration with the company *Identric*s) a software solution project and a web portal for storing, linking, enriching, providing shared access, searching and presenting digitized library resources;

- "Active Historic Map" is a project for digital content presentation with digitized documents and bibliographic information. Represents a digital map where historical events are traceable to their time dynamics, chronological order, and territorial impact;

- Participation in international digital libraries and portals - Europeana - 360 documents, including Slavic manuscripts, Oriental manuscripts (Sijills), Bulgarian old-printed books; The World Digital Library; Visual Archive South-eastern Europe (VASE), where is presented a rich part of the National Library's photographic collection.

**Identification and restoration-conservative status of the documentary heritage.
Policies, mechanisms and criteria for selecting and acquiring of documentary heritage**

The National Library as a memory preservation institution develops its activities in accordance with the legal and regulatory documents dealing with the basic issues of the collection, processing, scientific description, conservation, preservation and restoration of valuable documentary heritage. In the Cultural Heritage Act, Art. 43 it is recorded that a register of the intangible cultural heritage has been established at the Ministry of Culture under a procedure established by an ordinance by the Minister of Culture. In this register, the National Library updates the data on the quantity and type of documents in the area of manuscript-documentary heritage stored in its special funds. In the register of the National Archives Fund, published on the website of Archives State Agency, the documents from the fund kept in the "Preservation of Manuscript and Documentary Heritage" Division of the National Library are described.

In the structure of the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library there is "Preservation of Manuscript and Documentary Heritage" division, which includes the

departments "Manuscripts and old-printed books", "Bulgarian historical archives" with the collection "Portraits and Photos", "Oriental Collections" and the "Restoration Centre". All these departments have the main task of preserving and protecting of the manuscript and documentary heritage. The annual work plans in the division include activities for assessing the status of documents - if they need certain restoration, conservation and digitization activities, as well as the filling metadata in the special collections in the Digital Library.

The collections of Slavic, Greek and other foreign language manuscripts, the most valuable and richly decorated original manuscripts from the arabographic collections, as well as the originals from the Bulgarian national periodicals until 1878 and microfilms of manuscripts from other libraries are stored in specially equipped air-conditioned repository, where the access for employees is limited. The material base in the National Library does not allow the separation of different repositories for the original manuscripts and their analogy forms.

The vast part of the archival heritage, as well as the arabographic manuscripts, are stored in a separate section of the library's storage facilities and are also subject to a special regime of execution and use by researchers and readers. A very small part of the documents of the Bulgarian Revival, which are of the most important national importance, are stored in the vault of the Bulgarian National Bank and are subject to an extremely strict regime of use. These documents are made available to researchers for various scientific, popular and cultural purposes by digital copies and electronic publications and in specially prepared diplomatic editions.

Measures to protect the documentary heritage

In all institutions for national memory in Bulgaria (libraries, archives, museums) when is necessary to work with the originals of the valuable manuscript and documentary heritage there is a special regulation, which specifies the conditions and order of use of the documents. This is particularly relevant to working with the valuable materials in the collections of the National Library. In its premises there are specialized reading rooms: to the "Preservation of Manuscript and Documentary Heritage" division, to the "Special collections" department - a reading rooms for musical publications, for cartographic and graphic publications.

Regarding the appropriate temperature-humidity regime created in the National Library's air-conditioned repository, the employees of the Restoration Centre department make periodic and planned observations.

Together with the public (national, regional, museum, community centres, etc.) collections of manuscript-documentary heritage, there are also private collections. Some of the specialized science centres contain information about private collectors possessing literary monuments that can be classified as cultural heritage. For this purpose, the bodies and experts designated by the Cultural Heritage Act have been issued with the relevant certificates. The National Library has collections with special names, one of which has the status of "responsible custody" - Slavonic manuscripts in the collection "United Bulgarian Bank". The written records have been introduced in popularity through various publications in scientific literature (monographs, studies, thematic catalogues, catalogues of exhibitions, etc.).

Capacity building. Developed training schemes

As the largest library of Bulgaria, a national cultural institute, the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library has regular relations with the other national cultural institutes, which are under the direction and order of the Ministry of Culture - National Museum of History, National Literary Museum and the National Art Gallery. In carrying out its tasks as the archivist of an essential part of Bulgaria's archival heritage, the National Library has a close professional relationship with the State Archives Agency, which published a Methodological Code for the Processing and Scientific Description of the Documentary Heritage. A representative of the Library participates in the National archive board. The Law on the National Archival Fund defines in Art. № 33 the order, the period and the way of completing of archives, including in the "Preservation of Manuscript and Documentary Heritage" division of the National Library.

In the system of higher education in Bulgaria there are professional fields, preparing specialists in various fields related to the selection, preservation, processing, scientific disclosure and popularization of manuscript and documentary heritage. There are three degrees (Bachelor, Master and Doctor) that prepare philologists, historians, archivists, restorers, culture experts, and librarians and information scientists. As a professional union of Bulgarian libraries, through its lecturers-experts, the Bulgarian Library and Information

Association periodically organizes courses for post-graduate qualification and specialization in the field of preservation of manuscript-documentary heritage.

Participation of the national institutions for memory in international professional associations and networks

Each of the national institutions involved in the preservation of national memory has its commitments in international professional associations. The St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library implements activities and initiatives to develop and expand international cooperation, to apply the European standards, to share the European and world experience in the field of cultural memory stored in the Library.

The National Library is an active member and participant in the activities of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), the Conference of the Directors of National Libraries (CDNL); the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA); Annual Sessions of National Libraries in Southeast Europe (SEENL). The Libraries Partnership encourages international co-operation, creates space for sharing and sharing of expertise, promotes good practices, coordinates common, shared solutions and initiatives.

Memory of the World Programme. Nominees for Memory of the World Registers (International, Regional, National)

The Bulgarian Committee "Memory of the World" was established to the Ministry of Culture, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Culture in March 2014. A representative of Bulgaria is included in the International Advisory Council (IAC) for the program.

The National Library has two of its most valuable Slavonic manuscripts, included in the International Registry "Memory of the World" - Enina Apostle from the 11th Century (included in the register in 2011) and the Boril Synodik (Palauzov transcript) (included in the register in 2017). In 2017 the International Registry also includes the common application of the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library and the British Library in London - the Tetraevangelia of Tsar Ivan Alexander (London Tetraevangelia) from 1355-1356.

In 2017, the UNESCO National Commissions of Bulgaria and Turkey made together a proposal to participate in a joint nomination concerning complete set of Mawlānā Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī manuscripts for the inclusion of the literary heritage in the International Register UNESCO's "Memory of the World" for the next session in 2018-2019. A representative of the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library took part in a meeting for the 25th Anniversary of MoW: Enhancing International Cooperation and Discussion on the Possible Joint Nomination of Mawlana's Kulliyat, 25-26 November 2017, Antalya, Turkey.

World Memory Programme activities to promote and visibility of results that improve the accessibility of documentary heritage

Some of the most significant records of written culture stored in the National Library are free available by the web in large international projects such as the World Digital Library (WDL), the European Library (The European Library - TEL)

According to one of the important requirements for the inclusion of manuscripts and records of documentary heritage in the international Memory of the World Register, the document should be digitized in order to improve the accessibility to the national heritage. The National Library fulfils one of its commitments - creating, filling in and maintaining a Digital Library - with the financial support of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Financial Mechanism. Until the beginning of 2018, a total of about 400,000 files (manuscripts, old-printed books, unpublished documents from the Bulgarian Historical Archives and the Oriental Collections, portraits and pictures, graphic and cartographic publications, Bulgarian newspapers and magazines from 1844-1944) were scanned and included in the Digital Library (images and their metadata). The full digital copies are provided free of charge. The Digital Library is placed on the National Library's website through a portal.