PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

Imagining the Balkans
History, Memory and Dialogue in South-East Europe

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 8-9 March 2012

A meeting organized within the initiative
BACKGROUND

This international meeting is organized as a follow-up to the previous encounters organized in Thessaloniki (“National History Museums in Southeast Europe: learning history, building shared memories”, Thessaloniki, Greece, 18-19 October 2010), Berlin (“Best practices in museum management: dealing with difficult heritage, educating on history”, Berlin, Germany, 27-28 January 2011), and Turin (“History, memory and dialogue in South-East Europe: Exploring the identity of Nations”, October 5-6th, Turin, Italy). These meetings were organized to enhance cooperation and dialogue among the South-East European national history museums.

This project is developed within the new framework initiative entitled “Culture: a Bridge to Development” that has been included in the biennial Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 of UNESCO (36 C/5) – as approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 36th session (October-November 2011). The initiative aims at better promoting cultural heritage in all its forms as a powerful and unique tool for sustainable social, economic and human development, job-creation opportunities social cohesion, education and mutual understanding, thus bringing forth new opportunities for international cooperation. Building on the cohesive power of cultural heritage in all its forms and dimensions (tangible and intangible, movable and museums, documentary heritage), the project aims at contributing to the enhancement of creativity, dialogue and cultural exchanges, develop innovative and creative approaches to the safeguarding and promotion of heritage and culture-sensitive development projects through the support to the rehabilitation, capacity building, and transformation of key leading cultural institutions.

The last meeting, in Turin, served to discuss more in depth the concrete proposal of a pilot regional project for a travelling exhibit, tentatively entitled “Imagining the Balkans”. The general framework of the exhibition-concept had been prepared in advance of the Torino meeting by the Venice Office, together with Ana Stolic (Director of the National History Museum of Belgrade, Serbia) and Philippos Mazarakis (Curator at the National Historical Museum in Athens and President of the International Association of Museums of History) to initiate and facilitate the discussions, for further comments, inputs, suggestions and concrete proposals. This framework-
The exhibit will be designed in a way to permit travelling and presentation in a succession of countries of the SEE region, and serve to sustain dialogue and cooperation among museums of the region and enhance a shared reflection on nations-building processes, the transformation of cultural and social practices, and the construction of a European identity and of shared memories. The chronological frame would be the “long 19th century”, starting from around the French revolution and ending with the end of World War 1.

In particular, it was agreed that each partner museum would prepare a selection of 10 items (photos, pictures, sculptures, drawings, texts, maps, films, musical recordings, paintings, artifacts, etc), together with all their relevant information and meta-data, including their historical relevance and repercussions on the project subject.

The items proposed should correspond to the three major transversal topics retained, in line with the approaches and issues presented in the Turin report:

- Living in the Balkans
- Educating in the Balkans
- Representing the Balkans
  a. Representing (Heroes, celebrations, symbols, maps, etc)
  b. Narrating (tales, writings, literature, history, etc)

The National Museum of Slovenia has accepted to host and inaugurate the travelling exhibit. The meeting is therefore taking place within the Museum’s premises, so that all partners can view the space available (about 300 sqm) and the collections possessed by the host museum.
PARTICIPANTS

The conference will comprise museum directors and experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.

Are also invited senior representatives from European museums (German Historical Museum in Berlin, Germany), professional organizations (ICOM/International Committee for Exhibitions and Exchange; ICOM/International Association of Museums of History; EUROCLIO-European Association of History Educators) and academic networks of research (Eunamus/European National Museums research project).

WORKING LANGUAGE

Working language will be English.

PLACE OF THE MEETING

National Museum of Slovenia
New building, Maistrova 2
Old building, Prešernova 20,
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: +386 1 24 14 400
Fax: +386 1 24 14 422

Website: http://www.nms.si/english/01_informations/information.html

ACCOMMODATION

The UNESCO Venice Office will cover travel tickets and accommodation for participants. The hotel chosen for participants is the Best Western Premier Hotel Slon. Lunches and dinners will be offered to the participants by the organizers. Transfers will be organized for participants between the airport and the hotel.
HOTEL
Best Western Premier Hotel Slon
Slovenska cesta 34, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel. +386 (0) 1 470 11 00
Website: http://www.hotelslon.com/index_en.php

CONTACTS

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AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Wednesday 7 March 2012

Arrival of participants, transfer to Best Western Premier Hotel Slon

20h30: Meeting in Hotel Lobby. Welcoming Dinner. Venue, Restaurant Figovec (5mn walk from hotel)

Thursday 8 March 2012

9h00: Departure from the hotel (10 minutes walk) to the venue of the meeting: National Museum of Slovenia, New building, Maistrova 2

9h30-10h00: Welcoming words
- Barbara Ravnik, Director of the National Museum of Slovenia
- Špela Spanžel, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Slovenia, Directorate for Cultural Heritage
- Anthony Krause, Head of Culture Unit, UNESCO Venice Office

10h-10h45: General presentation of the items selected by the various museums, by Philippos Mazarakis

10h45-11h00: Coffee break

11h-12h30: Individual Presentation (visual and analytical) by museums of selected items
- 11h00/11h20: Albania
- 11h20/11h40: Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 11h40/12h00: Bulgaria
• 12h00/12h20: Croatia
• 12h20/12h40: Cyprus

12h40-13h00: Analytical summary, by Ana Stolic

13h-14h30: Buffet lunch. Venue: Museum

14h30: Presentations (visual and analytical) by museums of selected items (session continued)
• 14h30/14h50: Greece
• 14h50/15h20: Montenegro
• 15h20/15h40: Romania
• 15h40/16h00: Serbia
• 16h00/16h20: Slovenia

16h20/16h50: Coffee Break

16h50-17h30: Presentations (visual and analytical) by museums of selected items (session continued)
• 16h50/17h10: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
• 17h10/17h30: Turkey

17h30-18h00: Analytical summary, by Ana Stolic

18h00-19h30: Departure (10 mn. by walk) to the National Museum of Slovenia, Old building, Prešernova 20, and visit of the Museum Exhibit space, by Barbara Ravnik.

20h30: Dinner. Venue, Pen Club
Friday 9 March 2012

9h00:  Departure from the hotel. Venue of the meeting: National Museum of Slovenia, New building, Maistrova 2

9h30/10h30: Remarks and suggestions on the items proposals: a comparative perspective
- Remarks by Ulrike Kretzschmar, Director Exhibitions Department, German Historical Museum
- Remarks by Anne-Catherine Hauglustaine-Robert, International Committee for Exhibitions and Exchange (ICEE/ICOM) Chairperson
- Remarks by Peter Aronsson, Professor, Linköpings University, Sweden, Eunamus project coordinator

10h30/10h45: Remarks, by Jonathan Even-Zohar, EUROCLIO- European Association of History Educators

10h45-11h00: Coffee break

11h00-13h00: General discussion, moderated by Barbara Ravnik, Ana Stolic and Philippos Mazarakis: selection of items, practicalities

13h00-14h00: Buffet lunch. Venue: National Museum

14h00-18h00: General discussion, moderated by Barbara Ravnik, Ana Stolic and Philippos Mazarakis: selection of items, practicalities

18h00-18h30: General conclusions and follow-up proposals
- Marjutka Hafner, Secretary-General of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO
- Barbara Ravnik, Ana Stolic, Philippos Mazarakis, Coordinators
- Anthony Krause, Head of Culture Unit, UNESCO Venice Office

20h30: Dinner. Venue Castle Hill
Saturday 10 March 2012

Departure of participants.