PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

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

Bucharest, Romania. 20-21 June 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), Turin (“History, memory and dialogue in South-East Europe: Exploring the identity of Nations”, October 5-6th, Turin, Italy) and Ljubljana (“Imagining the Balkans : History, Memory and Dialogue in South-East Europe”, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 8-9 March 2012).

These meetings were organized to enhance cooperation and dialogue among the South-East European national history museums. The last meetings, in Turin and Ljubljana, served to discuss more in depth the contents and organization for a travelling exhibit, tentatively entitled “Imagining the Balkans”.

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.

Update and steps forward

The final report of the Ljubljana meeting, which has been distributed to all participants, presents all the main conclusions and steps forward of this project.

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.

The National Museum of Slovenia confirmed its willingness to host and inaugurate the first “station” of the travelling exhibit, during the spring 2013, hopefully in conjunction with the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of the SEE region, placed in 2013 under Slovenian presidency.
In particular, it was agreed that, based on the discussions in Ljubljana, each partner museum would review, amend and finalize 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. A data sheet for each item was prepared to this effect, to be completed by each partner museum, discussed and approved in Bucharest.

In Ljubljana, participants agreed to focus the item selection around 9 thematic chapters: Living in the old world; Travelling, communicating; A new social order: the rise of the middle classes; Creating and diffusing knowledge; Mapping; Using history; Heroes and Antiheroes; Public celebrations; Images of the Nation.

The chapters will be completed by a thematic introduction around Coffee culture and a conclusion around the theme/film “Whose is this song?”

As agreed, all museums have posted the new selected items on a web Google Document interface/Drop-box, initiated by the National Museum of Slovenia: https://docs.google.com/. 12 folders, for each museum, have been created.

It was agreed that in Bucharest, participants will finalize selection of themes/items, discuss accompanying texts, and discuss preparations for the opening of the exhibit in Ljubljana, and the travelling of the exhibit in the SEE region (expression of interest, storyline, budget, organizational structure).

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) and professional organizations (ICOM/International Committee for Exhibitions and Exchange; ICOM/International Association of Museums of History).

WORKING LANGUAGE

Working language will be English.
PLACE OF THE MEETING

National History Museum of Romania
(Muzeul Național de Istorie a României)
Address: Calea Victoriei, nr.12, sect. 3
030026, București

ACCOMMODATION

The UNESCO Venice Office will cover travel tickets and accommodation for participants. The hotel chosen for participants is Capitol Hotel.

Lunches and dinners will be offered to the participants by the organizers. Transfers will be organized by the National Museum of Romania for participants between the airport and the hotel.

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Tel general +4 021 2315619
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HOTEL

The hotel chosen is Capitol Hotel
Address:
Calea Victoriei 29 District 1
Bucharest Romania
Web: http://www.hotelcapitol.ro/location-and-contact.php
CONTACTS

National History Museum of Romania

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AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Tuesday 19 June 2012

**Arrival of participants, transfer to Capitol Hotel**

20h30 **Meeting in Hotel Lobby. Welcoming Dinner.** Venue, Restaurant Caru cu bere (5 minutes walk from the Hotel). Those who arrive later can join (or not)

Wednesday 20 June 2012

9h00 **Departure from the hotel (5 minutes walk) to the venue of the meeting:** National History Museum of Romania, Calea Victoriei 12

9h30-10h00 **Welcoming words**
- Ernest Oberlander-Tarnoveanu, General-Director of the National History Museum of Romania
- Sergiu Nistor, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Romania
- Anthony Krause, Head of Culture Unit, UNESCO Venice Office

**Session 1: Items, texts, storyline**
Introduced and moderated by Philippos Mazarakis and Ana Stolic

This session will serve to present the final selected items under each thematic chapter, and discuss the related texts and general script of the exhibit.

10h00-10h45 Introductory chapter “Coffee culture/shop”
10h45-11h30 Chapter 1 “Living in the Old World”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11h30-11h45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11h45-12h30</td>
<td>Chapter 2 “Travelling, communicating”</td>
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<tr>
<td>12h30-13h15</td>
<td>Chapter 3 “A new social order: the rise of the middle class”</td>
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<tr>
<td>13h15-14h30</td>
<td>Lunch. Venue: Caru cu bere restaurant (1 minute walk from Museum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14h30-15h15</td>
<td>Chapter 4 “Creating and diffusing knowledge”</td>
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<tr>
<td>15h15-16h00</td>
<td>Chapter 5 “Mapping”</td>
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<tr>
<td>16h00/16h15</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16h15-17h00</td>
<td>Chapter 6 “Using History”</td>
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<tr>
<td>17h00-17h45</td>
<td>Chapter 7 “Heroes and Antiheroes”</td>
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<td>18h00-19h30</td>
<td>Visit of the National History Museum of Romania (Historical Treasures)</td>
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<td>20h30</td>
<td>Dinner offered by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Romania. Venue Restaurant Caru cu bere (1 minutes walk from the Museum)</td>
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**Thursday 21 June 2012**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>9h00</td>
<td>Departure from the hotel. Venue of the meeting: National Museum of Romania, Calea Victoriei 12</td>
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**Session 1 (continued)**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>9h15-10h00</td>
<td>Chapter 8 “Public Celebrations”</td>
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<td>10h00-10h45</td>
<td>Chapter 9 “Images of the Nation”</td>
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<tr>
<td>10h45-11h00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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11h00-11h45 Conclusion Chapter “Whose is this Song”.

**Session 2: practicalities and way forward**
Moderated by Barbara Ravnik, Ana Stolic, Philippos Mazarakis and Anthony Krause

11h45-12h30 **Update on way forward** by Barbara Ravnik, Director of National Museum of Slovenia: dates, technical arrangements, budget, graphic designer, booklet, etc.

12h30-13h00 **Remarks and suggestions on way forward:**
- 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

13h00-14h30: **Lunch. Venue: Caru cu bere restaurant (1 minute walk from Museum)**

14h30-17h30: **General discussion**, moderated by Barbara Ravnik, Ana Stolic, Philippos Mazarakis and Anthony Krause: practicalities and way forward (expression of interest by each museum, loans, graphic designer, exhibit booklet, dates, budget, organizational structure, etc)

17h30-18h00 **General conclusions**
- Ernest Oberlander-Tarnoveanu, General-Director of the National History Museum of Romania
- Barbara Ravnik, Ana Stolic, Philippos Mazarakis, Coordinators
- Anthony Krause, Head of Culture Unit, UNESCO Venice Office

18h00-20h00 **[Option: Visit of the Village Museum/screening of Balkan Tale videos/Whose is this Song]**

20h30 **Dinner. Restaurant Caru cu bere (1 minute walk from Museum)**

**Friday 22 June 2012**

Departure of participants.