

PROGRESS REPORT

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

Grant Agreement number: c270894

Project acronym: EUROPEANA 1914-1918

Project title: Europeana 1914-1918: Remembering the First World War – a digital collection of outstanding sources from European national libraries

Project type: Pilot A **Pilot B** TN BPN

Periodic report: 1st 2nd 3rd

Period covered: from 01.05.2011 to 30.04.2012

Project coordinator name, title and organisation:

Thorsten Siegmann

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin- Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK)

Potsdamer Straße 33

D-10785 Berlin

Tel: +49-30-266-431451

E-mail: siegmann@eu1914-1918.eu

Project website address: <http://www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu/>

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

The publishable summary is a self-standing document. It needs to be of suitable quality to enable direct publication by the Commission. Please ensure that it is set out and formatted so that it can be printed as a stand-alone paper document not exceeding four pages.

Please include a summary description of the project objectives, a description of the work performed since the beginning of the project, a description of the main results achieved so far, the expected final results and their potential impact and use (including the socio-economic impact and the wider societal implications of the project so far). You should update this publishable summary at the end of each reporting period.

Please include also, as appropriate, diagrams or photographs illustrating and promoting the work of the project, the project logo and relevant contact details. The address of the project public website should also be indicated.

- Content:
 - a summary description of the project objectives
 - a description of the work performed since the beginning of the project
 - a description of the main results achieved so far
 - the expected final results and their potential impact and use (including the socio-economic impact and the wider societal implications of the project so far).

Europeana Collections 1914-1918



Europeana Collections 1914-1918 will create by 2014 – the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War – a substantial digital collection of material from national library collections of ten libraries in eight countries that found themselves on different sides of the historic conflict. The project consortium will make available to Europeana 425.000 especially relevant items that will be selected with the help from specialists and target user groups according to agreed quality criteria. They will span the full range of

national library collections including books, newspapers, trench journals, maps, children’s literature, posters, pamphlets, propaganda leaflets, medals and coins. The digital collection will go far beyond any existing digital collection on the topic in terms of size, quality and diversity and make Europeana the first stop for quality content on the “Great War”. The consortium will work to enlarge the network and encourage other memory institutions to contribute more relevant content. Europeana Collections 1914-1918 will make a vast amount of sources available online for the first time – content that is often rare and highly fragile because of the deteriorating quality of the paper it was produced on and generally only accessible in reading rooms.

During the first year the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project was well in line with the project plan agreed at the “Description of Work”.

Initially, the project consortium had **conducted and evaluated a survey** to find out about its target groups and the requirements towards the content being selected and digitised. The results of the survey had impact on the general set up of the project and the definition of the criteria for the selection of content within the EC1418 project. Within a workshop, held in June 2011, the partners

have agreed on a **catalogue of criteria on content selection for digitisation** within the EC1418 project. This catalogue defines what kind of items are of specific importance within the selection, e.g. materials in auto-destruction with priority to digitise for avoiding their complete loss. Influence of criteria such as uniqueness and rareness are described within the paper as well. The catalogue has been produced to guarantee a balanced selection of content within the group of partners, to make the project's selection process transparent for interested audiences in- and outside the project, and to assist the curators' in their daily work. As most of the World War One related collections of the participating libraries have classified their objects using local classification schemata, the project has agreed on a minimal classification, consisting of a set of subject headings (based on the LCSH) as well as object types to support the search for items above the single provider's collections on Europeana.eu. Based on these preparations, the selection of items from the libraries stacks started. Despite of high efforts due to a high number of objects still under copyright, the selection process proceeded very well and the project partners have been able to select more than 86% of the items foreseen to be digitised in the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project until now. **After one year, 372.636 out of the total amount of 425.000 objects have been selected for digitisation yet – which is well ahead of the schedule.**

Workflows and templates have been defined for **monitoring the progress in selection, digitisation and ingestion** of items to Europeana as well as the achievement of success indicators and quality standards, but also the timely identification of risks and the implementation of necessary mitigation actions – luckily not necessary until now. The workflows on progress monitoring and **risk & quality management** have been agreed on with the project consortium. The members of the project management board members have approved the risk & quality management report for year one.

A digitisation workshop, held in Vienna in September 2011, was organised to present the digitisation plans of each partner and to bring in line the partners' strategies with the aims for the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project. So far, **107.455 objects have been digitised** within the project, while originally 50.000 items have been expected for year one according to the DoW. The **first harvesting** of items has taken place in the beginning of 2012. From May 2012 on, three collections comprising more than **50.000 pictures and newspapers have been published on Europeana.eu**. This is the fivefold amount than expected in comparison to 10.000 items to be published within year one of the project according to the DoW.

All partners have undertaken activities to disseminate the project and to enhance the network of co-operations and partners. First of all, **co-operations** with further Europeana projects, such as Europeana 1914-1918 User Generated Content project or the European Filmgateway 1914 project have been agreed on. The three projects have agreed on joint communication activities and strive for developing joint tools for content exploration, like a virtual exhibition and evtl. World-War-One channels on Europeana.eu. Further on, the **network** of projects and institutions around Europeana Collections 1914-1918 has been extended with further content providing institutions like the Museumsverband Sachsen-Anhalt or the Archives of Serbia.

A concept on communication and educational activities was written and implemented. A **press release** and a **flyer** (out of at least three sets of promotional material to be produced) have been produced and been published. The project has been presented on several **events and conferences**. A project website to inform on the project, its objectives and achievements has been set up at www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu/ as well as a web-based work space for the project members. All the outcomes and results as well as news are available there.

An important means within the educational activities of the project will be the implementation of a **Learning Microsite** on WW1 content through the project. Within the year one, a detailed concept on the scope of the site, directed towards schools, students and teachers, has been drafted. The implementation of this site as well as the other educational tools like the virtual exhibition or several

exhibitions with physical objects from the collections will be part of the work in the second and the third year of Europeana Collections 1914-1918.

Both, the project management as well as the financial management is very close to the agreed plan from the Description of Work. There haven't been any reasonable deviations and all the objectives foreseen for year one have been achieved.

The Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project is going to end in 2014, co-inciding with the centenary of the First World War. The material contributed by the project will highlight the importance of World War One for a common European identity and be reflective of the different experiences of individuals and groups on all sides of the conflict including different ethnic, linguistic, political, social and religious communities and those opposed to the war. In the run-up to 2014 and in the following years, strong interest in the topic is expected from a wide variety of users – including the general public, local and family historians, education professionals, archives, museums and historical societies, people working in the media, the arts or in the tourism industry. The most comprehensive collection of digitised material from the period of the First World War available will be the contribution of the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project.

Co-ordinator contact:

Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project
Thorsten Siegmann

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz
Potsdamer Straße 33
D-10785 Berlin

eMail siegmann@eu1914-1918.eu

phone +49-30-266-431451

web <http://www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu/>