

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 01.05.2012 to 30.04.2013

Project coordinator name, title and organisation:

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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.

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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 and further partners in eight countries that found themselves on different sides of the historic conflict. The project consortium will make available to Europeana more than 400.000 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.

Within the first two years, the project has already achieved reasonable progress and is well in line with the project plan. While the activities in the first year focused very much on the setup of the project, its infrastructure and the development of the detailed approach, at the end of year two the project is right in the middle of the production period. Content selection has nearly been finished; digitisation and ingestion to Europeana are currently running. The development of the Dissemination portals like the “Learning Microsite”, the “Virtual Exhibition” and the “Thematic portal” are progressing.

The following paragraphs will give a short description of the work plan and the achievements of the first two years. 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 minimum classification, consisting of a set of 52 subject headings (based on the LCSH) as well as 40 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 library’s 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 99% of the items foreseen to be digitised in the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project until now. **After the second year, 429.335 out of the total amount of items have been selected for digitisation yet – which is well ahead of the schedule.**

To guarantee the successful **monitoring of the progress in selection, digitisation and ingestion** of items to Europeana as well as the achievement of success indicators and quality standards, workflows and monitoring templates had been defined at the beginning of the project. 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, **280.062 objects have been digitised** within the project, while 150.000 items have been expected for year two according to the DoW. TEL and Europeana are **harvesting** the collections being ready from the beginning of 2012 on. Currently, **22 collections, comprising more than 110.000 items provided by the project are visible on Europeana.eu.** With the next harvests which will take place within the next months, it will be more than 170.000 items. This amount also exceeds the expected number of items being available after year two according to the project plan.

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 Film Gateway 1914 project have been agreed on and have been brought to life. The three projects have agreed on joint communication activities and will jointly set up a **Thematic portal on the First World War** presenting all the digitised items related to the First World War on Europeana. Further on, the

network of projects and institutions around Europeana Collections 1914-1918 has been extended with further content providing institutions complementing the collections with their content.

Besides the digitisation of First World War items, it is an important aim within the educational activities of the project, to make the content really accessible to its target groups. For that reason, the project group will implement a **Learning Microsite** on First World War related content in the beginning of 2014 as well as a Virtual Exhibition. Within the second year, both concepts have been formed out in detail. While the Learning Microsite will be directed towards learners and will display certain topics prepared for schools, students and teachers; the **Virtual Exhibition “Places of transition”** will follow a different approach to the material provided and target a general public. Additionally, the centenary of the project will be accompanied by several exhibitions with physical objects from the collections.

A concept on communication and educational activities was written and implemented. A **press release** was drafted and published, two **flyers**, one about the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project and one about the family of Europeana First World War projects 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.ec1418.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.

Both, the project management as well as the financial management is without general problems so far. All the objectives foreseen for the first two years have been achieved. The timely identification of risks is ensured by the regular Risk Assessment. The Quality Management takes place in parallel. The workflows on progress monitoring and **risk & quality management** have been agreed on with the project consortium. The members of the project management board have approved the risk & quality management reports.

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 will be the contribution of the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project. Besides the digitisation of the partners' collections, the consortium of the project will organise several public events in 2014.

Co-ordinator contact:

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