

**South-Eastern Europe Digitization Initiative - SEEDI**

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**NATIONAL LIBRARY DIGITIZATION  
PROGRAMME IN MONTENEGRO**

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- **National Library Digitization Programme** is a document adopted by the Government of Montenegro in late 2008, in accordance with the initiatives approved by EU countries aiming to promote a comprehensive European information society.
- Digitization of cultural and scientific heritage in Montenegro will enable its promotion and protection, as well as its integration in European and world digital heritage.
- Digitization contributes to the democratization of access to cultural assets, which will contribute to the development of the information society and knowledge community.



➤ National Library Digitization Programme aims to initiate a comprehensive and long-term process of development of special programmes for digitization of all segments of Montenegrin cultural heritage.

➤ Digitization of cultural heritage should be an important segment of Montenegrin cultural policies and development of culture in general.

➤ A prerequisite for digitization is the development of well-planned and designed projects, according to established priorities and generally accepted standards.



➤ Library activities in Montenegro have a long-standing tradition. The fact that the first Cyrillic book in this region, “Oktoih prvoglasnik” was printed in 1494 at Crnojevic printing house (1493/1499) in Cetinje, the historic capital of Montenegro, is illustrative of the importance of literacy for cultural – educational progress of Montenegro.



➤ In 1593/94 42 books were registered in the library of Crnojevic monastery. The first organized library in Cetinje was founded by Petar II Petrovic Njegos, Montenegrin bishop-prince, poet and philosopher.

➤ Today, library network in Montenegro consists of about 300 libraries, mostly academic and school libraries.



➤ The Central National Library is in charge of library activity and library information system development in Montenegro.



➤ Cooperative online bibliographic and information system and service, COBISS, is used for developing the library and information system and networking libraries.

➤ COBISS.CG consist of VBCG Centre in the Central National Library, as national library and information service, and 26 libraries that with the VBCG Centre have concluded the agreement on full membership in this system.



➤ COBISS.net is a network that connects the autonomous (national) and cooperative bibliographic systems of various countries in which COBISS is implemented, and which supports the free flow of bibliographic information.

➤ COBISS offers the possibility of connecting bibliographical units with the digital document via a link, thus linking the electronic catalogue and the digital library to form an electronic digital library.

## **National Library Digitization Programme in Montenegro implies different forms of activities:**

- creation of digital collections of national importance and recognition;
- identification of objectives and content of digitization of library collections;
- enabling conditions for the Programme implementation;
- providing unified access to digitization of library collections;
- balanced application of information technology in the field of protection, processing and use of the library units.



➤ National Library Digitization Programme is directed towards the long-term digitization strategy, and aims to encourage the improvement of technical and organizational infrastructure in order to plan and realize individual digitization projects.

➤ This document provides a framework for planning and organization of national, institutional and cooperative projects for the construction of digital collections in all Montenegrin libraries.



## **The specific objectives of the NLD Programme are:**

- creating high-quality digital collections, for the purpose of their protection, improvement of access and usage;
- enabling access to digital collections, in accordance with the established and applicable rules for their use;
- creation of new user service;
- storage of digital collections, organized by the management system that will provide a guarantee that collections will be permanently preserved and accessible;
- completing of existing library holdings.

➤ The implementation and results of the Digitization Programme are conditioned by different factors, from individual operational and technical issues to the overall library activity goals and policies.

➤ In digitization of library collections, principles, policies and experiences in the area of digitization of cultural heritage in Europe should be taken into account, and the ability of Montenegrin libraries to participate in digitization projects should be developed accordingly.

➤ Keeping in mind the multidisciplinary approach to digitization of cultural heritage, it is necessary to ensure cooperation and expert support of institutions in the field of culture, research, education, information and communication technology.



**For the implementation of the NLD Programme, it is necessary to:**

- Regulate normatively the process of creating digital units, their protection and use;
- Set up the Council for Library Holdings Digitization, whose task will be to coordinate the cooperation of participants in the digitization process, follow the introduction and implementation of standards and define the priorities for digitization;
- Set up working groups, which will be responsible for:
  - selection and preparation of materials for digitization (the creation of digital resources),
  - development of norms and guidelines for digitization,
  - selection of formats for long-term storage,
  - design of digital collections.

➤ National Library Digitization Programme envisages the establishment of several digitization centers: at the Central National Library, the University Library and three public libraries in several regions in Montenegro.

➤ Digitization training programmes need to be provided for other libraries.

➤ Provide the necessary infrastructure for digitization: hardware, software applications, book scanner, OCR, cameras, services for permanent storage of digital documents, network equipment, the corresponding flow on the Internet, etc.



- Develop a joint portal for digitalized library units, with references and project information.
- Enable broadest access to digital collections via Internet.
- Establish cooperative digital archive with Digitization Centres, with appropriate hardware and software solutions.
- Cooperate with publishers and copyright holders for the library units which are subject to copyright.
- Carry out training programmes for library staff and users of digital library materials.

## Conclusion

- National Library Digitization Programme is a document whose implementation provides for the complex activities that need to be organized in several phases: for years 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- Funds required for the Programme implementation will be provided from the Budget of Montenegro and from local budgets, as well as domestic and foreign donations.



**On a final note:**

Thanks to the Crnojevic printing house, Montenegro was the first among Balkan nations to appear on the cultural map of Europe. Today, this place may only be retained by full presence in the global information network to make the rich cultural and scientific heritage accessible to the general public worldwide.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**