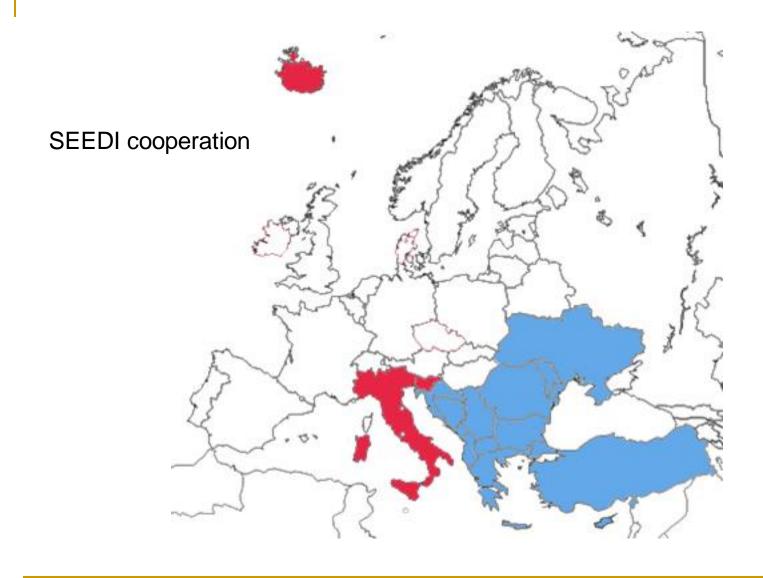16-17 April 2009

South-Eastern European Digitisation Initiative (SEEDI)

Zoran Ognjanović

Nikola Ikonomov

SEEDI cooperation

SEEDI is an international effort

- to develop awareness about digitization of cultural and scientific heritage in SEE
- to bring together:
  - Archivists, librarians and curators responsible for the preservation of and permanent access to cultural and scientific heritage;
  - Information technology researchers developing projects on digitization of cultural and scientific heritage,
  - Scholars in the arts and humanities, social sciences, history and computer science, students and all the other interested in digitization of cultural and scientific heritage.

SEEDI prehistory

- Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage, 16–17 September 2003, Borovets, Bulgaria
- Borovetz declaration:
  - We are convinced that we face common problems and share common scientific and cultural heritage.
  - The knowledge and experience of single institutions from our countries should not stay isolated.
  - It is of great importance to take measures for increase of the communication and exchange of technological expertise, standards and practical skills within the region, taking into account the experience of colleagues outside the region.

Borovets, Bulgaria, 2003

SEEDI history

- Third International Conference "New Technologies and Standards: Digitization of National Heritage 2004" (June, 3-5, 2004, Mathematical Faculty Belgrade, Serbia)

- SEEDI was proposed in order to contribute to gathering and spreading specific and interdisciplinary knowledge about digitization from various institutions from the region and the European Union.

Viminacium, 2004

SEEDI instruments

- ❑ Conferences and workshops

- ❑ Review of the National Center for Digitization

- ❑ Presentation and mailing list

The First SEEDI Conference
DIGITAL (re-)DISCOVERY of CULTURE (PHYSICALITY OF SOUL)
Ohrid, Macedonia, 2005

Regional Meeting of the SEEDI
Methodology and Applications
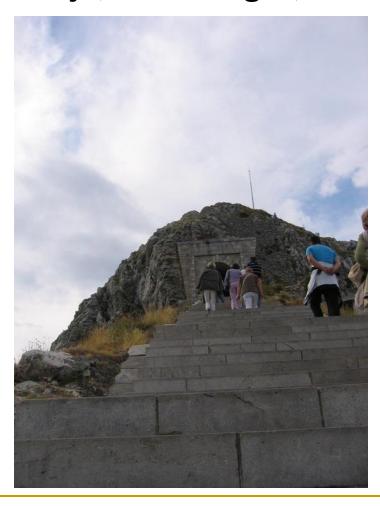## Sofia, Bulgaria, 2006

❑ SEEDI-statute

❑ SEEDI-board

❑ SEEDI was presented at the conference "Museums, libraries and archives online: MICHAEL service and other international initiatives", Roma, 2006

The Third SEEDI Conference
Cetinje, Montenegro, 2007

The Forth SEEDI Conference
Beograd, Serbia, 2008

SEEDI in 2009

- SEEDI-board meetings

- The Fifth SEEDI-conference

- An article about SEEDI will be published by Council of Europe

- Proposals for concrete projects?

Related documents

- Lund principles, 2001

- Recommendations for coordination of digitization of cultural heritage in SEE, UNESCO, 2005

- SEEDI-statute, 2005

- eSEE-agenda+, 2005

Current situation

- Experience already available
- Active dissemination
- Established professional bodies
- Regional cooperation
- Contacts with EU-bodies and experts

- There is no systematic governmental involvement in digitization activities

- Lack of national strategies, programmes

- Strong dependence on external funding

- Cultural and scientific heritage collections still cannot be widely accessed in electronic form

Question:

- Is it useful/feasible to try to attract our governments to sign a document on the regional cooperation in the field?

  - ❑ Similar to Lund-principles
  - ❑ Group of national representatives
  - ❑ …

Thank you for your attention!

http://www.ncd.matf.bg.ac.yu/seedi/