

European Commission, Directorate-general for education and culture
Rue de la Loi 200
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BELGIUM

Att: Head og Unit Antonios Kosmopoulos

Deres ref.	Deres brev av:	Vår ref.	Emnekode	Dato
		200001388/20 TKFL	BOB-3338	2. Mai 2000

ARIANE-PROJECT - ref.: 98/035255, <http://www.literature2000.org>

Final report by organizer: Bergen Off. Bibliotek

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE CITIES OF CULTURE YEAR 2000 COOPERATE TO PROMOTE LITERATURE

Summary:

Re: Part A1

The main project

The results of the project are in accordance with the plans and objectives presented in the application dated 30/04/1998 for grants under the ARIANE-programme:

***A common web-site is made, with a solid and interesting content, which is constantly improving also after the project-period has expired.**

***Individual exhibitions about the other cultural cities and their literature have been made in the libraries.**

All of the collaborating libraries have contributed according to plans and resources to the final result, though there are differences in how much work and resources each of them have been able to put into the project.

Only Bologna, who joined the project later than the others, has had a delay in starting their web-presentation on literature/authors, partly due to unforeseen circumstances (illness).

Re: Part A2

Wider dissemination of the results of the project.

The final planning of the activities for dissemination of the collaborating libraries' "Literature"-project have been coordinated with the planned activities in cities of culture year 2000. Thus author-visits and other literary programmes connected to our project, will take place *after* the ARIANE-project has expired. These activities, going on from May to November, have got some local funding, but they will not be a part of this report, nor of the account for the costs and revenue.

The literary conference in Helsinki in February 2000 has obtained a separate funding, and the arranger's expenditures will not be part of this report.

Thus the grant given for dissemination of the results of the "Literature"-project will not be claimed. The costs will not be part of the account, and the event will not be described in

the report.

HOW THE PROJECT STARTED

In the autumn of 1996 the directors of the Helsinki and Bergen public libraries agreed that literature should be accorded a more prominent profile in the plans of the Cities of Culture. The idea of a committed library collaboration was conceived.

Helsinki already had plans for literary programs and events for their own city in the year 2000.

Therefore, when the nine Cities of Culture held a joint meeting in Bergen in February 1998, the Bergen Public Library invited the cities public libraries to join forces in a concerted effort for the promotion of literature. The library directors from Reykjavik, Helsinki, Brussels and Cracow convened, while Prague offered its support to the venture. Bologna has since also become a participant. Avignon and Santiago de Compostella have not been involved.

During the meeting in Bergen in February 1998 a common web-site and individually organized exhibitions were planned, and Bergen Off. Bibliotek, on behalf of the group, should try to obtain support for the project and activities connected with it.

(See the report, enclosed to the application dated March 12th 1998, from the first meeting for the City of Culture's Library-directors.)

Partners in the collaboration are:

Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Bergen,
Biblioteca Comunale, Bologna,
Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels,
Stadsbiblioteket i Helsinki,
Wojewodzka Biblioteka Publiczna, Cracow,
Mestska Knihovna, Prague
Borgarbokasafni, Reykjavik.

These libraries enjoy the distinction of being leading public libraries in Europe, or have plans and ambitions to attain such repute. Professionally, organisationally and in the area of community relations, the participants have much to offer one another. The libraries network-based working methods provide a solid basis for cooperation and continuity, so that these contacts and experiences can be carried on even after the dissolution of City of Culture organisations at the conclusion of the year 2000.

The City of Culture libraries are collaborating on:

“Literature. Seven European Public Libraries cooperate to promote Literature and Authors” *fostering awareness of the Cities of Cultures’ literature and authors in the other Cities of Culture, in particular contemporary literature.*

(Internet presentation of selected authors from participating cities/regions. Exhibitions)

“The city and the literature”- theme also includes an historical approach/presentation.

The collaboration involves several initiatives which can be grouped in the following way:

***Integrated joint project, in which all participants contribute according to agreed-upon criteria. Example: author presentations on the Internet.**

***Individual projects based on a common plan, in which the individual libraries themselves determine how the tasks will be realized. Example: informational exhibitions created by each library about the literature and authors in the other cities, after the libraries have supplied each other with books and material.**

Study tours, exchange programs and professional contact between library personnel.

The library projects in closer detail:

“<http://www.literature2000.org>” : Author presentations on the Internet

Each of the participating libraries have chosen to start with three or more regional authors according to the following criteria:

***Their works demonstrate a superior quality.**

***They have been published in other countries (in English, German or French).**

***The authors themselves must be fluent in one or more of the main European languages.**

Information about the authors and literature from or about the Cities of Culture is posted on the Internet based on a common format and a joint home page linking the various web sites. At the same time these sites will also be included in the libraries' respective home pages. The presentations are in each city's national language as well as in English.

The authors are presented on the Internet with detailed bibliographical and biographical information. Accounts of their authorship and works, overviews of literary prizes, etc. will be included. Some cities have also provided “samples” of their writing – in one or more of the main European languages.

In addition to this collaboration, some of the cities also offer less extensive presentations of their region's or city's authors as a part of their own home pages, (look at the “Western Norway Authors” section of Bergen Public Library's Nettbibliotek, which is very much visited, and the Finnish Authors-presentation that Helsinki Library organizes together with other Finnish libraries).

The Bergen Public Library has designed both the joint home page and the layout, which the other libraries may copy (something which has been done to varying degrees).

The collaborative author net-exhibition was opened, as planned, 29th of February 2000 during the literature conference in Helsinki. The Internet address is

<http://www.literature2000.org> .

From 1th of March to 26th of April 2000 this web-site has been visited by 2.435 external users.

According to our experiences this will increase in the years to come, as literary web-sites seem to be of good use for many purposes.

Progress and workingmethods

It took much time to purchase local foundings, to plan in detail and arrange for time, equipment and staff-members to carry out the tasks of the project. Most of year 1998 was spend on such preparations and also to establish contact between staff-members in

the other libraries and the organizer's (Bergen Off. Bibliotek's) project-team. The organizer had to show a range of samples and make suggestions of how to carry out the plans for the common web-site. At last a final - and the best - solution was reached: The web-site should be part of each library's own home page which made it easy to continue the project, as a lokal enterprise by themselves, if necessary, with the joint home page linking them together.

As they decided to go on with the web-presentation afterwards, most of the libraries preferred to train their own staffmembers for the work on the web-presentation, both on the web-design and the content (bibliographical work, excerpts, some translation etc.).

Compared with the overview of costs in the applicaton, this means less money spend on consultancy fees and other saleries, and more spend on working time for the staff. The good consequences of this strategy is the gaurantee it represents for continuous work on the web-site.

Some of the libraries could benefit from work already done on information and promotion of authorship and literature. Thus the time reportet spent on preparations for the content of the web-site varies a lot from library to library.

The authors chosen for presentations have been pleased by the initiative, and the good results that it may lead to, and they have kindly allowed the libraries to use, free of charge, their works for the web-presentation.

This reduces the expenditures for fees/rights compared to the original budget for the project.

It is important to emphasize that most of the literature presented within this context is originally in minor languages, or they are less known by other European citizens: Flemmish, Norwegian, Finnish, Islandic, Polish and Czech.

If the "Literature"-project can arouse a broader interest within Europe for literature of high quality written in these languages, it is very much worth the effort.

It is also important to emphasize that the libraries wish to continue developing this web site after the City of Culture year is over, and to go on with the collaboration.

Exhbitions (local events) as part of the project:

The participating libraries create (physical) presentations about the Cities of Culture and their literature for their own cities' inhabitants. The cities have exchanged books and materials for this purpose. The books will be integrated into the libraries' own collections and made available for the public to borrow.

The preparations took place through 1999. Books and material (photos, posters) were exchanged from summer till November 1999.

The exhibitions have been presented to the public at the main libraries, and in some cities, also in the branch-libraries.

Enclosed you will find photos from the exhibitions in Crakow and Reykjavik.

In most cities the opening of these exhibitions will concur with the City of Culture openings.

Author exchanges and representation from the other libraries are planned later in the year 2000 in conjunction with the activities connected to the exhibitions.

As an extra activity connected with the exhibitions, Bergen has cooperated with Crakow on their competition for children on art-work on a literary theme.

Printed material, books, leaflets

Printed material, with information about authors, are made available by some libraries, (Crakow and Bergen so far).

Cracow carried through, as an extra contribution to the project, a nice little book with selected poetry by authors from the participating cities.

(See enclosure)

Events and festivals in the individual cities – in which the library is the main or a co-organizer - will take place in Praha, Reykjavik, Crakow and Bergen from May to November year 2000.

Financing

The projects the City of Culture libraries are involved in comprise both a national and an international aspect. Most have obtained support from local City of Culture funds and through increases to their regular annual budgets for the occasion. Some have got grant from national funds.

An application (from Reykjavik, Bergen and Helsinki) to the Nordic Cultural Funds in Desember 1998 gave no result.

EU-funds

Stadsbiblioteket i Helsingfors has got a grant from ARIANE to the literary conference "Homo Europaeus - European Cultural Identity: University in Diversity", wich took place in Helsinki 27th to 29th of February 2000.

In April of 1998, on behalf of all the participants and with Helsinki, Reykjavik and Brussels as co-signers, Bergen applied to the EU program ARIANE for funding for "Literature". 69.906,43 EURO was allocated for support for preparations in 1998 and until 29. February 2000, on the assumption that the cities themselves would cover a major part of the costs.

Statement of costs and revenue directly related to the project

At the fixed date for delivering the final report with the account for the whole project, I regret very much that we are unable to give you a complete statement of costs together with this final report.

There are still some expenditures not reportet, and we are therefor unable to set up the statement in the same format as the original estimate in the application.

A preliminary overview shows the expenditures reported by 6 of the 7 libraries - in EURO:

Bergen Off. Bibliotek:	155.000,00 EURO	
Biblioteca Comunale, Bologna	- - -	report not arrived
Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels	23.607,00 "	
Stadsbiblioteket i Helsingfors	12.356,00 "	not complete
Wojewodzka Biblioteka Publiczna, Crakow	27.122,00 "	
Mestska Knihovna, Prague	7.412,00 "	not complete
Borgarbokasafni, Reykjavik	31.564,00	

We are very sorry for the truble we cause you by asking for a further delay with the account for the project. At this moment we deside to keep all the enclosures regarding costs, invoices etc. till the final statement is ready.

Johanne Katrine Kolderup Flaten
Chief librarian