



CD-ETA
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Digitization of Museums and Galleries in Bulgaria

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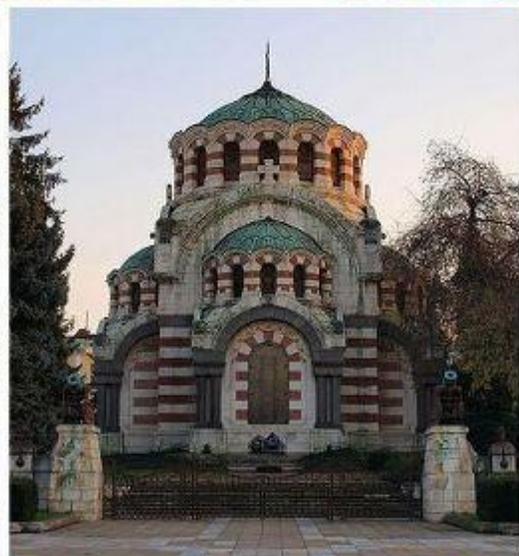
Regional Military History Museum-Pleven

Area: 4 333 km²
Population: 269 760
11 Municipalities



The history of Pleven is long and rich. But it became world famous during the Russian-Turkish war 1877-1878. As a result of that war Bulgaria returned to the political map of Europe after 5 centuries Ottoman yoke. That is why this war was called the war of Liberation.

Nobody knew the little town of Pleven up to 1877. In the course of 5 months bloody battles – from July to December - it gathered the attention, emotions, hopes and excitement of the people all over the world. The liberation of Bulgaria started in Pleven – in the muddy trenches, on the strong fortification, on the soaked with blood battlefields.





Plevna is a town-museum and a memorial town. Regional Military History Museum in Plevna is an inheritor of the first museum institution in Bulgaria after the Liberation. It was founded in 1907. For 110 years until now it has been gathering, studying and making popular the historical heritage of the Russo-Turkish War 1877/78. It consists of 9 museums and 166 monuments. The most famous of them is Panorama Plevna Epopee 1877.





The Panorama Plevna Epopee 1877 was constructed in honor of the centennial anniversary of the liberation of Plevna from Ottoman Rule. It was erected on the very battle field between two real Turkish fortifications Issa-aga and Kovanlak.





The complex consists of 4 halls:

- Introductory
- Panorama
- Diorama
- Final one.



Some information about panoramic art. It combines three elements:



1. Painting on canvas made of linen with dimensions 115 m length/15 m height

2. "Object plan": The foreground is made of concrete and was painted afterwards so that it imitates the ground

3. Reflected light, provided by hundreds of lamps above and opposite the canvas.





Thus it creates an illusion of a real space and perspective or depth 8-10 km to the horizon. However the distance to the canvas is 12 m.

The Panorama provides the opportunity for real or imaginary subjects to be observed.





Our Museum has very rich collection of original military uniforms, artillery belongings, weapons, orders and medals, coins, as well as metal icons, field altars and crosses-sentimental finds from the battle fields near Pleven.





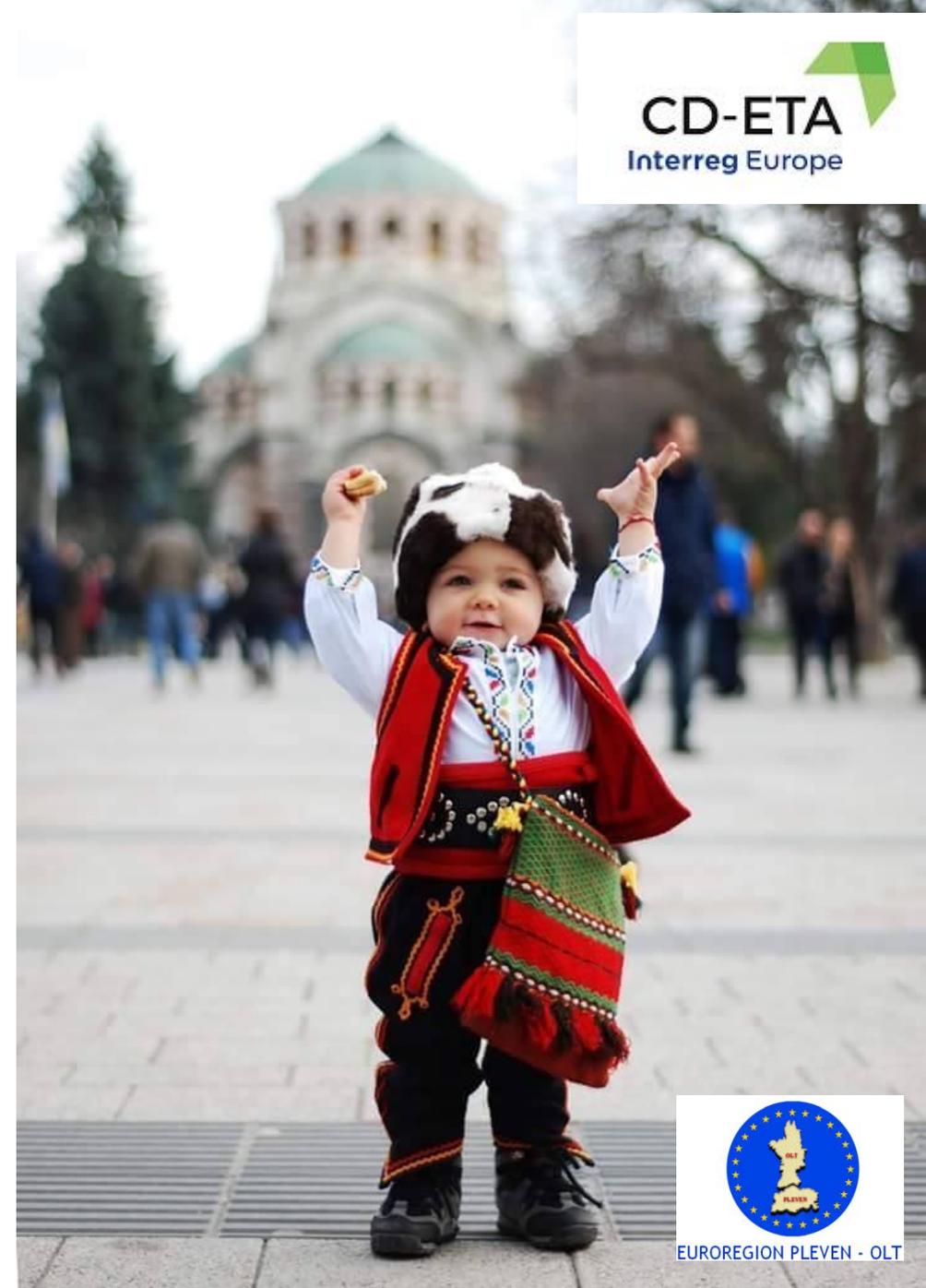
The Panorama is very beautiful day and night, in the four seasons. It is a favorite place for walks of the Plevna's residents and guests. **But...**

All this unique cultural values and old historical books in our museum have not yet been a subject of digitization. For that purpose we need:

- ✓ Establishment of a common register of museums at national level for the exchange of data according to the new requirements for the presentation of cultural values;
- ✓ A suitable technique – scanners, printers, digital cameras and a data processing program;
- ✓ Creation of an electronic card – thematic, alphabetical, etc.

This will facilitate the exchange of information, research and popularization in social networks. The link between the public and a museum will be socialized.

On this stage I can only say: Welcome in Plevna and in the Panorama! Because you can see this history and this art only there, not in the web space.



The museums in Bulgaria are behind in terms of digitization of funds and expositions.
Each museum works separately, using different software and hardware.

Digitization in museums



National

23,

16 digitize their
fund

Regional

29,

28 digitize their
fund

Local

126,

67 digitize their
fund



Identified tendencies

- Positive tendency in the availability of activities in digitization of cultural values exposed in Bulgarian museums;
- There are museum institutions, which have not yet initiated digitization activities;
- Disturbingly big difference in the ratio cultural values - digitized cultural values - cultural values presented online;
- Insufficient and inadequate for the XXI century virtual presence of museum institutions.



In Bulgaria does not exist an online access to metadata for paintings and their digital copies even in municipal and state galleries. There is not a centralized point for digitization of paintings.





Bulgarian company „NIT – New Internet Technologies“ Ltd. used its long experience to develop a unique **cataloging system**, suitable for managing collections of all types and sizes. They have developed different cataloging systems for museums, galleries, libraries, archives, municipalities and private collections. Company`s web site is available in Bulgarian and English, and cataloging system is available in Bulgarian, English and Greek.





Why to use the cataloging systems?

- ✓ Easy popularization of high volume of content;
- ✓ The search process of the computer catalogues is extremely easy;
- ✓ The web-based cataloging system also ensures security of the data and the objects stored;
- ✓ The cultural significance of the exhibitions will increase;
- ✓ The quality of the field work and on site work (in the museums) will be increased too.

These basic characteristics of the cataloging system will change the traditional perception of museums.

The cataloging system will bring back the significance of the museums and facilitate their future development.



What is the system`s structure?

The system for creating catalogue records is multifunctional could be further developed according to the individual needs.

It consist of two parts:

- Database;
- Online application.

The Online Application of the cataloging system displays the information for the **objects**, contains information about each of them, points to their **location** and supports their **analysis**.

The Online Application consists of two sub parts – **administrative and public** – which could be used separately. The public part offers **a number of functionalities**, such as ranks, labels, comments and others. Moreover, you can use it to create collections of photos and to present and hide certain objects.



Standards and technical specifications

The Cataloging System has been created on the basis of already approved and successful criteria and specifications for developing different types of collections. The used data is from:

- ✓ Dublin Core Metadata;
- ✓ Cidoc Working Group;
- ✓ Statement of principles of Museum documentation;
- ✓ International guidelines for museum object information;
- ✓ The UK Museum Collections Management Standard – Spectrum 4.0;
- ✓ Limerick City Museum.





Cataloging system for Museums

The museum system could be used for describing collection of all types - historical, anthropological, ethnographic, natural science, paleontological, etc. The computer cataloging system is suitable for both – small municipality museums and big regional and national museums.

With the museum system you are entering and storing a variety of data about: the objects, the artists, the donors, and the publishers, related to them; physical and geographical places; date and acquisition details; value; storage location and borrowings; audio-visual documentation (pictures, video, audio, PDF); inventory number; physical characteristics; storage and conservation; any other contextual information.

With the help of the museum system you can:

- ✓ organize and maintain high-quality documentation;
- ✓ effectively administer collections;
- ✓ preserve high volume of information;
- ✓ optimize the work process;
- ✓ promote important museum activities.





Cataloging system for Galleries

The cataloging system is suitable for describing and presenting exhibitions of various types - paintings, sculptures, photos, ethnographic items, etc. The digital catalogue could be useful for all types of galleries – private or public.

The system makes possible the entering of various data types for the objects, such as: title; coordinator; location; data; catalogue number; description; notes; access; status; alternative names (referring to the exhibition labels); associations; contacts (the web-site address); others.

With the cataloging system for galleries you can:

- ✓ have consistent and systemized documentation;
- ✓ administrate your collections more effectively;
- ✓ easily manage your exhibitions;
- ✓ facilitate and improve the work of your employees;
- ✓ promote the gallery activities;
- ✓ enhance the cultural value of both – the collections and the gallery.



http://en.museum-system.com

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Museum System website. The browser's address bar shows 'museum.museum-system.com/public/'. The website header includes the logo 'MUSEUM SYSTEM' and navigation links for 'BROWSE', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', and 'ABOUT'. A video player is embedded on the page, showing two ancient coins. To the right of the video, there is a text block in Bulgarian describing an online application for socializing objects of Thracian and Byzantine heritage. Below the video, there is a 'Quickly browse by:' section with a list of categories: Places, Periods, Ages, Centuries, Categories, Materials, Collections, Exhibitions, Projects, Publications, and Media. On the right side of the browser window, a 'Request Demonstration' form is overlaid. The form has a title 'Request Demonstration' and a subtitle 'This is easy'. It contains two input fields: 'Name' and '*Email'. Below the form, there is a blue information bar that reads 'Info: All fields with (*) are mandatory.' and a green 'Request »' button.

The company's web site offers a video presentation and you can request a personal demonstration.



Thank you for attention!

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