

co:op – kick-off | Praha 04/2015

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Date: 27-29 April 2015
Venue: Břevnovský klášter (Břevnov Archabbey) in Praha (Prague, CZ)
Organizer: ICARUS (International Centre for Archival Research)
Programme: <http://icar-us.eu/en/archives/event/kick-off-meeting-coop>

The most recent EU funded project within the ICARUS network “co:op – community as opportunity. the creative archives’ and users’ network” was officially inaugurated during its kick-off meeting at the Břevnovský klášter (Břevnov Archabbey) in Praha (Prague, CZ) from 27-29 April 2015. The kick-off was held parallel to the international conference “Archival Cooperation and Community Building in the Digital Age” which gathered archival experts as well as hobby researchers from Europe and beyond (USA) to discuss the future of archives on an international level.

Linking these two events didn’t happen just by coincidence: “For the past few years we have primarily been focused on furthering the cooperation between archival institutions. Now it is time to actively involve the users, create a dynamic and prolific community comprised of professionals and hobby researchers alike that together as an archival community furthers the archival landscape”, proclaims Dr. Thomas Aigner, president of ICARUS.

co:op is funded within the Creative Europe Programme and consists of 17 international project partners who will carry out a variety of community-oriented activities until November 2018. The project is led by Dr. Francesco Roberg from the Hessian State Archives in Marburg. “Our new project aims at strengthening local as well as European awareness and support cultural diversification”, Roberg explains. He adds: “Last but not least, it is all about democratization and public participation.”



True to the project's motto *imagine tomorrow. dare today*, co:op sets out to break new grounds and explore the potential that lies within the close cooperation between archival institutions and the general public:

Imagine creative ways to encourage the team work between archives and the general public *today*. *Dare* to find unconventional ways to actively engage the community with the world of the archives. *Tomorrow today's* ideas will inspire new ideas. *Tomorrow* can already happen *today*, *daring* in the present will make *tomorrow's imagination* become reality.

In the course of the project a large number of activities will be initiated with the objective to deliberately include the general public ([European Archival Blog](#)), tap their potentials (crowd sourcing [MOMathons](#)) and promote the close co-operation with archives. The scope of activities ranges from further developing possibilities for the open source description of digital archival records, to the expansion and deepening of university teachings based on and with the help of digital archive portals such as Monasterium, to the organization of international conventions and round tables that invite researchers and users to meet and exchange at eye level. It will be possible to consolidate historical documents from private individuals digitally ([bring your history days](#)), which will serve to enrich our common history with personal details ([topotheque](#)). Finally, there will be educational initiatives of the creative kind that aim for encouraging young people to explore „archives“ as such (film happenings [adventures in archives](#)), unbiased and guided by their own curiosity, thus sharpening their awareness of cultural identity.

The kick-off meeting was not only a means to align and talk administrative issues of the project management and implementation of project activities. Rather, it located the tone for the time lying ahead of the project partners – a tone filled with enthusiasm and energy to get started!

Project details

Term: 1 December 2014 – 30 November 2018
Budget volume: 3.983.379 €
Funding framework: Creative Europe Programme, Category 2 – Cooperation Projects
Website: www.coop-project.eu



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