



CroMe

CROATIAN MEMORIES

UNVEILING PERSONAL MEMORIES ON WAR AND DETENTION



ERASMUS UNIVERSITEIT ROTTERDAM



UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

Data Archiving and Networked Services



March 2011

News bulletin nr. 1

We are happy to present the first newsletter of **Croatian Memories** (CroMe), aka Unveiling personal memories on war and detention.

Outline of the project

In this project citizens of Croatia from all social layers and regions are interviewed about their personal experiences in violent situations. The project is covering three timeframes: WWII, the Yugoslav period and the war of the 90ies. The overall objective is the stimulation and empowerment of the social and individual processes of "dealing with the past" in order to improve mutual understanding in Croatia and adjacent regions. The project will build a platform where the general public as well as professionals can find information about remembrance of the past told by individuals in a balanced representation of the people currently living in Croatia.

Kick-off

In February 2010 the good news from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived: approval of the project with a Matra grant. The official start of the project was on the first of May 2010, which.

A pre-kick-off meeting with the Management staff of the Netherlands and Croatia took place in Zagreb on May 7th and 8th 2010. A consortium agreement and a financial structure was discussed, the financial administration will be done by the Erasmus University. A visit to the Netherlands embassy of the Dutch management was also organized, including a meeting with W. van Haaften, vice ambassador took place. The embassy offered support for making the project a success, especially in the field of PR and logistic



aid, for instance in helping organizing meetings.

Documenta organized a guided tour through Zagreb which included visits to places of remembrance of war and violence for the Dutch guests.

A second pre-kickoff meeting with the Netherlands project partners took place at May 27th in Amsterdam. The project was discussed and decisions were made about management structure and a general timeframe for developing the internet platform.

A plenary kick-off meeting was organized at June 24th in The Hague at DANS, one of the project partners. All partners gave presentations about their core business and backgrounds, agreements were made and more detailed timeframes were setup for the developments of the platform and workflows for the next month. A draft Consortium Agreement was presented and the position of the General Assembly within the consortium was discussed.

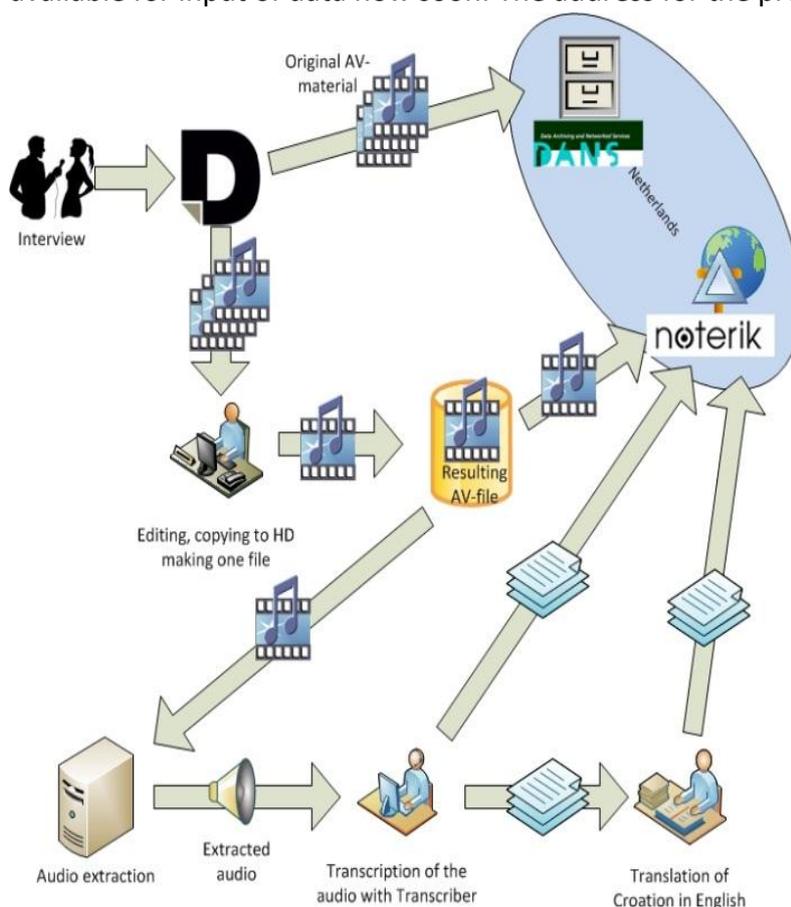
Building platform

The internet platform where the interviews will be made available will be build by Noterik. After a couple of on-line conferences in which the parameters of the website were discussed, the factual development started after the Summer holiday. The platform will be available for input of data now soon. The address for the project will be

www.croatianmemories.org.

Address Croatian version:

www.osobnasjecanja.hr



Next to the open website an annotation and research platform will be developed. The development is in hands of a programmer of the Twente University. For the construction of this the Open Source tools Collective Access is used. Important part of this task is the implementation of a metadataset metadata set, including a key wordlist, both developed by the project. The metadata will be used for indexing of the interviews by the staff of Documenta and are also available in the future for researchers.

All though the annotation platform and the open website will be developed separately, they will be linked to each other. A couple of search fields within de open website will use the annotation fields of the CA platform. Frequent consultation between the developers of both platforms and a permanent coaching is an ongoing process.

A separate on-line management application for the relation management is created.

Flyers, posters and PR

To be able to find 500 suitable candidates to give an interview it is necessary to develop a strong PR. To support this activity the project contracted designers in Zagreb to produce flyers and posters in English and Croatian. The local network of Documenta in all regions of Croatia will be provided with this material. Researchers of Documenta will provide all libraries and public places they are visiting with flyers and posters. A strategy and planning meeting for the PR activities was organized in June 2010.

DOCUMENTA - ČINA LETAK ENGLISH - 2010

I lived through two wars! Some people talk about the possessions they've lost. I don't care about those things. I would have been the happiest if my son-in-law had still been alive, if my children and my grandchildren were by my side. I only wish there is no war.

Mirko Kovačić

ABOUT US
Documenta - Centre for Dealing with the Past is a human rights organization founded in 2004 by Centre for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights Osijek, Center for Peace Studies, Civic Committee for Human Rights and Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.
Since its foundation, Documenta is contributing to the development of individual and social processes of dealing with the past in an attempt to build sustainable peace in Croatia and the wider region, by deepening public dialogue, initiating debates on public policies which encourage dealing with the past, gathering information, publishing reports on war-related events, war crimes and other human rights abuses, monitoring trials on local and regional level as a contribution to the improvement of judicial standards and praxis in war crime trials. Since 2006, Documenta has been working on building and strengthening a regional coalition of civil society organizations from former Yugoslav countries, which advocates the foundation of a Regional Commission for Establishing Facts about War Crimes and Other Serious Human Rights Violations in former Yugoslavia (RECOM).

ABOUT THE PROJECT
Using the method of oral history, Documenta prepared a project of semi-structured interviews with the goal of collecting individual oral testimonies of war and detention from 1941 until today. As our target group, we chose people whose memories have not been recorded yet.

The aim of this project is to create a platform for victims and interested witnesses of history in order to affirm personal memories and preserve them for future generations. By presenting various narratives of war events and political conflicts, our intention is to contribute to the growth of social consciousness on the importance of human rights. At the same time, with the use of this method, we believe we can contribute to the recognition of oral history as a serious research tool in history and other academic disciplines.

Mirko Kovačić, Vukovar

My father was killed in 1943. I don't remember him. Only in 1998 in Zagreb I found out where his grave was. He was buried in a shared grave which had an inscription 1941 and 1991. I don't remember my father, he doesn't remember his father, my grandchildren won't remember their father either.

Jelena Baketa

Neighbors showed a lot of solidarity. They organized themselves and repaired my house. Everyone in our street had the right to war damages - I didn't have that right. If they hadn't helped me, the house would have collapsed.

Marja Lovrić

CroMe CROATIAN MEMORIES UNVEILING PERSONAL MEMORIES ON WAR AND DETENTION

- We want to hear and preserve your memories in order to highlight the importance of individual war experiences and to document various events.
- We want to initiate and strengthen personal and social processes of dealing with the past, which are important preconditions for building sustainable peace and social stability.
- By collecting oral testimonies, we want to preserve your personal memories for future generations and allow your unheard stories to be heard by others...
- Your memories will be video recorded and published on the web page www.croatianmemories.org
- Your experience is part of our history.
- Your memory is part of our future.

Call us or send an e-mail so that we can record your story.

PHONE
01 457 2398

E-MAIL
osobnajeckanja@documenta.hr

Jelena Baketa Lovas

Interviews

In September the recording of interviews for the CroMe project started with an interview in Lika-Senj area. The standard questionnaire which was developed and discussed within the project and supported with advice of members of the project advisory board was used. In the period before the summer holiday the interviewers of the project followed a course at the philosophical faculty Zagreb in Oral History. High quality equipment for video and audio recording was purchased in Zagreb. After recording the first set in interviews the digital material was uploaded to the server in the Netherlands to test the material. For transcribing of the interviews open source software Transcriber, a tool for segmenting, labeling and transcribing speech, is used. Before the project bureau can start transcribing the audio and video signals has to be separated. The transcriber software will also be used for translating the interviews in English.



First external presentation of the project

The project office in Zagreb was invited by the organization of the SDH2010 (Supporting the Digital Humanities) conference in Vienna to present the CroMe project for an international research forum. In the plenary session Oral history "Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Research Data" on October 19th Tanja Petrovic (Documenta) and Peter van der Maas (Erasmus University) presented the project as a research platform in progress and a first demo interview was shown.

Actual state of the project

At the moment, March 1st 2011, the project recorded 60 interviews in several regions in Croatia, the mayor part of these interviews are transcribed and a minor part is translated into English.



OSOBN SJEĆANJA NA RATOVE I DRUGE OBLIKE POLITIČKOG NASILJA OD 1941. DO DANAS

Našla sam jedan tanjurić
od crne kave kad sam
se vratila. To sam našla.
I našla sam jednu vilicu.
Našli smo jedan
svijećnjak u staroj kući.
I našli smo onu metlicu
za muhe. Eto, to je sve
što smo mi našli od naše
kuće.

Gordana, Lipik



Danas mi je puno teže.
Kad se ratovalo, znala
sam postoji jedna i druga
strana, ratuju i rat je tu.
Rat će prestati.
Mene više zaokuplja to
što rat zapravo ne
prestaje u glavama ljudi.
Uvijek negdje zvone ta
ratna zvana.

Amalija Krstanović, Osijek



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Projekt se provodi u suradnji sa partnerima iz Nizozemske: Sveučilišna
Erasmus i Twente, institucija DASH i kulturnim kompanijama Nizozemci, a
iz Francuske potpora Media programa Ministarstva vanjske politike
Kraljevine Nizozemske.

OSOBN
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NA RATOVE I DRUGE OBLIKE
POLITIČKOG NASILJA
OD 1941. DO DANAS

