

CroMe CROATIAN MEMORIES UNVEILING PERSONAL MEMORIES ON WAR AND DETENTION

www.croatianmemories.org



UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

Data Archiving and Networked Services



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We are happy to present the third newsletter of Croatian Memories (CroMe), aka Unveiling personal memories on war and detention to mark the fact that in November 2011 the CroMe project was halfway its lifecycle and to report on what has been achieved thus far.

Open Internet Platform Development

The platform developed by Noterik for uploading and elaborating the interviews is in the final stage of testing and debugging. In *Springfield* as this platform is called, also the tools for the editing and annotation of interviews have been integrated. The platform supports the access of content in multiple languages (Croatian and English).

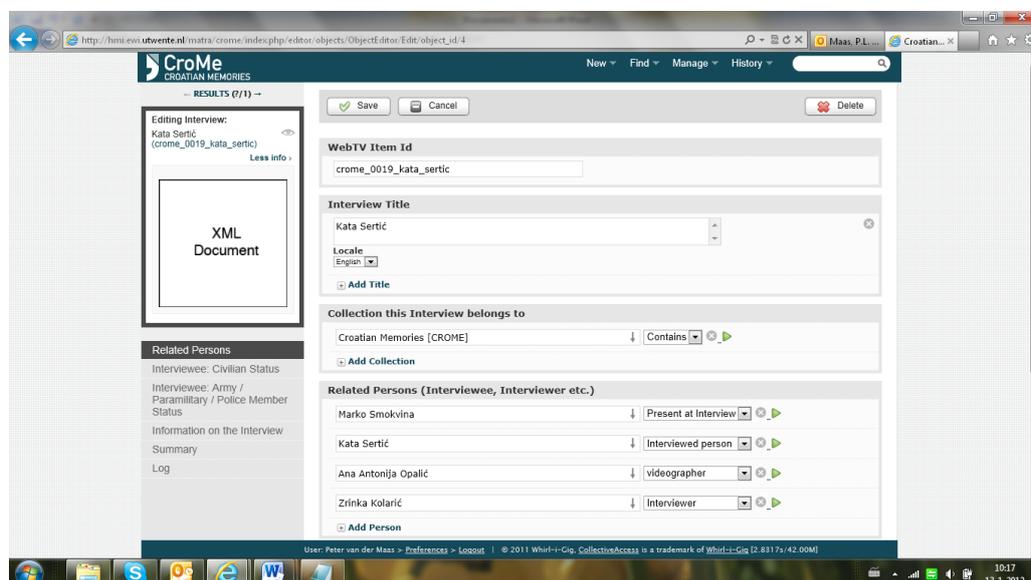


Figure 1 Screenshot of the Collective Access platform

Through a separate metadata platform, called *Collective Access*, researchers can access all the background information on interviews and interviewees. Only part of this metadata information is exported to the Springfield platform. Collective Access (see Figure 1) has been developed by the Universiteit Twente and was already completed before the summer of 2011.

Agreement on access to raw materials

Agreements were finalized with DANS (Data Archiving and Network Services) concerning the accessibility of raw, non-edited interview materials. The original audio-visual material, with a full metadata set and a full English translation, will be stored in the [EASY catalogue](#)¹ of DANS. Researchers will need permission of the owner of the interviews (i.e. *Documenta*, Zagreb) to access the material via a streaming server. There will be a periodical exchange of data between the *EASY catalogue*, *Collective Access* and *Springfield* database to synchronize and update all the information.



Training activities

Workshops were organized, dedicated to the importance and meaning of oral history methods and the general principles of online communication. Recently special workshops/meetings focusing on interview techniques were organized for the team of volunteers. Also individual monitoring sessions were organized for the volunteers. Special attention was given to the risk of secondary trauma (impact of narratives on interviewers) on which topic two workshops with psychology experts were organized in June and December 2011.

The course '*Recording personal memories on war*' became part of the regular curriculum of the Peace Studies in Zagreb. More than 10 students apply for this course every year, and some of them remain volunteering for the project.



Recording and processing of interviews

By the end of January 2012, 230 interviews were recorded, of which more than 100 in the last six months during 40 field trips. Recorded personal memories refer to various parts of Croatia Drniš, Knin, Pakrac, Lipik, Požega, Osijek, Vukovar, Split and Dubrovnik.

By the end of 2011 170 interviews were manually transcribed with Transcriber, and 50 interviews have been translated into English.

Translation into English is a rather time consuming activity that is implemented with the support of students of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb. Six students are active as translators, and in spite of the time constraints they have to face; the overall quality is very good.

Communication with scholarly groups and other dissemination activities

In November 2011, members of the project team at Documenta visited the Netherlands to meet experts and scholars to discuss the future use of the material collected in the project. One expert meeting took place at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam on November 3th 2011. Six researchers from different disciplinary fields (family memories, ethnic minorities, virtual archives, feminism and

¹ <http://www.dans.knaw.nl/en/content/data-archive>

violent social changes, digital historical sources) presented their assessment of the quality of the interviews as a basis for scholarly research.

A second meeting was held on November 4th at the University of Amsterdam (Huizinga Institute for Cultural History). The design and result of CroMe were discussed in a lively session with a group of more than ten oral history experts.

On June 30th 2011 a presentation of the project, including the first results was given at the residence of the Netherlands ambassador, Mrs. Ronner-Grubačić, at Tuškanac in Zagreb. Students who worked on the project as translators were also present, together with all members of the local project team – Documenta staff, volunteers, transcribers, and videographers.



The project was also promoted through public presentations in Šibenik, Knin and Drniš and numerous contacts and meetings with local authorities, local civil society organizations, cultural and art organizations from Šibenik, Knin, Drniš, Pakrac, Osijek, Vukovar, Zagreb and Dubrovnik.



At the public debate, *Web and Dealing with the Past*, organized by the Department of the History Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb the CroMe project was presented by Documenta.

Related initiatives

A consortium that is partly overlapping with the CroMe team has successfully applied for a

grant to start a similar pilot project in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Documenta is invited to be involved in the training of the partners in Sarajevo. The kick-off of this project was in December 2011.

For more information consult the website of the [Erasmus Studio - Erasmus University Rotterdam](http://www.erasmusstudio.nl)²



² <http://www.eur.nl/erasmusstudio/news/newsdetails/article/32658/>