



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 fourth newsletter of Croatian Memories (CroMe), aka Unveiling personal memories on war and detention.

Open Internet Platform Development

The Springfield platform, developed by ICT-firm Noterik, which provides the tools for editing and annotating the interviews has been launched and is being used by the coordinators of the project at Documenta. The platform supports the access of content in multiple languages (Croatian and English).

This also applies for the metadata platform Collective Access, the basis where information for the research portal (EASY catalogue ¹) of DANS (Data Archiving and Network Services) can be retrieved.

Project progress

In July, 300 interviews were recorded and 190 of them have been transcribed, making use of the open source tool Transcriber. These transcripts were checked twice by a project member and a proof-reader to make sure that all personal names and names of places are spelled correctly. This



time-consuming process is necessary to ensure unified and high-quality standards of data. 90 interviews have been fully translated into English. During the translation process, some difficulties arise as narrators often speak incoherent and incorrect Croatian. Of course this has to be translated into understandable English, yet these changes obviously alter the character of the original narrative. Another problem is that specific references for people of the same social-cultural context, but not for viewers from outside

Croatia. For translators, solving these difficulties in communication makes this more time-consuming than a translation of more common texts.

Training activities

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

In order to deal with the frequent phenomenon of narrators suffering from PTSS by interviewees, a special workshop was conducted by Zdenka Pantić, a professional therapist and director of the 'International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims' in Zagreb was organized on July 1st 2011. A second workshop, on December 7th 2011, was conducted by Marijana Senjak, a psychologist and professional therapist and one of the founders of Medica Zenica (an expert non- governmental organization that continuously offers psycho-social and medical support to war victims in BiH). A third workshop took place on 27 January 2012 when Maja Dubljević from Documenta, presented the Oral History Reader for Volunteers that was compiled by her.



Recruitment of candidates

To get a well-balanced representative collection of interviews, Documenta made a careful selection of candidates assessing the right balance of ethnicity, gender, age, background, geographical representation etc. The recruitment of potential interviewees was done in cooperation with the local civil society organizations, local authorities, media and (inter-) national organizations and with the help of partner organisations of Documenta.

Communication with scholarly groups and other dissemination activities

Three public presentations of the project took place in May 2011 in Drniš, Šibenik and Knin. Besides these presentations the CroMe project was introduced at a number of events and conferences.

At the Zagreb Spring School on "Sharing Best Practices in remembering the Holocaust and war crimes" which took place on March 16th 2012, Tanja Petrović (Documenta) gave a presentation in the session dedicated to the exchange of regional experiences and projects.

At the conference: "Beyond Testimony and Trauma – Oral history in the aftermath of mass violence" Montreal, 23 – 25 March 2012. The international conference was organized by Concordia University's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (Montreal), The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies and The Montreal Life Stories Project. Tanja Petrović from Documenta gave a presentation on "Unveiling personal memories on war and detention in Croatia" and presented a video-clip from the collection. The specialist in digital oral history and advisor of CroMe from the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Stef Scagliola, gave a presentation on the pitfalls of process-generated oral history.

At the Advanced Human Rights School, Mrkopalj, Croatia, 18 – 23 July 2011 and at the Basic Human Rights School, Daruvar, Croatia, 2 – 6 April 2012. Marko Smokvina from Documenta gave lectures on modern and contemporary Croatian history in the regional context with a special emphasis to the war in the '90s and its consequences.

On 21 February 2012, a joint oral history meeting of Czech Radio, Institute for the research of totalitarian regimes and NGO Post Bellum Memory of Nations Workshop, took place in Pula, Croatia.

Darija Marić and Marko Smokvina from Documenta presented recorded personal memories in Croatia and discussed possibilities for future cooperation.

From 10 – 13 May 2012 the conference 'Conflict in Memory: Interpersonal and Intergenerational



Remembering of War, Conflict and Transition' took place in Aarhus Denmark, organized by the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Aarhus and Match Point Seminars. Peter van der Maas (Erasmus Studio) gave a presentation of the CroMe project. The focus of the presentation was on the specific methodology of oral history and on the process of the implementing this kind of in the Republics of former Yugoslavia. An

additional topic was the requirements of the database for the use of the collection by academics.

New funds

The Erasmus University, successfully applied for a project fund at the Institute for Global Justice in The Hague (founded in June 2011). In the project proposed, the interview collection resulting from the CroMe project will be used to conduct 3 pilot studies with justice and reconciliation in the region as a main focus. This series of pilot project is meant to define a long-term multidisciplinary research agenda for the interview collection.

New projects

In March 2012 a project similar to CroMe started off in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) recording interviews. This project (BiHMe) is supported by the Netherlands Embassy in Sarajevo and is financed by a local Matra fund. The Dutch members of the CroMe consortium are all involved in the implementation of this BiH project. The local partners in BiH are CIN (Center for investigative reporting) in Sarajevo and the Human Right Center of the University of Sarajevo. The BiHMe project ² has a life cycle of two years and approximately 85 interviews will be recorded and published on-line.



On 31 January 2012 CroMe project manager Peter van der Maas visited the President of Croatia, Prof. dr. Ivo Josipovic , in the presidential residency in Zagreb. He presented the CroMe project to the President and showed him a couple of fragments of the interviews. Possibilities for promoting the project in Croatia and the possibilities for an extension of the CroMe project in the region were discussed.

² www.bosnianmemories.org