

NEWSLETTER **April 2014**

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“Photo of the year” the National Archives at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (photo: The National Archives of France)

**Irish Presidency of the
Council of the
European Union**



eu2013.ie



European Archivists focus on digital challenges

27th Conference of the European Board of National Archivists and 14th EAG meeting, Dublin, 2-3 April 2013.

The National Archives of Ireland was pleased to host the 27th Conference of the European Board of National Archivists and the 14th meeting of the European Archives Group in Dublin on Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 April 2013. The venue for the meetings was the Conference Centre, Dublin Castle. The proceedings were opened by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mr Jimmy Deenihan, T. D., and the conference was chaired by Ms Frances McGee, Acting Director of the National Archives. A total of 53 delegates attended, representing 29 countries.

The subject matter of the first afternoon of the EBNA conference was archival legislation. Speakers in the first session were from Ireland, with the opening address given by the Honourable Mr Justice Peter Charleton, Chairman of the National Archives Advisory Council, followed by Tom Quinlan (National Archives). They spoke about the challenges involved in archival legislation and the current situation in Ireland. The second session comprised presentations from Poul Olsen (Denmark), Barbara Berska (Poland), Julie Lennard (United Kingdom) and Priit Pirsko (Estonia), which set out the background to matters taken into consideration in the framing of legislation in their respective countries.



The EBNA session in Dublin

(photo: the National archives of Ireland)

The theme of the morning of the second day was the role of archives in national commemoration. Three contributors from Ireland spoke about the 'Decade of Centenaries' from the point of view of the archivist (Catriona Crowe, National Archives) and the academic historian (Eunan O'Halpin, Trinity College Dublin and Keith Jeffrey, Queen's University Belfast). The papers set out the projects, including digitisation, which will broaden public access to the archival material, the uses to

which the documents are put, and the complexities underlying the act of commemorating. In the second session Martin Ivanov (Bulgaria), Michael Hollman (Germany) and Ramojus Kraujelis (Lithuania) outlined how these matters are dealt with through engagement of private individuals in public commemoration (Bulgaria), the central role of archives in how the past is acknowledged (Germany) and the part played by the state and archives in maintaining the national memory (Lithuania).

The presentations are available on the website of the National Archives of Ireland www.nationalarchives.ie.

European Archives Group (EAG)

A meeting of the European Archives Group took place in the afternoon of Wednesday 3 April. The meeting was chaired by Peter Handley (Head of Unit, Document Management and Archives Policy, secretariat of the European Commission). A presentation was made by Billy Hawkes, Irish Data Commissioner and discussion followed on the draft European Data Protection legislation. The current position regarding the amendments proposed by Europe's Archivists was reported. The report of the working group for the development of a European code of conduct was made by Susan Healey and Giulia Barrera. Progress reports were made in relation to APEX (Gerrit de Bruin), DLM Forum (Eric Ketelaar) and disaster prevention and recovery (Barbara Berska).



Participants of the EBNA/EAG meeting in Dublin, April 2, 2013 (photo: the National archives of Ireland)

APEX

A meeting of the Executive Steering Committee of APEX took place on Tuesday 2 April 2013 in the Conference Centre, Dublin Castle.

European Heads of Conservation

A meeting of the informal group, comprising the Heads of Conservation in EU and associated countries, took place in the Bedford Tower in Dublin Castle on Thursday 4 April 2013. This group meets once a year and from 2011 the meeting has been held in conjunction with the EBNA/EAG meeting held in the first half of the year. The meeting was attended by 18 delegates representing 13 countries.



Participants of the meeting of Heads of Conservation in Dublin, April 4, 2013 (photo: the National archives of Ireland).

The presentations, reports and discussion centred on dust and mould, and research and solutions to this problem. Visits to the National Archives and the Conservation Department of Trinity College Library were included in the day.

Frances McGee, Acting Director of the National Archives of Ireland

ARCHIVAL EVENTS DURING THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



In 2014 Lithuania celebrates the 10th anniversary of its accession to the European Union on the 1st of May 2004. This period is important to Lithuania not only for its political, social and cultural aspects, but it is also memorable to Lithuanian archival institutions. Lithuania for the first time took up the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2013. During the Lithuanian Presidency period the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania organised three informal expert level events aiming to represent Lithuania properly and share a good practice of the documents and archives management as well.

The 28th conference of the European Board of National Archivists (EBNA) and the 15th meeting of the European Archives Group (EAG). On October 8 – 9, 2013, the 28th conference of the European Board of National Archivists (EBNA) and the 15th meeting of the European Archives Group (EAG) took place in the Conference Centre of the Radisson Blue Hotel Lietuva. The events were organised by the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania. Šarūnas Birutis, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, made his welcome speech to the participants of the conference.



The 28th conference of the European Board of National Archivists (EBNA) in Vilnius (photo: Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania)

The conference was divided into four sessions. Presentations included in the first session addressed the issues of the development of the heritage policy and cooperation of the memory institutions. They were delivered by Rimvydas Laužikas (Vilnius University), Regina Varniene (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), Vlatka Lemić (National Archives of Croatia), and Marietta Minotos (General Archives of Greece). Presentations included in the second session reported on the recent projects implemented by the archives. The presenters were: Valerija Jusevičiūtė (Lithuanian Central State Archives), Arūnas Stočkus (Vilnius University), Lauri Leht (National Digital Archives of Estonia). The third session was dedicated to the variety of services offered by the archives and the discussion of the new trends. The presenters were: Eirikur Gudmundsson (National Archives of Iceland), Jussi Nuorteva (National Archival Service of Finland), Asbjørn Hellum (State Archives of Denmark).



Participants of the EBNA/EAG meeting in Vilnius, October 2013 (photo: Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania)

The Joint EBNA/EAG session was scheduled for October 9. Presentations on the legal and practical aspects of the document access were delivered by Władysław Stępnik (Directorate of State Archives of Poland), Gatis Karlsons (National Archives of Latvia), Mária Španková (Department of Archives and Register of the Slovakia), and Josee Kirps (National Archives of Luxembourg). Issues covered in this session

embraced preservation of historical archives, new European Union Regulation on personal data protection and archives, some aspects of the practical document management in the European Commission, and the implementation of continuous projects in the field of the EU archives.



*The social event for EBNA participants, organised by the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, Oct. 2013
(photo: Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania)*

Meeting and Conference of the DLM Forum Members in Vilnius.

On October 10 – 11, 2013, the Meeting and Conference of the DLM (Document Life Cycle Management) Forum Members took place in the Conference Centre of the Radisson Blue Hotel Lietuva in Vilnius. The events are usually held every semester in the country presiding to the Council of the European Union. The presentations delivered on the first day of the Meeting addressed the problems arising in the information society and the ways to solve them, the development of the projects under implementation (E-ark and EU Wiki) and the new initiatives.



*DLM Forum meeting, Vilnius, October 10 – 11, 2013
(photo: Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania)*

The discussion on the current affairs of the Forum also took place during the meeting. On October 11, representatives from various countries delivered their presentations investigating the issues of the impact of the state information resources on the information and information management, preservation of bits in digital archives, privacy and transparency in search of solutions related to the E-mail information management, and the support of national archives offered to digital recording developers in the public sector.

The round-table discussions on the situation in the field of the information management (participants – members of the Expert Committee) closed the Meeting.

During Lithuanian Presidency the representatives of the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania were active in Working Party on Information of the Council of the European Union as well, aiming to restart and continue negotiations on Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

Ramojus Kraujelis, Chief Archivist of Lithuania



23-24 November
**Accountability, Transparency
and Access to Information**

First ICA Annual Conference took place in Brussels, 23-24 November 2013

The first ICA Annual Conference on “Responsibility, Transparency and Access to Information” gathered over 500 participants from more than 100 different countries in the Brussels “Square” congress centre on 23-24 November.

Philippe Courard, Belgian State secretary for Science policy opened the conference and emphasized the importance of archivists and record managers for a correct management and a continuous availability of the information, as well as for the fight against the misuse of big data.

After the plenary, three parallel sessions were organised, each with heterogeneous and very interesting presentations and debates. Summaries of the sessions and participant’s testimonies can be found on the [ICA-website](#).



The Brussels “Square” congress centre, ICA Annual Conference, 23-24 November 2013

During the closing plenary, the panellists and the audience unanimously concluded that archivists should further promote their expertise in all fields of the information society. Archivists have an important role to play as they have the competence, the knowledge and the expertise to help find solutions concerning actual problems related to information and documentary management. More than ever, archivists should present themselves as essential specialists, a strategy in which marketing,

communication, promotion and interdisciplinary collaboration are of crucial importance.

During the closing session, the attendees explicitly asked to put the presentations and the available texts as soon as possible at the disposal of the public. ICA engaged to examine how this could be achieved.

The acts of the conference won't be published as such, but COMMA, the ICA magazine, will bring a digest of some of the contributions.



One of the sessions of the Annual Conference, 24 November, Square Congress Centre in Brussels

Governance meetings were held in Brussels in the week before the AC

Governance bodies and a number of other ICA bodies were able to take advantage of this large annual gathering to hold their meetings.

The days preceding the conference, some thirty meetings of 'Sections', 'Branches' and ICA working groups as well as of the Executive Board and the Programme Committee were held at the National Archives in Brussels. The day after the conference, Monday 25 November, two well-attended workshops were organised, one on the European Archive Portal, the other on the digitising and the making available of digitised geographic information.

The Forum of National Archivists (FAN) took place on Friday 22 November at the nearby Royal Library. The summary of the meeting is available on the [ICA website](#). The General Assembly of ICA was held at the end of the afternoon on Saturday 23 November in The Square.



Participants of the conference during the lunch time, Brussels, November 2013 (photo: Belgian State Archives)

EURBICA Executive Board and General Assembly – Brussels, 22 November 2013

EURBICA also held its Executive Board, followed by the annual General Assembly, in the building of the National Archives. The GA agreed with/confirmed following decisions and proposals:

- Appointment of Odile Welfelé (France) as Executive Board member, in replacement of Luis R. Enseñat (Spain);
- Projects:
 - APEx: state of play: see elsewhere in this Newsletter (EBNA/EAG-session in Vilnius - 9 Oct. 2013)
 - Euronomos-project (legal database ICA–Eurbica–Archives de France): time has come to admit that Euronomos is dead and that the launching of a new project should be considered, in which all the available data could be integrated.



Meeting of Executive Board of EURBICA in Brussels on November 22, 2013

Odile Welfelé proposes to establish a forum being a mixture of a website and a blog, where 1) discussions can take place on legal matters and 2) articles and papers can be put. Karel Velle asks for a vision paper.

- Webpage / Newsletter EURBICA: a more systematic input of content is needed. A vision paper on the kind of content that is expected from the members will be prepared for the next meeting.
- Data Protection Regulation: text not quite perfect yet. The Directive will not be put on the agenda again before 2015. (see also elsewhere in this Newsletter)
- Relationship EURBICA to other ICA bodies:

Discussion has risen about the use of the branches. In Blois (March 2013 meeting) David Leitch has presented a vision paper on this issue and Brian Corbett has prepared a questionnaire on the usefulness and pertinence of

the ICA branches. This questionnaire will be distributed among the members and Karel Velle summons everyone to answer it. The General Assembly will meet again in Girona (October 2014).



ICA Annual Conference on "Responsibility, Transparency and Access to Information", Brussels, 2013

European Commission's public consultation on the review of the EU copyright rules

On 5 December 2013 the European Commission launched a public consultation on the review of the EU copyright rules. To achieve a consensus-driven collective response on behalf of the 'memory organizations', Europeana has formed the 'Copyright reform working group', consisting of members from the organizations that are represented on the Board of the Europeana Foundation. Eurbica was part of this working group. The draft response of Europeana was communicated to the Eurbica members (31 January 2014), who were urged to formulate their own responses to the consultation. The final version of the response document is available on the [Europeana website](#).

Karin Van Honacker, International relations, Belgian State Archives



Meeting of Executive Board of EURBICA in Dublin on April 2, 2013

Joint APEX & EURBICA meeting in Brussels



Following the International Council on Archives Annual Conference in Brussels from 23 - 24 November 2013, the European Regional Branch of the ICA (EURBICA) and the APEX-project held a joint meeting on the matter of "Update and outlooks on the Archives Portal Europe". The meeting encouraged reflections on new developments and their impacts for the activities of the APEX-project. It started with a welcome address by the host of the meeting, Karel Velle (National Archives, Belgium), Chair of EURBICA and was followed by an introduction to the meeting by Angelika Menne-Haritz (Bundesarchiv, Germany), Scientific Coordinator of APEX and former chair of EURBICA. Susanne Waidmann (Bundesarchiv, Germany), WP4 (standards & guidelines) lead of the APEX project, presented on "The challenges of multilingualism". At the one hand the already existing multilingualism functionalities or options have been presented, on the other hand the use of archival standards to facilitate multilingual functionalities was described. "What does Web 2.0 mean for joint access point to archives?" was the title of the presentation by Kuldar Aas (Rahvusarhiiv, Estonia), lead of WP6 on usability & Web 2.0. The presentation introduced the first deliverables of the Work Package and discussed possibilities for developing Archives Portal Europe into a more reasonable central tool for international researchers and the general public. Kerstin Arnold was presenting on two topics, firstly about EAD3 and the consequences of the new version, then about "News from Europeana". Kerstin Arnold is leading WP2 and is also technical coordinator of APEX.



Meeting of the APEX-EURBICA in Brussels

One guest from outside of Europe, Daniel Pitti, University of Virginia, USA, presented about the outcomes of the meeting of the "ICA Experts Group on Archival Description" in his presentation "Hot off the press: Update from the ICA Experts Group on Archival Description". As this main part of the APEX & EURBICA meeting was concluded, the participants had the opportunity to participate at a workshop called "Give your data a try". Here several archivists experienced with the tools of APEX, partly with their own data partly with test data, to see how the data preparation for the Archives Portal Europe works and how their data would look like in portal search and result presentation.

All presentations can also be found at:

<http://www.apex-project.eu/index.php/events/eurbica-apex-meeting/programme>

Susanne Waidmann, Stiftung Archiv der Parteien und Massenorganisationen der DDR im Bundesarchiv, Berlin

**Girona 2014. Archives &
Cultural Industries
9th ECA Conference**



**2nd Annual Conference of the International Council on Archives
9th European Conference on Archives
13th Image and Research Seminar**

The city of Girona (Catalonia, Spain) will host the International Conference Archives & Cultural Industries from the 13th to the 15th October next. The event is organized by the International Council on Archives (ICA), the European Regional Branch (EURBICA) and The Municipal Archive of Girona, in collaboration with various local, state and national institutions.

The Conference intends to receive proposals from around the world to reflect and debate from the thematic areas that you will find if you click on this link:

<http://www.girona.cat/web/ica2014/eng/index.php>

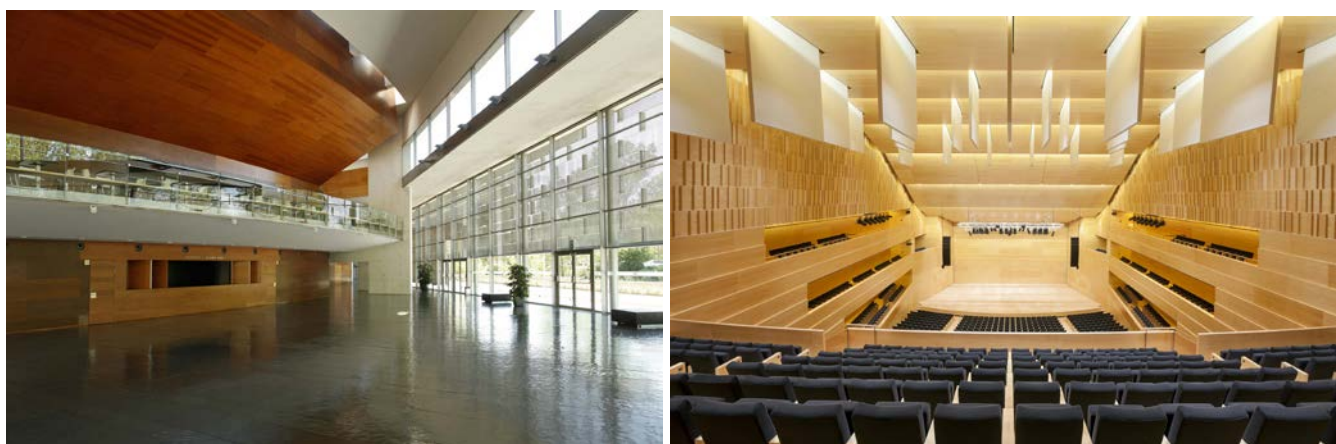


Photo: Aniol Resclosa, © Palau de Congressos de Girona, <http://www.gironacongressos.org>

The scientific programme will include the participation of internationally renowned Keynote Speakers who come from the world of creation and are related to disciplines such as music, photography, gastronomy, audiovisuals, literature, etc.

Together with the events of the Conference, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in exhibitions and activities organized by various archives and museums of the city and enjoy a social program designed to provide them a pleasant stay.

The city of Girona

Girona was founded by the Romans 21 centuries ago and has an impressive old town with Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque churches and a beautiful Cathedral. The city also has a very well preserved Jewish Quarter and a big part of its roman and medieval walls and streets remain intact.



*The motif of Girona,
photo: © Jordi S. Carrera*

We have seven different museums and ten archives that conserve documentation from the ninth century to the present day.

Girona is one hour north of Barcelona, half an hour from the beaches of the Costa Brava and two hours from the Pyrenees.

It's very well connected by plane (Girona low cost airport and Barcelona airport) and by high speed train.



Girona by night, photo: © Jordi S. Carrera



We will welcome you all in Girona!!

*Joan Boadas i Raset
Ajuntament de Girona*

New building of the French National

Archives at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine



For over fifty years now, the French National Archives have intensively given thought to the standardisation of the rooms in which archive documents are preserved and made accessible to the public. Whether these rooms are housed in new constructions, extensions of existing buildings or in rehabilitated buildings that formerly had a different use, everybody benefits from the expertise of the experts of the inter-ministerial service of the French National Archives who authorise the draft projects, grant technical visas and follow-up the audits about security or environment.

The projects must integrate the requirements for proper conservation of the documents (space, bearing capacity of the floors, fixed or moving shelves, air conditioning, document security, reproduction and restoration), for energy savings and for access by the public (researchers and genealogists, colloquia and seminars, school trips, expositions). The emphasis is on sustainable development thanks to isolation and air-conditioning techniques. In sort: the aim is to combine protection and opening.

For several years now, the French National Archives endorse and support investments in archive buildings in collaboration with local authorities.

The construction of the new centre of the National Archives at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine is part of large-scale projects started recently and has been commissioned to a prestigious architecture office.



The National Archives at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (photo: the National Archives of France)

The decision to build a new branch office at the outskirts of Paris, right across from the University of Paris VIII-Saint-Denis, was announced on 9 March 2004 by the French President. Architects Massimiliano and Doriano Fuksas were awarded the

contract in May 2005. On 11 February 2013, the building, which had already been open to the public since 21 January, was inaugurated by President François Hollande.



Part of the building, the National Archives at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (photo: the National Archives of France)

In order to combine the objectives of protection and opening, the building, which is actually composed of two buildings, is secured, large and easily accessible by foot and metro, with a mixture of glass, aluminium and an open front.



The section of the building dedicated to conservation, is classified as high-rise building (IGH - Immeuble de Grande Hauteur) and comprises 220 archive stacks spread over 11 levels and fitted with 360 km of fixed and moving shelf capacity and a reading room for 324 visitors. The monolithic concrete building is covered with an isolation layer and an aluminium panels "skin" as well as diamond-shaped glass windows; it thus has very good thermal properties. Fire protection is ensured by an automatic fire sprinkling system.

The new centre of the National Archives at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (photo: the National Archives of France)

The administrative and reception building (exposition spaces, educational areas, auditorium, meeting and working rooms) is composed of 10 “satellites”, mostly covered with windows, superposed and linked via glass and aluminium footbridges.



The reading room in the new premises in Paris (photo: the National Archives of France)

The premises are completed by a technical section for distribution and production, and a garage for service vehicles.

Water tanks on a total surface of 4000 m² are located near the premises. Planting was realised by Florence Mercier. Three works of art, ordered within the 1%-art framework, have installed.

Bibliography:

“Les archives dans la Cité. Architectures d'archives, 2004-2012. F. Saïe-Belaïsch, M.-D. Parcas, G. Etienne, F. Banat-Berger, C. Sibille. Avant-propos d'Aurélie Filipetti, ministre de la culture et de la communication. Introduction d'Hervé Lemoine, directeur, chargé des Archives de France. Service interministériel des archives de France, 2013. 238 pages, 29,5 x 21 cm. 24 Euro”

“Bâtiments d'archives, 1986-2003. G. Ermisse, E. Marguin-Hamon, F. Saïe-Belaïsch. Avant-propos de Martine de Boisdefre, directrice des Archives de France. Direction des archives de France, 2004. 127 pages, 29,5 x 21 cm. 45 Euro”.

See also:

<http://www.archivesdefrance.culture.gouv.fr/gerer/batiments/>

Notably these two downloadable documents:

- Programme pour la construction d'un bâtiment d'archives:

<http://www.archivesdefrance.culture.gouv.fr/static/1097>

- Règles de base pour la construction d'un bâtiment d'archives:

<http://www.archivesdefrance.culture.gouv.fr/static/3281>

- Information on the new archives building and some photos:

<http://www.aasarchitecture.com/2013/02/New-National-Archives-of-France-Fuksas.html>



(photo: the National Archives)

For more information on the building, contact:
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