

# **Digitisation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage in Bulgaria: Challenges and Realities**

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The paper presents Bulgarian endeavours in the field of digital preservation of and access to cultural and scientific heritage. The introductory part provides some general considerations about the importance of such activities especially for new member states (NMS) and accession countries (AC) in Europe and summarizes basic reasons for the current state of digitization, which is still far from a level of maturity.

Further, Bulgarian cultural and scientific heritage assets are classified and briefly described. In view of the specific scope of the conference, special attention is paid to Bulgarian monasteries.

After a short overview of previous digitization initiatives in Bulgaria, the paper investigates the reasons for the current unsatisfactory situation and looks for ways to achieve changes. In regard to this, an outline of the project “Knowledge Transfer for the Digitization of Cultural and Scientific Heritage to Bulgaria”, supported by the Marie Curie Program of the FP6, is provided. Priority fields of work such as cataloguing of mediaeval Bulgarian manuscripts, digitization of archive documents, and creation of Bulgarian Digital Mathematics Library (BulDML), are listed.

The concluding part of the paper contains some practical results achieved after the first project year as well as plans for the future work. Some problems, requiring additional efforts in order to achieve in due time the ambitious aims, set by the project, are also revealed.