

D3.1

Regional Support Networks

HaS-DARIAH

INFRADEV-3-2015-Individual implementation and operation of ESFRI projects Grant Agreement no.: 675570

Date: 20-06-2017

Version: 1.0



Humanities at Scale has received funding from the European's Union Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement No 675570

Grant Agreement no.:		675570	
Programme:		Horizon 2020	
Project acronym:		HaS-DARIAH	
Project full title:		Humanities at Scale: Evolving the DARIAH ERIC	
Partners: DIGITAL RESEAR		ARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES	
	CENTRE NATIO	ONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE	
KONINKLIJKE N		NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN – KNAW	
GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITAET GOET		ST-UNIVERSITAET GOETTINGEN STIFTUNG OEFFENTLICHEN RECHTS	
Topic:		INFRADEV-3-2015	
Project Start Date:		01-09-2015	
Project Duration:		28 months	
Title of the document:		Regional Support Networks	
Work Package title:		Growing DARIAH	
Estimated delivery date:		30-04-2016	
Lead Beneficiary:		DARIAH	
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Keywords:		Growing DARIAH, Regional Hubs	

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Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Beneficiary	Description
0.1	24-05-17	Marco Raciti et al.	DARIAH	first outline
0.2	12-06-17	Patricia Kalafata	DARIAH	revised version
0.3	19-06-17	Mike Mertens	UGOE-SUB	final revision
1.0	20-06-17	Marco Raciti et al.	DARIAH	final version

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Executive Summary

D3.1 Regional Support Networks defines a number of regional support networks covering regions not yet covered by DARIAH and develops an internal report on working with national contact points. Furthermore, it presents the Ambassadors Network, its planned activities and suggestion for future sustainability.

Nature of the deliverable				
1	R	Document, report		
	DEM	Demonstrator, pilot, prototype		
	DEC	Websites, patent fillings, videos, etc.		
	OTHER			
Dissemination level				
1	Р	Public		
	CO	Confidential only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)		
	EU-RES	Classified Information: RESTREINT UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)		
	EU-CON	Classified Information: CONFIDENTIEL UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)		
	EU-SEC	Classified Information: SECRET UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)		

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The Humanities at Scale is project funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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DARIAH has been very successful in its mission to become a pan-European infrastructure with now 17 member states, but needs to further expand to cover especially European countries that do not yet have a strong relationship with digital arts and humanities. In addition, DARIAH is making a step forward to attract countries that have a strong awareness of digital arts and humanities but are not yet members of DARIAH.

The Task 3.1 is strictly linked to the task 3.2, whose aim is ensure the expansion of the digital research community. To this end, both regional hubs have been created to function as regional coordinators and thematic workshops have been organised. These events have had a double objective: on the one hand to explore possibilities for joining DARIAH and build a national consortium, and involve new research communities into DARIAH and cover specific research areas relevant to the needs of local and regional communities, on the other.

For task, 3 different hubs were created: DARIAH-GR acted as a central organizing point for Romania and Bulgaria, DARIAH-HR for Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, DARIAH-EU, supported by DARIAH-DK, explored the possibility of a Nordic Hub covering Nordic countries. Contacts have been strengthened also with Hungarian institutions. The efforts produced during the project resulted in several institutions presenting applications for becoming a DARIAH Cooperating Partner, which were accepted by the DARIAH General Assembly (GA) in May. The Cooperating Partner status, as stated in the Statutes, allows institutions from non-DARIAH member countries to access all DARIAH resources, meetings and communication channels. In turn cooperating partners contribute to DARIAH activities, e.g. in working groups, for a period of at least two years, at the end of which the cooperation shall be evaluated. It is expected that the participation as Cooperating Partner may lead in the future to building national consortia that will eventually develop into national infrastructures and into full DARIAH membership.

To consolidate these partnerships and continue to raise awareness of DARIAH, seven DARIAH Ambassadors were appointed at the beginning of 2017.

In addition, the Horizon 2020 funded project DESIR, aims to prepare the ground for establishing DARIAH membership in six new countries. The objective is similar as the one stated in Humanities at Scale. It has been decided to avoid overlaps in these two projects and a different approach has been developed. In combination with the efforts currently produced in DESIR, DARIAH now covers almost the whole of the ERA.



1 Growing DARIAH

In Humanities at Scale Work Package 3, we define partner networks that cover new regions for digital humanities (DH) research. This corresponds to the INFRADEV-3-2015 call objective to 'enlarge membership' especially through the 'development of regional partner facilities'. In order to be able to establish connections and working relations with communities of researchers and institutions in different parts of Europe, it is necessary to develop clear policies and procedures both on the organisational and on the legal level. At the same time, DARIAH is a complex environment which relies on an original funding model. Activities within DARIAH are funded via a combination of in-kind and cash contributions from Member States. It is necessary to give accurate information on the procedure for joining DARIAH, and show to the stakeholders what the benefits are for a country and for its research community by doing so.

When the project started in September 2015, 15 countries were already members of DARIAH, while Portugal and Poland officially joined DARIAH in November 2015. In addition, a functioning consortium was established in Switzerland. When looking at the geographical distribution of the ERIC, we noticed that the following "blank" areas should have been addressed:

- Central and Southeast Europe
- Balkans
- Nordic and Baltic countries

For each macro-region, existing partners were in an excellent position to play a proactive role.

Following an internal call, it was decided to build regional hubs which could help in raising awareness of DARIAH and focus on high-level advocacy.



2 Regional Hubs

Within the project, three regional hubs have been created:

- 1. A regional hub for the Eastern Balkans coordinated by the Academy of Athens (contact point: Helen Katsiadakis, from June 2017 Maria Spiliotopoulou);
- 2. A regional hub for the Western Balkans coordinated by the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore of Zagreb (contact point: Koraljka Kuzman Šlogar);
- 3. A regional hub for Nordic Countries coordinated by DARIAH-EU, in collaboration with DARIAH-DK (contact point: Marianne Ping Huang).

Formal contacts have been established with Hungarian institutions during the course of the project and the development of a Central Europe regional Hub is currently discussed to attract more DH institutions from Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic. DARIAH CEO Mike Mertens is coordinating efforts in this respect.

The three established regional hubs have already organised workshops with relevant stakeholders located in the identified regions.

2.1 Joining DARIAH: different levels of DARIAH membership.

The members of DARIAH ERIC are countries, so the decision for a country to join has to be taken in the relevant ministry or research agency. Any State or intergovernmental organisation interested in becoming a Member, Observer, or any institution interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner, shall apply in writing to DARIAH ERIC.

Nonetheless, DARIAH Statutes may accept the collaboration of individual institutions through the Cooperating partner status.

According to the DARIAH Statutes, three different types of participation are detailed:

Member States: may use all tools and services and participate in all activities. They shall have the right to participate and vote in the General Assembly. Their partner institutions shall have the right to chair a VCC. Member States usually commit for 5 years. Member States pay an annual financial contribution as well as make in-kind contributions available.

Observers: may use all tools and services and participate in all activities. In addition, Observers may be present and take the floor in all General Assembly meetings but without voting rights. Observers pay an annual contribution which is 10% of what it would



have been if they had joined as Members. The Observer status is limited to a 3-years term. Observer status is primarily considered a pathway to full Membership.

Cooperating partners: DARIAH ERIC and the Cooperating Partner (individual institutions) shall enter into a binding agreement, defining the framework of the cooperation, based on the recommendations of the General Assembly. So far, cooperating partner status allows institutions from non-DARIAH member countries to access DARIAH resources, meetings and communication channels. In turn cooperating partners contribute to DARIAH activities, e.g. in working groups, for a period of at least two years, at the end of which the cooperation shall be evaluated. However, the Cooperating Partners do not pay an annual contribution, therefore they are not represented at the General Assembly and they have no formal means of participating in executive decisions.

The decision of a ministry or research agency to join DARIAH is highly dependent on the research community in the respective country that will demonstrate interest in using the research infrastructure and in creating, and supporting, the national consortium. For that reason, a strong link with T3.2 has been developed.

2.2 Role of the Regional Coordinators

In order to achieve the objective of enlarging the membership, regional coordinators have implemented the following strategy.

- 1. Identify stakeholders in the region and establish first contacts;
- 2. Develop strategies to encourage their encourage their integration in the DARIAH community;
- 3. Organise thematic workshops, to accelerate the integration process, defining concrete collaboration opportunities and possible benefits for the research communities. Different membership option are presented;
- 4. Provide continuous expertise on how to organize their national consortia and on how to address any ministerial questions or those of relevant national research agencies, thus facilitating optimally any decision-making process to join DARIAH.;
- 5. Support the role of DARIAH Ambassadors to maximise efforts in the respective region.

A different approach has been taken here in comparison with DESIR. The latter works on existing, or further developing embryonic, networks to become national consortia, for



example, by helping them to prepare roadmaps and documentation for ministerial consumption.

Several institutions were interested in becoming DARIAH Cooperating partners due to the lightweight process and the possibility more rapidly to gain the approval of the national governmental bodies, at least at this first stage. Nevertheless, the Cooperating Partner status is preparatory to a full membership. Individual institutions will move forward in collaboration and cooperation to establish a national consortium and set up discussions with relevant ministries and research agencies. Furthermore, some institutions established contacts with national governmental bodies to promote and support an application as a Member or Observer.

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3 Regional and Support Networks

3.1 Eastern Balkans Regional Hub

Within the scope of this task the Academy of Athens became a regional organizer for Bulgaria and Romania. Both countries are mature concerning the development of DH practices and they are ready to join the DARIAH community.

It is worth pointing out that since 2014 the Transylvania Digital Humanities Centre has been established in Romania as a research centre operating within the Babes-Bolyai University. Furthermore, in Bulgaria the Centre of Excellence Humanities of the University of Sofia as well as the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences have organized some DH projects, such as summer schools on DH.

Contacts were established with **Corina Moldovan**, senior Lecturer at the Babes-Bolyai University and Director of the Transylvania Digital Humanities Centre, DigiHUBB, and **Maria Baramova**, assistant Professor at Sofia University.

A meeting in this context took place in Athens on 17 March 2017. The meeting was the first live meeting between the Academy of Athens and representatives of two Digital Humanities institutions from Bulgaria and Romania, the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria) and the University of Babes-Bolyai (Romania). It was a follow-up of previous communications with the representatives of the two institutions and was held on the occasion of the one-day workshop *Thesaurus building. Introducing TheMaS, a tool for multilingual thesaurus building,* that took place at the Academy of Athens, on the same day.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussion between DARIAH members and colleagues from Bulgarian and Romanian institutions about joining DARIAH and to give them some feedback based on the experience of countries that are already DARIAH members. The objective was to encourage the two institutions to work toward setting up national networks and influencing their governments in favour of joining DARIAH as full members. Helen Katsiadakis and Toma Tasovac explained in brief what procedures joining DARIAH as a member state involves and talked about the very different but equally successful experiences of Greece and Serbia. Speaking about Romania, Corina Moldovan mentioned that, following our exchange of communications, her institute had applied to become a cooperating partner of DARIAH.

Speaking about the situation in Bulgaria, Maria Baramova and Dobromir Dobrev of the University of Sofia said that, although Bulgaria is a member of CLARIN, it does not participate in DARIAH. A long discussion ensued, in which the merits of joining first as a cooperating partner at the institutional level, for an initial period of two years, were considered. The representatives of the University of Sofia were advised to ask their institution to apply for this type of partnership. Once accepted, both institutions will be

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able to cooperate with other DARIAH partners and use the two-year period to start building a national consortium in their respective countries, to persuade their governments to support and finance the setting up of a national digital infrastructure for the arts and humanities and eventually to join DARIAH as a full member.

Both Helen Katsiadakis and Toma Tasovac assured their Bulgarian and Romanian colleagues that DARIAH would lend them all and any support in its power. They also offered to convey to the DARIAH Board of Directors (BoD) the request that DARIAH organize meetings between DARIAH officials and Government officials of both countries. Such meetings could be held either on the occasion of future DARIAH events or, preferably, in Bucharest and Sofia.

Events such as workshops, seminars etc., will increase the visibility of the contribution of the two countries in digital humanities and will help to mobilize their respective governments in supporting a national infrastructure and in joining DARIAH. Several ideas for future regional workshops and for collaboration in projects were considered and all parties present agreed to explore opportunities for a more sustained cooperation.

The activities undertaken as part of the Eastern Balkan Regional Hub led to the approval of the applications as Cooperating Partner of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the Babeş-Bolyai University (Transylvanian Digital Humanities Centre). To reinforce activities in the region, and some Ambassadors Networks activities have already been planned.

3.2 Western Balkans Hub

The Institute of Ethnology and Folklore of Zagreb become the regional coordinator for the Balkan peninsula. Contacts were established with Jamsina Talam, associate professor at the Academy of Music of the University of Sarajevo. Contact has been then established with relevant institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro, leading to a workshop organised on 5 June 2017 at the Academy of Music of the University of Sarajevo with the objective of raising awareness of DARIAH and discuss the challenges and possibilities within the above-mentioned countries if they were to join the Consortium. A particular focus was placed on how to build a national consortium.

The results of the workshop were positive. Participants showed a great interest in joining DARIAH and are eager to, as a first stage, apply as Cooperating Partners, and, secondly, build an internal consortium and prepare a strategy for becoming Members of the ERIC. A proportionally low membership fee (as based on the GDP figures of each country) could accelerate the procedure. Participants highlighted the importance of the increased visibility of their work, the potential to boost the digital switch in the region and the



prospect to be part of an European research network. In this respect, other DARIAH Member countries established in the area could play an important role.

In addition, a successful achievement of those applications would lead to the integration of larger research communities such as musicologists and ethnomusicologists.

We aim to reinforce those activities with the support of the Ambassadors Network: some DARIAH-awareness days in the region are planned to gather more institutions and communities in DARIAH.

3.3 Nordic Hub

The development of a DARIAH Nordic Hub as part of DARIAH Humanities at Scale (HaS) WP3 was initiated in Fall 2016, with the objectives of:

- connecting DARIAH-DK (the national DARIAH member in the Nordic area) and the Nordic collaborating institutional members: University of Helsinki, Finland (representative Mikko Tolonen), Linnaeus University (LNU), Sweden (representative Kora Golub), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) Norway (representative Andrew Perkis).
- 2. mapping Nordic common interests, research and education in DH and the digital transformation of Arts and Humanities
- 3. addressing future projects and collaboration
- 4. share knowledge on national membership and application processes

The DARIAH Nordic Hub has had four meetings, addressing the above objectives and actions for further collaboration.

These meetings have also included representatives from the Swedish National Data Service (SND) and at the latter a representative from Nasjonalbiblioteket (National Library) Oslo and representatives from the Royal Library Denmark.

- November 2016: LNU Växsjö (at LNU DH Symposium, including a presentation of DARIAH-EU)
- February 2017: Aarhus University (planning future actions)
- March 2017: Gothenburg University (at DH Nordic Conference, including presentation of education with DARIAH-EU at pre-conference workshop and presentation of DARIAH-EU at DARIAH Nordic Panel).
- April 2017: Royal Library Copenhagen (planning future actions).





A fifth meeting will take place at NTNU, NO (Trondheim) in the autumn of 2017, including new DARIAH Nordic collaborating institutions (approved at DARIAH GA Spring meeting 2017), Tromsø University, NO; Nasjonalbiblioteket Oslo, NO.

The fifth DARIAH Nordic meeting will also include representatives of a planned DARIAH Central Europe HUB (contact point Prof Gabor Palko, Hungary). The DARIAH Nordic HUB has also applied (May 5 2017) for a Nordforsk (Nordic Research Council) University HUB (DANUH – DARIAH Nordic University HUB 2018-2023) in order to more closely collaborate on:

- A common road map;
- Actions on four selected research areas;
- Collaboration on education (online and blended, as well as a possible future joint MA);
- Collaboration on public-private innovation and connected labs.

The Nordforsk application is still under review.



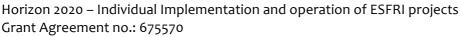
4. Regional Hubs on the DARIAH website

Contacts and information on how to obtain the support from the Regional hubs have been published on the DARIAH website and the Humanities at Scale website.

DARIAH website: http://dariah.eu/activities/default-title.html

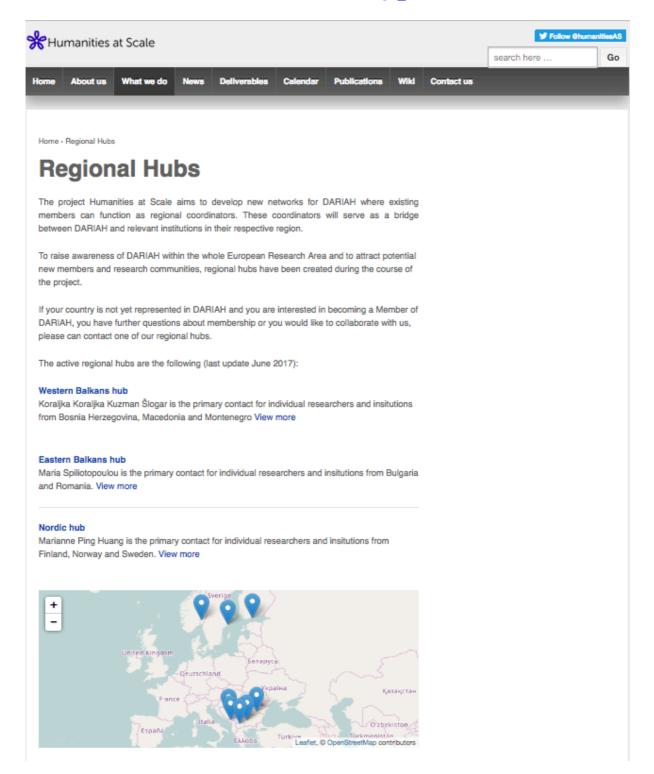


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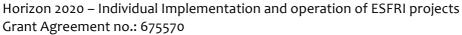




Humanities at Scale website: http://has.dariah.eu/?page_id=1060



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5. New Cooperating Partners (approved in May 2017).

The last General Assembly accepted the following applications:

- Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Sofia, Bulgaria;
- University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland;
- Central European University, Budapest, Hungary;
- Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary;
- National Library of Norway, Oslo, Norway;
- University of Tromsø The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway
- Babeș-Bolyai University, Transylvanian Digital Humanities Centre, Cluj, Romania.

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski is the oldest Bulgarian higher education institution. Its history is an embodiment and a continuation of a century-long cultural and educational tradition of the Bulgarian nation.

More than four years ago, a group of researchers with diverse backgrounds based at the University of Sofia were supported by the University Centre of Excellence in Humanities in their pursuit of research in the field of Digital Humanities. The active part of this group consists of historians, philologists – both classical and Slavic – archaeologists, geographers and academics in different multidisciplinary fields as GIS, digital epigraphy (EpiDoc TEI), software engineering, computer linguistics, etc.

Representative: Dr Dimitar Illiev, Assistant Professor, Department of Classical, Philology.

University of Helsinki

HELDIG - Helsinki Centre for Digital Humanities - addressed the challenges of Digital Humanities and digitalisation, based on multi- and interdisciplinary research and collaboration in humanities, social sciences and computer science. HELDIG was established in Autumn 2016 at the University of Helsinki. The work is funded in 2016-2020 as part of the profiling measure of the Academy of Finland and the UH. As part of the activity, eight new professor positions related to digital humanities will be established in seven faculties of UH. An important activity area in HELDIG will be research infrastructures for Digital Humanities. HELDIG collaborates with the neighboring Aalto University and many other organizations.

Representative: Professor Mikko Tolonen, HELDIG, Helsinki Centre for Digital Humanities, Faculty of Arts.



Central European University

CEU is a unique educational institution in Hungary. It offers postgraduate degrees in its core areas of social sciences, history, legal studies, business, public policy, and a variety of interdisciplinary programs. It has one of the most competitive research profiles in the region, and has been very successful in both job placement and grant-seeking.

In the last several years, the university has been devoting time and resources to enhancing its humanities curricula and programming. This most visible in the Humanities Initiative, an internal grant competition which in fact supports the Digital Humanities Initiative. In addition to the Departments of History, Medieval Studies, and Philosophy, several of the interdisciplinary programs include a strong humanities element, such as Gender Studies, Jewish Studies, Nationalism Studies, Religious Studies and Legal Studies. There are plenty of resources (in terms of expertise and curricula) to support DH, and a strong prospective audience, so fostering DH is mostly a question of building bridges between scholars and units to encourage collaborative work.

Representatives: Marcell Sebők, Program Leader of the Digital Humanities Initiative, Department of Medieval Studies; Jessie Labov, Resident Fellow at the Center for Media, Data and Society.

Eötvös Loránd University

The faculty of Arts and Humanities (BTK) at the Eötvös Loránd University is traditionally one of the leading institutions among such faculties in Hungary. Scholars working in different working groups and departments of the University have played a pioneering role in using digital technology actively and creatively. In the field of digital philology and the development of digital databases, ELTE was one of the first in Europe.

Some months ago ELTE founded the Centre for Digital Humanities (CDH), this is the institution that will coordinate and foster collaboration with and participation in DARIAH at various levels: from the individual scholars through working groups up to the departmental and institutional level.

Representatives: Dr Péter Kiszl, associate professor, Director of the Institute of Library and Information Science; Dr Gábor Palkó, Co-Director of the Centre for Digital Humanities (CDH), Scientific Secretary of Petőfi Literary Museum.

National Library of Norway

The National Library's collection consists of all media types (books, newspapers, journals, manuscripts and private archives, music, film, photographs, brochures, pamphlets etc.), and constitutes a unique knowledge base. Active mediation of the collection for research and



documentation purposes and giving access also to the general public is based on professional knowledge, knowledge of the collection and competence in the field of modern net-based knowledge sharing and mediation.

The National Library of Norway has digitized almost its entire book collection. Other media types are currently being digitized. The result is an almost complete digital Norwegian cultural heritage.

The National Library of Norway participates in CLARINO, the Norwegian part of the European CLARIN project, where the goal is to make existing and future language resources accessible to researchers. In cooperation with the DARIAH community, the same level of ambition is being projected for other types of resources within the Arts and Humanities.

Representative: Hege Stensrud Høsøien, Director of the Department of Collections and Research.

University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway

The Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (HSL), UiT's second largest faculty, is a broad and multidisciplinary faculty which encompasses most of the humanistic disciplines (archaeology, history and art history, religious studies, philosophy, literature, linguistics, media sciences), social sciences (sociology, social anthropology, political science and community planning), pedagogy and teacher education.

The faculty has a large research infrastructure within History, Sami, Russian, and English linguistics. English and Russian linguistics make for larger databases, and have their own laboratories for the analysis of experimental data (Trolling). Giellatekno, the centre for Saami language technology, has as its main objective the creation of grammar-based language technology for Saami and other northern languages. Giellatekno is specialised in machine translation, particularly of Saami languages, but has latterly expanded into Russian and Baltic languages as well. This academic environment is also a partner in the EU-infrastructure CLARIN (via CLARINO).

Whereas the linguistics at HSL already participate actively in a European research infrastructure, the fields of history, philology (textual editions) and media sciences still lack this avenue of cooperation. At the same time, some of these fields have acquired a particular expertise within the digital humanities which could be useful to share and to circulate within the DARIAH network. For the further development of these areas, participating in DARIAH would therefore be very fruitful.

Representative: Steinar M. Paulsen, Ph.D. Senior advisor, Department of Research and Development.

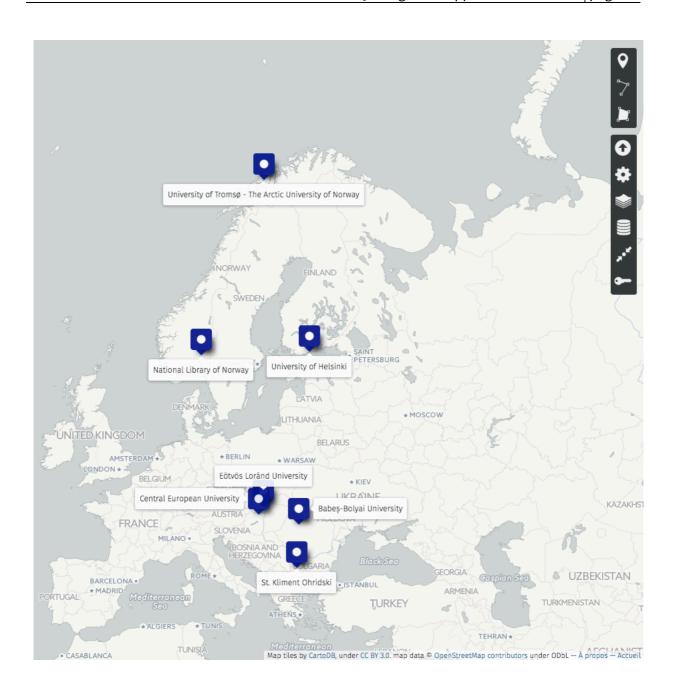


Babeș-Bolyai University, Transylvanian Digital Humanities Centre

The Transylvanian Digital Humanities Centre (DIGIHUBB) is the first Romanian Digital Humanities Centre. The Centre was officially established in April 2014 within the Faculty of Letters.

The primary goal of DIGIHUBB is to create a collaborative network connecting DH activities within the University and beyond, taking into account the importance of communicating the vast global impact that DH research and practices have today. DIGIHUBB aims to develop its own expertise coming from the distinctive regional specificity of Transylvania that benefit from a multicultural and multilingual cultural heritage, which has not been sufficiently explored with modern tools until the present time.

Representative: Corina Elena Moldovan, Director of DigiHUBB.



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6. Possible future developments and sustainability

Plans to develop a regional hub in Central Europe before the end of the project, as a result of the contacts established in Hungary, are currently being discussed. The aim is to build a network of Austrian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak and Polish DH institutes and researchers with a special focus on disseminating cutting-edge DH knowledge to "analogue" researchers and to work together on different ways improving and refining the teaching of DH.

New cooperating partners applications are expected from Balkan countries following DARIAH raising-awareness activities for the next DARIAH General Assembly which will take place in Aarhus on the 2nd of November 2017.

Furthermore, plans on how to sustain the hubs are being discussed. More concretely, several approaches are being considered:

The Horizon 2020 funded project DESIR, which started in 2017 and will run until the end of 2019, aims to prepare the ground for establishing DARIAH membership in six new countries. DESIR will deliver supporting documents describing steps to be taken in order to facilitate the creation of national consortium and joining DARIAH. These documents will be shared with Cooperating Partners.

We noticed and we expect increased collaboration on a number of common research topics through the establishment of those regional hubs and the organisation of regional events. It is highly anticipated that these endeavours shall lead to the establishment of further partnerships after the end of the project.

The DARIAH Ambassadors Network will support the regional hubs during the course of the project. It is not clear at the time of writing if the Network will be a one-off scheme or will be renewed. If so, a new call will be launched in support of the regional hubs.