EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Information Society and Media Directorate-General

Digital Content and Cognitive Systems
eContent and Safer Internet

Luxembourg, 29 JUIN 2010
INFSO/E-6/MW/rs D(2010) 386933

Mr. Henning SCHOLZ
Museum für Naturkunde.BHL-Europe
Project Office
Invalidenstrasse 43
D-10115 Berlin
Germany

Subject: **BHL-EUROPE Grant agreement ECP-518001. 1st Intermediate review report**

Dear Mr Scholz,

Attached you will find for your information and distribution to your partners the consolidated intermediate review report (ARES registration (2010)336158 - 15 June 2010) as established by the outside experts after the review meeting held in Vienna on 27 May 2010.

The Commission endorses the conclusions reached by the reviewers and would like to draw your attention to the suggestions and comments made in paragraph 2 "Recommendations" of the section "Overall Assessment" and especially in the section B Work plan and under the §F. Impact and Sustainability.

Please be aware that, as presented, the Commission asks for a resubmission with additional and updated information of three deliverables: D.2.4, D 1.2 and D 1.3.

The deliverable D 2.4 **Content analysis & management status. Report 1 (metadata, page numbers, content providers)** must be resubmitted to the EC. This report must incorporate updated data from each content provider (status of contents) and must provide accurate statistics on metadata and page and volume numbers; on the content side, a clear approach between BHL-global and BHL-EUROPE must be presented with detailed information from each content provider (17 content providers are involved in the process).

The deliverable **D 1.2 Progress Report 1st November 2009-30 April 2010** must be re-submitted to the EC. Firstly, this deliverable has to be completed (cfr p.21 on the Resources employed). Secondly, in order to present in a better way the objectives and the results of the project BHL-EUROPE, updated information must be incorporated in this report to make a real distinction between the BHL project (global project) and the BHL-

Commission européenne, 2920 Luxembourg, LUXEMBOURG - Tel. +352 43011
Office: EUFO 1284 - Tel. direct line +352 4301-34993 - Fax +352 4301-34079

Marcel.Watelet@eu.europa.ec

EUROPE eContentplus project itself. Please could you correct the table 1 *Europeana – BHL-Europe ingestion plan.* An updated version of this table must be provided in order to reflect the real data incorporated in the portal or available through the portal. The table under 3.4 *Performance indicators* (p.34) must be also updated and corrected (percentage of literature available through Europeana) with additional explanation.

The deliverable **D 1.3 Annual Report** must be re-submitted to the EC: this deliverable must reflect the real work done during the first period according to the remarks indicated to the Progress Report (D 1.2).

If it is necessary, you have the possibility to split this annual report in two reports, one as public report (D 1.3. b) and one as confidential (restricted) annual report (D 13 a) .

Please take note that the **financial statements for the first year** must be submitted to the EC.

Please could you take note that all the revised deliverables, reports and financial statements have to be sent to the Commission no later than the **31 July 2010.**

Please take note that a new intermediate review will be organized in autumn 2010 in the premises of the NHM in London, with external experts, in order to make an assessment of:

- the specific equipment for the centralised aggregated storage of scanned images and metadata;

- the hardware configuration and the technical solution adopted;

- the German Prototype;

- the data-content of the BHL-EUROPE portal and the integration/accessibility and availability of the content through the EUROPEANA portal, after the Rhine release;

- the case studies.

I remain at your disposal for any questions you may have in the further course of the project.

Yours sincerely,

Marcel Watelet
Project Officer

Encl.: Copy of the 1st Intermediate Review

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*e*Content*plus*

Intermediate Review Report

Project No.:	**ECP-2008-DILI-518001**
Project acronym:	BHL Europe
Project website:	http://www.bhl-europe.eu
Period reviewed:	May 2009 – April 2010
Review type:	x Based on project deliverables and formal meeting (Option 1) ☐ Based on project deliverables (Option 2)
Names of Reviewers:	Kenneth Bone, Marília Curado
Date of meeting:	27/05/2010

Overall Assessment

1. Summary

Free text giving the reviewers' overall assessment.

In general, the project has achieved its intermediate objectives, with good quality deliverables being made available within schedule. Although the consortium faced initial delays, the intermediate solutions adopted are acceptable.

Project management has also been of a good quality and the consortium demonstrates a high level of commitment towards the project.

However, project deliverables treat BHL Europe project as a natural progression of the previous BHL project and most information provides no clear distinction between the two projects.

It is therefore not possible to identify the results achieved solely through BHL Europe project.

2. Recommendations

Free text giving the reviewers' recommendations including actions to be taken.

Whilst it is understood that due to the fact that the project did not have an autonomous live hosting structure available, and therefore may have been difficult to make a distinction between the two projects, it has resulted in an unclear status with respect to the actual advancements of the BHL Europe project.

For this reason, it is requested that the consortium revisits existing deliverables, or provides additional information, which makes a clear distinction between information from BHL and those from BHL Europe.

The additional information should also contain more in depth information with regards to user questionnaire responses, usage statistics and content.

3. Conclusions

☐ The project has achieved its objectives and technical goals for the period.

X The project has achieved most of its objectives and technical goals for the period, but some action should be taken to fulfil the provisions set out in Annex I to the grant agreement.

☐ The project has failed to achieve critical objectives and/or did not fulfil the project work plan as described in Annex I to the grant agreement.

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A. Objectives

Free text giving the reviewers' comments on the degree of achievement of the project objectives as described in Annex I. This might include answers to the following questions:

1. *Have the objectives for the period been achieved?*
2. *Performance indicators: have the targets been reached?*
3. *Are the overall objectives still relevant and still achievable within the time and resources available to the project?*

Whilst the overall objectives of the project are still relevant and achievable within the time and resources available to the project, it is difficult to assess the exact objectives achieved and the performance indicators reached during the first year of the project.

This is due to the fact that the deliverables have incorporated results from the previous BHL project, with the current ongoing BHL Europe project in a way where the latter appears to be a seamless continuation of the former. This is the case for most instances in the deliverables, ranging from web site statistics, to user profiling and content.

Although it can be assumed that the project has to some degree reached objectives, this is not clearly proven neither through the deliverables, nor during the presentation.

Some errors in the deliverables, although due to an oversight, such as incorrect statements in terms of actual content already available within Europeana should also be corrected and avoided in the future.

B. Work plan:

Free text giving the reviewers' comments on the degree of fulfilment of the project work plan as described in Annex I. This might include answers to the following questions:

1. *Has each work package (WP) been making satisfactory progress in relation to the Description of Work (Annex I to the grant agreement)?*
2. *Have planned milestones been achieved for the activity period?*
3. *Have planned deliverables been completed for the activity period?*
4. *Do the technical solutions employed reflect the "State of the art"?*

Although some of the work packages experienced changes in responsibilities and minor rescheduling, the work packages appear to have reached the expected progress with respect to the Description of Work in Annex 1, notwithstanding some initial delays.

The technical solutions planned and implemented are state-of-the-art, particularly the hosting infrastructure, which has been set up and awaiting live deployment.

Deliverables were also presented in a timely fashion and have good presentation quality.

However, there is substantial difficulty in assessing the exact milestones achieved and the interpretation of figures is quite approximate. This is due to the fact that the deliverables have incorporated results from the previous BHL project, with the current ongoing BHL Europe project in a way where the latter appears to be a seamless continuation of the former. This is the case for most instances in the deliverables, ranging from web site statistics, to user profiling and content.

Whilst it can be assumed that the project has made sufficient progress, it is impossible at this stage to clearly identify the milestones achieved by BHL Europe.

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C. Project management and resources

Free text giving the reviewers' comments on the project management. This might include answers to the following questions:

1. *Is the management of the project of sufficient quality*
2. *Has the project implemented an active risk management?*
3. *Is the consortium interacting in a satisfactory manner with other related projects or other national/international programmes (if relevant)?*
4. *Have resources been deployed as foreseen in Annex I, overall and for each beneficiary?*

Project management and consortium coordination efforts appear to be working efficiently. During the course of the project, there has been reallocation of tasks within the consortium in order to address difficulty in new recruitment. These appear to be only minor reallocations of tasks, without changes in fund allocations, and therefore the consortium has satisfactorily followed the foreseen allocation of resources as in Annex 1.

The consortium should give due attention to the risk of remaining tightly connected with the previous BHL project. Whilst the current collaboration is beneficial, the project should identify possible scenarios of severance, considering that the BHL project provides a substantial amount of the content that will be available to the BHL Europe project.

D. Consortium partnership

Free text giving the reviewers' comments on the consortium partnership. This might include answers to the following questions:

1. *Has the collaboration between the participants been effective?*
2. *Have the partners contributed as planned to the project and tasks assigned to them?*
3. *Do you identify any conflicts or evidence of underperforming partners, lack of commitment or change of interest of any partners? Do you recommend any changes in responsibilities?*

The consortium is relatively large which has probably resulted in the initial slow progress made.

However, the partners display an active cooperation and synergy, with all partners appearing to have contributed according to their obligations.

The consortium has also reallocated certain responsibilities internally in order to redistribute responsibilities in view of certain posts not being quickly replaced by new recruitment. These changes however will not effect budget distribution.

E. Dissemination and awareness activities

Free text giving the reviewers' comments on the effectiveness of the dissemination and awareness activities. This might include answers to the following questions:

1. *Is the project website up-to-date and a relevant source of information for the project activities?*
2. *Has the consortium disseminated project results and information as foreseen?*
3. *Are potential users and other stakeholders (outside the consortium) suitably informed?*

The project website is of relatively high level, which is easy to use and with up-to-date information. However, it would have been expected that at this stage, multilingual content would have already been published.

Dissemination and awareness activities appear to have been quite effective in the first phase of the project, which is also reflected through the large number of responses received from the user questionnaire.

So far however, project results to be disseminated appear to be too dependent on previous achievements of the BHL project.

F. Impact and Sustainability

Free text giving the reviewers' comments on the extent to which the project results impact on the specific field. This might include answers to the following questions:

1. *Have intellectual property rights for the underlying content been solved?*
2. *Are there any risks related to intellectual property rights for the project results?*
3. *Are the user needs properly reflected in the user requirements and/or the implementation?*
4. *Does the project contribute significantly to achieving the eContentplus objective of making "digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable?*

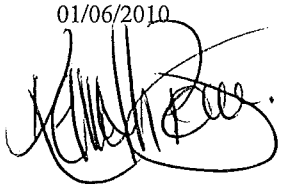
Intellectual Property Rights issues are being sufficiently addressed through the associated work package and the possible publication structures have been identified. However, a closer interaction between this work package and the content providers is desirable.

Whilst there are no envisaged problems for older content, which can be provided freely without copyright restrictions. However newer content will require detailed scrutiny and possible discussions with rights holders. Whilst this may be a daunting task, it appears that the consortium is giving this due attention and resources.

User needs appear to have been duly identified and addressed, particularly through an extensive questionnaire with responses from a wide range of users. However, whilst the overall results of this questionnaire were provided, it would have been desirable to view more in depth analysis of user responses.

Whilst the consortium's vision of expanding worldwide are very commendable, it should be ensured that focus on the original requirements of the project is maintained and the concept of 'BHL Global' is given only peripheral attention, if and as resources permit.

The project still significantly contributes to achieving the eContentPlus objective of making digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable.

Name(s) of the reviewer(s):	**Kenneth Bone**	**Marília Curado**
Date:	01/06/2010	01/06/2010
Signature(s):		

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