

The First international and the Third national conference on digitization

The first international and the third national conference in Serbia on digitization were held as a joint meeting in June, 3–5, 2004, under the name ***Digitization of National Heritage 2004***. The conference was hosted by the Faculty of Mathematics of the Belgrade University, and it was organized by the National Center for Digitization (NCD), Faculty of Mathematics and the Institute of Archeology of the Serbian Academy of Science, with the help of participants of the technological project IT.1.24.0013.A, granted by the Serbian Ministry of Science and Environment Protection. The organization of the conference was financially supported by the Serbian Ministry of Science and Environment Protection, Ministry of culture and Central European Initiative (CEI). Topics of presented talks covered various aspects of digitization of cultural and scientific heritage: applications of new computer technologies, information standards, etc., but substantial digitization projects were presented as well. I would like to mention two important dimensions of the conference. The first one is that there were representatives from more than ten countries (besides Serbia there were participants from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Slovenia, Greece, Czech Republic, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Poland and Italy). The conference was the good opportunity to hear about digitization projects and activities in this area in mentioned countries. Secondly, the multidisciplinary prospect of this field was confirmed. There were specialists from various areas: linguistics, history, archeology, librarian science, museology, computer science, and, notably, there were an unusually large number of mathematicians. All of them presented, at the expert, level technological perspectives of digitization. There were 25 contributors from abroad, 50 contributors from Serbia and there was the audience of about one hundred persons. At the Conference 42 papers were presented and two multimedia presentations were organized. As a result of the round table held in the last day of the conference at the beautiful archeological site of Viminacium, organization of SEEDI (South-East European Digitization Initiative) was proposed. The idea of this organization is to make better and more profound cooperation of South-east European countries in the field of digitization. It was also decided that our journal ***Review of NCD*** will become an official messenger of SEEDI. The participants agreed that the conference was very successful and it was proposed that the next international conference on digitization should be organized in Ohrid in Macedonia. This and next volume of ***Review of NCD*** are completely devoted to the Conference, i.e. it will serve as the proceedings of the Conference, separated into two volumes.

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