Advancing Digital Empowerment
of Libraries in Europe

Case studies template
PR2

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Library presenting the case study (Name, city, website and contact details)	Petko R. Slaveykov Regional Library, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria Website: https://libraryvt.com/ General email: prs@libraryvt.com
Title of the case study	Construction of a high-class centre for the digitization of written cultural heritage in a public library
Area of ADELE tool illustrated by the case study *Please underline the selected area*	x *Management* x *Infrastructure, Equipment and Support* □ *Continuing Professional Development* □ *Self-reflection on digital competences* □ *Learning opportunities on digital competences for users* x *Collaboration, Networking, and Community*
Description of the experience: aim, methods and outcomes	The digitization of written cultural heritage has always been among the priorities of large public libraries. The main obstacle to the implementation of large-scale programs in this direction is an insufficient level of funding. The main goal in this case is to create a modern, functional and productive center, equipped with the highest possible technical equipment, which will satisfy the needs of the organization and enable future growth of digitization activities. For the implementation of the idea, we chose a robotic scanner for bound originals with automated page turning, being the most suitable addition to the technological equipment and established work practices already in place in the institution. The high price of such a machine precludes the possibility of purchasing it with the institution's own funds, therefore a large-scale project was developed which included a wide partner network of Bulgarian libraries with suitable profiles and collection wealth, a regional history museum, the municipal Directorate of "Culture and Tourism", the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and Brasov regional public library in Romania. The project had funding under the EEA Financial Mechanism / Norwegian Financial Mechanism. Within two years of implementation, all initial criteria measures have been met and exceeded. The electronic array that has been created has laid the foundation for a modern digital library, uniting all previous digital-conversion initiatives into one integral database with a common interface. This has ended the fragmentation of electronic repositories and improved information services for both the academic community and the general public.
Resources needed to implement the idea Please, provide any link and/or send them in attachment	● A detailed strategy which balances the needs of the organization with available funding opportunities. ● A management team with experience in developing and running projects in the field under consideration. ● A suitable partner team to contribute both to winning the project

	and to actively participate in its implementation. ● A stable financial partner to assist in the realization of the expenditure part of the budget.
Target groups	All users of information from the academic and general public: academics, students, pupils, representatives of minorities such as the Roma community, employees in institutions and organizations, members of the public.
Elements of innovation	The innovative moment in the realization of the project idea was the inclusion of the Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo as a financial partner. The total value of the project, the distribution of percentage quotas for the realization of interim payments, the rates of recovery of the spent funds after acceptance of the interim reports, as well as the blocking of a certain amount until the certification of the final financial report are unfeasible for an organization with budget financing. At an extraordinary session of the Municipal Council, a decision was made to grant an interest-free loan to the regional library, which enabled the smooth implementation of the project within three financial years.
Tips to other library staff using this idea	Undertake a precise study about the feasibility of the idea and its relevance at the time of implementation Study the experience of other organizations in relevant fields Seek out a suitable partnership composition, incl. financial partner(s) Carefully study the possibilities and conditions for external financing Form a team of experts with experience in the field to develop a suitable project proposal
Keywords	#digitalibrary #equipment #digitization
References	https://bgseverplus.eu/en/ http://sever.libraryvt.com/

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