

ENArC Didactics Workshop

(Hessian State Archive Marburg - November the 22nd, 2011, 16:00 – 17:30)

Minutes by Luca Aiello and Daniel Jeller

Attendees:

Luca Aiello (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italy); Antonella Ambrosio (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italy); Susana Cabezas (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain); Suela Cuci (General Directorate of Albanian Archives, Albania); Lucyna Harc (Institute of History - University of Wrocław, Poland); Daniel Jeller (Icarus / University of Vienna, Austria); Francesca Klein (Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Italy); Przemysław Wiszewski (Institute of History - University of Wrocław, Poland); (Markus Leideck (Dreavni Arhiv u Pazinu, Croatia); Codruta Mihailovici (National Archives of Romania, Romania); Nicolás Avila Seoane (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain), Dominique Stutzmann (Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Testes – Paris, France); Ludmila Sulitkova (University J.E.Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic); Karsten Uhde (Archival School of Marburg, Germany).

Agenda:

1. Didactics working group
2. International course in European Diplomats.
3. Suggestions and ideas about didactic activities in ENArC/ICARus.

1. DIDACTICS WORKING GROUP

A. Ambrosio distributed some applications forms among the participants from which emerged a great interest in creating a Didactics working group of European academics and archivists. Its goal: establishing an international course in European Diplomats, summer schools or/and workshops addressed to university students or young graduates taking advantage of the digital technologies; supporting all the didactic initiatives every partner is willing to organize in cooperation offering expertise, a little financial funding, full immersion courses for all the teachers who want to learn MOMca potentials, etc....

A. Ambrosio points out this working group was born within the ENArC project. In this context, University of Naples task is to coordinate the didactic activities carried out in cooperation with

other project's partners. Then, it seemed interesting to let all the other Icarus members join the didactic activities and not only those involved in the ENArC project.

Indeed, most of the working group members showed a real interest in the use of digital technologies and MOMca in order to teach Diplomatics.

In detail:

- N. Avila Seoane tells most of the students at University Complutense of Madrid are not so fascinated by the Auxiliary Sciences and thinks MOM-CA could be a good way to raise their interest.
- Suela Cuci is in favour of teaching short projects like summer schools or exchange programs.
- D. Stutzmann would like new ideas to improve the students training in Diplomatics and Paleography. It is important to encourage them to work more on the metadata.
- L. Sulitkova also agrees this could be a good option to improve Usti students' skills, students of bachelor and master degree in Auxiliary Sciences, especially to increase their editing expertise and Latin knowledge.
- The same for L. Harc and W. Przemyslaw who underline the necessity to modernize and improve the training of future archivists at University of Wroclaw.
- M. Leideck, too, would like to establish a summer school in Pazin in order to educate modern archivists.
- F. Klein, teacher in a two years course with many students at the Archival School in Florence, also approves the idea of a MOM-CA training course.

2. INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATICS.

Therefore, A. Ambrosio thought it could be a real effective target to establish a remote course in Diplomatics, based on the documents accessible in Monasterium.Net, with the help of Moodle or any other similar platform. A summer school, supported by the of most of our working group associates, seems a farther objective but surely to keep in mind in the near future, especially considering that many members are available for co-financing. Obviously, UNINA can bring together all the working group partners who are willing to set up a summer school as soon as possible offering its expertise in the field.

There would be some problems to consider but also possible solutions in the case of an international course.

- The different professional qualifications inside the group and the different partners' interests are not a problem. We could think of various participation levels: for instance, from being involved in the didactic organization of a remote course to only suggesting those documents which could be one of the topics of the course itself.
- The diverse timing of the courses in every university or institute is not a real problem because our course could be developed on rete@ccessibile or every other Moodle/didactic platform where the necessary set up period would be certainly more flexible.
- UNINA is committed to the project coordination, management of personnel and related costs of the ENArC Unina working group personnel.
- If a member of the present working group still doesn't have a deep knowledge of MOM-CA, UNINA could organize some specific training courses, exploiting the expertise of Daniel Jeller, Luca Aiello and Maria Rosaria Falcone (high value fellows of the ENArC working group for the didactic activities). The above mentioned initiatives can be financed by ENARC/UNINA/ICARUS.

3. SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS ABOUT DIDACTIC ACTIVITIES IN ENARC/ICARUS

The final part of the meeting goes towards a general thinking about Diplomatics Learning and the necessity to build a solid electronic learning environment and tech tools for teaching.

In detail:

- All the attendees warmly support the idea of an International course in European Diplomatics on the basis of a comparative methodology emphasizing the peculiarities and the typical characters of every country's documentation. MOM could play a key role in this. It's a fascinating and original challenge.
- D. Jeller advises it could be useful to make a charters quick-list made of 10 or 15 documents, a sort of sample database, to show the students. Another idea could be to set up a website or a reserve a part of ICARUS site, a sort of wiki, to this purpose.
- D. Stutzmann highlights some Monasterium index and typology weaknesses, underlining the importance to improve these aspects and the internal database.
- D. Jeller suggests working on the XML editor in MOM in order to develop the mentioned aspects and others connected to the timeframe, century category, etc...
- We need to remember that EditMOM, for instance, wasn't conceived for teaching purposes. Anyway, from the discussion many ideas and requests to include teaching functions come out and they will be passed to the programmers asap.

- Despite all this, we need to stress out that so far MOM-CA, according to the Neapolitan university experience, revealed itself as a great support raising very high the students' interest bar for the historical disciplines and improving their archival, paleographic and diplomatic skills.
- Another problem to consider is that of a functional multilingualism or technical terms to use for all the different diplomatic realities.
- In fact, L. Sulitkova suggests the necessity to agree on determined keywords in order to solve some language differences and translations problems.
- To this end, D. Stutzmann recommends implementing the Vocabulaire Diplomatique.
- Everybody agrees that is a good idea to consider for sure.

17:30 - Time's up: the attendees agree to take several actions in order to achieve the proposed goals adjourning the meeting to the next Icarus workshop.