

DECLARATION
of the 7th International Conference
EVA 2004 Moscow

On the 29th of November – the 3rd of December 2004, the 7th annual International Conference “EVA 2004 Moscow” took place in Moscow, at the State Tretyakov Gallery. The conference was held under the slogan “Information for All” and was dedicated to the information and communication technologies in the field of culture and their importance and significance in building the Knowledge Society.

Having discussed a wide range of problems on the conference topics,

The conference participants draw attention to:

- The exceptional importance and immense significance of the Russian cultural and scientific heritage as integral part of the world cultural and scientific heritage, and necessity of full scale integration of the Russian digital cultural and scientific content into the world information environment.
- Priority and urgency for digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage. Paramount importance of work for building user-oriented digital information resources, based on multilingualism and cultural diversity, and providing access to them.
- The leading role and major achievements of libraries, museums, archives and information services of other cultural institutions in defining immediate steps and promoting principal decisions for building the Knowledge Society and the use of the newest information technologies.
- Successful activities of the Russian Committee of UNESCO “Information for ALL” Program and the Inter-Governmental Council of the Program in Russia and abroad, which was highly internationally appreciated.
- Successful co-operation of Russian institutions and organisations with the UNESCO Bureau in Moscow and its support in organising joint actions, purposed for discussing and promoting the principal documents, adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society.
- Special importance and significance of the projects within the 6th European Commission Framework Program that has involved Russian organisations, and especially the most important of them, the MINERVA PLUS project, focused on the network co-operation of Ministries of Culture, Science and Education in 25 European Countries, Russia and Israel for co-ordination and strengthening activities for digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage.
- Success of the Russian institutions and organisations in taking-up the newest information technologies in the field of culture and science and involvement of Russia in the strategic MINERVA PLUS project, where the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications in the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency of Culture and Cinematography, the Centre on the problems of Informatisation in the sphere of Culture (Centre PIC) and professionals from the other institutions and organisations have made practical input.
- Great significance for Russia in being involved in the National Representatives Group (NRG), leading and co-ordinating role of the NRG to determine the European strategy of digital information resources in culture and science.

At the same time, the conference participants draw attention to the following issues:

- Absence of clearly formulated and consecutive Russian national and regional information policies in the field of culture, science and education.
- Insufficiency of co-ordination between cultural institutions and other departmental organisations in ICT use and in the development and use of information resources for education, science and tourism.
- Insufficiency and inequality of access to information technologies, equipment and communications by different cultural institutions.
- Substantial lack of legislation in the field of ICT, especially for issues concerning copyright, intellectual property rights and access to public domain information.

All problems, mentioned above, lead to unequal and fragmentary efforts in digitisation and the preservation of digital cultural and scientific heritage and raise additional difficulties for overcoming the "digital divide" and the building of the modern Knowledge Society.

Concerning the developing "state-of-the art", the Conference participants consider it necessary:

- To undertake purposeful activities to implement the principal documents, adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, namely the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Actions (Geneva, 2003) as well as the Policy Guidelines for the Development and promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information (UNESCO, 2004).
- To strengthen and extend international collaboration and to increase participation of Russian cultural institutions in UNESCO and UN programs and projects as well as in projects run by other international and inter-governmental organisations.
- To resolve all problems of digitisation, preservation and accessibility to the world cultural and scientific heritage, intensively using all the advantages of new technologies.
- To harmonise the solutions on recording and preservation of the Russian cultural and scientific heritage and for developing the digital information resources and providing sustainable access with the similar solutions, adopted by more developed countries of the world community.
- To overcome the "digital divide", to pay a special attention to providing access to the digital cultural and scientific content for the people with disabilities and for socially unprotected groups of the population.
- To extend the potential of Russian and international professional associations and public institutions to formulate and to implement the national policies for using the information and communication technologies in the field of culture, education and science.
- To promote the strengthening of interdepartmental collaboration, to unite the efforts of Russian cultural, scientific, educational and mass-communication institutions for co-ordination of existing programs on creating the digital information resources and providing sustainable access to them.

The conference participants suggest as immediate tasks the following:

- To include the following in the Federal Special Programs “Culture 2006-2010”, “E-Russia” and corresponding regional programs: the sections concerning the creation and preservation of cultural, educational and scientific digital content; the development of the Public Access Points to the digital content, hosted by profile institutions and organisations, regardless to form of property or to departmental accessory.
- To participate intensively in preparing the conference “UNESCO Between Two Phases of the World Summit on the Information Society” to be held in Saint –Petersburg in May 2005. The conference will be under the patronage of the president Vladimir Putin and UNESCO.
- To influence the development of the national legislation, concerning the creation and preservation of the digital cultural, scientific and educational information resources and their accessibility, intellectual property rights in the cyberspace according to international norms and rules and the policy of building the global Information Knowledge Society.
- To extend complex research, elaboration and expertise for the better use of information and communication technologies in the field of culture, science and education, including elaboration of standards, meta-data, subject indexes and thesauruses, harmonised with the world common standards and technologies.
- To keep permanent monitoring of the information society in the field of culture and register newly developed digital cultural, scientific and educational content and its quality.
- To hold regular international, regional and national conferences, seminars and workshops on information and communication technologies and development of cultural, scientific and educational information resources.
- To make this Declaration available on the conference web site and web sites of its partner institutions; to bring the Declaration to the notice of leaders of all branches and levels of authorities, representatives of the business community, social organisations, mass-media, representative offices of international organisations – UNESCO Moscow office, UN Information Centre in Moscow, the EC Division for Preservation and Strengthening the Role of the Cultural Heritage and also the Headquarters of UNESCO and the World Summit on the Information Society Organising Committee (Tunisia, 2006).

Adopted by the plenary session

Of the 7th International Conference “EVA 2004 Moscow”,

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