**PROPOSAL**

**COLLABORATION PROJECT IN DIGITIZATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The three cities of **Gävle** (Sweden), **Mikkeli** (Finland) and **Girona** (Spain) have trough a trilateral exchange (as part of the Interreg IVC-project *CLIQ – Creating Local Innovation through a Quadruple helix,* [*www.cliqproject.eu*](http://www.cliqproject.eu)) had the possibility to meet and exchange initial ideas about the approach to innovation in digitization of city archives in each city. Common challenges have been identified and the cities of Gävle, Mikkeli and Girona are now looking for other partners interested in joining in the preparations of a Leonardo da Vinci partnership project.

**Background**

Digitization of our common cultural heritage is today of big importance. In our archives, libraries and museums there are large collections of records such as photographs, maps, plans, audiovisual material and other kinds of documents. They are unique to each institution, town or region. As for the public, the content can sometimes be regarded as quite difficult to access and also difficult to understand.

The responsible managements of these institutions are today expecting that our institutions of cultural heritage are making the collections available through modern technology. An essential part in a democracy is to emphasize the access to our common cultural heritage for everyone, despite of personal conditions, for instance expressed in the Europeana project.

The public also, through an increasing use of internet, expects possibilities to have access to different kinds of information from our cultural heritage institutions.

People working with these matters on a daily base know that things which seems easy available when it is finally done, demands huge investments in knowledge, technique and manpower. Possibilities to make some success for local and regional institutions are collaboration, not just between colleagues but also with other participants: the public, researchers, the education field and industry.

We know what we have in common, what we need to preserve and make the cultural heritage accessible. We also know that there are good examples of prospective partners with strong points that could be shared with others. So, the possibility to share this knowledge by organizing study visits in our cities with the aim of improving our possibilities, as cities, to be involved in a better way in the Information Society.

**Mission and goals**

**To increase the knowledge of digitization of archival materials through the experience and the capacities of partners that takes part in the project.**

**Main Goals**:

* To provide technical knowledge on digitization.
* To provide working tools to archivists or related colleagues, in order to plan their own digitization program.
* To exchange experiences among partners.
* To connect with research institutions involved in this field.
* To share best practices created or used by partners.

**Working plan**

1. **Invite cities interested to be involved in the project. Expressions of interest to be sent to:** **eva.lindelow.sjoo@gavle.se** **by the 1st of July 2011.**
2. **Arrange a first meeting with interested partners, in Gävle, Sweden, autumn 2011.**
3. **Write a definitive proposal for applying for funds from the Leonardo da Vinci programme, end of February 2012.**

 **Conditions**

Potential partners should be cities with archive services (or at least in the field of MLA (museum, libraries, archives)), interested to participate in a Leonardo da Vinci partnership project. Each partner should have, but not necessarily, the possibility to organize a transnational exchange about digitization. At present there are three cities (Girona (Spain), Mikkeli (Finland) and Gävle (Sweden)) involved in the coming application. A project owner for the project should be appointed, and it is for the moment probable that the municipality of Gävle will take that role.

**PROPOSAL-SETTING OF THE COMING WORK PROGRAM**.

**Work program**:

* Transnational exchange. Each of the sessions would include different parts: Workshop; Technical visits; Analysis of Best Practices in digitizing; Exchange of experiences; etc.
* Types of materials. Each session would be focusing on a specific area: photography, films, videos, audio records, microfilm, graphic records, (maps, engravings, textual records), etc.

 **MORE INFORMATION
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Please contact Eva Lindelöw Sjöö at the City Archives of the municipality of Gävle, Sweden,
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