

Concept Paper

[Baltic Sea Neighbourhood Programme](#) Application

Regional Challenge

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, cultural heritage has been stolen, harmed or destroyed across the country. The Wikimedia platforms are one of the most important digital platforms for preserving and making digitized cultural heritage available to the public, but we have both lacked partnerships and technical, economic and institutional means to scale the work with making cultural heritage in danger available on the platforms and to coordinate our work in the region.

There is a concrete risk that the conflict might spread to other countries in the Baltic Sea Neighbourhood, and already, the territorial integrity of countries such as Georgia and Moldova is undermined by Russia.

Solution

Through this project, we want to 1) build on the experiences and insights from Wikimedia Ukraine to initiate a deeper conversation with Wikimedia affiliates in the region on how we can take a greater role in digitally preserving and describing cultural heritage, especially that which is threatened and 2) collaborate with the Wikimedia affiliates in the region on developing means and methods on how to work as a global civil society actor to digitize and preserve the cultural heritage, especially the cultural heritage in danger.

More specifically, we want to examine:

- 1) How the general audience can contribute with the documentation and digitization of cultural heritage through images, video and text. This audience involves both people still in Ukraine, as well as the diaspora across the region.
- 2) How civil society can form effective collaborations with organizations and institutions that are collecting cultural heritage artifacts or taking care of built cultural heritage.
- 3) If different kinds of support structures need to be developed for large national institutions (such as national archives) as compared to small institutions (such as city museums). How should prioritisations be made? How can volunteers be involved? What policies, guidelines and agreements need to be put in place? How do we spread the content in the most efficient way?
- 4) How can collections on e.g. Ukraine, currently in the hold of other countries' cultural heritage institutions, be made available for Ukrainians? How can civil society support such efforts?

This examination will be done by organizing working groups, developing and testing material, iteratively developing it based on experiences and feedback from the partnerships with organizations in the region, in Sweden and internationally.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is the immediate context, but we believe that these insights will be crucial also, for example, with the threat of climate change and other more long term threats towards cultural heritage.

Key information

- Website for the call: <https://si.se/en/apply/funding-grants/si-baltic-sea-neighbourhood>
- Instructions: https://si.se/app/uploads/2023/02/sibsnp_instruction_en_230207.pdf
- Type of project application: Cooperation project
- Deadline for application: 2 March 23:59 Stockholm time.
- Maximum budget: 1,000,000 SEK (90,000 Euro per 21 February)
 - Of this, no more than 30 % can be spent on project management.
 - No less than 25 % can be spent on travel and meetings.
- Maximum duration: 2 years