

**Request for endorsement of the project by SDWG**

**1. The title of the action proposed**

Electronic Memory of the Arctic (EMA)

**2. The new action initiator**

Non - profit partnership “Center of preservation of cultural and historical heritage Electronic Memory of the Arctic” (NPP EMA)

**3. Lead country and project leader (name of person and institution)**

Lead country: Russia

Project leader: NPP EMA, Director- Mr. Chebanov V.Y.

**4. Participating countries and permanent participant including name of institutions and contact persons.**

EMA is realized as an international project consisting of national segments of the countries of the Arctic Council and thus provides an opportunity of participation in it for any country of the Arctic Council.

Permanent participants: NNP EMA (Moscow), the Russian National Library (RNL), St. Petersburg.

Contact persons: Director NNP EMA - Mr. Chebanov V.Y., e-mail: [info@emaproject.com](mailto:info@emaproject.com)

**5. Justification of the new action including relations to a priority subject area, activity of other working groups and contribution to gender equality.**

The EMA Project is designed to accumulate and represent to full extent various information resources in Internet environment as they relate to investigation, operation and development of the circumpolar world. EMA electronic information resources from libraries museums and archives of the Arctic Council as well as an expert blog of EMA portal will allow the expert community to discuss issues on history of geographical discoveries and exploration of the North, industry, geology, nature, folklore and literature of the circumpolar world, artistic heritage, ethnography.

The EMA project is complementary to the SDWG Arctic Portal already functioning and developing. At earlier stages of discussion of these projects, it was suggested that there should be made certain efforts to harmonize these projects in order to launch cross access and to unify data description formats.

As stated above the EMA Project is realized as an international project consisting of national segments of the countries participating in the Arctic Council. By the national segment of the project we mean a set of electronic information resources (national content) available on the EMA portal. Thus, each of the countries of the Arctic Council is interested in representing of its own history and culture connected with investigation and development of the Northern regions, while consolidation of national segments will represent all the diversity of the circumpolar world. So, the EMA project will become a comfortable and modern space to explore and discuss our common history and culture.

Sustainable development of the Arctic regions involves, among other things, establishment of information exchange in the area of culture, science and education. The project directly performs this function. The project involves the full gender equality.

## **6. Outcome of the project, deliverables and implementation plan**

Both the outcome and the deliverables of the project will be the following:

- 1) Digitized documental heritage on history of exploration, development and functioning of the circumpolar world.
- 2) Technical and technological infrastructure of preservation of digital heritage.
- 3) Providing access to the digital heritage in Internet through the project portal.

The project implementation plan includes 3 stages:

- 1) **Stage 1: 2009-2011.** To create technical and technological infrastructure of the project. To transfer and agree on the project standards with other project participants. To create and agree on the project thematic index. To plan and begin works on creation and development of electronic content of the project. To open an access to the project resources.
- 2) **Stage 2: 2012 r.** To integrate the project with national segments of the countries of the Arctic Council. To proceed works on creation and development of electronic content of the project.
- 3) **Stage 3: 2013 r.** To develop and expand the electronic content of the project in terms of sound and video collections.

## **7. Summary**

### ***Project name:***

**Electronic Memory of the Arctic (EMA).**

### ***Project targets:***

To store and represent in maximum volume different Internet information resources featuring investigation, functioning and development of the circumpolar world in the global communication society.

### ***Permanent Project participants:***

Non- profit partnership Electronic Memory of the Arctic (NPP EMA).  
The National Library of Russia (NRL), St. Petersburg.

### ***Partner institutions participating in the project with supporting projects:***

- Publishing house “Severnye Prostory”, the project The Northern Encyclopedia, The Northern Pupil Library, Polar Pupil Encyclopedia “ The Arctic is My House”;
- The Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Science (IRLI RAS), St. Petersburg, the project “National Electronic Sound Depository” - collection of sounds of indigenous and smaller people of the North;
- The Russian State Library (RSL), the projects: National Electronic Library (NEL), “The Russian classical literature ”

- Specialized academic organizations of St. Petersburg, Siberia and the Far East branches of RAS, which complement the project with all specialized thematic resources.

***Activities undertaken under the project:***

- The project was submitted and approved on the parliamentary hearings of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation «Measures on realization of major targets of the Second Decade of indigenous peoples of the world in the spheres of education and preservation of native languages in regions of living of indigenous and smaller peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation». The Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Council of Federation Committee on Northern Affairs and Indigenous Minorities of the North, September, 2008, Moscow;
- The project was presented on the meeting of the Arctic Council, November, 2008, Norway;
- The project was presented on the conference «Corporate social business responsibility and sustainable development of circumpolar regions», in October 2008, Salekhard.
- The project was presented to SDWG in Nuuk, Greenland, in summer, 2009;
- The project was presented on the meeting of SDWG in Copenhagen, Denmark, in November 2009;
- The current status of the project was presented on the meeting of the Expert Council SDWG in Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland, in April 2010;
- The project was supported by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Russian Geographical Society and the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Mr. V.V. Putin, on the international forum “The Arctic - the territory of dialogue” held in Russia, Moscow in September 2010;
- The current status of the project (Russian segment) was represented on the meeting of Senior Arctic Officials in the Faroe Islands, Denmark, in October 2010;
- The current status of the project was represented on the meeting of SDWG in Copenhagen, Denmark, in February- March 2011;
- The project is supported and coordinated by the Russian Geographical Society (RGS) and the matter of the project funding through a grant of the Russian Geographical Society is currently under consideration.

***Total time frame of the project:***

2009 - 2013

***Target audience:***

- Analytical centers, centers of geopolitical studies;
- Internet users;
- scientific community;
- studying young people;
- information centers and libraries;
- higher educational institutions;
- schools.

***Project geography:***

- to gather information – scientific centers, areas of Northern countries;
- to distribute information- world community.

EMA is a high technology internet- infrastructure project, aiming at accumulating of information and knowledge on circumpolar world, history of its exploration and development, its present and perspective development, available in libraries, archives, museums and specialized collections.

In essence, EMA - is a complex of electronic archive, electronic library and electronic museum, which provides for current and future generations the whole range of information on the subject of development and living of northern areas of the world.

The key on first stages and the central component of the project is the **World Electronic Northern Library – WENL**.

Being an infrastructure internet project, EMA includes text, graphical, digital, sound, video-, photo- and other information of historical, scientific, literary and art heritage on development of northern areas and indigenous smaller people of the Far North and the Far East of the Russian Federation, eight countries of the Arctic Council, the whole circumpolar world.

The World Electronic Northern Library is to be created on the basis of the National Library of Russia (RNL) in St. Petersburg and the Russian State Library (RSL) as the biggest world storages of document heritage, including the northern subject matter. This does not exclude wide use of materials of the world scientific university centers, archives, phonogram archives, museum collections in all Russian and foreign areas of the Far North and the Arctic. The project envisions participation of our contemporaries – living language speakers, culture, and traditional treasures of the North.

EMA will allow to integrate similar projects in the sphere of digitizing of both document heritage and audio sources, not only saving, but also making available for study and distribution sound heritage of the Arctic world and preventing from destroying collections of historical records of languages of indigenous peoples of the North of Russia as well as other areas of the Arctic regions.

Within the project it is planned to create multilingual interfaces and contents, as well as major development of scientific and educational content.

Unique information resources from Russian and foreign libraries, archives and museums already on the first stage will allow to fill the World Electronic Northern Library with prose, poetry, epos, travelers notes, materials on traditional culture and way of life of indigenous peoples of the Arctic, as well as with works of investigators, historians, ethnographers. Realization of the project will include creation of electronic content, technical and technology infrastructure, software, communication channels, access to materials in global Internet.

EMA envisions creation of a storage of digital heritage of peoples of the North in the following sections: history of geographical discoveries and development of the North (documents, maps, memories, notes of eyewitnesses); industry, geology; nature; folklore (oral and musical heritage); literature – prose, poetry, publicity, available in the whole range of literature heritage of writes of the North (published books, manuscripts, correspondence, photo- and video-archive); literature about the North, created by representatives of peoples of all continents of the world; art heritage (painting, graphics, bone carving, etc.), collections of famous experts and art unions, museum collections; ethnography (clothes, house, cult traditions and domestic items), ethnographers works; heraldry of the North; video- and photo works of modern masters, photo archives.

### ***Copyright:***

On the first stages of the project it is planned to digitize historical documents not subject to copyright. In general the project envisages that compliance with copyright in national segments shall be in accordance with national laws of participating countries.

On further stages it is planned to create a working group dealing with matters of copyright compliance with law. The group will be responsible for detecting primary source materials, subject to national copyright laws as well as for interacting with the copyright holders in order to conclude special agreements with them to get permission for uploading of resources on the portal.

## **8. Project description including methods to be used and work plan.**

### Methods

In the project there will be applied methods and technologies of flow digitizing and indexing of library, archive and museum funds using special document scanning equipment as well as methods of digital fixation of museum funds.

In the project there developed and adopted standards for resource description, metadata, search engines, standards of information presentation, data protection, which allow other participants of the Arctic Council to start rapid implementation of their own national segments. At the same time the working groups of the project in Russia is ready to provide substantial assistance to foreign partners both on national portal software and data description formats. The project implements flexible schemes of integration of national segments into a common information resource both on level of integration of national portals and on level of integration of national resources with a common access point at [www.EMApject.com](http://www.EMApject.com) (ru)

### Work plan

- **2009 – Mid 2010**  
Development of the project concept, development of software specification, development of the project standards in terms of creation of digital content.
- **Second half of 2010**  
Analysis of RNL funds, development of the project thematic index, selection of documents from the RNL funds, start of works on scanning of RNL funds.
- **January - March 2011**  
Development of the portal software, launching of the portal (Release 1- 28.02.2011 [www.EMApject.ru](http://www.EMApject.ru))
- **April – September 2011**  
Planning and organization of liaising with experts from the countries of the Arctic Council with intent to join them to the project. Updating of the portal software (Release 2). Creation of English version of the portal interface.
- **September 2011 - July 2012**  
Works on creation of national segments of the countries of the Arctic Council. Works on digitizing of funds of national libraries, archives and other specialized organizations, stage 1.
- **August 2012 - December 2012**  
Integration of national information segments of the project.
- **2013**  
Filling the project with electronic resources of participating countries.

## **9. Cost estimate and budget**

It is expected that the countries of the Arctic project provide their self-funding for establishment of national segments of the project.

The project budget of the Russian segment in the period from the end of 2009 to March 2011 amounted to 120, 000 Euros, of which 60,000 Euros was the budget for digitizing of the RNL funds.

## **10. Sources of funding**

The project envisages that the countries of the Arctic project provide their self-funding for establishment of national segments of the project.

In Russia the sources of the project funding will be the following:

- 1) Grant of the Russian Geographical Society (RGS)
- 2) Own budgets of the Russian National Library (RNL, St. Petersburg) and the Russian State Library (RSL, Moscow)
- 3) On later stages – raised funds of international oil and gas corporations, operating in the northern regions of Russia.