

Approaching the migration phenomena from archival perspective: reflections of project AToM

Vlatka Lemić, ICARUS Croatia / ICARUS



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Underlining idea



- Archives and migrations (in historical and contemporary forms, i.e. diaspora, exiles, expats etc.) are connected
- Various archival and documentary heritage reflect migrations as movements and lives of people-> (communities and individuals) -> archives role as place of between communities, cultures and countries in different times
 - Migrant heritage in archives - means toward better social inclusion
 - Researching transnational context of migrations through archival and archivistics' perspectives

Archives and Traces of Migration -

AToM



(2022 – 2025)

Consortium:

- **ICARUS Croatia (CRO)**
- **De Domijnen Foundation** (Stichting De Domijnen) (NL)
- **Ministry of Culture and Sport: Spanish State Archives** (Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte: Archivos Estatales de España) (ESP)
- **National Archives of Hungary** (Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár) (HU)
- Associated partner: **Limburg Heritage Coöpearative** (Coöperatie Erfgoed Limburg U.A.) (NL)

+ project advisor A. Gilland from USA

<https://projectatom.eu>

AToM Objectives



- To reinforce the capacity of archivists and other documentary heritage professionals in area of historical and contemporary migrations.
- To connect archivists and documentary heritage professionals with respective migrant communities.
- To co-create specific cultural products with members of respective communities.



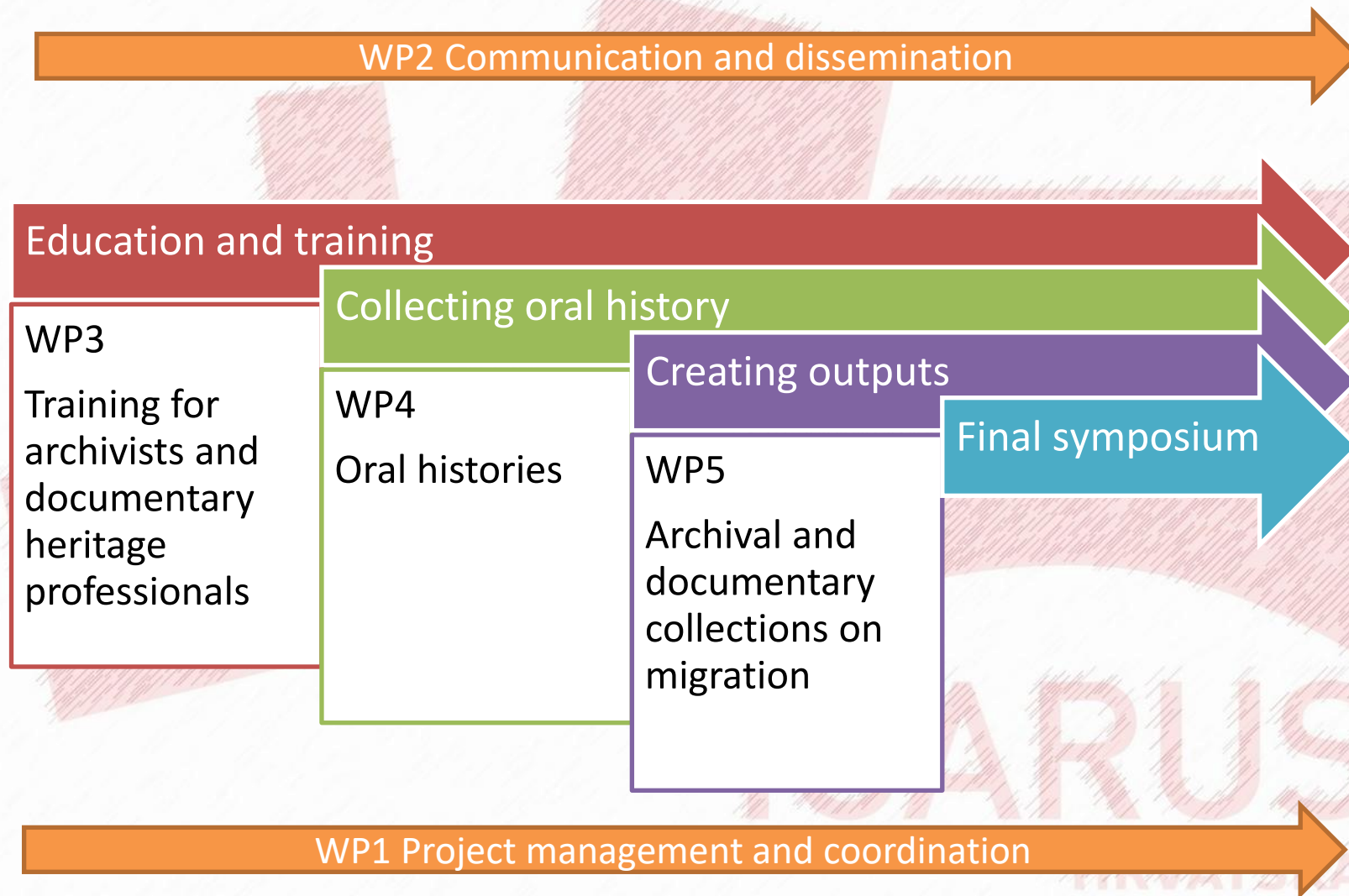
<https://projectatom.eu>

AToM Activities



- innovative education and training of archivists and documentary heritage professionals,
- collecting, archiving, and publishing migrants' oral histories,
- creating specialized finding aids with participation of community members,
- representing archival material on topic of migrations through virtual and physical exhibitions created in co-curated manner, with participation of community members
- final conference „Archives and Traces of Migration” in Budapest 2025

AToM Work Packages



Education & training for archivists and documentary heritage professionals (ICARUS Croatia)

- Design and deliver innovative training for archivist and other documentary heritage professionals
- Fostering education on social inclusion through cultural – archival activities
- Contribute to contemporary state-of-the art archival education and knowledge transfer
 - Goal -> to involve at least 40 archivists and documentary heritage professionals in project activities
 - Tailored training sessions and activities for targeted participants

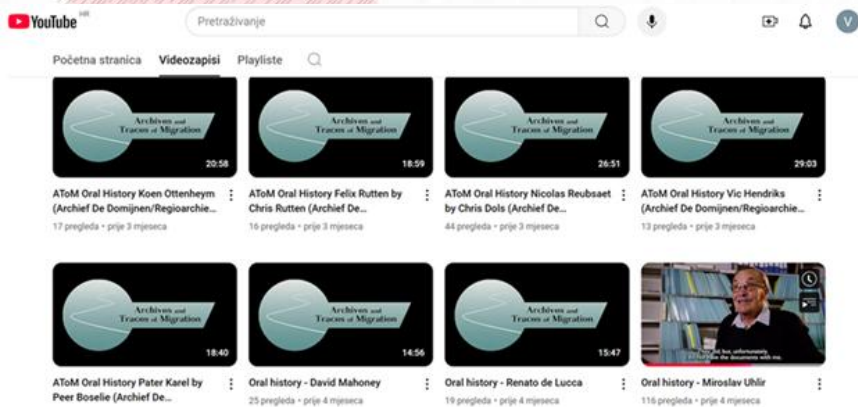
Education & training for archivists and documentary heritage professionals (ICARUS Croatia)

DELIVERABLES

- Creation of education manual that foster innovative approach to migrant heritage intended for community of archivists and documentary heritage professionals -> AToM Handbook of Best Practices, March 2023)
- Educational workshops & training for archivists and documentary heritage professionals
- Train-the-trainers approach
- Workshop for trainers indented to prepare AToM participants to explain the importance and value of enhancing and diversifying the documentary record of migration to a range of audiences (Sittard, May 2023)
- National on-line and in-persons workshops and events

Oral histories (De Domijnen Foundation)

- Launching oral histories campaign to form network of participants (organizations, NGOs and individuals)
- Collecting, archiving, and publishing migrants' oral histories (min. 10 oral histories per partner)
- Publishing oral histories on project's website
- Incorporating oral histories in project's exhibitions



Oral histories (De Domijnen Foundation)

DELIVERABLES

- Oral histories were conducted in Hungarian, Croatian, Spanish and Dutch (all subtitled to English), and English and uploaded to YouTube and presented on the AToM project-website: <https://projectatom.eu/index.php/oral-histories/>
- emigrant and immigrant stories ...
- ICARUS HR life stories: descendants of German and Czech settlers in Croatia and Croatian emigrants to Brazil, internal labor migration, emigration of children from BiH to Croatia during the WWI, refugees from Ukraine, Croatian emigrants and returnees...

HRVATSKA

Archival and documentary collections on migration (Spanish State Archives)

- Defining migration collections profiles
- Creating specialized finding aids with participation of community members
- Representing archival material on topic of migrations in exhibitions
 - one virtual transnational exhibition of archival material on migration and oral histories, created as dispersive social media exhibition on multiple languages (each partner was tasked with specific publication targets: 80 FB posts, 150 x/Twitter posts, 100 Instagram posts)
 - 4 physical exhibitions in archives or community centers dedicated to specific migrant community that presets material from archives collections as well as private collection from community in question

Archival and documentary collections on migration (Spanish State Archives)

DELIVERABLES

- European Survey on migration fonds/collections
- AToM migration fond/collection definition
- Migration collections/fonds guide

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<https://projectatom.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Migration-Collection-Definition-AToM.pdf>

https://projectatom.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/AToM_D10_-31-1-2024.pdf



Life stories and oral histories

CONSTANCIO BERNALDO DE QUIROS PÉREZ
1873 -1959



Timeline Constancio Bernaldo de Quirós



Life stories and oral histories – visual map (NAH)



Giral Archive

In March 2008, the children of Francisco Giral, his first-born son, and the Ministry of Culture signed a gratuitous bailment contract to deposit the documents in the National Historical Archive in Madrid. The archive arrived in Madrid in May 2009.

José Giral Barnés, grandson of José Giral Pereira, was interviewed about his grandfather and his own migratory experience, in July 2023 at the National Historical Archive in Madrid.



José Giral Barnés (José Giral's grandson) interview
Click on the image for more information!



Migratory event Exile during and after the Spanish Civil War



Providing food and shelter for hungry Herzegovinian children in Croatia during World War I

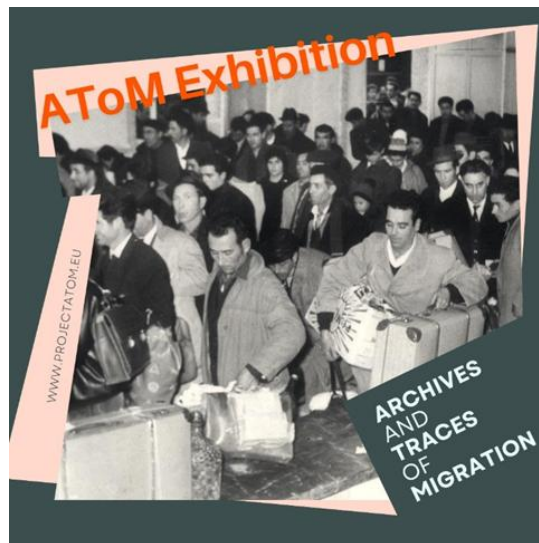


Migrations and art studies



Sculptor Rudolf Valdec in the United States of America 1912-1913

Virtual Exhibition



Virtual Exhibition Posts

Total posts from Spain

104 93 215

Total posts from Hungary

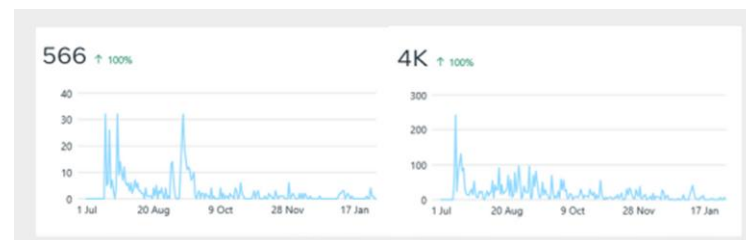
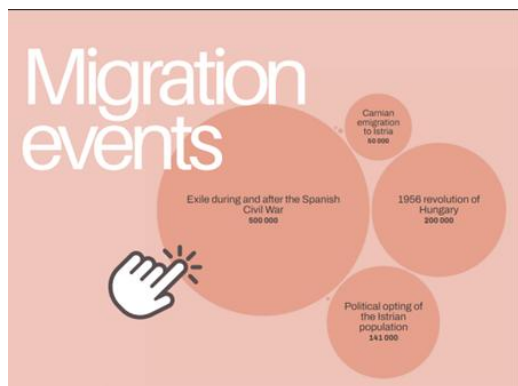
100 95 196

Total posts from Croatia

106 91 187

Total posts from the Netherlands

110 103 219



Virtual Exhibition: <https://atomexhibition.mnl.gov.hu/>

Instagram: @atom.exhibition

Twitter: @AtoMexhibition

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561334499083>

Physical Exhibitions



Dissemination and communication

International, local and national levels

- Project website (with blog entries, min. 2 per partner)
- Press releases (minimum 4 promotional articles at partners web sites + min. 5 press releases per partner)
- Social media communication
- Dissemination activities ☐ dissemination efforts through conferences, symposiums, and seminars held from July 2022 to December 2023: AToM was presented at 26 conferences reached in total of 820 members of target groups
- Final symposium → 34th ICARUS Convention "Archives Reflecting 21st Century Challenges Migration and Sustainability, Budapest, 12-14 May, 2025 (cca 160 participants)
- Multiplier events

Dissemination and communication

Blog stories:

- Migration Records and Community
- Innovation around Migration
- Ibero-American Migratory Movements Portal
- Guide to the 1939 Spanish Exile in the National Archives
- Impressions about Migrations from an Archival Perspective



AToM approaches archiving from the perspective of social inclusion, with the goal of filling gaps in knowledge and documentation and making the materials held in repositories more accessible, visible and inclusive.

It will do so by enabling historical and current migrant communities and ethnic minorities to create their own archival stories and retell their historical traces in a direct participatory manner, becoming co-curators in an archival narrative of their migration histories and representations of their past.

This kind of social inclusion is much needed in the contemporary cultural sphere and societies that build their identities around their cultures in a shared space of mutual respect and understanding.

AToM will facilitate the cooperation of the often underrepresented communities created through migration with cultural heritage institutions and organizations which already have the power to act as agents of inclusion.

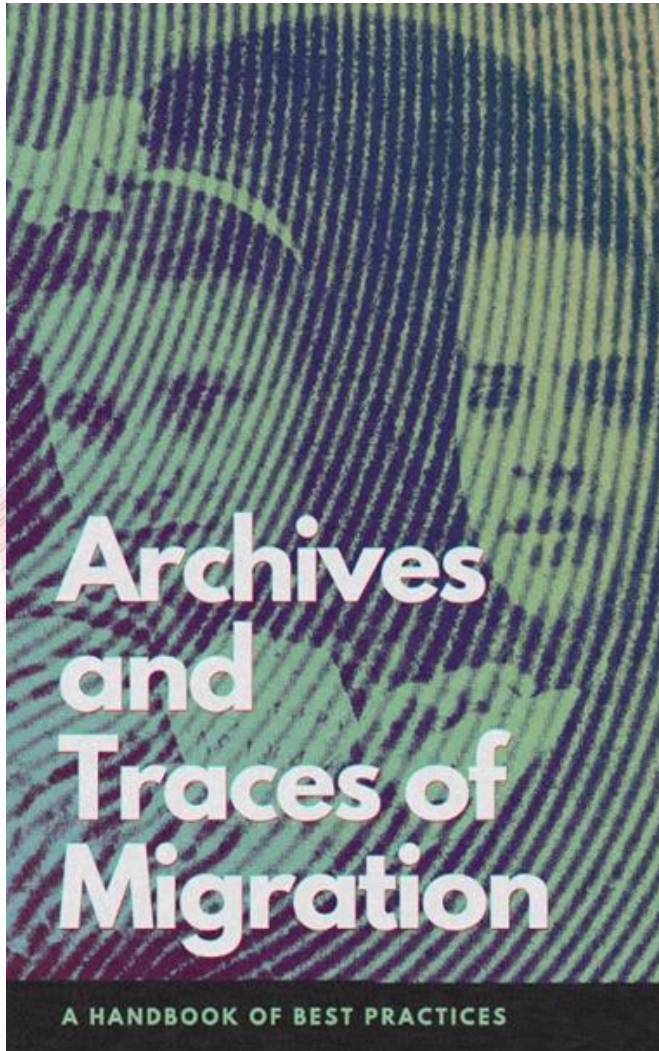
Get involved!

In order for archives to appraise, describe and represent their holdings in more sensitive, inclusive and diverse manners AToM will work on equipping archivists and other documentary heritage professionals with trainings and tools needed to reflect our evolving, intricate societies.

To highlight cooperation in practical archival work and accessibility in the context of archival heritage, AToM will bridge grassroots initiatives and community archives and institutions to create cultural products with a community-led narrative.



AToM Handbook



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https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zjsipN4IJyMJ9XmCRsLY9lWN0100U_1C/view



Where to find more...



<https://projectatom.eu/>

#AToM #archivesmigration #migration
#diaspora #migrantstories #archivaltraces
#creativeeurope

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