



Writing History on Line (WP4)

In the framework of WP4, the essay about “The Return of the Baltic Capitals to Europe” has been finished both in English and in German so that now both versions can be presented in the portal. This double presentation will probably turn out to be reasonable because it can be expected that especially German users will take an interest in the essay.



It has been possible to keep the abstract quite short; this is how it is formulated now:

Our essay summarizes Baltic history such as it seems to be reflected in the buildings usually noticed by tourists when they are visiting Riga, Tallinn and Vilnius; for in their capitals, Latvia's, Estonia's and Lithuania's attempts to underline their 'Europeanness' can be felt more than anywhere else, and many travellers touring in the Baltic region do not visit but these three cities. What can travellers of this kind – sometimes called 'HisTourists' in scientific literature – learn about the Baltic countries and their history under such circumstances – and how?

One possible way is to accentuate dissimilarities which are instantly obvious when comparing the three cityscapes – because nearly all of these dissimilarities can be explained by the course of history.



The essay comprises six chapters of different length. The second one with its 25 paragraphs is by far the longest of these chapters, whereas some others are composed of no more than two paragraphs. The contents of the chapters have been defined following chronological aspects (beginning with medieval history and reaching present time in the sixth chapter).



Within the essay, many links have been set to most of the pictural as well as to some of the written sources belonging to our sections of database 2. Apart from that, there are also links to two shorter texts, which have been attached, and to a historical film document which has proved to be approachable in the internet. Further links would have been possible; it was not intended, however, to interrupt our users' reading too frequently. Therefore we also tried not to need too many references.



Bibliography (WP2)

In our bibliography, exactly 100 books and articles can be found, the topic of which is not only the Baltic capitals with their architecture and population groups, but also the general phenomenon of ‘HisTourism’. As to create a bibliography which can be said to be really ‘European’, it has been intended to represent the whole range of languages in which books concerning our topic have been published. Therefore the languages in which the 100 books and articles are written do not only include English, German and the languages of the Baltic region, but also French, Polish and Swedish.



Webliography (WP2)

As to fill the webliography, 33 websites have been identified and described in the portal.

From some first copies of the 'Portal Evaluation Form' that have been given back to us by members of the portal testing group recently, it can be seen that most of these persons are convinced of the usefulness of the webliography.