

**Xabier Macías & Manoel Santos**

**DILINAME – DIGITAL LIBRARY OF NATIONAL  
MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE**

**DEMOCRACY AND SOVEREIGNTY IN ALL LANGUAGES**

---

On 6 June 2008, the ADVN headquarters (Archival, Documentation and Research Centre for Flemish Nationalism) played host to the signing by foundations, publications and socio-cultural entities that strive for the right to self-determination and linguistic diversity in the European Union (EU), of the constituent agreement of the Centre Maurits Coppieters (CMC).<sup>1</sup> Established as a political foundation linked to the European Free Alliance (EFA/ALE) and with the support of the European Parliament, CMC began its autonomous journey by trying to provide favourable arguments to the political and ideological debate on democratic reinforcement and the change to the institutional architecture of the EU.

The seven founding organisations expanded to fifteen within the first five years of activity. With *Link* (Flanders) having ceased its activities, the CMC now consists of Fundació Josep Irla (Catalonia), Fundación Galiza Sempre (Galicia), Alkartasuna Fundazioa (Basque Country), Fundació Emili Darder (Balearic Islands), Fundación Aragonesista 29 de Junio (Aragón), Home of Macedonian Culture (Macedonia, Greece), *Arritti* (Corsica), Welsh Nationalism Foundation (Wales), Kurdish Institute of Brussels (Belgium), *Transylvanian Monitor* (Transylvania), CIEMEN (Catalonia), Free State of



Xabier Macías & Manoel Santos, 'DILINAME – Digital Library of National Movements in Europe. Democracy and sovereignty in all languages', in: *Studies on National Movements*, 1 (2013) pp. 224-233.

<http://snm.nise.eu>

Rijeka Association (Rijeka) and Istituto Camillo Bellieni (Sardinia). *Le Peuple Breton* (Brittany) joined in 2013.

This ongoing organisational development runs parallel to joint ventures.<sup>2</sup> As for instance with DILINAME, the Digital Library on National Movements in Europe, a project proposed by the Fundación Galiza Sempre in 2009. The objective is to 'collect, translate and host on the web programs, manifestos and documents collecting the background, history and goals of socio-political movements of the protectors of the rights of European stateless nations', aiming, initially, at three kinds of texts: 'Programmatic documents (historic and current); internationalist manifestos and initiatives; and global justice proposals.' From the outset, the initiative had two main objectives: on the one hand the facilitation of access to basic political texts and programmes by the European nationalist, regionalist and independentist movements promoting exchange and mutual understanding, and on the other hand the provision of a resource in support of educational, fact-finding and research activities.



## About DILINAME

The actual development of this digital project started in the second half of 2010, with the primary objective of gathering and providing relevant documents, historical and current alike, relating to the creation, evolution, ideas behind and contribution by socio-political proposals on the part of the movements of stateless nations assembled in CMC. DILINAME is not directed at the publication of extensive essays or complex texts, but instead gathers manifestos, declarations of ideological and political principles, foundational texts of movements and parties, important letters, news articles, relevant speeches, and so on. This is why DILINAME was founded first of all as an outreach project, targeting the general public in

order to raise awareness of the movements and to disseminate their history and activities. However, it is also aimed at the academic field as well as political foundations and various forums assisting with the comparative study, at least at an early stage, of independentist and nationalist democratic movements on a European level. A third, additional goal would be to improve knowledge on other issues among the different stateless nations.

An Internet portal ([www.diliname.eu](http://www.diliname.eu)) was created to present the documents. Their categorisation was in the first place based on their nation of origin; they were subsequently structured with the help of many other criteria and were accompanied by a catalogue file referencing the date, author, subject, and so on. The portal, in short, constitutes a public area in which information resources can be displayed in different viewing formats, integrated in a database and ranked by metadata series that correspond to a bibliographic record, in this case a digital one.

In its internal architecture, the portal always uses free and/or open-source software, selecting as main tools the content management system *Joomla!* and the *K2* component, which publishes documents simply in *Joomla!* but with more information fields and other accessories, required to obtain a minimum bibliographic order and more useful cataloguing. Although the early results are already made public, as the library acquires more content, search engines will be implemented that both allow general searches (a phrase, a name, text) or searches limited to different criteria (metadata) on which the library is structured (title, author, category, time, date, origin, keywords, description, context, and so on).

English has been chosen as the vehicular language in order to facilitate the study of texts from varied geographical and linguistic areas. However, as the languages originally used are equally valuable, it was decided to publish the different documents in three formats:

1. Online format: a complete English translation of each document for quick on-screen viewing;
2. Corporate format: a typeset document in accordance with the CMC stylebook, downloadable in pdf format. This format is available both in English and in the original language of the document;

3. Original digitised format: published only in cases in which there is a unique publication that is considered of documentary value.

In addition, each document contains a catalogue file (in English) containing the following fields:

- ID (identification code)
- Origin (nation or region)
- Time (time scale simple default)
- Document title (in English)
- Document title (in original language)
- Category (document subject, predefined)
- Description (brief text describing content)
- Language (original)
- Date (complete, if applicable)
- Author/s (if known, whether one or more persons, or one or more organisations)
- Reference people (persons relating to the document or to its subject. Sometimes these can be the same as the Author/s section)
- Keywords (a minimum of five words).

In addition, each complete document is preceded by both a concise text explaining the historical and socio-political context in which the document was drafted, and a summary of its contents. With a defined minimum and maximum length, these two texts provide an adequate first impression.

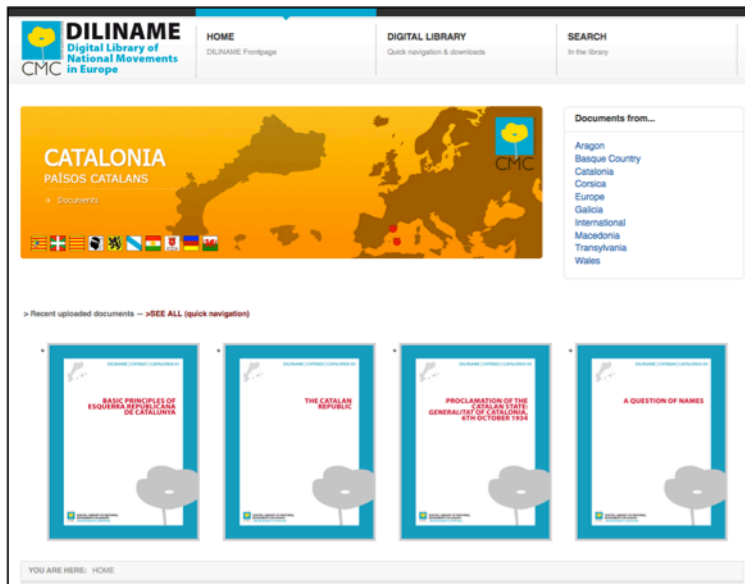
## **A networked library**

To obtain the documents, an integrated network has been created, with a liaison for each of the CMC members. This contact is responsible for coordinating his/her own team for the selection – with academic advice – of the documents and finally for formatting the contents to the said criteria in order to be published by DILINAME.

A coordinator – supported by CMC – who oversees the development of the portal and handling of the documents, making them available in the

required format, will manage the network. The actual content contribution is carried out either by using a restricted access form on the web, or by sending them directly to the coordinator.

The project is now in the early stages of having the documents catalogued, both by origin and by date and subject. To facilitate this and allow texts to be available for comparative study right from the start, DILINAME requests texts acquired from network members to answer to a basic number of arrangement criteria. Thus, to meet the library's first objective a simple time criterion was established (documents from the nineteenth century or earlier; documents from the first half of the twentieth century; and documents from the second half of the twentieth century onwards), as well as a thematic one (foundation documents; documents symbolising the ideological-programmatic developments of the national movement in question; and documents representing the current political alternatives).



<http://www.diliname.eu>

Of course, all the documents to be included in DILINAME should be of recognised importance and have a contrasted academic endorsement, in addition to the selection criterion, while their importance should be nation wide and not concerning any limited party political subject.

In addition, with the English translations managed by DILINAME and CMC, translators should take special care while dealing with political terms as well as terminology related to identity and other topics that may cause confusion by having different meanings in different geographical areas. Hence, it is the intention to establish translation standards in this specific field.

## **Evolution and challenges**

Right from the start DILINAME was intended as a collaborative network project, in which the involvement and resources of the different foundations that make up CMC is key, because these organisations will be constructing the library with their contributions. As DILINAME plans to reflect the historical developments and extremely diverse issues contained in the texts that are often difficult to understand outside their original areas, it cannot be a centralised project. This valuable cooperation and collective endeavour, by its decentralised nature, however also causes some delays when trying at the same time to reach both the qualitative and quantitative objectives set by the library. Therefore the project will sometimes have to change its objectives and deadlines to adapt to the possibilities offered by each of the different sources of information.

In addition, DILINAME also faces cataloguing difficulties, especially in the field of categorising the types of documents, the work to standardise key words or the translation of terms and concepts that can bear different interpretations as a result of the diversity among national movements and their history. These are in fact issues that will be rectified; the library will grow and, therefore, result in a broader view of their needs.

At the end of 2012, the library had published and translated thirty-three documents in full, as well as forty corporate documents and some

originals. It also holds more than twenty texts on which work is in progress, though for various reasons they have not yet been published (whether because they are incomplete, due to difficulties encountered in their translation, an insufficiently commensurate number of papers published from each nation or region involved, and so on). At present, there are documents from Aragon, the Basque Country, Catalonia, Corsica, Galicia, Macedonia, Transylvania and Wales, as well as a selection of texts at a European and international level relating to the collective rights of peoples.

And yet, a lot remains to be added. Among DILINAME's most immediate objectives is guaranteeing the presence of texts from the national movements represented within CMC that are not yet present in the library (this goes for the Balearic Islands, Kurdistan, Flanders, Sardinia or Brittany), as well as to complete a number of documents and topics handled from those already included.

In the more distant future, the publication of texts from many other national movements also outside CMC could be carried out, to make DILINAME a reference tool for the dissemination and study of emancipatory movements fighting for the collective rights of nations and regions in Europe.<sup>3</sup>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Maurits Coppieters (1920-2005) was a prominent Flemish and European politician. He was one of the founders of EFA and MEP for this entity; he worked most of his life as a teacher and advocate of the right to self-determination in the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> An overview can be found on <http://www.cmc-foundation.eu/> [accessed 23/4/2013].

<sup>3</sup> For all information, please contact [info@diliname.eu](mailto:info@diliname.eu).

## **Digital Library Contents (January 2013)**

### *Aragon*

- Aragonese regionalist action manifesto addressed to the Aragonese and those who live in Aragon (1918)
- Positions. Localism. Regionalism. Nationalism (1919)
- Aragonese nationalism (1919)

### *Basque Country*

- Draft proposal by Eusko Alkartasuna to expedite a sovereign agreement favouring the independence of Euskal Herria (2009)

### *Catalonia*

- Basic principles of Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (1931)
- The Catalan Republic (1931)
- Proclamation of the Catalan state: Generalitat of Catalonia (1934)
- A question of names (1962)
- Ideological declaration of the Esquerra Republicana of Catalonia (1993)

### *Corsica*

- Partitu di a Nazione Corse - Autunumia (1982)

### *Galicia*

- Nationalist Assembly of Lugo manifesto (1918)
- Preliminary plan for the Galician statute (1931)
- Galicianist Party. Declaration of principles (1931)



- Union of the Galician People (UPG). Minimum 10 principles (1964)
- Galician Socialist Party (GSP). Declaration of principles (1974)
- Constitutional terms for the Galician nation to participate in a federal agreement and a provisional Galician government (1976)
- Ideological and political basis of the Galician Labour Party (POG) (1977)
- Galician Nationalist Bloc. Political and organisational programme (1982)

### *Europe*

- Charter of cooperation for the construction of a Europe of the nations (1979)
- Declaration of Bastia (1979)
- Declaration of the Brussels Convention (1981)
- Declaration of Brussels on nations and regions in the governance of Europe (2000)
- Sovereignty, social justice, subsidiarity. Towards a Europe of diversity (2004)

### *International*

- Declaration of the space of collective rights of stateless peoples and nations for the 2009 World Social Forum Belém (2009)
- Global network for the collective rights of peoples (2010)

### *Macedonia*

- Constitution of the Secret Macedonian-Adrianople Revolutionary Organization (1896)
- Circular by which the Ilinden Uprising was proclaimed (1903)
- Manifesto issued at the first session of the Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Macedonia to the people of Macedonia (1944)

### *Transylvania*

- A voice crying out. Transylvania, Banat, the Körös region and Máramaros for the Hungarians! (1921)

### *Wales*

- Address to the electors of the University of Wales (1931)
- The end of Britishness (1980)
- The new Wales