Hungarian writers and poets in the BIO-MAPS Biographical Map Library

José Jesús Reyes Nunez [a],[*], Krisztina Irás [a]

[a] Eötvös Loránd University – Institute of Cartography and Geoinformatics, jesusreyes@ik.elte.hu, iras.krisztina@gmail.com

* Corresponding author

Keywords: story map, BIO-MAPS, school cartography, education, literature

Abstract:

The Erasmus+ KA201 project entitled "Biographical map library of European authors" began in December of 2020, and it counted with the participation of three countries (Spain, Portugal, and Hungary) and the EUROGEO (European Association of Geographers) regional organization. Each country was represented by a bilingual secondary school and a higher educational institution. The official language of the project is Spanish, and the online library was also developed in this language. This means that the library can be used by bilingual secondary schools in non-Spanish speaking countries, as well as by secondary schools in the majority of Latin-American countries.

The project defined three main aims and tasks regarding the social and educational value of the European cultural heritage, which was presented using innovative digital and online solutions:

- Digital Map Storytelling – planning and making of StoryMaps presenting life and works of writers and poets of the participating countries. It is planned to support the teaching of subjects in secondary schools (mainly Literature, but others are also implicitly included, e.g., History) and to promote the use of online GIS-based solutions by teachers and pupils in and outside the classroom.

- Research to determine the current presence of online GIS-based solutions in the curricula of each participating country and develop proposals on its possible use as transdisciplinary teaching tools in schools

- Design of literary routes in each participating country, which were tested during the school mobilities financed by the project

The main aim of this project was the creation of an online map library of writers and poets of the participating countries that can be freely accessed on the web. The two main tasks to be filled by the online map library are giving an illustrated, multimedia biography of each writer and poet, as well as an introduction to their literary works with emphasis on those that are taught in secondary schools.

Figure 1. Hungarian writers and poets selected for the online map library.

Each country selected fifteen of their most important writers and poets included in the national curricula and with at least one translation to Spanish language (Figure 1). EUROGEO also participated in the development of the online map library and selected writers and poets from other European countries whose work is usually taught in secondary schools. The workflow followed by the Hungarian participants is divided into three main phases:

- Data collection: including biographical data together with geographical (geo-referenced) data that connect an author to those places where he lived and worked, as well as more detailed and diverse information about those works that have been translated to Spanish language. This information was completed with any other interesting data related to his professional and personal life, such as names of public spaces and institutions, sculptures, etc. Hungarian colleagues also collected multimedia data (images, sound files, videos, etc) that was used to complete the information represented on the maps as well as the texts in the StoryMaps.

- Making of online maps: The ArcGIS Online map editor, the Map Viewer was used for this task. We decided to follow a simple working process, which was easy to learn by those colleagues without any experience making online maps. Map symbols were used to represent those places related to the lives of writers and poets. Colleagues changed the parameters of the default symbols (e.g., size, and colour) to achieve a higher quality graphic result. Map symbols were also linked to the previously collected data (text and multimedia) and in some cases arrows were used to represent movement in space and time.
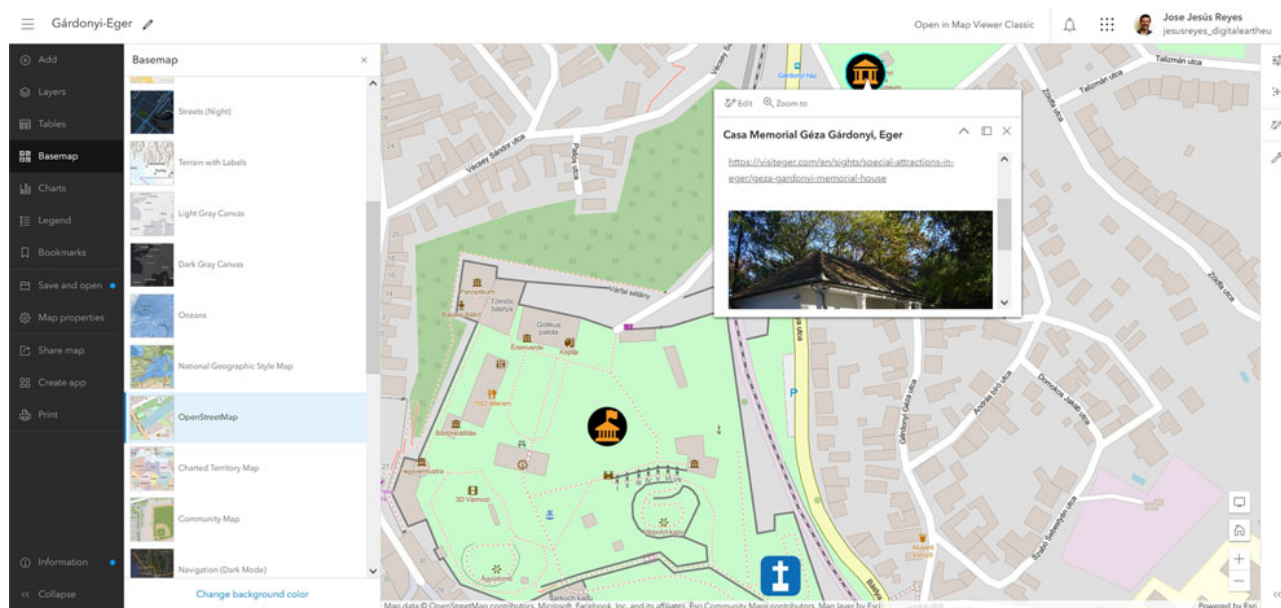

Figure 2. Editing one of the maps included in the StoryMap about institutions and monuments related to the writer Géza Gárdonyi in the Hungarian cíty of Eger.

- Making of StoryMaps, which were developed in the site: https://storymaps.arcgis.com. StoryMaps are defined as story authoring web-based applications that allow you to share your maps in the context of narrative text and other multimedia content. It means that all the previously collected data as well as online maps can be presented in a dynamic and interactive graphic way on a public web platform. We used the blank canvas offered by the website to begin the making of a StoryMap and combined all the graphic solutions with the texts that we had written previously. Using the blank canvas users can create more than a StoryMap: they create an interactive multimedia-based homepage that can be freely accessible on the web.

The StoryMaps about Hungarian writers and poets can be accessed on the following addresses: http://www.biomaps.eu/story-maps-de-elte/ and http://www.biomaps.eu/story-maps-de-kispesti-karolyi-mihaly-magyar-spanyol-tannyelvu-gimnazium/.

Acknowledgements