

Experiences using maps and story maps in the BIO-MAPS project (Online Map Library of European writers and poets)

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Abstract:

Our institute participated in the Erasmus+ KA201 research project entitled "Biographical map library of European authors", which was developed between December 2020 and June 2023. Colleagues from universities and secondary schools of three countries (Spain, Portugal and Hungary) as well as representatives of an international organization (European Association of Geographers, EUROGEO) worked together in the planning and making of an online library that can be freely accessed on the web. Other activities were also planned, e.g., the higher educational institutions also popularized these new solutions between teachers and students, as well as the schools also organized literary routes based on the story maps that were tested during the school mobilities in the three countries.

An important component of the library were the maps created for the representation of collected data, as well as to illustrate and complete the texts, whose content was not limited only to the biography of the authors and a selection of their books, but also attempted to give an idea of the historical context in which they worked.

Hungarian colleagues from the university and secondary school selected fifteen of the most important Hungarian writers and poets, taking into account two important conditions: the authors were included in the national curriculum, and therefore included in the Literature subject taught in secondary schools and at least one of their literary works had a high-quality translation to Spanish, which was the official language of the project (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Hungarian writers and poets selected in the project.

A workflow was created for the making of the library, which can be divided into two main phases: the collection of biographical, multimedia and geo-referenced geographical data (Fig. 2) and the making of story maps.


 Proyecto ERASMUS+ KA201 CARTOTECA BIOGRÁFICA DE AUTORES EUROPEOS BIO-MAPS			
AUTOR: MÓR JÓKAI			
AÑO	LUGAR	TEXTO	MULTIMEDIA
1825. febrúar 18.	Komárom	Su nombre original era Mór Jókai, adoptando el nombre literario de Mór Jókai en 1848. Nació como quinto hijo en el seno de una familia noble que contaba con pequeñas propiedades. Su padre se llamaba József Jókai y su madre Mária Pulay. József Jókai era de origen noble, quien tras arruinarse y verse obligado a vender sus tierras, se hizo abogado para mantener su familia, aunque era también un excelente dibujante y admirador de la literatura, incluso escribía versos como distracción.	Jókai_anya_Pulay_Mária_1900-52.JPG
1831-1837	Komárom y Bratislava	Comienza sus estudios en Komárom en 1831 y en 1835 los continúa en el Liceo Evangélico de Bratislava, donde aprende alemán, latín y también aprende algo de lengua griega. Como detalle interesante, publica sus dos primeros poemas a la edad de 9 años. En 1837 fallece su padre y esta pérdida provoca que pase un largo período de tiempo postrado en cama.	evangelikusliceum_pozsony.jpg Konvent utca 15. (jelenlegi kép)
1837-1840	Komárom	Continúa sus estudios en el Colegio Calvinista de la ciudad, que contaba con una gran tradición pedagógica desde su fundación en 1607. Aquí aprende inglés, francés e italiano. Actualmente este colegio se encuentra en la parte eslovaca de la ciudad (Komárno), en la orilla izquierda del río Danubio. En la entrada del edificio se puede apreciar una tarja conmemorativa en la entrada del colegio, con la que	1280px-Komárno16.JPG Google Maps: Jókai u. 31. (Jókaiho)

Figure 2. Table used for the collection of data related to the authors.

The first step to create a story map was the planning and making of a static and interactive online map, which was converted to a dynamic one using the different interactive and multimedia solutions offered during the creation of the story maps. Diverse maps were made, beginning from the overview maps (e.g., world or continent maps) to the more detailed ones (e.g., city maps) (Fig. 3).

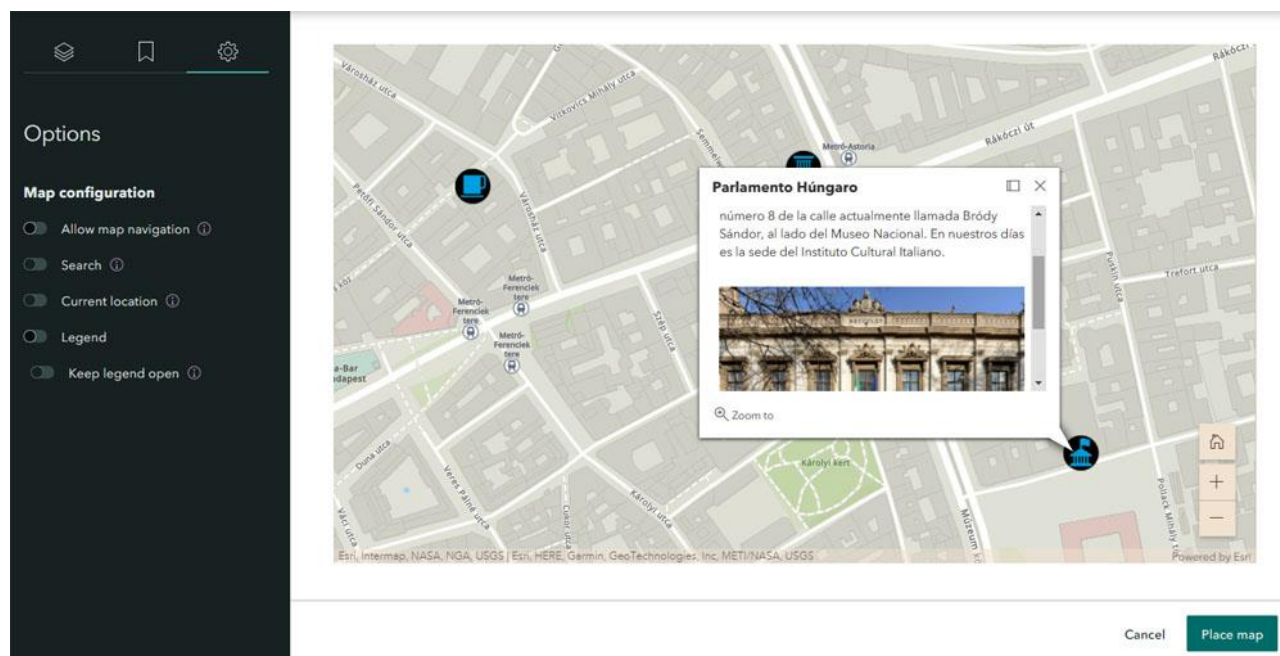


Figure 3. Making one of the maps used in the project.

Authors analyse in detail the advantages and disadvantages found during the process of creating maps and story maps and propose some solutions to continue developing this work in the following years. The website of the project can be

visited using the <http://www.biomaps.eu/> address. The overview map including links to all the story maps created in the project can be accessed on: <https://digitalearth.eu.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=73ff30d6da1b462194b5ced8e103e268&extent=-75.4510,-5.3475,88.4650,61.7760> (Fig. 4).

After its positive final evaluation the project was declared example of "good practice" by the Erasmus Office of the European Union.

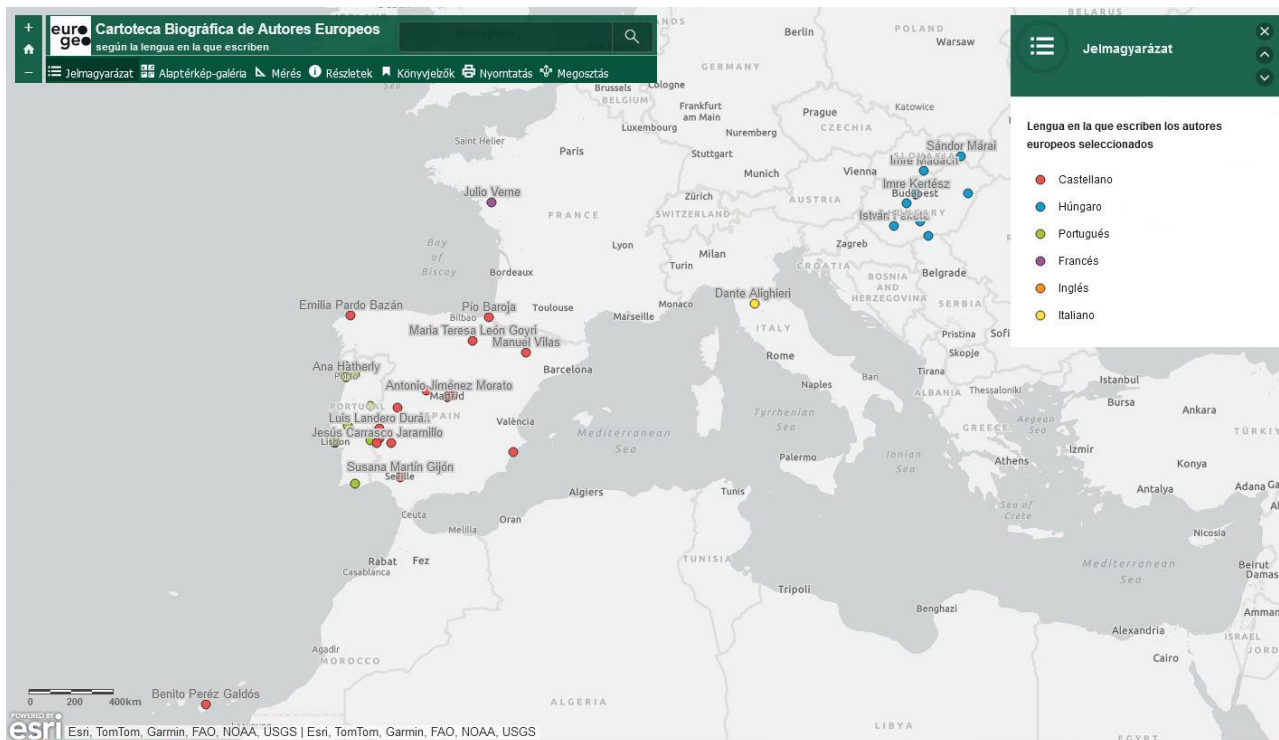


Figure 4. Overview map of the story maps included in the online library.

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