

The Historical Archive of the "Konstantinos G. Karamanlis" Foundation. Action and Perspectives
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The Historical Archive of the 'Konstantinos G. Karamanlis' Foundation contains important primary sources that shed light on the political history of Greece in the 20th Century. Apart from the collection of papers, the Historical Archive contains a valuable - from historical and cultural aspect - collection of audiovisual material. The collection contains photographs and moving images (video) with reference mainly to Konstantinos Karamanlis. Its exploitation makes a positive contribution to comparative research and to the multi-dimensional interpretation of historical events. The combination of sound and image is particularly effective, projecting on the one hand the political activity and the personality of Konstantinos Karamanlis and on the other the political events that took place at the lengthy period in which he was the protagonist. This data constitute the most comprehensive recomposition of the general picture presented by postwar Greece, also making available data related to international affairs. The collection is recorded on 375 BETA, UMATIC and VHS video cassettes. It also contains a large collection of photographs, which are contained in Konstantinos Karamanlis and Anastassios Kanellopoulos Collections. The main bulk of it covers the period 1935-1995. The material consists of approximately 40,000 photographs which captures moments from the life and political carrier of Konstantinos Karamanlis and Panayiotis Kanellopoulos and generally from the political and cultural life of Greece. All this material has been digitalized in the framework of the project 'Digitalization, data processing and promotion of the Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation Archives' subsidized by the Ministry of Culture's Programme 'The Information Society'. Each separate item is classified and electronically processed according to the General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD), treated as an integral unit as well as an integral archival part of the whole. This results in providing the researcher with direct access to the material targeted. In the context of its main purpose to cast light on the historical events of the period after World War II, in conjunction with the systematic study of the Konstantinos Karamanlis accomplishments and the promotion of the idea of a unified Europe, the Foundation provides material for the composition of scientific works, the creation of documentary films, the edition of historical books and generally to everyone who needs material for events or manifestations regarding to Konstantinos Karamanlis or other persons with special contribution to Greek political life. Finally, has also developed multimedia educational application based on its archival material. All this activity is developing with skepticism about the open disposal of the material, because of the copyright issues, and the future perspectives of its use. The Historical Archive is undertaking to exploit the web potentialities and preserve the digital material in the best way. It has already provided the development of an e-learning programme, trying to correspond to the user's expectations. It's very important for the Foundation's future development to get in touch with international organizations and experts who can provide the necessary acknowledgement in these questions.