

RICONTRANS

# The project 'RICONTRANS'

*and the need of documenting inscriptions...*



This project is funded by  
the European Union



European  
Research  
Council

# RICONTRANS

<https://ricontrans-project.eu/>

- ❑ RICONTRANS – Visual Culture, Piety and Propaganda: Transfer and Reception of Russian Religious Art in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean (16th – early 20th c.)
  - ERC Consolidator Grant (**May 2019 – April 2024**, Grant agreement ID: 818791)
- ❑ Field: **Art History**
- ❑ Principal Investigator: **Yuliana Boycheva**
  - Centre of Art History "El Greco", **Institute of Mediterranean Studies** - FORTH
- ❑ Partners
  - The Benaki Museum (**Greece**)
  - Department of History of Art / University of Belgrade (**Serbia**)
  - National Museum of the Union (**Romania**)
  - Institute of Balkan Studies & Center of Thracology / Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (**Bulgaria**)
  - Research Center "Episteme in Motion" / Free University of Berlin (**Germany**)
  - **Centre for Cultural Informatics / Institute of Computer Science – FORTH**

RICONTRANS


# RICONTRANS – The research focus

- The **Russian religious artefacts** (icons and ecclesiastical furnishings) brought from Russia to the Balkans from the 16<sup>th</sup> until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, preserved in monasteries, churches, and museums
  - What are the paths and the mediums of their transfers as well as the moving factors?
  - What are the aesthetic, ideological, political and social factors that shaped the context of their reception in the various social and cultural environments?
  - What is their influence on the visual culture of the host societies?
- Collection of primary and secondary **sources** in large regions of Europe:
  - Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania and Russia

# RICONTRANS – The data

- ❑ (Meta)data about:
  - Art objects (Icons, Triptychs, Crosses, Censers, ...)
    - ❖ **Inscriptions, decorations and stamps are of high interest!**
  - Object transfers (e.g., transfers of icons from Russia to Greece)
  - Historical figures (Archbishops, Priests, Emperors, Saints, ...)
  - Locations (Cities, Villages, Monasteries, Churches, Museums, ...)
- ❑ Information Sources
  - Archival sources / Oral History Sources
  - Old books / newspapers
  - Periodicals / Reviews
- ❑ Research data and knowledge
  - Researcher comments, research findings, ...
- ❑ Digital files
  - Images, Scans, Documents (PDFs / DOCs), ...

# Documentation using the **SYNTHESIS** system



**RICONTRANS**

VISUAL CULTURE, PIETY  
AND PROPAGANDA:  
TRANSFER AND RECEPTION OF  
RUSSIAN RELIGIOUS ART IN THE BALKANS  
AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN  
(16TH – EARLY 20TH C.)

Διαχειριστής Admin

**Synthesis**  
Cultural Information Management System

**Objects and Transfers**

**Objects**

Object Transfers

Routes

**Sources**

Archival Sources

Books

Newspapers and  
Periodicals/Reviews

Oral History Sources

Web Sources

**Related Bibliography**

Bibliography

**Passages and Comments**

Source Passages

Collection of Source  
Passages

Researcher Comments

+ 👁 📄 📍 More ▾



🔍 Search ▾

**Objects**

Showing: All

🔄 Filter Table

Showing **10** ▾ entries

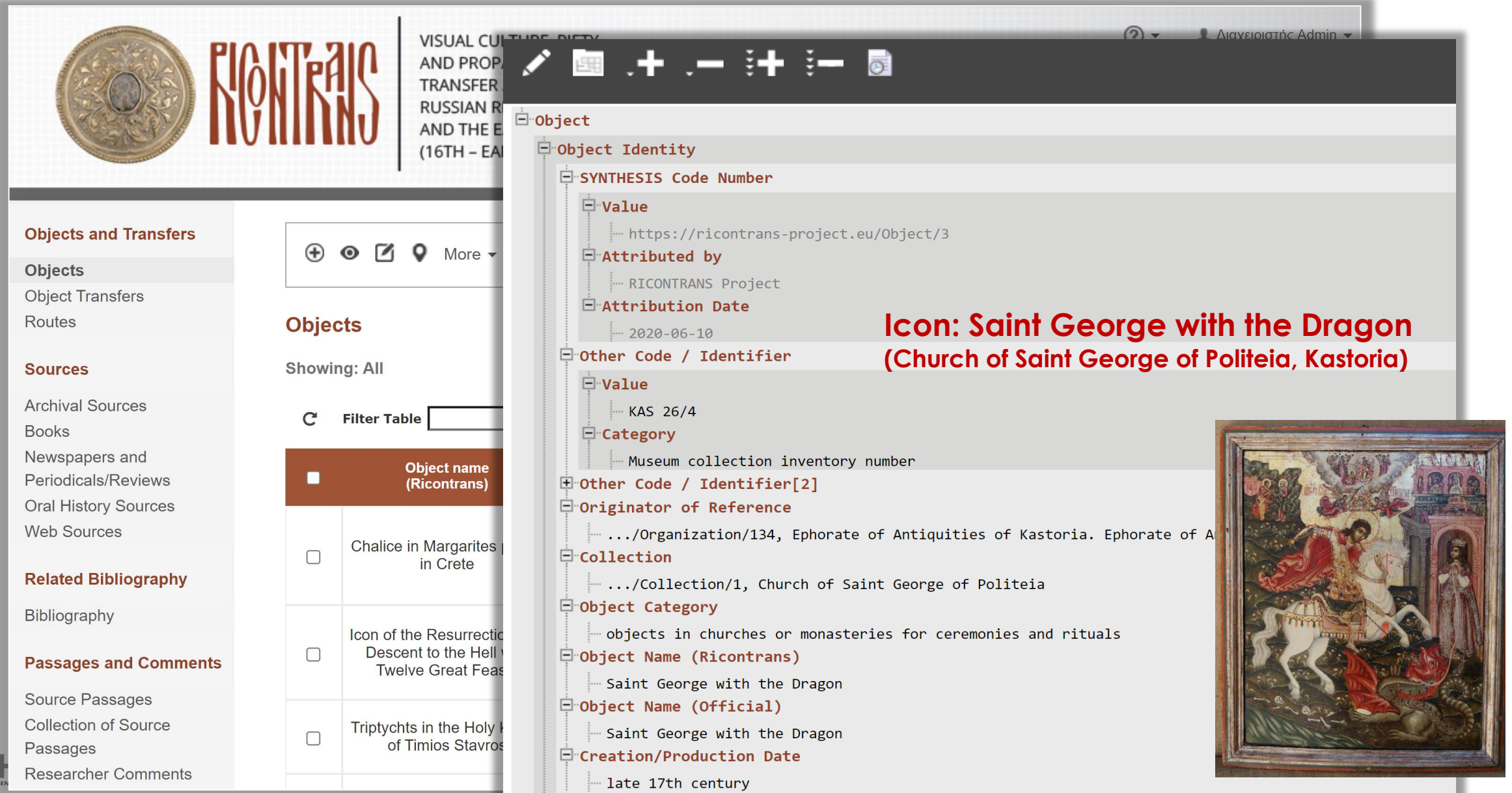
<input type="checkbox"/>	Object name (Ricontrans) ▾	Originator of Reference ▾	Current Location ▾	Archive ▾	Creator ▾	Card Status ▾	Id ▾	▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalice in Margarites parish in Crete	.../Organization/225, Parish of Margarites village, Rethymno	.../Location/81, Margarites, Rethymno		katopi	unpublished	Object/10	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Icon of the Resurrection and Descent to the Hell with Twelve Great Feasts	.../Organization/146, Byzantine museum Kastoria	.../Location/79, Byzantine museum Kastoria		maltezak	unpublished	Object/100	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Triptychs in the Holy kalyve of Timios Stavros		.../Location/986, Holy Kalyve of Timios Stavros		seraidari	unpublished	Object/1002	

# Documentation using the **SYNTHESIS** system

## □ Current usage stats

- 38 users (10 institutions, 5 countries)
- 1084 objects
- 367 object transfers
- 150 archival sources
- 46 books
- 92 newspapers and periodicals/Reviews
- 3 oral history sources
- 55 web sources
- 520 source passages
- 203 historical figures
- 33 historical events
- 487 locations
- 390 organisations

# Documentation using the **SYNTHESIS** system



The image shows a screenshot of the RICONTRANS website interface. The top left features the RICONTRANS logo and a circular emblem. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar with navigation menus and a central content area. The sidebar includes sections for 'Objects and Transfers', 'Sources', 'Related Bibliography', and 'Passages and Comments'. The central content area displays a list of objects under the heading 'Objects', with a 'Filter Table' and a table listing object names. A detailed view of an object is shown on the right, displaying its metadata in a tree structure. The object is identified as 'Icon: Saint George with the Dragon (Church of Saint George of Politeia, Kastoria)'. The metadata includes the SYNTHESIS Code Number, Value, Attribution Date, Other Code / Identifier, Originator of Reference, Collection, Object Category, Object Name (Ricontrans), Object Name (Official), and Creation/Production Date.

**Icon: Saint George with the Dragon  
(Church of Saint George of Politeia, Kastoria)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Object name (Ricontrans)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalice in Margarites in Crete
<input type="checkbox"/>	Icon of the Resurrection Descent to the Hell Twelve Great Feas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Triptychs in the Holy H of Timios Stavros

```
Object
├── Object Identity
│   ├── SYNTHESIS Code Number
│   │   └── Value
│   │       └── https://ricontrans-project.eu/Object/3
│   ├── Attributed by
│   │   └── RICONTRANS Project
│   └── Attribution Date
│       └── 2020-06-10
├── Other Code / Identifier
│   └── Value
│       └── KAS 26/4
│   └── Category
│       └── Museum collection inventory number
├── Other Code / Identifier[2]
├── Originator of Reference
│   └── .../Organization/134, Ephorate of Antiquities of Kastoria. Ephorate of A
├── Collection
│   └── .../Collection/1, Church of Saint George of Politeia
├── Object Category
│   └── objects in churches or monasteries for ceremonies and rituals
├── Object Name (Ricontrans)
│   └── Saint George with the Dragon
├── Object Name (Official)
│   └── Saint George with the Dragon
├── Creation/Production Date
│   └── late 17th century
```



# Documenting information about an **inscription**

- Inscriptions
  - Inscription
    - Inscription Position
      - on the front top center part
    - Inscription Content
      - Inscription Script
        - ОБРАЗ С[ВЯ]ТΩ[ГО] велико МУЧЕНИКА ГЕОРГИЯ победоносца
      - + Inscription Edition
      - Inscription Language
        - Church Slavonic
      - Inscription Transliteration (suggested format: Byzantine Publications / Dumbarton Oaks Papers)
        - GOSPOD VSEDERGITEL BLAGOSLOVI GD M GEORGIYA NA POBEDU [NAD ZMIEM]  
[...]GRADA NAVERU TC[A]RYA I LYUDI ([...])
      - + Inscription Translation
      - + Inscription Representation
      - + Inscription Source Of Content
    - + Inscription Referenced Data/Information
    - Inscription Type
      - Identifying figure/figures
    - Inscription Technique
      - painting
    - Inscription Material
      - tempera
    - Inscription Condition
      - good
    - + Inscription Creation Date
    - + Inscription - Comments

**Icon: Saint George with the Dragon  
(Church of Saint George of Politeia, Kastoria)**





# Documenting information about an **inscription**

## Inscription

### Inscription Position

around the rim

### Inscription Content

#### Inscription Script

+ΤΑΠΕΙΝΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΕΛΑΣΟΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΩΝ ΑΡΧΑΓΓΕΛΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΜΟΣΧΟΒΙΑΣ ΑΡΣΕΝΙΟΣ ΣΤΕΛΛΩ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΡΟΝ ΔΙΣΚΟΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΜΟΝΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΟΝΟΜΑΖΟΜΕΝΗΝ ΒΑΡΛΑΑΜ ΠΛΗΣΙΟΝ ΜΕΤΕΩΡΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΡΩΣΙΑΣ, ζρζ'

#### + Inscription Edition

#### Inscription Language

Greek

#### Inscription Transliteration (suggested format: Byzantine Publications / Dumbarton Oaks Papers)

+ΤΑΠΕΙΝΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΕΛΑΣΟΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΧΑΓΓΕΛΛΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΜΟΣΧΟΒΙΑΣ ΣΤΕΛΛΩ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΡΟΝ ΔΙΣΚΟΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΜΟΝΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΟΝΟΜΑΖΟΜΕΝΗΝ ΒΑΡΛΑΑΜ ΠΛΗΣΙΟΝ ΜΕΤΕΩΡΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΡΩΣΙΑΣ, ζρζ'

#### Inscription Translation

+ I, ARSENIOS, HUMBLE ARCHBISHOP OF ELASSONA AND OF THE ARCHANGELS CATHEDRAL OF GREAT MOSCOW, I AM SENDING THE PRESENT PATEN FROM RUSSIA TO THE MONASTERY OF HAGION PANTON, CALLED VARLAAM, NEAR METEORA, ζρζ'

#### Inscription Representation

##### Photo

##### Link

.../DigitalObject/3, Varlaam Monastery Silver Disk

##### + Comments

##### + Drawing

**Silver Paten**  
(Holy Monastery of  
Varlaam, Meteora)

