



Biographie-Portal

Biography Portal (www.biographie-portal.eu): European National Biographies Online
(by Marco Jorio)

Since 2009, the Biography Portal (www.biographie-portal.eu) has offered access to some 120'000 historically significant persons and families of central European background. Transgressing political and linguistic boundaries, the online source touches on all ages from ancient to contemporary times.

The Biography Portal relates to almost every aspect of public life such as politics, economy, engineering, science, arts and culture. It not only aims to reach professionals like academics, librarians or journalists but also the historically interested public. A common IT platform connects the registers of four comprehensive national encyclopedias, i.e. the *New German Biography* (*Neue Deutsche Biographie, NDB*) and its predecessor the *Universal German Biography* (*Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie, ADB*), the *Austrian Dictionary of Biography 1815-1950* (*Österreichisches Biographisches Lexikon 1815-1950, ÖBL*) and the *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* (*Historisches Lexikon der Schweiz, HLS*). Professional editorial offices guarantee scientifically sound articles, which can be accessed free of charge.

An online service aimed at professionals, The Biography Portal is a temporary unlimited joint cooperation between the Bavarian State Library (Munich Digitisation Centre), the Historical Commission at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities (NDB/ADB), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖBL) and the foundation Historical Dictionary of Switzerland (HLS).

Based on the English and German version of the common IT platform, which had been presented to the public 6 July 2009, the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland developed an extended French and Italian version. The release event for this multilingual platform, including some 17'500 French and

about the same number of Italian entries of the HLS, took place on 25 November 2009 at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna.

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