

# DC-NET: a European Network for Digital Cultural Heritage Research

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# DC-NET in a glance

- DC-NET is an ERA-NET - Coordination action contributing to the European Research Area Network
- Research field: e-infrastructure for the digital cultural heritage
- Duration: 24 months
- Starting December 2009

# State of the art

- The cultural sector demonstrated **interest and capacity to engage with ICT**:
  - to communicate cultural information and content
  - to promote and valorise the heritage collections
  - to make research on cultural heritage
  - to generate innovative educational products
- **However**:
  - The technology which is in use is often limited and limiting
  - There is little or no use of e-Infrastructures

# Concept

- To develop and to strengthen the **co-ordination of public research programmes** in the sector of **digital cultural heritage** and **e-Infrastructures**, across Europe and beyond
- To **integrate the research capacities** of the participant countries:
  - Identify communalities
  - Valorise existing projects
  - Harmonise national programmes
- To prepare a **plan of joint activities** to deploy a wide, comprehensive and federated European e-Infrastructure for digital cultural heritage, by **integrating existing resources**

# Objectives

- To create a **place for the dialog** between the community of the digital cultural heritage and the e-Infrastructures, generating a common awareness of the reciprocal research items
- To involve all the **relevant stakeholders** through a programme of seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences
- To **enlarge the network** to involve all the countries who are willing to join DC-NET
- To create a **joint commitment** among the participating countries to initiate the implementation of the joint activities plan

# Building blocks



- **MINERVA and MICHAEL**
- *ICT research projects*: Caspar, Diligent, Delos, Bricks, Digital Preservation Europe, Imagination, Multimatch, DL.ORG, etc.
- *eContent projects*: ATHENA, EuropeanaLocal, etc
- *National initiatives*: CulturalItalia, BAM, CultureFrance, etc.
- *eInfrastructure projects*,: Driver, Dariah, etc.  
and naturally Europeana

# Partners

- **Italy**: Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali - Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico (coordinator)
- **Belgium**: Politique scientifique fédéral/Federaal Wetenschapsbeleid - STIS
- **Estonia**: Eesti Vabariigi Kultuuriministeerium
- **France**: Ministère de la Culture e la Communication – Mission de la Recherche
- **Greece**: Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού [Hellenic Ministry of Culture]
- **Hungary**: Oktatási Kulturális Minisztérium
- **Slovenia**: Ministrstvo za Kulturo Slovenia
- **Sweden**: Riksarchivet

# Research topics

Research on cultural heritage can benefit from the use of the e-Infrastructures in many areas:

- Standards and metadata
- Automatic extraction of knowledge
- Protocols for interoperability
- Empowered search engines (e.g. metadata pre-processing),
- Advanced repositories architectures
- Digital preservation
- Rights management, identity management
- Use and re-use of content
- Secure access and identity management
- Advance services to access inventories and collections



# Project Activities 1/2

## Network of common interest:

- Establish the network, define procedures and planning of the working groups, identify the initial set of research priorities

## e-Infrastructure awareness:

- Explore the e-Infrastructures available in each Member State, the policies, programmes and regulations which govern the access to the e-Infrastructures and the mechanisms and technical standards that need to be complied with
- Establish operative liaisons with National Research and Educational Networks (NREN) and GRID providers (**Memoranda of Understanding**)

## Dissemination:

- Technical and policy workshops
- Presidential conferences in Belgium and Hungary
- Publications: e-Infrastructure Handbook and Technical Reference
- website

# Project Activities 2/2

## New service priorities:

- Review the research priorities of the cultural ministries in terms of the new services which they wish to deliver using the e-Infrastructures

## Validation

- Evaluate **technical feasibility, cost and sustainability** for the implementation of the digital cultural heritage e-Infrastructure

## Joint Activities Plan:

- To draw up a **Joint Research Agenda** for digital cultural heritage using e-Infrastructures
- To commit on the implementation of a **Plan of Joint Activities**, to be carried out after the EC project funding.

# Joint Activities Plan

The **core** of the joint activities will be based on 3 main components:

1. The development of a range of **guidelines and recommendations** for the exploitation of the e-Infrastructures in the digital cultural heritage, based on the successful approach of **MINERVA**
2. The deployment of a **data and services infrastructure**. This e-infrastructure is an evolution of **MICHAEL**
3. The creation of a **Multidisciplinary Virtual Research Community** that will start to work in DC-NET.

# Impact

- Impact on **e-Infrastructures**:
  - Foster new use of the e-Infrastructures by the digital cultural heritage community
- Impact on **European and national cultural heritage programmes**:
  - Creation of new advanced services and applications
- Impact on **cultural heritage research**
  - Awareness, shared guidelines, common standards
- Impact on the **general public**:
  - Online museums, libraries and archives more accessible, usable and re-usable for education, cultural tourism, long-life learning, non-professional cultural interests, ...

# Next steps

- **End of January: public launch event in Rome**
- Rich programme of **workshops** to be attended by experts in France, Estonia, Greece and Slovenia
- October 2010: International conference in Brussels, under the Belgium Presidency of the EU
- June 2011: International conference in Budapest, under the Hungarian Presidency of the EU
- December 2010: publication of the **eInfrastructure Handbook** - e- Infrastructure facilities and contacts in each country
- March 2011: publication of the **eInfrastructure Technical Reference** - practical guideline on the implementation of digital cultural heritage e-Infrastructures

**Thank you for your kind  
attention!**

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