



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

Rosette Vandenbroucke

SIST-DWTI, Belgium



# DC-NET in a glance

- DC-NET is an ERA-NET aiming to the coordination of programmes
- Research field: e-infrastructures for the digital cultural heritage
- Duration: 24 months
- Starting 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009
- How to use existing e-infrastructures by Digital Heritage organisations and specify requirements for new services
- Define research priorities according to e-infrastructure availability



# Partners:

## 7 Ministries from 7 EU countries

- **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

(\*) in Belgium & Sweden partners were delegated from their respective national/regional



# The state of the art

## **The last 10 years have been devoted to:**

- initiate the mass digitization in Europe
- develop a common platform of standards and recommendation for digitization
- create portals and websites

## **The current challenges:**

- To reduce cost of digitization and to increase volume of data to a real “critical mass”
- To create advanced services for access, use, re-use and preservation of digital content
- To integrate different sources of data into a common infrastructure for research and citizens



## RECOMMENDATION & GUIDELINES



**DATA MODEL,  
ORGANISATION,  
GOVERNANCE**

## DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES & DEPLOYMENT OF SERVICES



**DIGITAL CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
e-INFRASTRUCTURE**

**NATIONAL & REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

2002

2005

2009

2011



# DC-NET overall strategy

## Three main directions:

- I. to bring people together and to establish a **dialogue** between the Cultural Heritage and the ICT  
(*working groups, international conferences & publications*)
- II. to explore how e-Infrastructures can **add value** to the research in the digital cultural heritage and to anticipate a range of services (*focused seminars and workshops*)
- III. to develop and to **endorse a Joint Plan of Activities**  
(*commitment from the stakeholders*)



# e-Infrastructures and DCH communication (1)

- Questionnaire to be filled out by e-Infrastructure providers
  - What do you offer for which price
- Questionnaire to be filled out by DCH organisations
  - What e-infrastuctures do you use ?
  - Which e-infrastructure services do yo need?



# e-Infrastructures and DCH communication (2)

- Networking e-Infrastructures (national providers, classical NRENs + others)
- Computing e-infrastructures (NGIs, HPC providers)
- Data Infrastructures



# e-Infrastructures and DCH communication (3)

- Networking: still challenges qua connection and bandwidth (between organisations nationally and internationally, between DCH organisations and the public, ...) but in general these problems can be solved
- Computing infrastructures: unknown by DCH organisations, offers from computing infrastructures are not always available or clear



# e-Infrastructures and DCH communication (4)

- Data Infrastructures
  - Almost a complete void



# Data Infrastructure (1)

Needs are high:

- amount of data is growing
- long term preservation



## Data Infrastructure (2)

- knowledge of data storage and management is often not available at DCH organisations
  - physical storage/backups
  - where to locate the data regarding to computing needs
  - responsibility/ownership of data
  - identity management, secure access



## ... And more

- Standards and metadata
- Automatic extraction of knowledge
- Protocols for interoperability
- Empowered search engines for complex data
- Advanced repositories architectures
- Rights management
- Use and re-use of content
- Advanced services for collections management
- Multilingualism
- Linked data and persistent identifiers



## But life sometimes is less difficult

- Excellent Data Management Report from e-IRG
- Other European projects having the same or like requirements
  - sometimes difficult to really cooperate – share information (project has its own deliverables, not enough person power to take some extra work, ...)
  - when project finished , no organised structure left
- Sustainable organisations (ERIC or other)
  - Will help cooperation, common tools for data management,
  - Interoperability, metadata, ...



# Thank you for your attention

[www.dc-net.org](http://www.dc-net.org)  
[info@dc-net.org](mailto:info@dc-net.org)