



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

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Content overview

- The starting point
- Scope and objectives
- The concept of the initiative
- Impacts



The current scenario

- The cultural sector has a strong **interest and capacity to engage with ICT**:
 - Digitisation, producing large volumes of data
 - Preservation, need of storage capacity
 - Access services, demand for computing and networking power
 - etc.
- **However**:
 - The technology which is in use is often limited and limiting
 - There is little or no use of e-Infrastructures

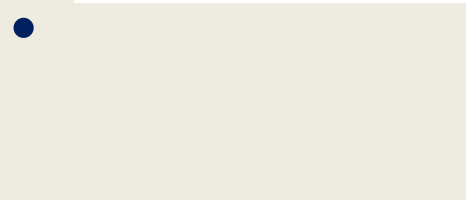
The state of the art



MINERVA: platform of shared recommendations and guidelines



MICHAEL: multilingual access service to European digital cultural collections - network and organisation model



IST technological components (DELOS, BRICKS, IMAGINATION, MULTIMATCH, DPE, ...)



e-Infrastructure software platforms (DRIVER, ...)



e-Infrastructure providers (NREN, GRID, ...)



Networking in Europe

- The legacy of the NRG: a network of Ministries of Culture working at strategic and political levels
 - (e.g. Lund Action Plan and Dynamic Action Plan)
- The legacy of MINERVA and ATHENA: a network of cultural institutions working at technical level
 - (recommendations and guidelines)
- The legacy of MICHAEL: a network of competence centres working on surveying cataloguing and access
- Stakeholders of national/thematic portals
- Links (still “fragmented”) between culture and ICT
 - (e.g. SBN/GARR, Culturalitalia/SNS, etc.)



Scope and objectives

- To foster the **cooperation between the cultural sector and technology and infrastructure** providers
- To harmonise the European initiatives into a **shared strategy** for the digital cultural heritage
- To translate the strategic road map into **coordinated programmes and action plans**
- To plan the construction of the **DC-NET e-Infrastructure** for the multidisciplinary research in the digital cultural heritage
- To involve the **stakeholders** for the implementation of the e-Infrastructure



The project approach

The project is articulated in 4 main lines

- **Integration** of the research
- **Research priorities** to be refocused
- **Co-ordination** of national and EU programmes
- **Development of a joint activities plan** and partners commitment



Integration of the research

- To create (and to continue where already existing) conditions and instruments for a **stable cooperation**:
 - among cultural institutions in Europe,
 - between cultural sector and e-Infrastructure/ICT research
- To valorise **existing resources**: content, technologies and operational models
 - MICHAEL and MINERVA
 - *eInfrastructure projects*
 - *ICT research projects*
 - *eContent projects*
 - *National initiatives and portals*



Research priorities

*In the last 2 years priorities of the digital cultural heritage shifted **from** digitisation **to** creation of portals (Europeana and the national portals).*

It is now necessary to refocus the research priorities on production and management of digital content:

- Cost reduction and mass digitisation
- Empowered search engines
- Automatic knowledge extraction and representation
- Multilingualism
- Preservation
- etc.

→ This requires to reinforce the cooperation between the cultural and the ICT research sector



Coordination of programmes

- To build a **common strategic vision** for e-Infrastructure development in the digital cultural heritage
- To re-launch a “think-tank”, **where Ministries can discuss harmonisation of programmes and coordination of initiatives**
- To develop and endorse a **research agenda** for a European e-Infrastructure in the digital cultural heritage, shared among the Member States and the European Commission

→ THE DC-NET JOINT ACTIVITIES PLAN



Joint Activities Plan

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

1. development of **guidelines and recommendations** for exploitation of e-Infrastructures in the digital cultural heritage, based on the successful approach of **MINERVA**
2. deployment of a **data and services infrastructure**: an evolution of **MICHAEL**
3. creation of a **Multidisciplinary Virtual Research Community** starting to work in DC-NET on communication training and long term implementation



Impacts

- Impact on the **e-Infrastructures**:
 - The adoption of the e-Infrastructures by the digital cultural heritage community will open new scenarios of use and exploitation
- Impact on the **cultural heritage**:
 - Cultural managers will become more aware about the potential of e-infrastructures on their work
- Impact on **European research**:
 - A better integration between the cultural sector and e-Infrastructures will enable the research on advanced services and applications
- Impact on the **social life**:
 - Digital cultural content will become more usable and re-usable for education, cultural tourism, long-life learning, non-professional cultural interests, ...



Thank you for your attention

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