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

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DC-net

- Digital Cultural heritage NETwork

  ERA-NET supporting cooperation for research infrastructure in the digital cultural heritage field

- Coordination actions contributing to the creation of the European Research Area Network

- 24 months

- Starting December 2009 / January 2010

Concept

- To develop and to strengthen the **co-ordination of public research programmes in the sector of digital cultural heritage** across Europe

- **To integrate the research capacities** of the participant countries:

  – Identifying their communalities

  – Valorising existing programmes and projects

  – Deploying a wide and comprehensive **European e-Infrastructure for digital cultural heritage**, by integrating existing resources

Objectives

- – To foster the **research of multidisciplinary communities**
- – To involve all the **relevant stakeholders** through a programme of seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences
- – To generate a **plan of joint activities** for e-Infrastructure-enabled research in the sector of digital cultural heritage, and to initiate the activities.

Building blocks

- Digital cultural heritage networks and projects (MINERVA, Bricks, Digital Preservation Europe, Imagination, Multimatch, Europeana, Driver, …)

- **MICHAEL**

State of the art

- The cultural sector demonstrated the eagerness 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,
  - etc.

- However:
  - The technology which is in use is often limited and limiting
  - There is little or no use of e-Infrastructures

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 Recherce
- **Greece**: Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού [Hellenic Ministry of Culture]
- **Hungary**: Oktatási Kulturális Minisztérium
- **Slovenia**: Ministrstvo za Kulturo Slovenia
- **Sweden**: Riksarchiviet

Activities - I

Network of common interest:

- Establish the network and working groups

- Define procedures and precise planning

- **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 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

Dissemination:

- Raising awareness of e-Infrastructures, their priorities and constraints, in the cultural heritage community, as well as vice versa

- 2 Presidential conferences in Belgium and Hungary

Activities - II

New service priorities:

- Research priorities of the cultural ministries are reviewed, in terms of the new services which they wish to deliver using the e-Infrastructures

- How e-Infrastructures can be used to create innovative services

- Evaluate feasibility, cost, perceived value, impact V/S available resources, services and e-Infrastructures in each Member State.

Joint Activities Plan:

- The consortium will draw up a Joint Activities Plan for digital cultural heritage research using e-Infrastructures

- The partners will commit on the implementation of the next steps, beyond the EC project funding.

Research topics

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

Joint Activities Plan

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

- The development of a range of guidelines and recommendations for the exploitation of the e-Infrastructures in the digital cultural heritage
- The deployment of a data and services infrastructure. This e-infrastructure is an evolution of **MICHAEL**
- The creation of a Virtual Research Community that will start in DC-NET with dissemination, awareness and training initiatives.

Impact

- **Impact on the e-Infrastructures**:
  - Their use by the digital cultural heritage community is stimulated
- **Impact on European and national cultural heritage programmes**:
  - new advanced services and applications
- **Impact on cultural heritage researchers, experts and professionals**
- **Impact on the general public**:
  - Online museums, libraries and archives will be taken up by the large majority of the population.

Thank you for your kind attention!

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