



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

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- **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 Recherche
- **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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