

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

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Istituto centrale per il catalogo unico delle biblioteche italiane



The Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries (ICCU)

- is the national center which promotes and coordinates cataloguing and digitisation activities of the Italian libraries
- is a body of the Italian Ministry for cultural heritage and activities
- is responsible for guiding, producing, adapting and disseminating the standard rules for cataloguing and digitisation of the library heritage.

ICCU Departments and Activities

ICCU is structured in **2 services** and **6 Departments**

1. Administrative Service
2. Service for the cultural promotion

Projects:

- Internet Culturale
- Cultura Italia
- Europeana (Italian partic.)
- World Digital Library (Italian partic.)
- European projects

1. Standards rules for cataloguing and digitisation
2. National Library Service (SBN)
3. Bibliographic information and activities for the Registry of the Italian library
4. Digitalisations and for the access to documents
5. Activities concerning bibliography, cataloguing and census of the ancient book
6. Census and management of the Italian bibliography of manuscripts

The European scenario: JPI

Joint programming initiative on Cultural Heritage chaired by Italy. The approach:

To involve Member States, engaging on a variable-geometry basis, in:

- defining,
- developing and
- implementing **strategic research agendas**

"Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a new challenge for Europe" - EC Recommendation
26/4/2010

JPI endorsement of DC-NET

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e-Infrastructures for Cultural Heritage
Brussels, 29 October 2010



The current situation

JPI (Joint programming initiative)
Cultural Heritage

NET-HERITAGE



Tangible
Cultural Heritage

DC-NET



Digital
Cultural Heritage

INDICATE



Digital Cultural
Heritage in the
Mediterranean Area

DC-NET in a glance

- DC-NET is an ERA-NET - Coordination action contributing to the European Research Area
- Research field: e-infrastructure for the digital cultural heritage
- Duration: 24 months
- Starting 1st December 2009

DC-NET partners

- Endorsed by JPI on cultural heritage and global change
- Coordinated by MiBAC-ICCU
- Partners:

(*) Belgium: Federal Scientific Policy- STIS

Estonia: Ministry of Culture

France: Ministry of Culture

Greece: Ministry of Culture

Hungary: Ministry of Culture

Slovenia: Ministry of Culture

(*) Sweden: Riksarchivet

(*) in Belgium & Sweden partners were appointed by their Ministries

Where do we come from

A long story of joint efforts among EU Member States:

- Brussels Quality Framework 2001
- Lund Action Plan 2001
- National Representatives Group 2002-2007
- Charter of Parma 2003
- Minerva, 2002-2008 still a reality for EU cultural institutions
- Michael, 2004-2008 the largest investment of IMS in DCH

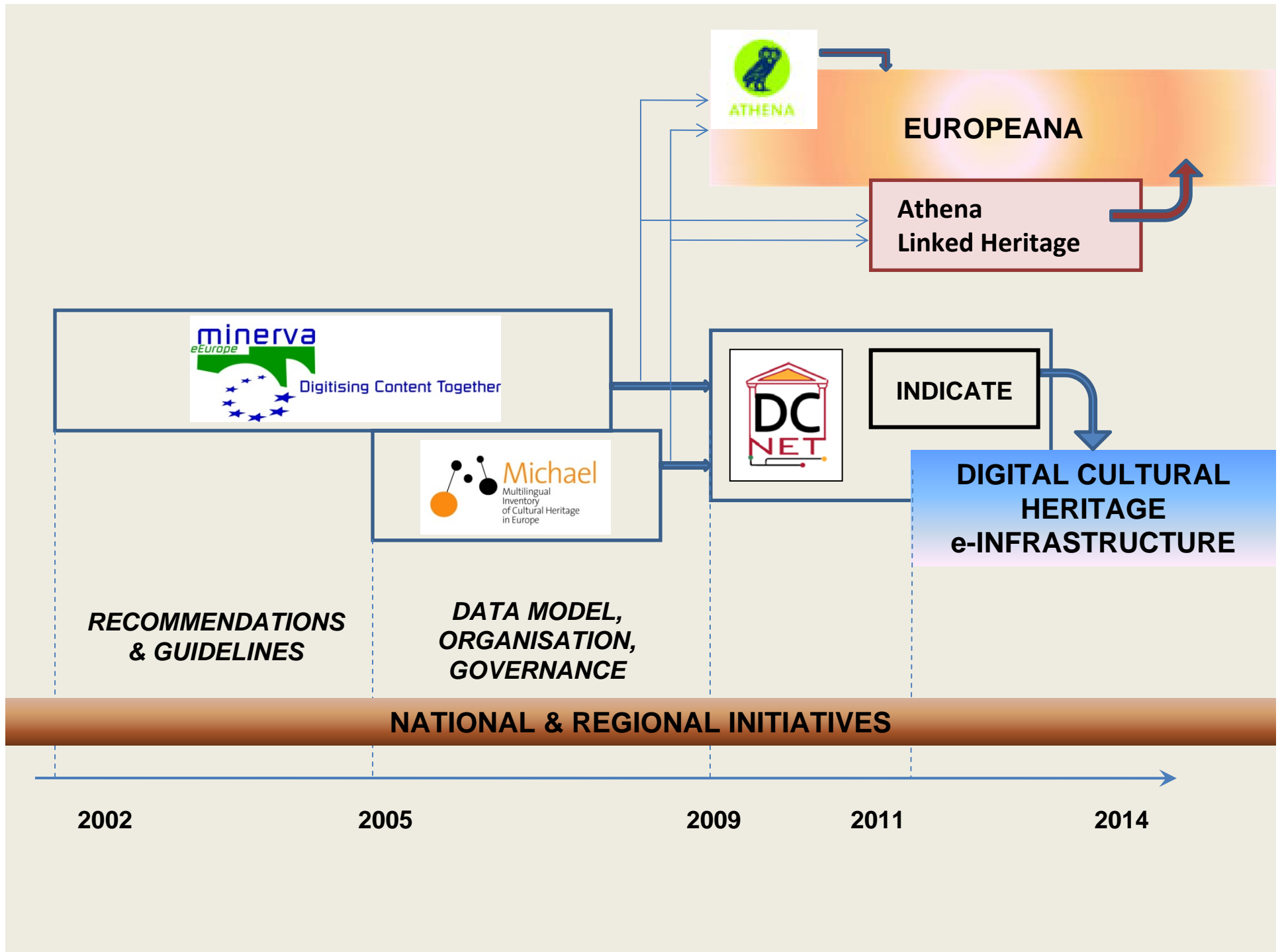


- Member States Experts Group and the support to
Europeanana, 2007-...

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Positioning of DC-NET

- All the Members of DC-NET sit in the **MSEG**
- MCC, partner of DC-NET and President of MICHAEL, sits on the **Executive Board of Europeana Foundation**
- Delegate of ICCU sits in the **Advisory Board of DARIAH**
- STIS, partner of DC-NET, sits in the **Board of ESFRI**
- The Director of ICCU, coordinator of DC-NET, sits in the **Task force of Digital**

Political dimension

The implementation of the DC-NET research infrastructure relies on **political endorsement through the JPI**, and should be developed into two complementary directions:

–within the cultural heritage community, through **policy coordination**

–within the research community, by the inclusion of the digital cultural heritage as one component of the national and European **Research Roadmaps**

The starting point

- The cultural sector has a strong interest and capacity to engage with ICT:
 - Digitisation and preservation
 - Access services
 - Research
- **However:**
 - The technology which is in use is often limited and limiting
 - There is little or no use of e-Infrastructures

Our vision

- To implement the **data and service infrastructure** for the research in the digital cultural heritage
- To further develop the **national/regional frameworks** of cooperation with content providers (that is the legacy of MICHAEL)
- To secure the **committment of the stakeholders** to sustain the infrastructure on a medium-long term

Scope and objectives of DC-NET

- To foster cooperation between cultural sector, research bodies and technology and infrastructure providers
- To harmonise initiatives of the EU Ministries of Culture into a common strategy for the digital cultural heritage
- To develop and to endorse a research agenda for the digital cultural heritage, shared among the MS and the EC
- To translate the strategic road map into coordinated programmes and action plans

The project approach

- Integration of the research
- Research priorities
- Co-ordination of national and EU programmes
- Development of a plan of joint activities and commitment of the partners to carry it out
- Dissemination and training

Research priorities

Refocus the research priorities of the digital cultural heritage in Europe on the production, management and access to digital content:

- Cost reduction
- Sustainability
- Multilingualism
- Search engines
- Preservation
- Metadata and linked data
- Interoperability
- etc.

→ Cooperation between cultural, research and e-Infrastructures sectors



Joint Activities Plan

1. Developing 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. Implementing of a data and services infrastructure for the digital cultural heritage. This e-infrastructure is an evolution of **MICHAEL**
3. Creating a multidisciplinary virtual research community that will start to work in DC-NET.

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The virtual research community

The cultural sector meets technology providers

- Cultural Institutions (museums, libraries, archives, audio-visual, archaeology..)
- Central Institutes representing the national/regional authorities (standardisation & cataloguing, preservation, restoration, etc.)
- Ministries of culture
- Regional local cultural bodies

MEET WITH

- Universities and academies
- Ministries of research
- NREN
- Other e-Infrastructures (e.g. Grid)
- R&D enterprises
- Public research centers



Sustainability of the DC-NET e-Infrastructure

National programmes in the areas of

- Research
- Cultural heritage
- Innovation & e-government

European programmes

- Infrastructures
- ICT
- CIP

Regional programmes

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 that the e-infrastructures can offer to their work
- **Impact on European research:**
 - A better integration of the cultural sector with the e-Infrastructures will enable the research of new advanced services and applications
- **Impact on the general public:**
 - Digital cultural content will become more usable and re-usable for education, cultural tourism, long-life learning, non-professional cultural interests, ...

What has been done so far

- Establishment of DC-NET working groups in each participating country
- Working groups Terms of reference
- Public and thematic events
- Dissemination:
 - Participation to several third parties events
 - Project website www.dc-net.org

CONTINUE →



What has been done so far

- Study on the Research priorities
 - Networking
 - ICT Research
 - Innovative eServices and pilots
 - Network of competence centres, laboratories, innovation areas and new professional profiles
- Enlargement: several new countries expressed their interest to participate to DC-NET, among them:
 - UK, Collections Trust
 - Poland, ICIMSS
 - Bulgaria, Academy of Science – Central Library
 - Germany, SPK
- Endorsement by the JPI

A new project for the Mediterranean region: INDICATE in a glance

Started 1st September 2010

Coordinator: MiBAC-ICCU

Participants from:

French Ministry of Culture

Slovenia – Governmental agency for preservation of cultural heritage

National Technical University of Athens

i2CAT in Barcelona

E-Infrastructures: GARR and Cometa

Med countries: Jordan, Turkey and Egypt

INDICATE Expected results

Dissemination of DC-Net results in the Mediterranean area

Pilots about use of e-infrastructures for digital cultural heritage: one is the porting of MICHAEL database onto the e-Infrastructure (NTUA)

1 international conference in Egypt to present result of the pilots

3 thematic workshops:

Jordan – virtual exhibitions

Turkey –preservation of digital cultural heritage

Slovenia – geocoded data for cultural heritage

2 publications, summing up results of pilots and workshops

DC-Net nexts appointments

Tallin 13-15/1/2011

e-Infrastructure Concertation meeting

Paris 10-11/2/2011

New services workshop

Budapest 23-24/6/2011

*International conference under the aegis of
the Hungarian Presidency of the EU*

Rome November 2011

DC-NET Final conference

Thank you for your attention

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