

E-Culture Net - IST-2001-37491

Management Report #1

Reporting Period: 01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

06 November 2002

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Maastricht Mc Luhan Institute

Work planned this reporting period:

No work packaged/tasks are due this reporting period, but work is underway with respect to deliverables 1-6.

Work actually carried out:

Work Package 1: Vision and Structure

Responsible partner(s):

Laval Mayenne Technopole (4) and all partners

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/11/2002

Actual dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

Deliverables:

As a preliminary step there were meetings with partners from London, Pisa, Louvain, and Laval (see meetings).

As a first step towards the deliverables Maastricht has revised and expanded the working draft describing the background, vision and structure of E-Culture Net. This has been sent to members some of whom have offered criticisms and corrections (see Appendix 1). The latest draft was written on 26 09 2002. The chief purpose of this document is to offer a framework for comments by all the partners, which will then be discussed during the first conference in December.

A letter of interest for candidature to join EcultureNet within the 6th FP has been drafted. The purpose of this letter is to determine how many individuals within an institution will wish to take part and which of the 3 goals will be their focus.

Estimated achievement: 25 %

The work thus far has brought greater clarity to the three basic goals of E-Culture Net and makes clear how the development of a research matrix will serve as a first practical step in the evolution of a Distributed European Electronic Resource (DEER). There is a sense that progress towards the DEER should proceed on two parallel lines:

- 1) via a bottom-up, inductive approach, making available on-line a series of resources with a coherent set of interfaces
- 2) via a more deductive approach by means of specific integrating projects which will provide a framework for future progress.

Several difficulties or rather matters to be resolved loom ahead:

1) In its present vision the EC envisages that networks will receive support for 5 years and seven as the absolute maximum. Clearly any structure needs regular evaluation to ensure that it is functioning properly. Even so the lack of a constant source of funding raises the perennial problem of permanence, which has been a major problem with EU projects in the past.

2) For the 6th FP the EC has categories such as Cultural Heritage and Leisure (or tourism). E-Culture Net entails these factors but points in fact to a much larger problem of the Knowledge Production Life Cycle. What happens when the categories of reality go beyond narrow categories imposed by the EC? Is funding possible under more than one hat when more than one hat is clearly involved?

3) Related to the above is the question of broadband networks. The present discussions are in terms of c.20 networks with c. \$ 4 million each. This will not cover the infrastructure costs of linking universities and institutes to the GEANT network. Yet such a connection to gigabit networks will be a sine qua non for the emergence of an European Research Area which can hold its own against advanced networks elsewhere such as Internet II, Next Generation Internet and CANARIE.

Work Package 2: Expansion to NAS and Beyond

Responsible partner(s):

Universität Wien (7); Centre PIC () and FHW ()

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/11/2002

Actual dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

Deliverables:

The University of Vienna is working on these but has not yet produced results at this early date.

The Centre PIC (Moscow) has reported that they have a list of some 50 individuals in 40 institutions who are candidates for inclusion within ECulture Net in the 6th FP. The FHW (Athens) has acquired 4 potential new members.

Estimated achievement: 20 %

As noted above Vienna, Moscow and Athens have actively been gathering new members in the NAS area and beyond. A next step will lie in gaining a more precise notion of what these potential candidates would contribute to the network in the 6th FP.

Work Package 3: Research Topics, Methods and Implications

Responsible partner(s):

Maastricht (1) and all Partners

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/06/2003

Actual dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

Deliverables:

To address the question of research topics a provisional list of 110 activities covering the entire Knowledge Production Life Cycle has been made. Members will be provided a template to indicate areas in which they are active and a second template to identify specific networks, organizations, persons, projects, conferences, publications, solutions and standards in that area.

In addition to this a study of the various expressions of interest is being made to examine how these can be integrated into the vision that is emerging.

One of the most interesting developments was a meeting with Vice Chancellor David Wallace (Loughborough) at INET 2002 in Arlington on the possibility of extending British plans for an E-Science Grid to include a Culture-Grid. This led to a meeting between VC David Wallace and Professor Manfred Thaller who is one of three individuals working on the German government's digital libraries policy.

Estimated achievement: 5 %

Thus far we have a plan. We are in discussion with a possible programmer to create the templates which will be sent out to all participants in early October. The results of these completed templates will then be collated and lead to a preliminary matrix which will serve as a basis for discussion at the conference in December.

Work Package 4: Requirements and Topics for European Masters

Responsible partner(s):

Scuola Normale Superiore (10); Università de Bologna (); Universidad Complutense de Madrid (13)

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/06/2002

Actual dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

Deliverables:

At the Kickoff Meeting (09/09/2002), Benedetto Benedetti reported that he is working on three pilots in the form of short courses of 2-3 weeks with 7 hours per day at Volterra and Cortona with scholars from all over Europe:

- 1) databases integrating text and images
- 2) processing and managing of materials for conservation and intervention in conjunction with the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, Rome
- 3) museum conservation and exhibition in conjunction with the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Thought is being given to the possible structure of a 400 hour course. Manfred Thaller made the excellent point that this European Masters must have a clear European dimension. Meanwhile, Silvia Filippini (International Institute of Infonomics) will report in December on efforts in the Netherlands and Belgium to create a new kind of practical Masters training at the level of technical universities and colleges (hogescholen).

Estimated achievement: 10 %

See above for a short description of work done.

Work Package 5: Identify and Define Broadband Pilots

Responsible partner(s):

Universidad Complutense de Madrid (13); CINECA (); SCRAN (); NMDC ()

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/06/2003

Actual dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

Deliverables:

Work has begun but there are no concrete results to report at this time.

Estimated achievement: 04 %

Madrid has appointed an individual to do the work, Professor Isidro Moreno. He will coordinate efforts with partners at CINECA, SCRAN, Oxford and NMDC.

Work Package 6: Foundation for Distributed European Electronic Resource (DEER)

Responsible partner(s):

University College London (16); Universität zu Köln (); Media Lab, Helsinki ()

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/06/2003

Actual dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

Deliverables:

Suzanne Keene has provided a first outline for a practical approach to the DEER (Appendix 2). At the kickoff meeting on 9 September Manfred Thaller presented his assistant Torsten Schassan and noted that he plans to include about ten current projects as an initial demo of the potentials of DEER by the end of the first year of E-Culture Net. At that same meeting Lily Diaz committed to producing a logo and some design elements for the web site.

Estimated achievement: 10%

Thus far only a plan of approach has been created. There have been no unexpected difficulties to date.

Work Package 7: Management

Responsible partner(s):

Maastricht McLuhan Institute

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/06/2003

Actual dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/09/2002

Deliverables:

Hannie Spronck is responsible for the day-to-day paperwork involved in the project. Contract agreements have been sent to all members.

In order to keep members informed a series of progress reports have been sent. These are now also available on the members' section of the website.

Estimated achievement: 10 %

There have been no particular difficulties thus far.

Meetings held:

Please See website under Meetings:

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Meetings.htm>

Deliverables completed:

None.

Dissemination activities:

One important method of dissemination lies in the website:

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/>.

Because E-Culture Net has been in a planning phase for the past years, formal lectures on the idea go back at least one year.

Sections in Books

“European Networks of Excellence and Japanese/UNESCO Silk Roads,” *Tokyo Symposium for Digital Silk Roads, UNESCO, National Institute of Informatics, National Center of Sciences, Tokyo, 11-13 December, 2001*, Tokyo: National Institute for Informatics, 2002. pp. 135-145.

“Challenges of Virtual and Digital Culture,” *Congreso Internacional Culturtec 2002, III European Conference: Employment and Cultural Heritage, Economic Development and New Technologies in the Information and Knowledge Society*, Madrid: Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2002, pp. 1-10 (in press).

“European Networks of Excellence and Global Digital Culture,” *EVA-Beijing*, Beijing, April 2002 (in press).

Lectures

Catania, “Lo stato della arte e l'evoluzione delle tecnologie multimediali per la comunicazione del patrimonio culturale,” *Master (Recupero e valorizzazione dei BBCC) della Scuola Superiore di Catania*, 23 September, 2002.

Barcelona, “Keynote: Cross Cultural Problems of Europe in a Global Context,” European Association of Directory and Database Publishers (*EADP*), Rey Juan Carlos Hotel, 19 September, 2002.

Aranguez, "Los Retos del Arte Digital," *Experimentaciones y Emergencias en las Artes Visuales, su Producción y Distribución* (*Experimentations and Emerging Visual Arts, its production and distribution*), Casa del Gobernador, 1 August 2002.

Maastricht, "Keynote: Virtual Museums: From Buildings to Environments," *Amsterdam Maastricht Summer University*, Maastricht McLuhan Insitute, 11-14 July, 2002.

Paris, "Internet Domain Names and Classification Systems: Combining Past Experience with the Future," The First Annual European Internet Domain Name Summit, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris, 2 rue de Viarmes, Paris 1er, 4 July 2002

Madrid, "Opening Keynote: Challenges of Virtual and Digital Culture;" Chair: Round Table on Euro E-CultureNet, Culturtec 2002, 23-25 May 2002.

Beijing, "European Networks of Excellence and Global Digital Culture," EVA 2002 Beijing Electronic Imaging & the Visual Arts, 12-14 April, 2002.
<http://www.eurochina2002.com/bandeau3.htm>

Falun, "Keynote: Frontiers in Digital Interpretation," and "Visions of Networked Culture," Digital Interpretation: To See the Unseen History, 7-9 April 2002.

Rotterdam, Chair: Tafelgesprekken: Ontsluiting, *Expert meeting copyright en digitale cultuur*, V2, Rotterdam, 13 March 2002. www.virtueelplatform.nl

Luxembourg, "E-Content in the Next Five Years", European Commission, 31 January 2001.

Vienna, "Keynote: Augmented Digital Culture and ITS-Network of Centres of Excellence in Europe," *CultH-2 The Future of Digitized Cultural Heritage*, MuseumsQuartier Wien, Museum of Modern Art, Foundation Ludwig, 15 January 2002.

Tokyo, "European Networks of Excellence and Japanese Silk Roads," *Tokyo Symposium for Digital Silk Roads*, UNESCO, National Institute of Informatics, National Center of Sciences, Tokyo, 13 December, 2001. Variant given at the Hitachi Laboratory, Yokohama, 14 December 2001.

Brussels, "Die Möglichkeiten einer neuer Vernetzung der Kultur," *Jahrestagung ICOM-Deutschland 2001*, Koninklijke Armeemuseum, 8 December, 2001.

Vienna, "Keynote: Medien, Sprachen und Integration von Kommunikationsprozessen," *Vielsprachigkeit. Transnationalität, Kulturwissenschaften, Research Institute for Austrian and International Literature and Cultural Studies (INST)*, 7 December 2001.
<http://www.inst.at/termine/saverne.htm>

Moscow, "Cultural Networks: Europe and the World," *EVA Moscow 2001*, 3 December 2001.

Utrecht, "Dutch Networks of Excellence and The European Research Area," *OGC/OSL Symposium, The State of the Art. Geesteswetenschappen en ICT*, Utrecht, 9 November, 2001.

Copenhagen, "Workshop Speaker: Digital Communication of Cultural heritage and International Project Cooperation," Nordic Interactive Conference (NIC, 2001), Bella Conference Centre, 3 November 2001. See: <http://www.nordic-interactive.org/nic2001/>.

Kathmandu, "Culture and the Future of the Internet," Computer Association of Nepal, Russian Cultural Centre, 19 October 2001

Adelaide, "Art in the Age of Computers: How can Culture Survive Global Connectivity?" The Art Link Annual Public Lecture on Contemporary Art, Mercury Cinema, Adelaide, 7 October 2001.

Singapore, "Panel: Realising the Broadband Vision. Repositioning New Media and the Internet," *The 32nd Annual Conference of the International Institute of Communications: Governance and Cyberspace: The Substance after the Sizzle*, 1-4 October 2001.

Cortona, Seven Lectures, *Digital Systems for Publishing and Cultural Heritage Communications Course*, Cortona, 24-25 September 2001.

The Hague, "The Need for a Cultural Grid," *Eerste Nederlandse ICT-Kenniscongres*, 7 September 2001.

Concertation activities:

At the suggestion of the EC the FHW has actively established links between the emerging artnouveau network and ECulture Net.

Problems and decisions:

There have been no particular problems thus far.

Work package completion table:

<i>Work package</i>	<i>% complete current period</i>	<i>% complete previous period</i>
1	20	0
2	20	0
3	5	0
4	10	0
5	5	0
6	10	0
7	10	0

Work planned next reporting period

As reported on the website there have been meetings with the principal partners in order to plan the next steps.