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IST-2001-37491

**European Network of Centres of Excellence for
Research and Education in Digital Culture**

Work Package 7

Management Report #2

Reporting Period: 01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

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<i>Project Number</i>	IST-2001-37491
<i>Project Title</i>	European Network of Centres of Excellence for Research and Education in Digital Culture (E-Culture Net)
<i>Document Type</i>	PU – Public usage of the result
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<i>Title of Document</i>	Management Report #2
<i>Contributing work package</i>	WP7
<i>Nature of Document</i>	Report
<i>Author(s)</i>	Kim H. Veltman, Alexander Bielowski, Hannie Spronck, Frédéric Andres, Gerhard Budin, Benedetto Benedetti, Arturo Colorado, Suzanne Keene, Manfred Thaller, Lily Diaz with input from all members.
<i>Abstract</i>	Reports on activities in months 4-5 of thematic network (October-November 2002).
<i>Keyword list</i>	

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Work planned this reporting period

In the initial plans it was foreseen that deliverables 1-6 would be presented at the end of month four (October), discussed in a first conference in month 5 which would then lead to deliverables 1-7. The date of this initial conference was delayed to the dates 11-14 December for three reasons:

- 1) the beginning date of 1 July meant that the administrations of many academic partners were already absent for their summer break
- 2) the European Commission's Project Officer was absent during the first month of the project due to marriage.
- 3) It was decided that the meeting should not be before the EC announced FP6 which was scheduled for 10 December.

These factors brought an unavoidable delay to the process. The December meeting has taken place exactly as planned and the project is now on track.

Work actually carried out:

Work Package 1: Vision and Structure

Responsible partner(s):

Maastricht McLuhan Institute (1) and all partners

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/11/2002


Actual dates:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

Deliverable 1:

As a preliminary step there were meetings with partners from London, Pisa, Louvain, and Laval (see <http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Meetings.htm>). Maastricht has revised and expanded the working draft describing the background, vision and structure of E-Culture Net. This was sent to members all of whom have offered comments (sometimes simply saying they agree), criticisms and corrections either verbally or in writing (http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/more.htm#_Toc24267125). This document offers a framework for comments by all the partners, which was discussed during the first conference in December.

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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.

In addition 11 of the 15 countries have thus far submitted written documents
<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Internal/deliverables/D1.htm>.

Estimated achievement: 100 %

The work is complete and is being circulated to colleagues for final comment. Inevitably this vision will continue evolve. The work thus far has brought into focus a clear goal:

The vision is to make Europe's culture accessible to all citizens. This multi-lingual, multi-cultural resource will include local, regional and national culture to reflect Europe's unity of diversities.

The main objective of **E-Culture Net** for the 6th Framework is to create a new permanent structure in Europe facing the international economy to focus on the cultural level of the European Community. People have to feel European by means of their common Culture. This requires building a prototype for a Distributed European Electronic Resource (DEER) in the framework of IST (Information Society Technologies) identifying and giving access to our Cultural Heritage in the European Union (including European Policies and the e-Europe Action Plan).

To prepare for this the network will work with others to create a research matrix of the knowledge life cycle. This research matrix will provide a survey of requirements, technologies and solutions. This will lead to a Distributed European Electronic Resource (DEER) and be disseminated through European Masters, Doctorates and training.


There is a sense that 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 and platforms for future progress.

The conference made it clear that the DEER also called Digital Cultural Repository will have four main sections:

- 1) Research and Education
- 2) Public
- 3) Commercial
- 4) International.

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Matters to be resolved:

- 1) 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?
- 2) 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 (9) and FHW (8)

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/11/2002

Actual dates:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

The University of Vienna has produced a detailed report. The Center PIC in Moscow has also produced a detailed report:

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Internal/deliverables/D2.htm>)


of the Russian situation and potentials for development on that front. The FHW has produced a comprehensive report for the Mediterranean, and the US:

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Internal/deliverables/D3.htm>.

Actual dates:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

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Deliverables:

Estimated achievement: 95%;

All that is lacking is the official packaging.

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

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:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

Deliverable 4:

To address the question of research topics a macro level list of the knowledge production cycle has been made:

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

plus a micro level list of 110 activities covering the entire Knowledge Production Life Cycle: <http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/micro.htm>

Some of the key networks and organizations with respect to these have been identified.

Work is proceeding on a template for member 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 was made to examine how these can be integrated into the vision that is emerging. This resulted in a first roadmap and outline of research questions:

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Internal/deliverables/D4MMI.pdf>

This document is serves as a point of departure for both oral and written comments.

Essentially four research topics have emerged which could lead to two or four integrated projects (figure 1).

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- A) Access (and Preservation) to Existing Cultural Knowledge
 - 1) semantic access and knowledge organisation
 - 2) spatio-temporal access with historical-cultural dimensions
- B) Production and Preservation of New Cultural Knowledge
 - 3) collaborative creation with multimodal interfaces
 - 4) personal and collaborative e-learning.

Figure 1. Four initial research topics

A scenario of four integrated projects would look as follows:

DILIGEANT uses virtual reference rooms to link inventories, classifications and thesauri with semantic web technologies to create broadband access for digital libraries in an e-culture grid. This would provisionally entail SEMKOS, AMP in call 1

ACE explores the use of new digital methods for navigating and distributing information on the history and culture of European cities in a variety of media and genres.

CO-CREATE explores how existing digital resources can be combined with new tools to inspire e-creativity in personal and collaborative contexts.

PACE explores how access to cultural resources can lead to new interplay between personal and collaborative learning in the classroom and in continuous educational environments.


A more detailed outline of these potential projects is available via the key words content, creativity and learning in figure 1 of the website:http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/figure1_map.htm.

While this roadmap the four projects would lead to a united vision, at the conference it was agreed that E-Culture net's strategy cannot be dependent on the acceptance of specific IPS. They are a possible course but not the only way to proceed.

In addition 9 members and 2 candidate members have submitted detailed written comments on research topics:

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Internal/deliverables/D4.htm>

In the first management report we noted that 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

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libraries policy. This theme is being further explored by Manfred Thaller and by Suzanne Keene via Lou Burnard (Oxford) who is directly engaged in E-Science grid.

Two student programmers have created the templates, which proved user unfriendly. The matter was discussed at the conference in December. It was agreed to use a small amount of the money for experts to further develop the web site.

On the basis of the above Deliverable 1 has now been produced and is awaiting final comments by members.

Estimated achievement: 100 %

The report is complete and is awaiting final comments by members.

Work Package 4: Requirements and Topics for European Masters

Responsible partner(s):

Scuola Normale Superiore (10); Università de Bologna (11); Universidad Complutense de Madrid (13)

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/06/2002

Actual dates:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

Deliverables:


At the Kickoff Meeting (09/09/2002), Manfred Thaller made the excellent point that this European Masters must have a clear European dimension. 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. A draft has been made:

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Internal/moreinternal/European%20Masters%20in%20Digital%20Culture.pdf>

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At the December meeting Benedetto Benedetti and Francesca Bocchi reported on progress re: the planning of EU Masters and doctorates (cf. Deliverable 7). .

Estimated achievement: 100% for this stage and 50% of final

The reports have been written and are online.

Work Package 5: Identify and Define Broadband Pilots

Responsible partner(s):

Universidad Complutense de Madrid (13); CINECA (14); SCRAN (22); NMDC (18)

Scheduled dates:

01/07/2002 – 30/06/2003

Actual dates:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

Deliverables:

Madrid has produced three excellent reports:

Required Characteristics of Projects

Standard Model for the Evaluation of Projects (Form)


List of Identified Projects (c.25).

Estimated achievement: 100% for this stage and 50% of final.

The reports are complete and are online.

Madrid has appointed an individual to do the work, Professor Isidro Moreno. He is coordinating efforts with partners at CINECA, SCRAN, Oxford and NMDC. SCRAN has produced a page of possible projects. Changes of staff at NMDC have meant that there are no examples from these institutions available in the short term.

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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:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

Deliverables:

Work has proceeded along three lines framework, technology and interfaces respectively.

Framework

Suzanne Keene working with consultant Alice Grant has delivered interim drafts for the report due in month 11:


(<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/Internal/deliverables/DEER%20scoping%20report.pdf>).

These began with a discussion paper, which set out the principles and major elements of the DEER. This led to a DEER Scoping Report by Suzanne Keene and Alice Grant. This was the basis for discussions at the December Conference and led to a 1 page feedback Paper. A roadmap for the final report is now online for comment. Among the reactions to the DEER was Christian Lahanier who linked it with the need for an European Mirrored Repository to answer challenges of digital preservation.

Technology

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 the December meeting Manfred Thaller and Torsten Schassan reported progress on the concept of Digital Autonomous Cultural Agents (DACOs) which allows one to have unified access to local, regional and national cultural materials without altering their individual diversities. They are initially working with 4 distributed resources and plan to have a demo in June with access to about **1 million pages**. This work has inspired Christian Lahanier (C2RMF) to propose concrete collaboration between his institution and Cologne that could become the first jointly executed research for E-Culture Net in FP6.

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Interface

At that kickoff meeting Lily Diaz committed to producing a logo and some design elements for the web site. The logo is now on the home-page of the website: <http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/index.htm>. The design elements will be included later. Because Lily Diaz successfully defended her PhD dissertation on 11.12.2002, her contribution to the interface dimensions of the DEER was reported by Philip Dean. A meeting is planned for February where the Scandinavian partners will give further definition to their contribution.

Estimated achievement: 100% for this stage and 50% of final

Thus far 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:

01/10/2002 – 30/11/2002

Deliverables:

Hannie Spronck is responsible for the day-to-day paperwork involved in the project.


Contract agreements were sent to all members and resolved except for two:

- 1) Vienna's contract to Moscow got lost in the post.
- 2) Centre Pompidou's contract has got lost in their hierarchies of decision making. A new contract has been sent. This has just arrived at Laval and was sent by post on 23 December.

Alexander Bielowski who is theoretically working as a .6 assistant has performed work far beyond the call of duty by gathering the contributions of members, making the website a reality and helping in the co-ordination of this ever growing venture.

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.

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Estimated achievement: 100% to date and 50 % of final

There have been no serious difficulties thus far. The decision of Dean Paul Tummers and Professor Luc Soete to close the MMI means that the headquarters of E-Culture Net will need to move to another one of the contractors in FP6. This matter was discussed at the December meeting. The possibility of Vienna as the new co-ordinator is being explored.

In the meantime Professor Luc Soate has reassured the group that all the contractual obligations will be met. There is hope that the work for the present contract will simply continue on the present premises until 30 June 2003.

Meetings held:

Please See website under Meetings:

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

Deliverables completed:

- Deliverable 1
- Deliverable 2
- Deliverable 3
- Deliverable 4
- Deliverable 5
- Deliverable 6
- Deliverable 7

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, publications and formal lectures on the idea go back at least one year. Those without a name are by the co-ordinator.

Sections in Books

COLORADO CASTELLARY, Arturo: "La Culture Digitale dans la Société de la Connaissance", Culture Europe, Revue de presse internationale des professionnels de l'art et de la médiation culturelle, N 37, Spécial "Patrimoine et Multimedia", octobre-novembre 2002, pp. 8-9.

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COLORADO CASTELLARY, Arturo: "Empleo y patrimonio cultural, promoción económica y nuevas tecnologías en la sociedad de la información y del conocimiento," *Revista de Museología*, N 23, Madrid, diciembre de 2002, pp. 107-109.

MORENO, Isidro, "Musas y nuevas tecnologías." *El relato hipermedia*, Barcelona, Paidós, 2002, 240 págs (Muses and new Technologies. The Hypermedia Story, Barcelona, Paidós, 2002, 240 pages, www.paidos.com <<http://www.paidos.com>>)

GIANNOULIS G. & SISERIS A. "Digital documentation of cultural heritage". Proceedings of the Hermes and Medressa Conference: Multimedia for Cultural Heritage. Amman, Jordan.

"E-Culture Net: European Network of Centres of Excellence for Research and Education in Digital Culture. First steps towards a vision," *EVA Moscow*, /Moscow: Centre PIC of the Ministry of Culture, Russia, 2002, pp. 24-28.

<http://www.mmi.unimaas.nl/eculturenet/publicPDF/EVAMoscow2002.pdf>

"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

Moscow, "E-Culture Net: European Network of Centres of Excellence for Research and Education in Digital Culture. First steps towards a vision," *EVA Moscow*, Tretyokov Museum, 2 December 2002.

Innsbruck, "Keynote: Standardization, Localization and New Potentials for Education," *Conference: Pedagogical Models: Creativity and Standarization? - a contradiction?*, 30 November 2002. Plus seminar in developments on: "E-culture and e-learning."

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Feltre, “E-Culture, European Masters and European Doctorates in E-Culture,” UNESCO meeting, 12 November 2002.

Mont Tremblant City, “Closing Keynote: Les défis et les exigences de la culture pour les nouvelles technologies: Réflexions sur la cyberculture,” *ASTED 2002*, 9 November 2002.

The Hague, “Envisioning our Digital Future,” *School for Scanning* (SfS) organized by NEDCC, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, 16 October 2002.

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 Institute, 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.

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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 Armee Museum, 8 December, 2001.

Vienna, "Keynote: Medien, Sprachen und Integration von Kommunikations-prozessen," *Vielsprachigkeit. Transnationalität, Kulturwissenschaften, Research Institute for Austrian and International Literature and Cultural Studies (INST)*, Vienna, 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.

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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. These are progressing. The head of art nouveau, Dr Michael Schnaider, (Fraunhofer, ZGDV) attended one day of the December conference and agreed that artnouveau and Fraunhofer will write formal letters of intent re: E-Culture Net.

Problems and decisions:

There have been no particular problems thus far.

There was a misunderstanding that the heading Computers in the EC's categories could include programming. The enormous growth of interest in E-Culture Net has brought the need for a more complex website than foreseen. Some monies from the project co-ordinator and from one of the potential experts has been used for this purpose.

Work package completion table:


<i>Work package: Deliverable</i>		<i>% complete current period</i>	<i>% complete previous period</i>
1	1	100	20
1	7	100	00
2	2	100	20
2	3	100	05
3	4	100	10
4	5	100	05
5	6	100	10
6	11	100	10

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. The meeting from 11-14 December was a milestone for deciding on next steps.

<i>Work package: Deliverable</i>	<i>% complete current period</i>	<i>% complete previous period</i>
8	05	0

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9	05	0
10	05	0
11	50	10
12	40	10