

Questions to be answered by experts of the Firenze-working group

(Version 22 March 2004)

The Netherlands EU-presidency in co-operation with the National Representatives Group for Lund is preparing new actions and organisational strategies for the digitisation of cultural heritage in Europe, as a follow up for the Lund Action Plan end 2005. Therefore, the Netherlands have already presented a position paper during the Italian Presidency on the creation of a common Digital Area for European Cultural Heritage. Part of this vision is the subject of persistence: without assuring the life-span of cultural heritage resources, the continuity and robustness of our digital cultural memory will be at risk, and the reliability of digital knowledge infrastructures will be undermined.

In co-operation with the Firenze Agenda working group, the Netherlands EU-presidency aims to create a better overview of the most recent developments and (EU) projects in order to identify their potential contribution to the vision and development of a Digital Area for European Cultural Heritage.

Focus points are:

- maintenance and preservation of the digital collections
- persistence of access and services

Based on the input of the Firenze Agenda working group we want to analyse the opportunities, issues, and potential impediments that may support or influence the development of the projected European Cultural Digital Area as well as that will help to build the above mentioned actions and strategies and to identify who should be responsible for what activities.

Therefore we would appreciate it if you could answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the main developments (please distinguish between national projects and European funded projects in which you or other institutions in your country are involved) in your country for

- maintenance and preservation of the content:
- persistence of access and services:

- 2) What issues do you think raise from these developments that should be tackled by member states (and/or institutions) collaboratively?

funding:

- What funding mechanisms should be in place (how and where) to support better co-ordination?

organisational structure(s):

- Could you elaborate on how current and future projects could and/or should support the transition to a co-ordinated effort;
- What possible structure(s) could be feasible? What role for instance do you see for networks of excellence as exist now?

responsibilities

- Could you elaborate on the division of responsibilities you think is necessary?

legal issues

- Could you identify the legal issues that may support or could obstruct co-ordinated efforts
- 3) What are the priorities in addressing the above issues and why?
- 4) What needs or gaps do you observe in EU context (and the above mentioned vision of a European Digital Cultural Area) with respect to digital preservation in general or more precisely to the maintenance and preservation of the content and the persistence of access and services?
- 5) What incentives are needed to make this work? (Please, describe the roles, functions and responsibilities and prioritise accordingly)
- for national institutions
 - for national governments / member states
 - for intergovernmental bodies / structures
 - for the European Commission
 - else
- 6) What, in your opinion, needs to be done by the European Commission at the European level to encourage and support initiatives that will contribute to the development of the European Digital Cultural Area? Please elaborate.
- With respect to
- co-ordination/ management
 - funding
 - support

Your responses will be analysed and consolidated into a report that will be presented at the EU-conference on digitisation of cultural heritage organised by the Netherlands EU-presidency on 13-14 September 2004 (see for draft agenda: <http://www.EUpresidencyNL2004.digitaliseringerfgoed.nl>). This site will also be used to present draft results of the above questions, for the workgroup to react on).

Could you please send your responses before 1 May 2004 to hans.hofman@nationaalarchief.nl.