PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

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Project title: Digital Cultural Heritage Roadmap for Preservation -
Open Science Infrastructure for DCH in 2020

Funding scheme: Coordination and support action

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Periodic report: 1st **X**   2nd ☐   3rd ☐   4th ☐

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Project context and objectives

The DCH-RP project aims to design a sound Roadmap for the implementation of a federated e-Infrastructure for preservation of DCH content, as part of a more general vision towards the Open Science Infrastructure for DCH in 2020. DCH-RP is a coordination action supported by the European Commission under the e-Infrastructure Capacities Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7). The project falls within the framework of the digital preservation and the use of e-Infrastructures in Digital Cultural Heritage (DCH) sector. It is built upon the knowledge generated by the DC-NET[1] and INDICATE[2] projects as well as upon other successfully completed and ongoing initiatives, in particular those who address the topic of preservation with cross-disciplinary strategies.

An important aspect of the Roadmap for preservation is the idea of the usage of existing and emerging e-Infrastructures for the purpose of reliable data and meta-data preservation. The Roadmap will be supplemented by practical tools for decision makers and will be validated through a range of proofs of concept (PoCs), where cultural organisations and e-Infrastructure providers will cooperate on concrete experiments.

Another essential fact is that the final Roadmap and the registry of services and tools will be a product that is built up with the full participation of DCH organisations and e-Infrastructures.

It is already well known that the use of standards and interoperability is a must when building an e-Infrastructure and this will certainly also be the case for building a (federated) e-Infrastructure for DCH. The project will draft a report about the best practices concerning standards and interoperability.

Trust building between DCH organisations and between DCH-organisations and e-Infrastructures is also important in order to provide the "user" with correct and reliable information. DCH-RP will analyse existing trust models and will give input for the definition of a new model that includes the concepts of integrity, authenticity and provenance. A survey of access and authentication services from e-Infrastructures to support trustable services of memory institutions will lead to recommendations about user authentication and access control systems that are most suited for DCH.

Work performed and main results achieved since the beginning of the project

All the activities of the project are centered around the Roadmap. The project started with a preparatory phase which provided a study on a Roadmap for preservation. This study made an analysis of key characteristics and requirements for the digital preservation services for DCH collections, including current technological offers and gaps in the e-Infrastructure offerings. In addition to this analysis some hypothetical but typical scenarios of needs and requirements for digital preservation services have been developed. They illustrate the range of requirements that cultural institutions may have today.
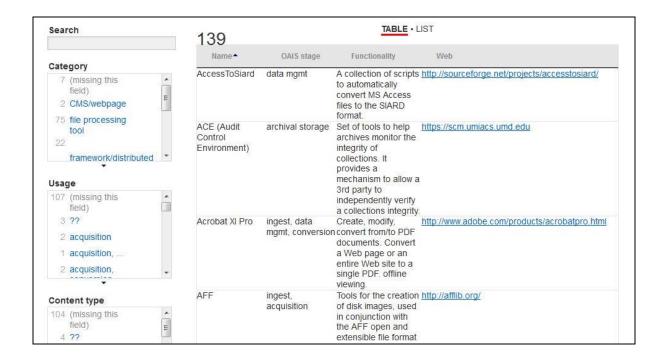
Services and tools for preservation of DCH data exist but are not always well known. Information about the quality and ease of use of those services and tools is also very often not available. The

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[1] http://www.dc-net.org/
[2] http://www.indicate-project.eu/

registry of services and tools[3], built by the project, presents a list of the services available to support preservation activities, with particular regard to the services that can better fit the requirements of the DCH sector.

The study on the Roadmap for preservation and especially the scenarios, in combination with services and tools, were the basis for a first series of proof of Concepts (PoCs).

A number of tools that were fit to be used in a particular scenario were tested about their usefulness, the result they gave and the ease to use. All the tests were detailed in a report and given as input to Work Package 3 that is responsible for drafting the Roadmap.

Another PoC was active in the field of e-Infrastructures. An existing portal, e-CSG[4], developed in the DCH environment, was used to test the possibility to bring collections to grid storage and to build up the corresponding metadata followed by access tests. Again the results were reported to WP3.

All results are taken into account to build an intermediate version of the Roadmap and a new series of POCs will be defined and launched in the second year to give evidence to the concepts that are established in the Roadmap.

The work on use cases and best practices was initiated by the study on the Roadmap, the POCs and the initial work on authentication and authorization. DCH organisations from 12 countries were asked to give input on the preservation methods they are using and to fill out a questionnaire on authentication and authorization[5]. The dialogue is done via a discussion forum[6]

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[3] http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp/registry-of-services-and-tools/
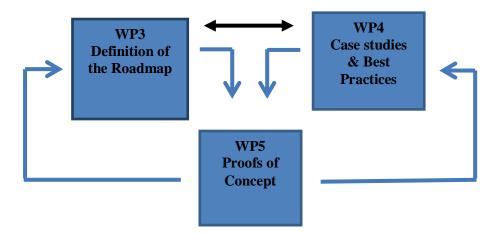[4] http://ecsg.dch-rp.eu/
[5] http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp/dch-rp-questionnaire/
[6]

where organisations can post their input and where discussions on the mentioned topics can be done. The results of this work are passed to WP3 and P5.

The following figure gives the interworking between the three work packages that are concerned with the definition of the Roadmap (WP3), putting the Roadmap definitions in evidence (WP5) and the gathering of user input via best practices and use cases (WP4).

A standards and interoperability report, which is currently under development, analyses the existing projects and initiatives as well as standards, tools, workflows, approaches, solutions, demonstrators and applications which are useful key for the two communities of DCH and e-Infrastructures, while approaching the digital preservation issues.

Dissemination and sustainability

The dissemination of the project's main results and achievements has been carried out during the whole first year. Dissemination activities carried out so far include: designing of the project logo and project brand, setting up and publishing of the project website (www.dch-rp.eu), maintenance of a dedicated showcase on the Digital meets Culture online magazine (http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp/) and creating of promotional materials to be delivered at workshops and conferences (a factsheet, a brochure in printed version 25x21 cm and web version, a poster in printed version 60x80 cm and in web versions).

Collaborative tools and work spaces already available on e-Infrastructures have been used by the partners to work on various topics. They are used for supporting the work on shared documents, sharing information, planning events, etc. (e.g. databases, repositories, archives, event planner, Wiki, discussion forum, dedicated mailing lists, reserved areas on the project website) and are actually different forms of communication and computing resources/facilities.

Communication between partners is made available through dedicated mailing lists.

A communication plan has been set up and individual communication opportunities implemented throughout the project. Presentations at events, workshops, conferences, meetings, and other submission proposals have been carried out[7]. A distribution plan has been set up to maximise the visibility of the project outputs and outcomes with stakeholders, relevant Institutions, Organisations, and individuals.

Community building and stakeholders consultation has been planned with a dedicated engagement strategy, using different formats and techniques: physical consultations during the meetings and events organized or participated by DCH-RP, surveys, interviews and discussion groups. The DCH-RP project already gathered a large number of stakeholders, representing the different areas that are involved in the achievement of the DCH-RP objectives: e-Infrastructures, CH experts and Institutions, research infrastructures, European and national CH programmes, etc.

Also the private sector with a range of publishers has been engaged with a process of reaching out to organizations directly representing publishers at either a national or international level.

The establishment of a closer link with other projects and initiatives active in the same area (e.g. EUDAT, SCIDIP-ES, APARSEN, DARIAH, CLARIN, DAISISH, CHAIN-REDS, SUCCEED, SCAPE, etc.) and the cooperation among different actors, has contributed to the establishment of a relevant network of multidisciplinary experts belonging to different sectors: the cultural sector, the digital humanities, the e-Infrastructure providers.

In the light of establishing synergies and cooperation and to possibly set up a Virtual Research Community around the theme of the Digital Preservation applied to DCH and SSH Community, a Cooperation Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding were developed. The first enables the affiliated member to participate in the DCH-RP network and the second aims to bring together the most important projects and initiatives working in the domain of the e-Infrastructures involved the digital cultural heritage and humanities.

Final project results and potential impact

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[7] The full list of papers, articles and presentations about DCH-RP project are included in the Dissemination section of the Periodic Report.

As final result of the project, the validated Roadmap for the implementation of a federated e-Infrastructure for preservation of digital cultural data is the first step of a multi-stage process with perspective of its execution within future implementation projects.

Moving from the DCH-RP Roadmap, the aim is to improve digital preservation services in cultural heritage institutions in short, medium and long-term plan. Cultural and research institutions with e-Infrastructures providers will cooperate in building up of European federated framework conceived as a flexible organisational and technological structure.

It's crucial to define a common framework that harmonizes the different national policies and legislations in order to provide flexible and efficient digital preservation solutions in a distributed environment.

The task of securing digital cultural heritage of Europe through research and validation in long term preservation is a strategic challenge as well as the enhancing of social benefit through access, geo-enabled services, end-user interaction, enrichment services, content creation and re-use, annotation and semantic enrichment.

The realization of an e-Infrastructure for DCH will optimize costs and improve services, consolidating the relations between research and entrepreneurship and will support innovation and creative performance in the industrial sector.

DCH-RP has a strong potential impact on the entire e-culture sector, from memory institutions to academics, research centers and individual researchers, from content providers to the private sector, including commercial publishers, and aims to open up the possibilities to share solutions and data which is the core of the future science.

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Partners

The consortium composed by 13 partners from8 European countries:

1. Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries and for Bibliographic Information (ICCU) – **Italy** - www.iccu.sbn.it

2. The National Archives (RA) – **Sweden** - www.riksarkivet.se

3. Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) – **Belgium** - www.belspo.be

4. Ministry of Culture, Republic of Estonia (EVKM) – **Estonia** - www.kul.ee

5. Collections Trust (CT) – **United Kingdom** - www.collectionstrust.org.uk

6. Promoter Srl (PROMOTER) – **Italy** – www.promoter.it

7. European Grid Initiative (EGI.eu) – **The Netherlands** - www.egi.eu

8. Italian National Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INFN) – **Italy** - www.infn.it

9. Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC) – **Poland** - www.man.poznan.pl/online/en

10. National Information Infrastructure Development Institute (NIIFI) – **Hungary** - www.niif.hu/en

11. EDItEUR (EDITEUR) – **United Kingdom** - www.editeur.org

12. Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association (TERENA) – **The Netherlands** - www.terena.org

13. MICHAEL Culture Aisbl (MCA) – **Belgium** - www.michael-culture.org

Project website: www.dch-rp.eu

Showcase on Digitalmeetsculture: www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp

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