



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Seventh
Framework
Programme



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EUROPEAN NETWORK
ON RESEARCH PROGRAMME
APPLIED TO THE PROTECTION
OF TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

WP4 IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE COORDINATION BETWEEN NATIONAL RTD PROGRAMMES ON TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (JOINT ACTIVITIES I)

This Work package was designed to follow on from the establishment of strategic activities for the implementation of joint working mechanisms and joint action plans between Partners. The five deliverables and two milestones encompassed were thus intended to allow the partners of the consortium as a whole to understand where and how chances and potentials for joint activities were to be unlocked (4.1 and 4.2), which requirements were needed to proceed (4.3), and how the public as well as national and European decision-makers could be reached to promote support and funding for the protection of tangible cultural heritage (4.4). Consideration was also given to weave this European process into the broader fabric of TCH research worldwide (4.5).



The task of developing a theoretically viable strategy for joint progress in the field of TCH was immensely influenced by a rapid and helpful European development. During 2009 and 2010, much leverage was gained by the successful application of a new tool within the European Union's scientific policy arsenal, first conceived in 2007 during the Swedish presidency. The possibility of member state driven Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI) on common needs opened a new approach on TCH, which was, as a core issue of European identity, identified and established as a topic for the first JPI based approach.

WORK PACKAGE 4

This successful development owes much to the efforts made in NETHERITAGE as a whole, such as the networking and information-processing in WPs 1, 2 and 5, but also the fixing of strategic topics in WP 3. Obviously, work done to foster joint activities would have to be, and was, strongly influenced by these developments.



Thus unlocked, activities in WP 4 led to a clear drive for immediate joint action. Whereas deliverable 4.1, completed by Spain, concluded on the basis of thorough research and a survey within the consortium that there was a sufficient basis for a joint call on a TCH-topic already, and hinted that this call could best be organized on the basis of a virtual common pot, deliverable 4.2 specified this further. Evaluating European funding mechanisms and analyzing the basis of success of prior joint calls and multinational research activities within the framework of the European Union, Slovenia highlighted the steps required to implement transnational research programmes and coordinated joint calls for proposals. Their report, also identifying the virtual common pot as the viable and accepted mode of financing of common activities, provided, along with data from WP 1, a basis for France's work in 4.3. Here, a formal blue-print was put together, that clearly names the components and procedures to be considered when preparing and putting into practice a joint call. This document will be constitutive for the early call to be placed within the JPI process early 2012, and paves the way for a smooth transition from NETHERITAGE towards the new process as the roadmap named as milestone 4.1.

These formal steps were supplemented by the results achieved up to now in task 4.4, which included a brochure on the aims and necessities covered by NETHERITAGE, targeted on decision-makers on the European level. To this end, a conference "Increasing Europe's competitiveness through cultural heritage research" was organized in Brussels on March 24rd 2011, where the situation of TCH research was presented and discussed with an audience of more than 150 researchers and decision-makers, including high-level representatives of the EC, heritage authorities and European TCH grass' roots movement, as well as a number of MEPs. Further activities in 4.4 have included the preparation of a position of the NETHERITAGE consortium to the Green Paper- process in spring of 2011, and will include another parliamentary event in Germany. Milestone 4.2, a policy document focused on European decision-makers is prepared on these steps. These findings and outcomes are taken up in 4.5, where Italy and Romania jointly are drafting an action plan to network with, and involve extra-European partners to the end of promoting TCH research both within the EU, and among EU members and various other countries.



CONCLUSION

Work done in WP 4 was increasingly connected to the JPI-process. Already after 18 months, the members of the WP chose to react to the possibilities that became visible as the JPI-process for TCH research became a distinct option. In dialogue with the consortium leader, the DOW-wording was specified, and activities were targeted on supporting the success of the JPI, an option not foreseen at the time of establishment of NETHERITAGE. On the basis of the thorough work done by the NETHERITAGE consortium as a whole, this helped to finally unlock immense and unexpected synergies for both processes, leading to an early call within the JPI.