🕐 Content archived on 2024-05-07

Methodology and tools for multimedia documentation and electronic catalogues

Fact Sheet

Project Information

METODOC

Grant agreement ID: 20372

[Project website ↗]

Project closed

Start date	**End date**
1 November 1995	31 October 1997

Funded under
Specific research and technological development programme in the field of information technologies, 1994-1998

Total cost
€ 3 000 000,00

EU contribution
€ 1 500 000,00

Coordinated by
Hewlett Packard
🇩🇪 Germany

Objective

The project aims to provide an integrated methodology and toolset for the development of multimedia-based technical documentation and electronic publishing. //PJ_PJ_SIP Multimedia retrieval; multimedia database management system; electronic publishing; technical documentation

A market study carried out by the IAO has shown that there is a lot of software in this field but only a few packages are well-integrated, especially with regard to the integration of multimedia.

The major findings from the study are that:

there is a lack of transparency in the market for technical documentation;

there is a strong need for the integration of multimedia elements into electronic publishing (e.g. videos of complex repair processes in electronic service manuals); currently available technical documentation (including catalogues, brochures, manuals, etc.) is not of sufficiently high quality;

user access mechanisms have to be improved;

time and costs in the production processes are too high;

keeping consistency in the updating processes is a problem.

The solution to these problems is to develop an integrated system that fulfils the following objectives:

development of a toolset of components for technical documentation and electronic publishing that integrates available tools in a user-friendly and homogenous environment; use of a methodology for the whole process of production that leads to automation of the development of technical documentation;

innovative, high-quality user access and retrieval mechanisms; making the content digital as early as possible and keeping it digital as long as possible.

The METODOC project takes a user-driven approach. The iterative development of the components will be strongly influenced by detailed user specifications. Moreover, three pilot applications which demonstrate the applicability of the components will be developed. Feedback from the experiences in the pilot development will influence the final components. Standards and existing tools will be taken into account. The final result will be an integrated system of METODOC components and multimedia database management systems solving the problems with today's technical documentation outlined above.

The project consortium has been designed to have three pairs of supplier-user companies. All user companies (BREDA, FESTO and COMPUPRESS) have a very strong interest in enhancing their current situation in the field of technical

documentation. The three software companies include two (MOZART and EXODUS) with in-depth experience in multimedia presentation systems and one (Hewlett-Packard) with an existing system for technical documentation that will be enhanced with multimedia and other functionalities.

One research institute (FhG-IAO) will design the expected methodology. The associated user organisation, tekom, will provide appropriate dissemination of the results within its own and its European parent organisation (intecom) by publishing results and organising European conferences.

The three user companies will be equipped with a pilot application fulfilling one of their needs in the field of technical documentation. They expect a significant improvement in business communication, but also a reduction of costs and time for the production of technical documentation. The two smaller software suppliers will use their experience in the field of multimedia and expect to enhance their abilities and knowledge in order to develop and offer a specific competitive multimedia package to the concerned industry, specifically to SMEs. Hewlett-Packard, which is project coordinator and exploitation manager for the project, will improve its tools in this field significantly. Typically, their customers are large companies, such as FESTO with whom they are developing the pilot application. The research institute IAO will profit from the project by developing the overall methodology. The system will include new research results in the field of structural enrichment and description of multimedia information (indexing) with corresponding retrieval mechanisms. Research and other project results will be spread to European members of the user organisation intecom through the German institution tekom.

Fields of science (EuroSciVoc) ⓘ

natural sciences › computer and information sciences › **software**

natural sciences › computer and information sciences › **databases**

social sciences › sociology › industrial relations › **automation**

humanities › arts › **musicology**

ⓘ

Programme(s)

FP4-ESPRIT 4 - Specific research and technological development programme in the field of information technologies, 1994-1998

Topic(s)

[3.1 - Multimedia Technology](#)

Call for proposal

Data not available

Funding Scheme

[CSC - Cost-sharing contracts](#)

Coordinator

Hewlett Packard

EU contribution

No data

Total cost

No data

Address

Herrenbergerstrasse 130
71034 Boeblingen
Germany

Participants (7)

Breda Energia Spa

Italy

EU contribution

No data

Address

Biale Sarca 336
20126 Milano

Total cost

No data

Compupress

🇬🇷 Greece

EU contribution

No data

Address

**Syngrou Avenue 44
11742 Athens**

Total cost

No data

Dalmine Tubi Industriali Srl

🇮🇹 Italy

EU contribution

No data

Address

**Piazza Caduti 6 Luglio 1
24044 Dalmine**

Total cost

No data

Exodus S.A.

🇬🇷 Greece

EU contribution

No data

Address

**Formionos 60,
116 33 Athens**

Total cost

No data

Festo Didactic

🇩🇪 Germany

EU contribution

No data

Address

**Ruiter Strasse 82
73734 Esslingen**

Total cost

No data

Fraunhofer Gesellschaft Iao

🇩🇪 Germany

EU contribution

No data

Address

**Iao Nobelstr 12
70569 Stuttgart**

Total cost

No data

Mozart Spa

🇮🇹 Italy

EU contribution

No data

Address

**Via Stampa 4
20123 Milano**

Total cost

No data

Last update: 8 May 1996

Permalink: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/20372