

INDICATE

Summary: The INDICATE project is focused on the coordination of policies and best practice regarding the use of e-Infrastructures for digital cultural heritage in countries of the Mediterranean region. This will be accomplished, first, by establishing and nurturing a network of common interest made up of experts and researchers in all the relevant fields. Through the network, the participants can share experience, promote standards and guidelines, seek harmonisation of best practice and policy. Further, the network acts as a conduit for knowledge transfer from countries with more experience of e-Infrastructures-enabled e-culture to those who are just beginning to investigate this area.

A range of research pilots and case studies act as exemplars and demonstrators of the processes to establishing cultural initiatives on the e-Infrastructures platform. The results will inform a wide-reaching dissemination work-package, including publications, workshops and one international conference.

The project builds on a wealth of experience in effective international coordination of digitisation, digital cultural heritage and e-Infrastructures-enabled culture. A substantial impact is expected on international collaboration and on digital cultural heritage in the Mediterranean region.

Objectives:

First main objective is to establish a long-term network of common interest, following a tried and tested approach using working groups and high-quality publications.

Second objective is to deliver a range of demonstrators (two pilot applications and three case studies) that address the main priorities for the research in the digital cultural heritage. In each case, these are not new R&D but instead the porting of existing work to the e-Infrastructures platform, with subsequent analysis and lesson learning. The proposed demonstrators represent a model which may be extended to the whole cultural sector while moving towards the use of e-Infrastructures. The pilots and the case studies of INDICATE offer a roadmap which can be re-used by actors across the cultural sectors. This model is not limited to the theoretical discussion about the application of e-Infrastructures to cultural heritage but instead aims to propose concrete examples and use cases that can be further re-used and imitated around the world. In the elaboration of this model, INDICATE is able to get together all the components of the proposed e-Infrastructure, from the providers of the fibres, to the application developers, to the content providers, to the standardisation bodies up to the final user, and to engage with one another and support current and future research.

Third main objectives is to establish the dialog among these different actors that are not used to work together. Just as an examples, there are many issues related to standards and guidelines for metadata in the cultural sector that are not known by the world of the e-Infrastructure, while sharing knowledge of the applicable standards is a pre-requisite for any further development. INDICATE is a perfect instrument to progress in this direction.

Action plan: The pilot applications are:

1. e-Infrastructure-enabled semantic search for cultural repositories, where data aggregated for the MICHAEL (www.michael-culture.org) project are being semantically enriched and, respective search, retrieval and publishing approaches are evaluated for porting to e-Infrastructures platforms and networks (e.g. EUMEDGRID and EUMEDCONNECT2).
2. e-Infrastructure-enabled e-Collaborative Digital Archive protected by access control and rights management. This pilot puts in place two e-collaborative repositories: the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage present in Mediterranean Area (MED Repo) and the Federico De Roberto literary works archive.

Project acronym:
INDICATE

Contract n°: RI-261324

Project type: CSA-SA

Start date: 01/09/2010

Duration: 24 months

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Keywords:

Digital cultural heritage, metadata standards, e-infrastructure, interoperability, semantic search, e-collaborative digital archives, digital preservation, virtual exhibition, geo-coded content

Collaboration with other EC funded projects:
DC-NET,
EUMEDGRID,
EUMEDCONNECT2
CHAIN, EPIKH,
LINKED HERITAGE

The case studies are:

1. Digital preservation using e-Infrastructures,
2. Virtual exhibitions using e-Infrastructures,
3. Geocoded digital cultural content using e-Infrastructures.

Coordination and/or support activities: The following activities are planned by INDICATE:

- Five major dissemination events, three technical workshops – in Jordan, Turkey and Slovenia - , one future strategies workshop – in France - and an international conference – in Egypt, to showcase the results of the research pilots and case studies;
- Two best practice publications to distil the results of the research activities in the project and present them in a form useful to other e-Infrastructures-enabled cultural culture projects and organisations contemplating them;
- A dedicated concertation task to identify other projects which are relevant to INDICATE (and vice versa) and take opportunities to share objectives, results and knowledge with them. A specific cooperation agreement is drafted and proposed for signature to the other projects;
- The project website, updated regularly, to publish the outcomes of the project as they emerge;
- The dissemination targeting also countries outside the EU, to maximise the value of the project for them.

User communities:

The following are the most important audiences for INDICATE :

- Cultural heritage organisations, including Ministries and memory institutions (museums, libraries, archives, etc.) who are involved in (or planning) digital culture initiatives;
- International organisations who coordinate and represent memory institutions (e.g., NEMO, EMF, ICOM, EBLIDA, CENL);
- e-Infrastructures providers who are responsible for the computing and networking facilities;
- Ministries and state agencies who are responsible for e-Infrastructures;
- Policy bodies which map out the future of e-Infrastructures on behalf of the Commission, of national government and of others. Good examples are e-IRG and ESFRI;
- Research organisations who provide technical and expertise advice to cultural stakeholders;
- Other projects in the digital culture, e-Infrastructures and policy arenas, who can benefit from the results of INDICATE and from whose work INDICATE can also benefit.

International aspects: INDICATE is primarily targeted to the Euro-Mediterranean and Mediterranean countries. In addition, contacts have already been established with China (Peking University) and South America (red.Clara) with the final aim to establish future factual cooperation with the INDICATE partners on the themes of the digital cultural heritage.



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