

Dynamic Action Plan: co-ordinating digitisation, assessing impact

Finnish EU Presidency overview

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NRG

- The National Representatives Group consists of officially nominated experts from each Member State.
- Acts as a steering group for the EU co-ordination of digitisation policies and programmes base *inter alia* on the Lund Principles agreed by the Member States 2001.
- NRG Meetings every six months, chaired by the Presidency.
- The NRG has offered a common platform for European cooperation and coordination of the national activities. The aim has been to share national experiences, to provide expertise, and to monitor progress regarding the objectives encapsulated in the Dynamic Action Plan.

Dynamic Action Plan

for the EU co-ordination of digitisation of cultural and scientific content



<http://www.minervaeurope.org/publications/dap/dap.pdf>

DAP - Dynamic Action Plan

- The Dynamic Action Plan for the EU co-ordination of digitisation of cultural and scientific content (DAP) is the successor of Lund Action Plan, and was launched in 2005 during the UK Presidency
- Recognition of the strategic importance of digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage by the MS
- Since the launching of DAP, the work of the NRG has concentrated on implementing the objectives encapsulated in the DAP

DAP Action Areas

- The DAP recognises five action areas for the promotion of digital access to Europe's cultural and scientific knowledge resources.
 - A. Users and content
 - B. Technologies for digitization
 - C. Sustainability of content
 - D. Digital preservation
 - E. Monitoring Progress.
- Key issues and immediate actions are listed in the DAP for each action area.

Implementation (I) - an international conference

- Under the Finnish Presidency, special attention was given to the Action Areas A (Users and content) and E (Monitoring Progress)
- A conference “***Why digitise? Who benefits? Impact assessment of digital cultural heritage content and services***” was held in Helsinki on 12 October 2006.
- The main approach of the conference was to bring into focus the benefits that the digital heritage resources provide for users and other stakeholders.

“Provision of digital content and services should not be considered as the ultimate objective. Instead, the goal is to generate effects that are felt to be required or necessary. Assessing the impact of the cultural, educational, social and economic effects of digitisation of cultural heritage will in the future provide invaluable information and insights to the future use of resources, enhance the usability of digitised content and facilitate access for all to our common heritage.”

Implementation (I) - an international conference

- The conference was attended by 150 participants: experts from cultural heritage institutions, public administrations, EU institutions and projects - from all MS
- Sharing views of digital heritage and the i2010: Digital Libraries flagship initiative:
 - Keynote by Commission's Information Society and Media DG, Directorate E: Content, Director Horst Forster
- Discussing impact of digitised cultural heritage: two panel discussions
 - economic, social, cultural
- <http://www.nba.fi/NRG/>

Implementation (II) - DAP Action Groups

- During the year 2006, work of the five Action Groups implementing the DAP has started, co-ordinated by the Presidency and mapped out by the chairs and co-chairs of the groups.
 - Initiated at Bristol, November 2005
 - Setting up in Rome, February 2006
 - Presentation in Salzburg, June 2006
 - Co-ordination meeting in Helsinki, September 2006
 - Presentation in Helsinki, October 2006
- AG Work Plans for 2006-2007
- AG Contact information

Action Group	Chair / Co-chair/Contact	Participating Countries
A. Users and Content	Chair: Christophe Dessaux (FR) Co-Chair: Hans de Haan (NL) Contact details: christophe.dessaux@culture.gouv.fr	SK, LU, AT, FI, IT
B. Technologies for digitisation	Chair: Stefanos Kollias (EL) Co-Chair: Teresa Malo de Molina (ES) Contact details: stefanos@cs.ntua.gr	SE, SK, NL, NO
C. Sustainability of Content	Chair: Rossella Caffo (IT) Co-Chair: Tomasz Makowski (PL) Contact details: rcaffo@beniculturali.it	PL, IT, LU, FI, RU
D. Digital Preservation	Chair: Börje Justrell (SE) Co-Chair: Indrek Eensaar (EE) Contact details: borje.justrell@riksarkivet.ra.se	AT, SK, FI, IT
E. Monitoring	Chair: UK Co-Chair: Malta/Germany Contact details: david.dawson@mla.gov.uk	SI, SK, NL, IE, HU, LU, FI, IT

Recommendation, Council Conclusions and NRG

- The Commission adopted a Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation on 24 August 2006.
- In response to the Commission Recommendation, the Education, Youth and Culture Council adopted at its 13 November 2006 meeting conclusions showing the commitment of Member States to work together towards the European Digital Library.
- Prepared under the Finnish Presidency by the AV Working Group

Council Conclusions and NRG

- Excerpts from the Conclusion text:

"The Council of the European Union recognises...

- the valuable coordination work done by the National Representatives Group on digitisation (NRG) to exchange Member States' experiences and monitor progress, inter alia through the Dynamic Action Plan*
- the need to anchor this coordination work within the Community's institutional framework."*

Council Conclusions and NRG

"The Council of the European Union invites the Commission to:

- contribute to improved policy co-ordination on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation, in particular through the creation of a group of Member States' representatives to take forward the coordination work of the NRG within the Community's institutional framework, securing continuity - including effective transitional arrangements - and building on the experience and expertise gained."*
(2007)

- http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/conclusions/vko47/en_GB/1164269218206/

Council Conclusions and NRG

- Preservation issues included in the Council Conclusions
- Following the Conclusions, synergies in the work set out in the DAP and consequently its Action Groups, Commission Recommendations and Council Conclusions need to be sought out and directed to benefit common goals, including co-operation with projects like MinervaEC and DPE
- One of the carrying elements in the Conclusions is the emphasis on the need to avoid duplication

Thank you!