The partners

MinervaEC supports the European Commission initiative "i2010 - A European Information Society for growth and employment" and contributes to the implementation of the "Dynamic Action Plan for the EU coordination of digitisation of cultural and scientific content", launched by the EU Member States in Bristol in November 2005.

MinervaEC is aligned with the Commission Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation (2006/585/EC) and the Council Conclusions adopted in November 2006 (2006/C 297/01).

eContent

i2010
Information Space
Innovation & Investment in R&D
Inclusion

Austria	• Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (BMUKK)
	• Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH
Belgium	• Vlaams Ministerie voor Cultuur Jeugd, Sport en Media, Agentschap Kunsten en Erfgoed
	• Ministère de la Communauté française de Belgique
	• SPP Politique scientifique - Service d'information S&T / POD Wetenschapsbeleid - Dienst voor W&T Informatie (Federal Science Policy Office)
Czech Republic	• Ministerstvo kultury Ceske Republiky
Estonia	• Kultuuriministeerium
Finland	• Helsingin yliopisto
France	• Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication
	• Association Dédale
Germany	• Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz
Greece	• Erevnitiko Panepistimiako Institouto Epikoinonion & Ypologiston - Etnhiko Metsovio Polytechnio
	• Panepistemion Patron
	• Elliniko Ypourgeio Politismou
Hungary	• Nemzeti Kulturális Örökség Minisztériuma
Ireland	• An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council)
	• National Museum of Ireland

Italy	• Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali (coordinator)
	• Amitié
Latvia	• State Agency Culture Information Systems of Latvia
Luxembourg	• Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
Malta	• Heritage Malta
Poland	• Biblioteka Narodova
	• Stowarzyszenie - Międzynarodowe Centrum Zarządzania Informacją
Portugal	• Secretaria-Geral do Ministério da Cultura
Slovak Republic	• Slovenská národná knižnica
Slovenia	• Ministrstvo za Kulturo Republike Slovenije
Spain	• Biblioteca Nacional de España
Sweden	• Riksarkivet
United Kingdom	• Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
Europe	• Agence Juive pour Israël

CONTACTS
Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali
Biblioteca di Storia Moderna e Contemporanea
Via M. Caetani, 32 - 00186 Roma - Italia
tel. +39 06 68281768 - fax +39 06 68807662
e-mail minerva@beniculturali.it - http://www.minervaeurope.org

minerva
eEurope

MInisterial
NEtwoRk
for Valorising
Activities
in digitisation

MinervaEC eContentplus
Supporting the
European Digital Library

MinervaEC is a Thematic Network funded by the European Commission under the eContent Plus Programme and coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Culture (Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali).

The project, started in October 2006, will last for 24 months bringing together stakeholders and experts from all over Europe and capitalising the results achieved by the previous Minerva projects.

http://www.minervaeurope.org

Objectives

The general objectives of the network are:
- Improve accessibility to and visibility of European digital cultural resources;
- Support the development of the European Digital Library for accessing cultural resources;
- Contribute to increasing interoperability between existing networks;
- Promote the use of digital cultural resources by business and citizens;
- Reinforce the European position in the global market competition;
- Facilitate the exploitation of cultural digital resources, providing clear rules for their use and re-use, respecting and protecting the creators' rights.

Target users

The beneficiaries of the actions of the project are:
- public and private organisations and institutions that create, collect or own digital content;
- private citizens, interested in receiving quality contents, reliable and directly responding to their interests;
- universities and schools, which wants to use cultural contents for educational purposes in a legal and safe environment;
- small and large enterprises interested in re-using digital content for adding value in commercial activities and exploiting digital content resources to create services.

Impact

MinervaEC is expected to contribute in stimulating decision makers and implementers in carrying out their initiatives of content enrichment, in creating the conditions to improve the quality of content and services as well as enhancing accessibility of digital content.
A relevant example is the Michael service
www.michael-culture.org (service)
www.michael-culture.eu (project)

The Working groups

Five working groups are established in the frame of the MinervaEC project:

Assessment and evaluation
Awareness, dissemination, mobilising stakeholders
European Cultural Content Interoperability Framework
Quality, Accessibility and Usability
Best practices for content enrichment

The working groups are organised at national and European levels:
- national experts are appointed by the national partners for the groups that represent an interest in their respective countries;
- the grouping of all the national experts constitute the European working groups of MinervaEC.
The mechanism is the same that was already successfully used for the Minerva and Minerva Plus working groups.

The MinervaEC working groups will contribute to the implementation of the priorities indicated for the Member States in the Council Conclusion on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material, and digital preservation. Quoted from the Council Conclusions [Member States are invited to]:
- reinforce national strategies and targets for digitisation and digital preservation;
- contribute to the European digital library, a multilingual common access point to Europe's distributed cultural heritage;
- improve framework conditions for digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation;
- reinforce co-ordination within and between Member States on related issues;
- contribute to an effective overview of progress at European level.

The activities

Workshops and seminars on:
- Minerva tools for digitisation of cultural heritage
- Quality of cultural websites

Plenary meetings, in coordination with the Presidency in turn of the European Union:
- October 2006 in Finland (NRG meeting)
- February 2007 in Germany (NRG meeting)
- October/November 2007 in Portugal
- September 2008 in France (Final Event)
- June 2008 in Slovenia

Encounters and cooperation with other European networks that are contributing to the creation of the European digital library

Handbooks, Guidelines and Studies:
- IPR Guidelines
- Technical Guidelines
- Study on user needs
- Report on content interoperability
- European directory of the websites regulatory framework
- Map of the cultural heritage in Europe

Minerva Award

The Minerva Award for "Best practice in cultural heritage websites" will be assigned to cultural heritage projects that are outstanding realisations of how to make cultural heritage content best available online to different audiences.

Focussing on the idea of how to make our rich cultural and scientific content offerings easily findable, the Minerva Award will give recognition to those projects that excel and perform exceptionally well in terms of accessibility, usability and interoperability .

An international jury of independent experts will select the most outstanding projects which are then invited to the winners ceremony which takes place under the Slovenian Presidency in the first half of 2008.

The categories and award critera as well as all information on how to nominate a project for the Minerva Award will be available on the Minerva website.

Coordinating digitisation in Europe: annual progress report

The reports offer an up-to-date scenario of policies, programmes and projects in the field of digitisation of cultural heritage in Europe, with contributions from all the Member States that share the Dynamic Action Plan. Targeted to policy-makers, decision-makers and managers responsible or involved in the field of new technologies applied to cultural and scientific content, the reports also point out challenges and possibilities for the future, to contribute to the construction of the European digital library.