



## Cyprus

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## Policy scenario

The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, as the main supporter of cultural development in Cyprus, have included in their programming the establishment of the national "Main Cultural Portal". This portal will constitute the foundation on which to construct a national network and an epicenter of communication and collaboration with the European Cultural portal and other national cultural portals.

By the end of the year 2004 the Cultural Services (of the Ministry of Education and Culture) experts will conclude the test phase, and its operation is expected to be initiated within 2005, while introducing the Cultural Services as the primary partner in the project. The first cultural content to be made available through the portal will consist of four different archives (writers, musicians, directors and visual artists). Parallel to this digitisation process, four other partners will gradually join in, contributing with their own material:

### *Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC)*

Theatrical Production Archive (it contains not only structured information on the production, but also hosts a variety of multimedia documents)

### *Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation*

Cultural archive which contains the following: Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage, Cyprus Map Collection, Rare Historical Documents Collection Engravings, Old Photographs and Watercolours, Art Collection of Cypriot Artists, Museum of the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection

*Cyprus Research Centre* (Ministry of Education and Culture)

Oral History Archive

### *Laiki Bank Cultural Foundation*

Cultural archive which contains the following: Art Collection, Rare Book Collection, Postcard and Photograph Collection

## Co-operation

The first stage of the operation of the Portal, and the joining in of the first ten partners (state as well as private cultural institutions, and semi-governmental organizations) will be followed by the establishment of the national network, which will bring together cultural institutions from all geographical compartments of Cyprus. The first group of contributing institutions will be made up of local museums and archives, as well as Municipal and Community libraries, whose portal is already in the process of formation. The basic digitisation guidelines refer to the collection, evaluation, encoding and posting of credible information on all sectors of cultural creation, made possible through the use of both public and private funds.

The essential force behind our digitisation policy is our intention to make cultural information in Cyprus accessible to everyone indiscriminately, creating at the same time a potent tool which will contribute to the efficient interaction and mutual understanding between the people of Europe. In this framework, the encouragement of bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation, through national networks, is an element of most central concern.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is taking



Textile Museum, Nicosia

into account the outputs of NRG-MINERVA for defining the local digitization programme.

### Main digitisation initiatives

Besides the establishment of the Main Cultural Portal, the Ministry of Education and Culture will focus on adequately informing and actively engaging its partners in the procedure of creating the wider national network.

The portal becomes a tool for the national network, the user and the portal owner (Ministry of Education and Culture).

#### *National network*

The partners of the National Network have a living example of cultural information digitisation and can contact the expertise of the network for designing their new system. This causes an increase of the digital cultural information systems. These partners share and promote their cultural content with greater number of users and can evaluate their content within the whole integrated digital content.

#### *The user*

The user can have a one-stop multilayer cultural information mining. The same time the user can be updated on the user defined issues including the national events information center.

#### *The portal owner*

The Ministry of Education and Culture will have the possibility of evaluating statistical analysis regarding the user's preferences and adjust accordingly if needed their cultural policy. This initiative is a real time feedback for the policy maker experts of the Ministry having this as an additional tool or may be better meta-tool.





Omeriyeh Mosque, Nicosia