



Foreword

As National Representative for the Lund Action Plan in The Netherlands, I am pleased to present to you the third edition of *Coordinating digitisation in Europe*. The report offers insight in the many different digitisation activities of all member states that participate in the Lund action plan. Dedicated country reports give information on national policy scenarios, networks of national and international cooperation and examples of the main digitisation initiatives. In the strategy section the conclusions of two strategic meetings in 2004 of the national representatives held in Dublin and The Hague can be found.

The year 2004 was of great importance in terms of progress regarding the future of digitisation in Europe. During the Irish presidency in the first half of 2004, the new member states of the European Union officially joined the Lund Action Plan and its national representatives' group for the first time. The Irish Presidency undertook the *Progress Assessment Report on Coordinating Digitisation in Europe* and launched the *Dublin Folio*, including a *Good Practice Handbook* and the *Carta di Parma*, a strategic document to promote and support European culture on the web. Moreover, during their official meeting in Dublin in June 2004, the national representatives confirmed the need to think of a future coordination strategy.

As a consequence, in the second half of 2004 under the Netherlands EU-presidency, major steps had to be taken, among which a successful European conference on the building of a digital heritage continuum in Europe. Most importantly, on 16 November 2004 the Council of the European Union agreed on a Work Plan, which contains the drafting in 2005 of a new dynamic action plan for the coordination of digitisation in Europe, to be decreed later this year by a Council resolution under the EU presidency of the United Kingdom. I am proud that the current coordination initiative, that started four years ago in Lund, Sweden, will continue in the years ahead of us and will gain strength in terms of organisation and outcome by the shape of this new dynamic action plan.

I would like to thank all the national representatives and the MINERVA-project partners for their active involvement in the coordination initiative over the last few years and their great support of the agenda of The Netherlands EU-presidency. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Information Society and Media Directorate-General of the European Commission and all the experts who were involved with the Lund Action Plan in the last few years.

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