Cyprus

Marinos Ioannides
Higher Technical Institute

A. DIGITISATION AND ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY

A1. Progress on the systematic gathering of information about current and planned digitisation of books, journals, newspapers, photographs, museum objects, archival documents, audiovisual material and the availability of overviews of such digitisation in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote collaboration and synergies at European level.
A2. Progress on the development of quantitative targets for the digitisation of analogue material in archives, libraries and museums, indicating the expected increase in digitised material which could form part of the European Digital Library and the budgets allocated by public authorities.
A3. Progress on partnerships between cultural institutions and the private sector in order to create new ways of funding digitisation of cultural material.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has began the realisation of a Strategic Plan for Culture, covering a three-year period (2008-2010), which includes specific actions that are to be taken for the promotion of the digitisation of Cultural Heritage.
The aims of the newly composed Strategic Plan for Culture can be read in the Ministry's website <http://www.moec.gov.cy>.
Within the main targets of the Strategic Plan are included the realisation of the National Music Information Centre as well as the list of illegally Turkish-occupied monuments in the northern part of Cyprus.
The latter aims to the protection and promotion of these monuments which at the moment are at risk.
From the year 2008, the Main Cultural Portal will begin to function with the co-operation of the Governmental, and private sectors which are involved in the digitisation of the Cultural Heritage. The duties of each sector will be determined within the framework of the Strategic Plan and the Main Cultural Portal.
The Ministry of Education and Culture has the co-ordinating role through the department of Cultural Services. Apart from the Main Cultural Portal, it promotes the creation of a National Network for the maintenance of a set of common digitisation standards. From the year 2008 the creation of archives that will be used in the European Digital Library will commence.
Moreover, since December 2006, the Ministry of Education and Culture, within the framework of its newly constructed Strategic Plan, began establishing the National Cypriot Authority for the digitisation of Cultural Heritage. The main goal of this institution is to supervise and coordinate the general procedure of the digitisation of the Cyprus Cultural heritage, in order to safeguard and at the same time preserve it for future generations. The National Cypriot Authority will cooperate with the National Digital Library and other private and/or state institutions, and create a common digital database system for the Cultural History of Cyprus.
This institution will be working full swing by the end of 2008. The digital content of the system will be partially available through the Internet in the first phase of planning.

A5. Progress of cultural institutions, as well as publishers and other rightholders to make their digitised material searchable through the European Digital Library. Describe in particular the progress on the application of common digitisation criteria by cultural institutions and, where relevant, private companies, in order to achieve interoperability with the European Digital Library and to facilitate cross-language searchability.

There is funding for a project undertaken by the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts which aims to digitise the archives of visual artists. The name of the project is "Alternative Museum areas under construction".
In addition, the Press and Information Office of the Cyprus Republic (PIO) has been working for two years now, on a pilot programme for the digitisation

of its Press Archive which dates as early as 1878. As this is a grand and expensive task, it will be organised and completed in a number of phases and there will also be attempts of finding financial resources that are outside the government budget. The total number of pages that comprise the PIO archive are estimated to about three million and therefore the costs of digitisation amount to about 1.2 million, (excluding the number of future newspaper pages it will be summoned to digitise). Up to now 250.000 pages have been digitised and are available on the server. Regarding the State Gallery of Contemporary Cypriot Art, there has been up to now a successful recording of about 50% of the existing archive of artists and their works (around 1200 entries). It is believed that the whole archive will be ready in digitised form within six months.

A6c. Progress on the availability of lists of known orphan works and works in the public domain.
According to the Cypriot State Gallery, which is under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Culture, only one case of an orphan work is known and an attempt for a solution is currently being decided upon.

A6d. Progress on the identification of barriers in your legislation to the online accessibility and subsequent use of cultural material that is in the public domain – and the steps taken to remove them.
Works that are either out of print or out of distribution cannot be republished before a period of seventy years has expired since the death of the author if no copyrights from the family of the deceased and/or publisher exist. The Cyprus government applies the EU directive for public sector information (PSI).