

# Greece

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## 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.**

In Greece there are some major digitisation activities taking place, through projects which are mainly funded by the State and by the national Information Society Programme. All types of materials are being digitised, including books, photographs and 2-D objects, paintings, videos, films, sound documents, music, 3-D (archaeological) objects and monuments. The major part of the content refers to books and written documents with more than 4 million pages being generated, including more than 300 000 photographs, 30 000 2-D and 10 000 3-D objects, more than 20 000 art designs and paintings, more than 5 000 hours of video/film material and 10 000 hours of sound. The national Information Society Programme monitors the above developments, ensuring that by the end of 2008 all projects complete the signed activities, which include digitisation, annotation, web site generation and dissemination. There are about 180 such projects and sites being generated and completed with content in the museum, library and audiovisual domain, with about 50% of the content referring to archives, 35% to museums and 15% to libraries. There are lists of all these organisations electronically published by the IS Programme. Moreover, there are about 300 hundred projects and sites which generate (at smaller scale) content referring to Greek municipalities, funded by the Information Society Programme. All generated web sites are multilingual - in most cases bi-lingual, with English being the second language. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture is responsible for driving the cultural domain, i.e., museums

and cultural archives; through their private technical consultant, they also monitor these developments. The General Secretariat of Communication and Information (with the Hellenic National Audiovisual Archive as an implementation branch and point of reference) advances the developments in the audiovisual domain. Developments related with libraries and "classic" archives lie with the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. All responsible organisations keep up closely with developments in the European Digital Library, so that all national developments fit and permit synergies with Europeana. The National Audiovisual Archive participates in the Expert Group for Digitisation and Cultural Heritage set up by the European Commission, as well as in European projects and activities for the digitisation and preservation of audiovisual archives. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture participates in European developments, such as in the Michael Plus and Athena projects. Technical developments in these frameworks are implemented with the assistance of the National Technical University of Athens, which is also member of the EDLnet technical thematic network. Greek libraries also participate in the TEL and in the EDL development. In particular, the MICHAEL software platform has been localised to enable the development of the national portal and the MICHAEL data model and terminology have been translated and localised to enable the description of digital cultural material available by Greek Institutions. Cultural institutions are being gradually invited to register their digital collections based on the progress of their digitisation projects and the results in the direction of providing online access to this digital cultural material. Already, collections coming from large institutions, from a range of institution types, such as the Benaki Museum, the Greek Literature and Historical Archives, or the ERT (National Television) audiovisual archives, in Athens, and throughout Greece, such as the Macedonian

Museum of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki or the Digital Library of Modern Greek Philosophy from the University of Ioannina, are being catalogued in MICHAEL. In parallel, selected digitised collections of archaeological objects from museums, such as the National Archaeological Museum or the Byzantine and Christian Museum, are being gradually added. By May 2008 the number of collections is expected to reach 80-100 collections from 20-30 institutions, aiming at gradually incorporating information about all available digital cultural collections and the available services.

**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.**

Most of the funding for digitisation of analogue cultural material comes from the Information Society Programme. Some funding, however, comes from private organisations, especially when digitisation refers to cultural content possessed by them. Within the period 2003-2007, some 100 Meuro were devoted to digitisation activities in Greece. The new Digital Strategy 2008-2013 foresees a similar amount of funding for advancing the area developments. In this framework it is expected that the content to be digitised, annotated and shared with Europeana in the end of the above period will be two to three times greater than the current digital content in museums, libraries and archives.

**A3. Progress on partnerships between cultural institutions and the private sector in order to create new ways of funding digitisation of cultural material.**

The main involvement of the private sector in digitisation activities, until now, has been in the implementation of digitisation activities, funded by the public sector. This involvement mainly referred to companies dealing with information technology, computer infrastructure and the web, as well as the publishing sector. In this framework, there has been some public-private collaboration in the education and the tourism domain. However, no specific models of public-private partnerships have been widely developed yet. An interesting approach refers to some

recently developed clusters of companies, partially funded by the EC and the national information society program, that focus on content-based services, including the cultural domain. Since 2006, Greece has made a legal framework for the cooperation of private enterprises and the public sector. Culture is one of the areas where this effort has been designed to do some focusing, but we do not have any major projects yet.

An interesting activity of the Hellenic Culture Organisation, that currently is under implementation, is the development of a web-based service, providing customers with the capability of on-line shopping of miniatures and other objects from the major Greek museums.

One of the efforts undertaken since 2006 was "call 161", in the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Support Framework, which was designed to support digitization action taken by private / non profit organisations. This has allowed 10 privately initiated projects to start and more than 6mn euros to be spent. The projects selected have always had a partner from the public sector, who adopted them and usually paid 25%, for digitization actions relevant to their areas of interest.

Lately, a Digital Curation Unit was started under the Athina Research Centre, intending to serve the needs of a wide constituency of organizations and communities, in fields as diverse as e-government, organizational records management, research repositories in the sciences and humanities, and digital heritage. For this purpose, they actively seek partnerships and collaboration in research, government and private organizations. A "virtual laboratory" mode of operation will involve partners with complementary expertise, so the target of having public and private organizations collaborating on that basis is valid.

**A4. Progress on the set-up and sustaining of large scale digitisation facilities.**

The National Audiovisual Archive, the Ministry of Culture and research organisations as the National Technical University of Athens, consider the formation of Competence Centres for Research, Digitisation or Preservation, which will be able to assist digitising organisations in technological and implementation issues.

It is expected that in the first years of the national Information Society Programme 2008-2013, there will

be implementation studies leading to creation of at least one such Centre. It has become evident that development in this area can be made only if large scale digitisation facilities are built and put in action. Economies of scale and parallel development of digital preservation, standardisation and research capabilities are possible if action is taken on a national basis, with a national scope, big and global projects and – if possible – with a multinational perspective. This has made a real change of policy principles and the philosophy of outsourcing and using the output is not any longer our selection. We have proposed that – within the running European framework – a global centre enabling all these actions and encompassing all infrastructural, technological and scientific potential will be built. The project is undertaken by the HeNAA and will be carried out through a coalition of archival, technological and scientific authorities and organizations in the country. Initial investment will be in the area of 15mn euros, with at least 10mn more euros for complementary facilities and infrastructure.

**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.**

The main common digitization criteria have been generated through the National Information Programme by universities and research centres, including National Technical University of Athens, ICS-FORTH, University of Patras, University of Thrace. These research teams have produced a set of studies and pool of best practices, following the Minerva principles; these studies have been conducted and been provided to the digitising organisations, to assist them in digitising and organising their collections and creating their web sites and portals. As a consequence, the majority of cultural institutions have used Dublin Core, as their metadata standard, while other standards that have been used include Uni-marc, Cidoc-CRM, MPEG-7. There are cases

where specific thesauri have been generated, especially when dealing with common thematic categories. The latter work also includes a research part, which is related to semantic interoperability among the different standards and annotated cultural content. Technologies from the Semantic Web, generating semantic representations of knowledge are the main research topic in this framework. Some universities and research centres, such as National Technical University of Athens, ICS-FORTH, University of Athens, Technical University of Crete, contribute to this research, both in the framework of Standardisation Organisations (W3C, ISO) and of R&D projects. During last year specific attention is being placed to interoperability with developments in the European Digital Library. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture has accepted for funding a project for an interoperability prototype within national developments that can serve as prototype national aggregator in the framework of Europeana, defining mappings between Dublin core, Cidoc-CRM, Michael and EDL metadata standards and platforms. What is more important is that the Information Society Programme has been currently designing an Hellenic ‘knowledge’ substrate that will ensure interoperability of the Greek cultural domain with the European Digital Library and, thus, facilitate cross-language searchability.

**A6a. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of orphan works.**

The issue of orphan works is now on the agenda of the new Law Making Committee for the amendment of the existing Law No. 2121/1993 “Copyright, Related Rights and Cultural Matters”. The Committee is examining all the possible mechanisms (creation of a database with information about the rightholders, mandatory administration by collecting societies with the collaboration of the libraries and the archives that will be in charge of the legal deposit etc.) and obviously is taking into consideration the specific provisions of the Commission Recommendation and the Council Conclusions in relation to orphan works.

**A6b. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of works that are out of print or out of distribution.**

The easier use of works that are out of print or out of distribution is also one of the subjects of the aforementioned Committee.

**A6c. Progress on the availability of lists of known orphan works and works in the public domain.**

There has been no progress in that context, but the creation and availability of such lists is part of possible legislative measures in relation to orphan works.

**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.**

According to Article 29 par. 2 of Law 2121/1993 “Copyright, Related Rights and Cultural Matters”, after the expiry of the period of copyright protection, the State, represented by the Minister of Culture, may exercise the rights relating to the acknowledgment of the author’s paternity and the rights relating to the protection of the integrity of the work deriving from the moral rights. According to Article 46 par. 6 of Law 3028/2002 a prior license and a fee is required for the production, reproduction and dissemination to the public, for direct or indirect commercial profit, of casts copies or representations of monuments, that belong to the State, or landed property that is situated in ancient areas and historical places or goods that are in the museums or collections of the State. The aforementioned provision is aiming at the protection of cultural heritage from the uncontrolled commercialization of the images of ancient works. In that context it is permitted without fee if the use is for educational, scientific or other similar purposes and there has been no discussion for removing this provision.

## **B. DIGITAL PRESERVATION**

**B1. Progress on national strategies for the long-term preservation of and access to digital material. Describe the organisational approach, indicating the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved as well as the allocated resources. Describe the specific action plans outlining the objectives and a time-table for the specific targets to be met.**

Digital preservation has been an issue that is currently achieving attention in the framework of the Greek cultural domain. Various organisations have started focusing on issues related to digital preservation and digital curation. The Hellenic Audiovisual Archive focuses

on activities related to preserving the audiovisual domain, while some other initiatives or activities in research and educational organisations, including the Digital Curation Unit of the Athena Research Centre and university activities in EU projects such as Planets, focus on this important aspect. The preservation issue is expected to be included in the activities to be funded in the new national Information Society Programme.

**B2. Progress on exchange of information with other Member States on your strategies and action plans.**

The developments in European projects on digital preservation and curation, like Planets, or initiatives such as Digital Preservation Europe, are studied so as to formulate the strategy for the new operational period in the Information Society Programme 2008-2013. Moreover, various activities of the research teams working in this area, such as the Dariah project of the DCU of the Athena research centre, will contribute in defining this strategy.

**B3. Progress on legal provisions for multiple copying and migration of digital cultural material by public institutions for preservation purposes.**

According to Article 22 of Law 2121/1993 it shall be permissible without the consent of the author and without payment, for a non profit-making library or archive to reproduce one additional copy from a copy of the work already in their permanent collection, for the purpose of retaining that additional copy or for transferring it to another non profit-making library or archive. The reproduction shall be permissible only if an additional copy cannot be obtained in the market promptly, and on reasonable terms. The Law Making Committee is now considering the extension of this provision in order to explicitly mention the right of non profit-making libraries or archives to digitalise their content for preservation purposes.

**B4. Progress on policies and procedures for the deposit of born-digital material. Please note how you are taking into account developments in other Member States in order to prevent a wide divergence in depositing arrangements.**

No national policy has been built in this area. Thoughts, plans and talks are ongoing but no real platform has been set so far. The creation

of the Hellenic National Audiovisual Archive as the place to accept and archive digital born audiovisual content (2006) has been a move to this direction. After finalizing their legal framework (spring 2008), the HeNAA people will heavily invest in legal, infrastructural and practical action to push the authorities to standardize a platform, in order to avoid divergence. International experience

is the strongest guidance of their action and best practices will incorporated in strategising, planning and implementing depositing arrangements.

**B5. Progress on legal provisions for the preservation of web-content by mandated institutions.**

This issue is also on the agenda of the new Law Making Committee.

