

Presidency Conclusions

11th NRG Meeting

i2010 Digital Libraries: Commission Recommendation & Progress during the Finnish EU Presidency

The meeting showed that the work of the NRG is very valuable, broad-based and innovative.

There is a lasting need for coordination. This has to be done in a political and strategic framework that has changed rapidly in the last year and a half.

The future creation of a group of Member States' representatives, chaired by the Commission, which will take forward the coordination work of the NRG within the Community's institutional framework, was clarified in the meeting by the Presidency and by the Commission in a satisfactory way.

The tasks of the future coordinating group will be *inter alia* to monitor progress in the implementation of the Commission Recommendation¹ and the future Council Conclusions², to exchange views, and to identify and disseminate good practices.

Progress during the Finnish Presidency

The Action Groups of the Dynamic Action Plan met in Helsinki on Helsinki on 21 September 2006. The aim was to coordinate their work. The Presidency collected information on the aims, expected results, expected effects, working method and the timeframe of each Action Group into matrices, which were disseminated to the NRG members, together with the contact information of the chairs, co-chairs and members of the groups.

¹ Commission Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation C(2006) 3808 final, 24.8.2006.

² Council Conclusions on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation.

The prototype of the NRG Web Site has been created in broad, open cooperation with experts from several Member States.

The *NRG member lists* have been updated and the administrator of the list (Italy) has been informed of changes in NRG members' email addresses.

The *dialogue between the Commission and the Presidency* has been active and constructive.

NRG website

The NRG was informed about the progress made. The aim of the website is to serve both the needs of the public and member functions. Although the NRG's role is changing, it still needs a visual identity in the Web in the future.

NRG Status Report 2006

The NRG agreed to proceed according to the proposed outlines of the report. A Working Group of the troika (Austria, Finland, Germany), MinervaEC (Italy) and chairs / co-chairs of the Action Groups A (Users and Content) and E (Monitoring) will:

- develop indicators for input, output and use of digital cultural material that will be used in collecting data to the status report,
- draw up instructions for presenting the data in the document in a coherent and logical way.

DAP Implementation: Action Groups

The NRG was informed of the progress made by the Action Groups and discussed their work plans, future actions and outputs, working methods and time schedules.

The chair summarized the presentations of the Action Groups and the discussion on the subject as follows:

- The NRG is in a transition, but one of the most important tasks of the coordination group continues to be recognizing innovative, ongoing projects, following them up, collecting information and re-using it.
- The collection of existing information is also crucial in order to avoid duplication.
- It would be beneficial for the Action Groups to set priorities and consider the focus of their actions carefully.
- It is essential to take care of coordination and co-operation between the groups in order to avoid fragmentation and duplication.
- The follow-up of the Action Groups' work will continue under the German Presidency.
- Action Groups are still open for new members to join (the chairs and co-chairs of each group will make the final decisions on the sizes of the groups and on the right balance of expertise needed).

Competence centres

Marius Snyders from the Commission outlined the key issues related to the future network of centres of competence for digitisation and preservation, to be funded from the 7th Framework Programme.

He offered the NRG members a possibility to suggest candidates to attend the workshop concerning the competence centres on 14 November 2006 in Luxembourg.

The aim of the workshop is to:

- identify initial stakeholders: expertise and capacity, experience with servicing large scale digitisation and digital preservation activities for themselves and other organisations
- discuss organisational issues
- discuss research areas where competence centres are needed.

Suggestions by the NRG members of possible attendees for the workshop should be made on 18 October the latest to Marius Snyders.

Projects

The progress in Michael / Michael + and Minerva/MinervaEC Projects and their next steps were presented.

Future Presidencies: outlines & the way forward

Germany and Portugal sketched out upcoming events to be held during their EU Presidencies.

The NRG members discussed the need to tackle the challenges arising from the transition from an informal group to an official MS expert group within the Community framework.

In summarizing the afternoon themes, the chair pointed out that the coordination tasks described in the Commission recommendation and the future Council Conclusions should be carefully analysed in view of clarifying the relation between the future MS experts group and the relevant EU co-funded projects. The aim should be to make the best possible use of the experience and expertise of the Member States' representatives in the field of memory institutions.