Greece

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Digitisation policies and emerging initiatives

National policies

In terms of national policy development the document *National Digitisation Policy - Guidelines and Standards for Digitisation Programs* has been created.
The document has been submitted to the Hellenic Digitisation Committee has been approved and is under refinement. Upon final approval it will be made publicly available through `http://www.hdpweb.org`.
The document is based on the NOF-digitise, Technical Standards and Guidelines. The document is providing guidelines to organizations, private companies and institutes about the digitisation, management, preservation and development of added value services for the cultural content.
Specifically, the guidelines are divided to five critical issues (creation, management, collection creation, accessibility and reuse). For each issue relevant standards, technical requirements, benchmarking indicators, best practices etc. are presented and proposed to be used by projects which are digitising cultural content.

Coordination and networks

This activity focused on continuing the progress for the Patras – Rome initiative and specifically for the objective "Mechanisms for extending the benefits to many organizations". The activities during the last six months focused mainly on the coordination and support of a network of small and medium cultural organizations. The most important objectives of this practice were:

- estimation of funding opportunities;
- cooperation between cultural organizations and technical experts;
- support during the proposals' submission process, especially for issues such as completion of Technical Annexes, technical and managerial advice, cost and budget estimation, electronic submission etc.

The practice resulted in the submission of numerous successful proposals and eight new digitisation projects (of total 1 M Euro) have been initiated.
In parallel, a network of universities and institutions has been established, which will implement the technological studies for digitisation of cultural heritage. The network is coordinated by the High Performance Information Systems Laboratory. Nearly ten research studies for digitisation issues where proposed to the Secretariat for the Information Society of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy & Finance and six of them have been approved for financial support. In addition and to extend the Patras-Rome list of guidelines for IPR, Greece, Italy and UK coordinated their efforts aiming at drawing the landscape of the issue of Intellectual Property Rights protection and management in the Information Society. A work group met at 29 September 2003 in Rome to discuss about current experiences and future planning. During the meeting people from the sectors of Culture, Archives, Libraries, Law, Technology and Government were present and many interesting experiences were exchanged. A result of the cooperation of Greece, Italy and the UK is the document *Technologies for IPR and data protection*, which was presented during the "Quality for Cultural Web Sites" Conference, Parma, 20-21 November 2003. Furthermore, an action plan was created aiming at concrete results till the Presidency of the European Union of UK (2005).

Programmes and projects

During the second semester of 2003 very important programmes have been initiated focusing on the digitisation of cultural content. The initiatives were supported by the Secretariat for the Information Society of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy & Finance. These initiatives are presented herein.

1) Call for digitisation projects in the framework of the Action 1.3 of the Operational Programme "Information Society" (3rd Community Support Framework 2000-2006) for the "Dissemination, Exploitation and Promotion of Hellenic Culture" During the proposal submission process 202 project proposals were submitted from cultural and other public organizations all over Greece. The evaluation process has already been completed and the results are being summarized bellow:

- 146 "digitisation of culture" projects have been approved for financial support;
- the total budget allocated is 50.020.000,00;
- the projects will be initiated during December 2003;
- the projects are aiming mainly at digitising, disseminating and promoting collections of various historical periods of Hellenic Culture;
- the collections that will be digitised are including various types of content, images, artefacts, sites, buildings, archives, music, cinema and movie libraries, etc.;
- the use of Internet for the promotion of the digital content is a very important work package of the projects, as well as the dissemination of cultural objects in other languages (English, French, German, etc);

- the digitisation projects will be supported by research studies about digitisation of images, music, video, copyright protection and management, good practices, etc.

The results of this very important programme will be the mass digitisation and mass promotion of the Hellenic Cultural Content in a European and World wide level. In addition, the content industry in Greece will be supported and cultural organizations will have an important opportunity to digitise and safeguard their collections and artefacts.
Throughout the process of the programme preparation, the project submission and evaluation the High Performance Information Systems Laboratory (HPCLab) had a very active contribution aiming at transferring the NRG and MINERVA developments to this Programme:

- Firstly, before the project submission call, the HPCLab transferred the experience and the latest developments of the NRG and MINERVA to the Secretariat for the Information Society so as the Programme to be aligned with the European initiatives (NRG, Digicult, Erpanet, etc). This was achieved mainly by the cooperation of the Greek Delegates at the NRG with professor Costis Dallas, who is the technical advisor of the Secretariat for these issues. The main issues that were taken under consideration are briefly presented bellow:

  · Quality of the Cultural Web Sites that will be produced in the framework of the approved projects. Usability and quality criteria will be applied to all the Web sites that will aim at promoting digital cultural content through the Internet.

· Interoperability of the produced digital content between organizations will be assured through the use of international metadata and technological standards.
· Long term preservation of the produced digital content was considered a very important issue and good practices will be demonstrated to the cultural organizations.
· Copyright protection and management of the digital content was considered as essential for the secure distribution of the digital cultural content through the Internet.
· The development of educational applications based on the cultural content has been given a high priority.

• During the submission process the HPCLab supported the network of small and medium cultural organizations to complete the Technical Annexes, to meet the requirements of the Call and to submit the proposals. The results were very good as eight proposals were approved and these organizations will digitise their collections with financial support.
• The HPCLab has submitted successfully the proposal of a Guide of good practices for digitisation and long term preservation of cultural content in Europe and horizontal software for promoting good practices (using benchmarking) in the national and international level. The project has been approved and will support the promotion of European good practices in Greece based on the developments of NRG and MINERVA.

2) Call for digitisation projects in the framework of the Action 2.4 of the Operational Programme "Information Society" (3rd Community Support Framework 2000-2006)

for the "Regional Geographical Information Systems and Innovative Actions".

This Call promotes the promotion of culture and tourism in certain Regions of Greece through projects for "digitisation of cultural and tourist content" based on the special characteristics of its Region. Twelve Regions of Greece have the opportunity to submit an average of eight proposals each, summing up to 96 projects for digitisation of cultural and tourist content. The main objective is to support the Regions to export their cultural and tourist product in a European and world wide level.
Besides the above two main programmes soon more will be announced and the digitisation activity in Greece will be very intense and productive and more than 180 public and private organizations are expected to take part in digitisation projects.

Research programmes

In the framework of the call for digitisation projects in the framework of the Action 1.3 of the Operational Programme "Information Society" for the "Dissemination, Exploitation and Promotion of Hellenic Culture", six research studies have been approved concerning digitisation of content:

1) quality framework for the design and development of Web sites of Cultural entities: Study and consultation;
2) study for technologies for digitisation in 3D;
3) guide of good practices for digitisation and long term preservation of cultural content in Europe and horizontal software for promoting good practices (using benchmarking) in the national and international level;
4) practical guide-handbook for the protection &

Block VI of the North Parthenon Frieze
Acropolis Museum Akr.864

management of Intellectual Property Rights of digital cultural content and a digital rights management system based on international metadata standards;
5) technologies and processes of digitisation of moving picture;
6) standards for Cultural dissemination and technologies for supporting the digital cultural content and the interoperability of the systems.

These research studies are aiming at supporting the majority of the cultural organizations in Greece to digitise, preserve, promote and secure the cultural content. Results will be published through ministerial Web Sites and will be promoted through open nation-wide workshops and conferences.

Cooperation developments

The High Performance Information Systems Laboratory has established cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Secretariat for the "Information Society". Especially, the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is aiming at promoting the re-use of the results of the digitisation projects by the Ministry for educational purposes.

Emerging issues

Long-term preservation of digital memory
The digitisation issue of cultural content in Greece is at an early stage. There is not an organization or institute or a governmental body which focuses on this issue. Most of actions were focusing on raising awareness for long-term digital preservation as an upcoming critical issue. Some requirements for long term digital preservation were included in the aforementioned call for proposals.

Developments at the regional and local level
There are certain initiatives which promote the digitisation of cultural content and the exploitation of digital content through the Internet, in accordance with the special characteristics of each Region. Greece is divided in 12 Regions and for almost every Region there is a specialized call for digitisation projects. An average of 8 projects per Region are expected to be approved and initiated.

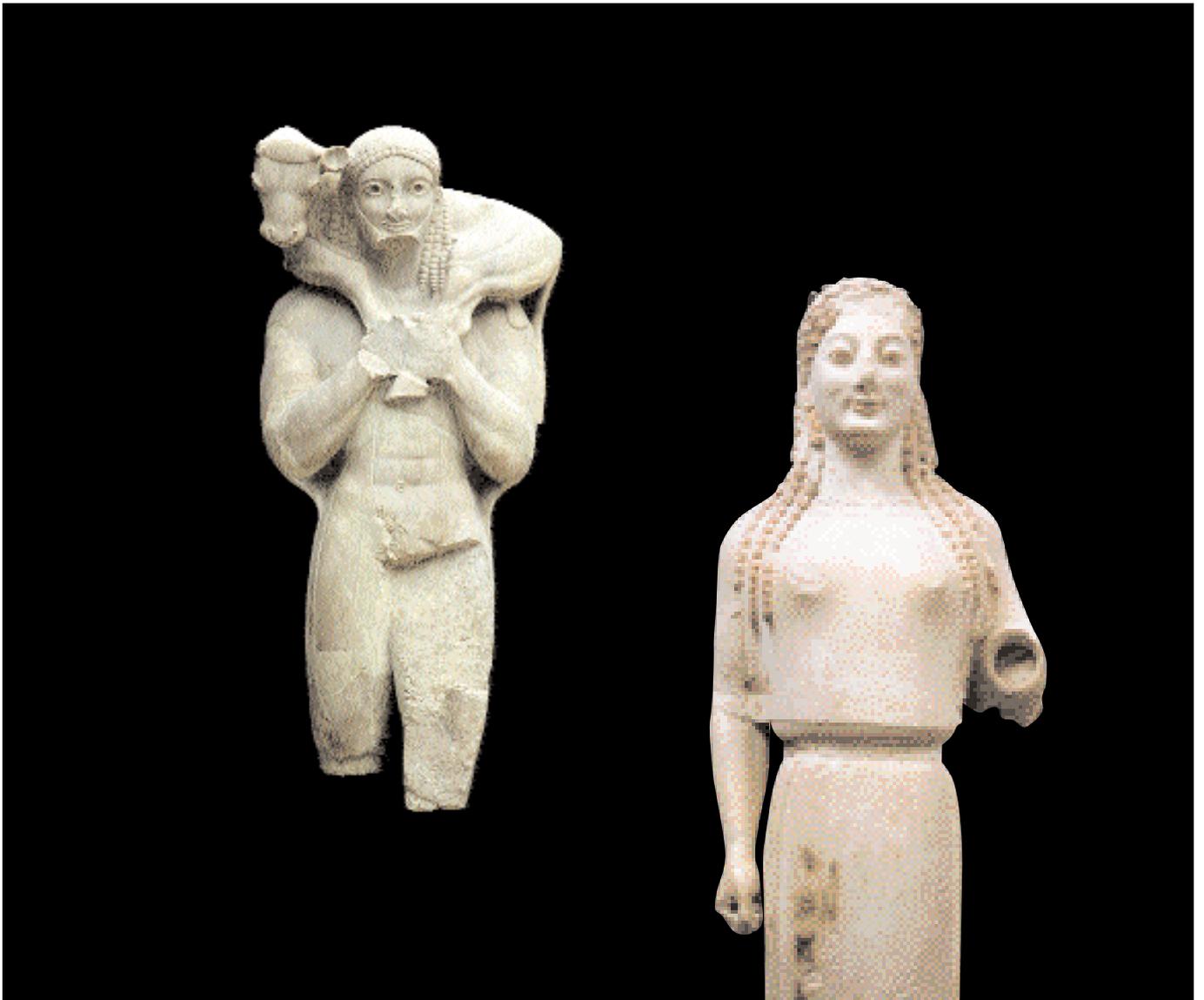*State of participation of small and medium size cultural institutions in digitisation*
In accordance with the aforementioned Calls and initiatives more than 400 small and medium size cultural institutions will participate in digitisation projects all over Greece. The digitisation activity will be nationwide and the cultural organizations will be supported by private and public institutes offering technological expertise.

Benchmarking
Benchmarking data from the 1st benchmarking practice in Greece were transferred to the benchmarking database of Finland. The benchmarking practice will be intensified in the near future aiming at collecting more data from cultural and / or other public and private organizations which are supervising digitisation projects.

Half-horses of a quadriga
Acropolis Museum Akr. 575, 576, 578, 580

Greece

The Moschophoros (calf-bearer)
Acropolis Museum Akr. 624

Kore
Acropolis Museum Akr. 679

Use of NRG/MINERVA results and impact

The main action line towards the dissemination and promotion of NRG and MINERVA results to a national level was the development of a mid size project (entitled Guide of good practices for digitisation and long term preservation of cultural content in Europe and horizontal software for promoting good practices (using benchmarking) in the national and international level) and its submission for financial support. The objectives were achieved based on the next actions:

• an action plan was created incorporating objectives like benchmarking, promotion of good practices, dissemination of results through workshops, etc.;
• the action plan was submitted as a project to the aforementioned call for proposals and was approved for financial support.

The project will start at December 2003. The ambition is to transfer the European experience (NRG, MINERVA and MINERVAPlus) concerning digitisation and long-term preservation of cultural content, to the cultural organizations (more than 140) which are going to digitise their collection, in the framework of the Operational Programme "Information Society". This will be achieved by the development of a guide for good practices. The study, will contribute to the harmonization of the digitisation projects to the European guidelines and standards. Furthermore, it will set the basis of the coordination of the national digitisation projects in general, through the development of a system for the promotion of the good practices. The aforementioned system will contribute to the exchange of experiences and good practices between the projects and the national initiatives in general.

The project deliverables are:

• the creation and promotion of a guide for good practices for digitisation and long term preservation of cultural content in Greece and Europe in general;
• the guide will be published in a multimedia CD-ROM in Greek and English. Also, an Internet version will be available on-line;
• the development of horizontal software for the promotion of good practices, based on benchmarking methodologies in national and international level. The software will be available on-line. The system will be based upon the benchmarking methodology developed by the NRG and MINERVA and using online questionnaires to collect data for projects. In accordance with the overall ranks good practices will be evaluated and promoted.

One of the expected results of the project is the transfer of results of NRG and MINERVA to the national level.