

E-Culture Net

European Network of Centres of Excellence for Research and Education in Digital Culture

E-Culture is a thematic network under the 5th Framework Programme (IST-2001-37491) working to establish a European Network of Centres of Excellence in the 6th Framework Programme (FP). The network focusses on three action lines:

- 1) Research Matrix for Roadmaps Workshops, Exchanges, Conferences,
- 2) Teaching, Research and Training European Masters and Doctoral Programmes
- 3) Resources Distributed European Electronic Resource (DEER)

Through workshops, exchanges and an annual conference, E-Culture net will link the efforts of specialised networks and emerging national networks, to create a research matrix which is a framework for the knowledge (production) life-cycle, provides roadmaps for future research, brings into focus existing solutions and standards, theoretical methods, critical thinking and teaching. The collective research agenda includes wider issues related to quality, policy, the emerging European knowledge society, as shaped by cultural content, innovative use of advanced Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and in particular Internet evolution. The research matrix and its roadmaps will point to a new integration of elements, essential for e-creativity and creating new employment in the knowledge economy (figure 1).

The European Masters and Doctoral Programmes will prepare a next generation of research and innovation. The Distributed European Electronic Resource (DEER) will serve two main functions. It will be a distributed repository of European digital cultural resources, with a portal to make them accessible to all the people of Europe. It will also be a forum for communication between researchers, content creators, the commercial sector, and users: a virtual agora for European culture. This will lead to new degrees of integration essential for the knowledge economy.

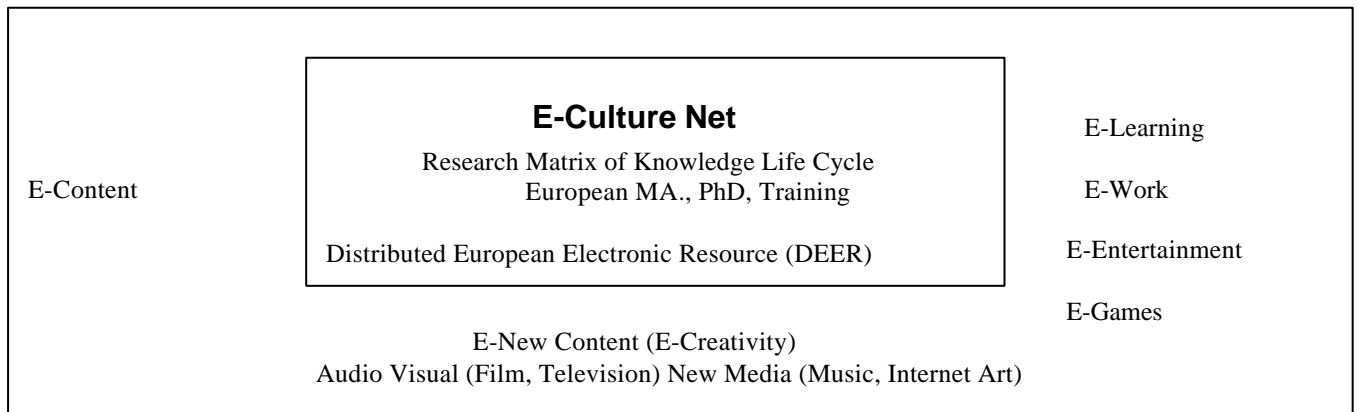


Figure 1. How E-CultureNet links with E-Content, E-New Content, E-Learning, E-Work and E-Entertainment and E-Games.

What Makes E-Culture Net Different From Other Cultural Networks?

In the past cultural networks were focussed on major areas such as libraries (e.g. DELOS) or specific problems such as preservation (ERPANET), or for sharing information about specific activities (e.g. CULTIVATE, cf. EVAN). Meanwhile, there were hundreds of projects devoted to individual aspects of knowledge production and the knowledge life-cycle, which have led effectively to a series of informal human networks. There were also infrastructure investments to create high-speed technological networks (e.g. TEN-155, GEANT). While very useful these earlier efforts had four shortcomings:

- 1) content holders developed systems which presented content without attention to context and communication.
- 2) technologists in computer science often produced systems without consulting either content holders or users.
- 3) partly as a result of 1 and 2, high quality content suitable for broadband was produced but not linked with the infrastructures.
- 4) solutions typically addressed one specialized aspect of knowledge production such as scanning, archiving or intellectual property rights rather than providing an overview of the knowledge production and knowledge life-cycle as a whole.

E-Culture Net addresses these shortcomings and is different in four ways:

- 1) it combines individual issues from both culture (museums, libraries, archives) and from technology in order to understand the complete knowledge production and knowledge life-cycle for insights concerning new jobs and employment that will be the basis of the new economy. Hence, e-culture net is concerned with new integration of these aspects in order to understand the underlying systems and cycles.
- 2) While encouraging the further development of specialized networks and national networks its own focus is on synergies between these networks.
- 3) E-culture net is concerned with the methodological principles underlying content, context and communication:
 - a) to understand the state of the art that needs to be taught in new European Masters and Doctorates
 - b) to use this understanding in producing roadmaps for future research and
 - c) to explore potentials for new employment in the knowledge economy.
- 4) At the same time E-Culture net is concerned with harnessing the potentials of technological high-speed infrastructures (e.g. GEANT) in order to create a Distributed European Electronic Resource (DEER), which leads to a Cultural grid, that makes available a) the unique cultural content of heritage/memory institutions and b) the results of research projects (e.g. NUME) in order to inspire new teaching, new research and ultimately stimulate new employment.

Figure 2 outlines the shift from the existing thematic network to the full fledged NoE. Appendices 1-2 give a list of existing members and candidate members to date.

5th Framework Preparatory Action



6th Framework Phase

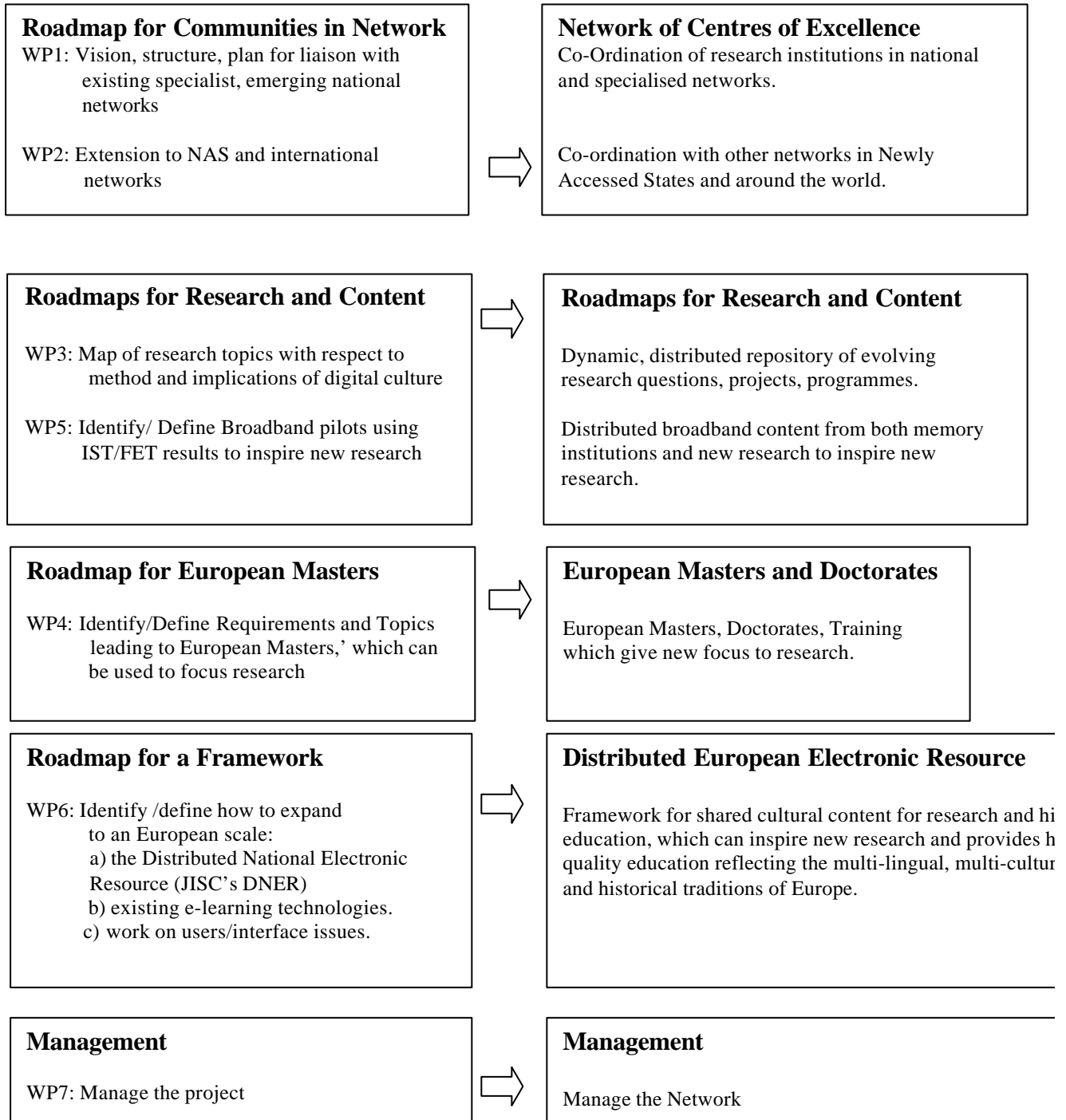


Figure 2. Outline of how the preliminary project (IST-2001-37491) will relate to a Network of Centres of Excellence in the 6th Framework Programme.

Appendix 1. Founding Members of E-Culture Net

Co-ordinator

1. Netherlands (CO) Universiteit Maastricht: Maastricht McLuhan Institute

Consortium Contractors (CR), Members (MB) and Experts (Exp)

2. Austria (CR) Universität Wien
 3. Belgium (MB) Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, LTT
 4. Denmark (MB) Aarhus University: Department of Information and Media Studies
 5. (Exp) Nordic Interactive
 6. Finland (MB) University of Art and Design, Helsinki: Media Lab
 7. France (Exp) Ecole Normale Supérieure
 8. (CR) Laval Mayenne Technopole
 9. (MB) Musée National d'Art Moderne: Centre Georges Pompidou
 10. (MB) C2RMF (Centre de Recherche et Restauration des Musées de France)
 11. Germany (CR) Universität zu Köln
 12. Greece (CR) Foundation of the Hellenic World, Athens
 13. Italy (MB) CINECA
 14. (MB) Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR ITABC)
 15. (CR) Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa
 16. (MB) Università di Bologna
 17. Netherlands (MB) International Institute of Infonomics
 18. Norway (MB) Universiteit i Bergen: Intermedia
 19. (MB) University of Oslo: Intermedia: (UiO:IM)
 20. Portugal (MB) Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto
 21. Russia (MB) Centre PIC of the Ministry of Culture of Russia)
 22. Spain (CR) Universidad Complutense de Madrid
 23. Sweden (MB) Interactive Institute Stockholm (IAIS)
 24. (MB) Lund University: Department of Information Technology, (Netlab)
 25. UK (CR) University of London: University College, Institute of Archaeology
 26. " (MB) University of Glasgow, HATII
 28. (Exp) National Museum Directors' Conference
 29. (MB) National Museums of Scotland
 30. (MB) Oxford Humanities Computing Unit
 31. (MB) ENCORE (European Network of Conservation and Restoration Education)
 32. (Exp) ERPANET (European Resource Preservation and Access Network)
 33. (Exp) EVAN (European Visual Arts Networking)
 34. (Exp) NEHRN (Northern European Historical Research Network)
 35. (MB) SCRAN (Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network)
- Global Networks (not funded observers)
36. Canada (Exp) CHIN (Canadian Heritage Information Network)
 37. Japan (Exp) JNDSR (Japanese Network of Centres of Excellence in Digital Silk Roads)

Appendix 2. Candidate Members of E-Culture Net (Letter of Intent)

Czechoslovakia Charles University

France Ecole Polytechnique de l'Université de Nantes

UNESCO Information Society Division (Digital Silk Roads)

Greece artnouveau Network

ICS-FORTH (Inst. of Computer Science Foundation for Research and Technology)

Italy Consorzio Campano di Ricerca per L'Informatica e l'Automazione Industriale

LUISS (Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli)

Kazakhstan UNESCO Cluster Office (Heritage Net)

Netherlands CWI (Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatie)

NIWI (Nederlandse Institut voor Wetenscahpelijke Informatie)

KNAW (Koninklijke Nederlandse Academie der Wetenschappen)

Spain Asociación Nacional de Investigadores en Didáctica

Ayuntamiento de Granollers

Ayuntamiento de Sant Boi de Llobregat, Barcelona

e-Cultura Net, S.A.

Fundación Aucal, Madrid-Salamanca

Fundación de Apoyo al Museo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Madrid

Gecco Media S.L, Zaragoza

Museo Internacional de Electrografía, (MIDE), Cuenca

Museo Nacional de Cerámica González Martí

Museo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Madrid

Schlumberger-Sema E-Learning

Universidad de Jaen

Universidad de la Coruña

Universidad de Sevilla

Universidad de Valladolid, Fundación General

Universidad de Zaragoza, Gruppo de Informatica Grafica Avanzada

Universidad Jaime I de Castellón

Universidad Politécnica de Valencia

Universidad SEK de Segovia

Universitat de Barcelona

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Grup Òliba

Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

VICOM Tech, Donostia - San Sebastián

Collaboration: Centro Para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (CDTI):

Dirección de Programas Internacionales

UK CMH (Centre for Metropolitan History)