



# MinervaEC

***Ministerial NETwork for Valorising Activities  
in digitisation, eContentplus  
Supporting the European Digital Library***

# Minerva

**MINERVA:** a network of Member States' Ministries to **discuss, correlate and harmonise activities carried out in digitisation of cultural and scientific content**

It aims to **co-ordinate national programmes**, and its approach is strongly based on the principle of embeddedness in national digitisation activities.

It has **built contacts with several of the European member states and EU associate countries**, international organisations, associations, networks, international and national projects involved in this sector,... [to] facilitate the adoption of the **Lund action plan**.



# Minerva

The work plan includes activities to:

- organise work groups to provide the political and technical framework for improving digitisation activities of cultural and scientific contents, and defining a common platform;
- facilitate the adoption of the Lund principle ... to amplify the impact of the eEurope initiative;
- set-up an international Forum, and electronic publication, supporting collaboration on scientific research;
- make visible, promote and exchange information about National Policy profiles concerning digitisation;
- identify users' needs, define training schemes and develop recommendations;

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- make available test-beds, defining mechanisms for evaluating models, methodologies, techniques and approaches;
- implement the benchmarking framework on digitisation, able to compare and improve quality of national approaches and promote best practice across Europe;
- organise a plenary meeting every six months, hosting also thematic workshops to present and discuss results achieved by the specific work groups;
- promote concertation events open to both EU and other national projects, to create clusters of projects;

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- promote dissemination and training activities;
- identify Road Maps suitable for activities to be launched in the near future, to support Member States in the definition of their policy, through exchange of experience, priorities agenda and work programmes.
- The direct involvement of governmental organisations intends to contribute at bringing together a wide network of research centres, cultural organisations and companies interested in digitisation aspects, to co-ordinate their activities in order to advance towards common strategic goals.

# The project

eContent Plus Thematic Network

Started on 1st October 2006

Duration: 2 years



Coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Culture

Based on the successful results of Minerva and  
Minerva Plus experiences

Most EU countries and several cultural institutions  
from all over Europe and associate countries



# MINERVA eC and the European digital library

MINERVA eC continues the work undertaken by MINERVA and MINERVA Plus towards the elaboration of a platform of recommendations, guidelines and tools for digitisation.

MINERVA eC is an initiative aligned with:

i2010 strategy for a European Information Society for growth and employment,

the EC Recommendation on digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation,

and the Council Conclusions.

In this light, it contributes to the creation of the European digital library.



# MINERVA eC objectives

- To improve accessibility to and visibility of European digital cultural resources;
- To contribute to increasing interoperability between existing networks of services;
- To promote the use of digital cultural resources by business and citizens;
- To facilitate exploitation of cultural digital resources, providing clear rules for their use and re-use, respecting and protecting the creators' rights.

# MINERVA eC targets

Beneficiaries of the actions of the project:

- public and private organisations and institutions that create, collect or own digital content;
- private citizens, interested in receiving quality contents, reliable and directly responding to their interests;
- universities and schools, which wants to use cultural contents for educational purposes in a legal and safe environment;
- small and large enterprises interested in (re)using digital cultural content.

# MINERVA eC impact

- Stimulating decision makers and implementers in carrying out their initiatives of content enrichment,
- Creating the conditions to improve the quality of cultural content and services,
- Enhancing accessibility to cultural digital content.

# The MINERVA approach

The MINERVA eC approach follows the steps of the MINERVA project:

- a. a tight liaison with the national digitisation policies
- b. the implementation of the results achieved into new initiatives (e.g. MICHAEL and MICHAEL Plus)
- c. the involvement of experts from all the cultural institutions (museums, libraries, archives etc.)
- d. the cooperation with the other networks (EDLnet, EPOCH, DELOS, etc.)

# MICHAEL actors and roles

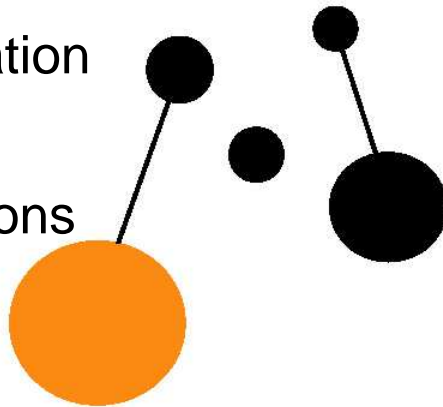
Ministries of culture:  
coordination and financing

Central cultural institutes:  
standardisation and guidelines

Technology providers: software  
implementation

Regions and Universities:  
surveys and local coordination  
of the cataloguers

The actual cultural institutions  
on the territory: museums,  
libraries and archives to  
provide content



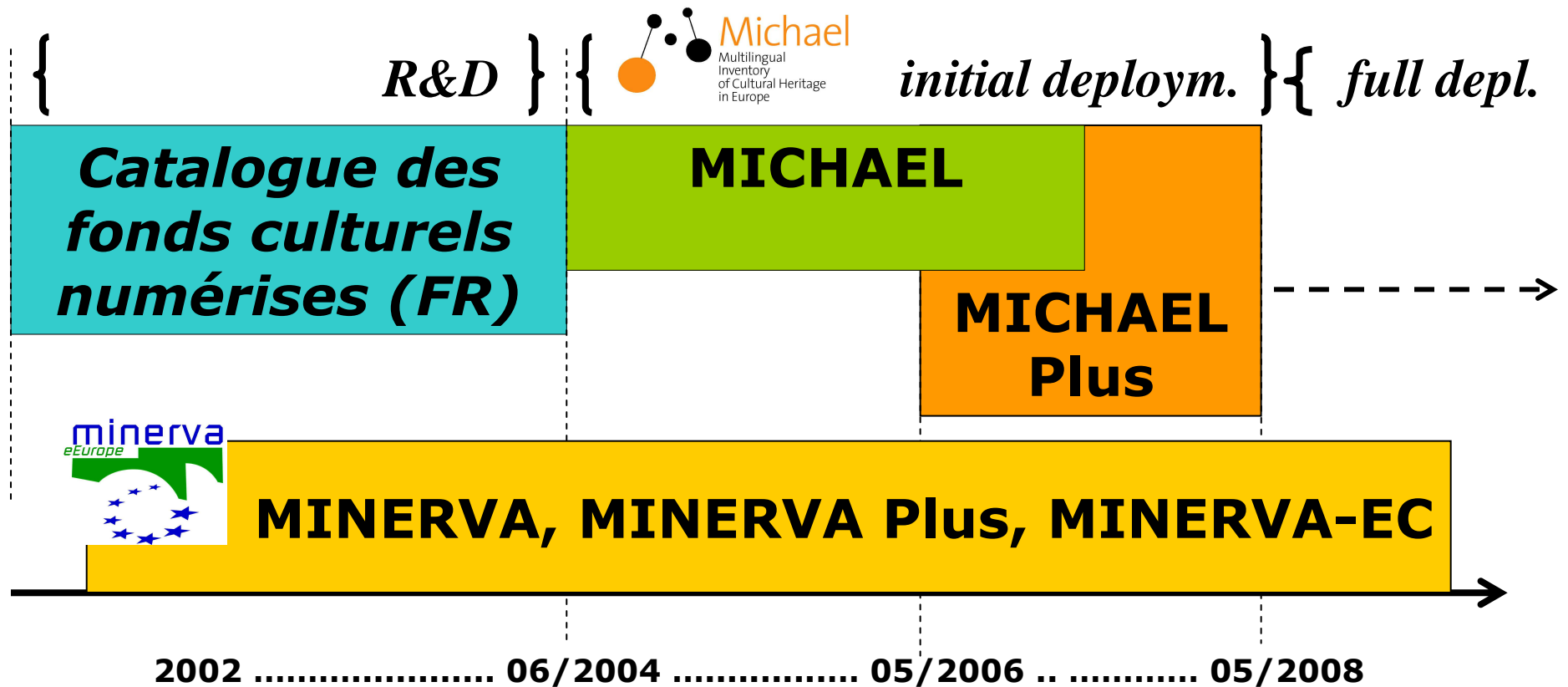
## Michael

Multilingual  
Inventory  
of Cultural Heritage  
in Europe

# Policy links

- MICHAEL and MICHAEL Plus have strong policy links
- The success of the initiative is based on the actual political commitment at national and European levels
- Main targeted policy domains:
  - Culture & multilingualism
  - Education & training
  - Research & innovation
  - Tourism & economic development

# The projects' phases



# i2010 - European Digital Library: the contribution of MinervaEC

Digital libraries are organised collections of digital content made available to the public<sup>1</sup>



There are a number of priorities to be addressed:

- Improve digitisation among museums, libraries and archives
- Create new services for integrated access
- Generate the conditions for use and re-use of the cultural digital material

**MinervaEC is working on these priorities**



1 : from the EC leaflet on i2010 - ISBN 92-79-02332-2



# The Minerva partners

21 EU countries

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

29 partners

... and experts of more than 150 cultural institutions involved in the working groups



# Work Plan

WP2	Assessment and evaluation
WP3	Awareness, dissemination, mobilising stakeholders
WP4	European Cultural Content Interoperability Framework
WP5	Quality, Accessibility and Usability
WP6	Best practices for content enrichment

and WP1 Project Management



# Expected outcomes 1

- Annual Reports
- Thematic publications:
  - ✓ Map of the cultural heritage in Europe \*\*\*
  - ✓ IPR guidelines
  - ✓ Technical guidelines v.2
  - ✓ Directory of the European legislation v.2
  - ✓ Study on the user needs
- The project dissemination literature

# Expected outcomes 2

- National workshops in each partner country; two formats:
  - quality of the cultural web sites and Museo&Web
  - diffusion of the MINERVA tools and publications
  - Meetings in :
    - Brussels
    - Santiago de Compostela
    - Berlin
- Five plenary meetings in cooperation with the future Presidencies:
  - Helsinki: October 2006
  - Berlin: February 2007
  - Lisbon: November 2007
  - Ljubljana: June 2008
  - France: September 2008 (final event)

# Minerva Award

MINERVA Award "Best practice in cultural heritage websites" :

- assigned to cultural heritage projects that are outstanding realisation of how to make cultural heritage content best available online to different audiences.
- Focusing on the idea of how to make our rich cultural and scientific content offerings easily findable,

The Minerva Award will give recognition to those projects that excel and perform exceptionally well in terms of accessibility, usability and interoperability .

- An international jury of independent experts will select the most outstanding projects.

Winners are then invited to the winners ceremony (June 2008 in Ljubljana)

Categories and award criteria are available on the Minerva website.

[www.minervaeurope.org](http://www.minervaeurope.org)



## \*\*\*A map of the Cultural Heritage Sector across Europe

‘A map of the Cultural Heritage Sector across Europe’  
under the MinervaEC Work Package 2: *Assessment & Monitoring/Evaluation*

Aim:

- scope and goal of the project are to draft out a map of the political and operative bodies and institutions across the European Union.
- This will help MINERVA EC and related projects to achieve optimal dissemination of its products which are generated in the frame of Minerva.
- In a nutshell, the results of this study will help to better execute, assess, monitor and control the process of dissemination.

# \*\*\*A map of the Cultural Heritage Sector across Europe

## Benefits:

- This is a tool for Minerva to hit the right people and to know who to send the results of the project to.
  - Other existing information and service networks:
  - The study will be useful also for other networks which produce tools and information for the cultural sector.
- Network building:
  - The results of the study will be useful for the people, institutions, NGOs who work in the cultural sector and who are in the process of establishing (and/or running) networks of cultural organisations across Europe.

## \*\*\*A map of the Cultural Heritage Sector across Europe

- Research:
  - The results will be useful for researchers and research institutions who are studying user needs of the cultural heritage sector in Europe.
- Education:
  - Educational institutions can benefit from the results of the study to know more about the cultural heritage sector in Europe, to enable networking, studying, cooperation, within an educational context.
- Private sector:
  - Private organisations who are offering services for digitisation.
  - This could be a way to establish new PPP for further financing to MinervaEC.
- European Commission:
  - EC may obtain a clearer and more comprehensive overview of the cultural heritage sector in Europe: how it works, how it is organised, who are the stakeholders, how they relate, etc.

# \*\*\*A map of the Cultural Heritage Sector across Europe

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MiBAC



# Conclusion

The MinervaEC workplan is fully correlated with the priorities of the Conclusions of the Council :

- To work towards the integration of libraries, museums and archives
- To address: IPR, interoperability and multilingualism
- To share good practices
- To reinforce coordination within and between MS
- To contribute to the overview of progress through the publication of the Minerva Annual Reports

The agenda of MinervaEC is aligned with TEL/EDL, MICHAEL/MICHAEL Plus and the other initiatives in the sector

Thank you

[www.minervaeurope.org](http://www.minervaeurope.org)

[www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org)

