



# An e-infrastructure for the Digital Cultural Heritage sector and the humanities research

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## Needs and requirements

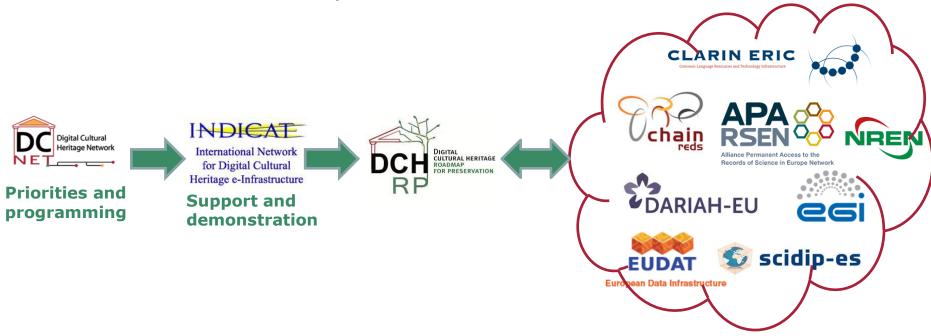


- Medicine and Natural sciences, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth sciences and physics, already make use of e-Infrastructure
  - To generate, curate and analyse research data
  - To develop and explore models and simulations
  - To enable dynamic distributed virtual organisations, facilitating collaboration with information and resource sharing
- Need for novel e-Infrastructure services are increasing also in Social Science and Humanities, in particular for:
  - research in the digital humanities (what DARIAH deals with)
  - storage and preservation (which is what we are investingating in DCH-RP)
  - semantic search (which is what we have studied in INDICATE),
  - 3D modelling and VR representations

# Background and context



- e-Infrastructures and DCH communities entered a dialogue
- several data-infrastructure projects exist and look how to set up data infrastructures, and many include DCH use cases

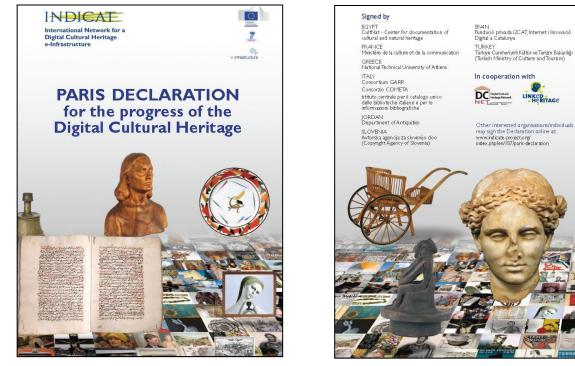


### Paris Declaration



HERITAGE

"Our shared vision is that in ten years' time, access and use of digital cultural heritage should be available to all and that collaboration with the e-Infrastructures community will facilitate realisation of this vision. Dialogue and collaboration between cultural heritage, ICT and e-Infrastructures stakeholders offer important benefits for all sectors." (http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net/article/parisdeclaration)



Madrid, 18 September 2013, EGI Technical Forum

# Current state of digitization of CH in Europe



#### Digitisation activity

- 83% of institutions said curatorial care is part of the mission
- 83% of institutions have a digital collection or is currently involved in digitisation activities
- 20% of all collections, that need to be, are digitised
- 89% of audio visual institutions have born digital collections, while 43% of museums of art and history have them
- 34% of institutions have a written digitisation strategy
- About one third of the institutions are included in a national digitisation strategy, for national libraries more than half are included

#### Digital access

- 31% of the institutions have a policy on the use of the digital collections, figures range from 60% for national libraries to 22% for archaeology museums
- 42% of institutions monitor the use of their digital collection
- 85% of institutions use web statistics to measure the use of their digital collections
- By 2014 institutions estimate to make twice as much of their collections accessible through Europeana when compared to today

# Current state of digitization of CH in Europe



#### Digital preservation

- 23% of institutions have a written digital preservation strategy, figures range from 44% for national libraries to 12-25% for museums
- About a third of the institutions are included in a national preservation strategy
- 40% of national libraries say there is no national digital preservation strategy
- 30% of the institutions are included in a national digital preservation infrastructure

#### Expenditures

- The estimated total cost of digitising the collections of Europe's museums, archives and libraries, including the audiovisual material they hold is approximately €100bn, or €10bn per annum for the next 10 years
- The cost of preserving and providing access to this material over a 10-year period after digitisation would be in the order of €10bn to €25 bn, provided that centralised repository infrastructure is made available for the purpose
- Sources
  - NUMERIC Study Report: <u>http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/telearn-digicult/numeric-study\_en.pdf</u>
  - ENUMERATE Survey Report on Digitisation in European CH Institutions 2012: <u>http://www.enumerate.eu/fileadmin/ENUMERATE/documents/ENUMERATE-Digitisation-Survey-2012.pdf</u>
  - EC Comité des Sages Report on Cost of Digitising Europe's CH: <u>http://ec.europa.eu/information\_society/activities/digital\_libraries/doc/refgroup/annexes/digiti\_report.pdf</u>

## Benefits for CH to use einfrastructure



- e-Infrastructures can contribute to faster realise data infrastructures that can be accesses at international scale and this is valuable for DCH too
- e-Infrastructures can contribute to standardisation in the data world; for DCH not only "row" scientific data are relevant, but even more information processing, images, AV recording, e-books, etc.
- e-Infrastructures can support experiments of new technologies and provide in this way new services to the embedded data infrastructures (e.g. advanced visualisation of DCH)
- e-Infrastructures allow for cost reduction by avoiding parallel activities in investing for higher volume/throughput and substituting expensive human workforce by cheap machine processes (e.g. cataloguing, linking data)
- e-infrastructures enhance processing and visualisation of complex cultural data (3d models, virtual reconstructions, etc.)
- e-infrastructures can offer connecting facilities and information services based on these facilities, e.g.: virtual conferences, document sharing, blog and cooperation platforms, etc.

# DCH and digital preservation

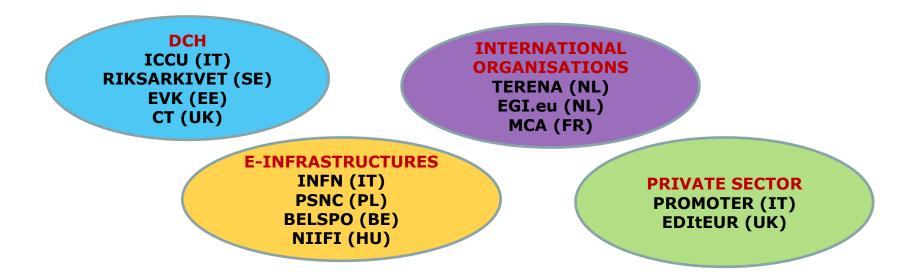


- The investment in the production of the DCH data is extremely high due because the description of each object requires the human intervention of experts in the sector
- For cultural data the digitisation process cannot be just replicated (as a physical experiment, for example).
- Born digital cultural heritage is more and more a reality in the artistic scenario and the data are complex and precious (e.g. 3D models)
- DC-NET conducted a research and analysis on how the DCH sector can benefit from the use of the e-Infrastructures: the service which was identified as having the highest priority was that of long term preservation
- Each digitisation programme is currently addressing the issue of preservation in a separate manner, a shared implementation of common e-Infrastructure layers could be beneficial and cost effective

#### E-infrastructures for Digital Preservation: DCH-RP case



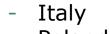
- Build upon the knowledge generated by DC-NET and INDICATE
- Preservation is defined in this context as the combination of preservation of digitised and born-digital content as well as preservation of the metadata associated with that content.
- **Consortium** composed of 13 partners from 7 European Countries:



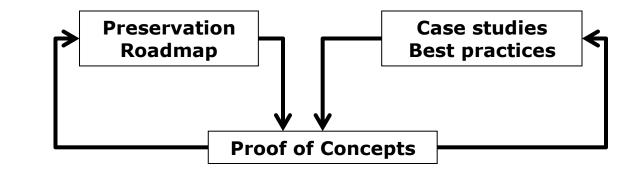
## Expected outcomes



- A Roadmap for the implementation of a preservation infrastructure for DCH, intended as the first instance of the Open Science Infrastructure for DCH in 2020
- Six Proofs of Concepts, where cultural institutions and e-Infrastructure providers experiment the actual use of distributed computing and storage infrastructures (NREN, grids, clouds, newer data infrastructures) to store and manage cultural digital resources, starting from the targeted specific services identified in the Roadmap and from real scenarios and user stories provided by the cultural institutions



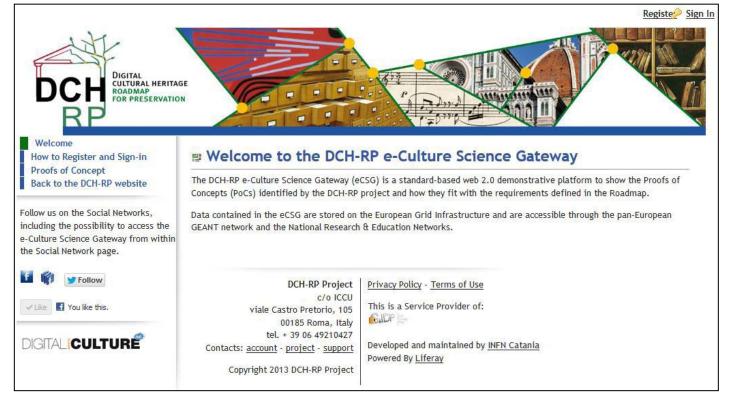
- Poland
- Hungary
- Sweden
- Belgium
- Estonia



## The eCulture Science Gateway



The execution of the experiments is based on the evolution of the eCulture Science Gateway developed by the INDICATE project and further improved in DCH-RP: http://ecsg.dch-rp.eu/



# Tools for collaboration in DCH-RP

DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ROADMAP FOR PRESERVATION

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| 261                                                                                      | DCH-RP:Main Page                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |                 |  |
| Navigation                                                                               | Contents (hide) 1 Welcome to the DCH-RP Wiki                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                       |                 |  |
| Main page<br>Community portal<br>Current events<br>Recent changes<br>Random page<br>Help | 2 COLH-RP collaborative tools overview<br>2.1 EG SSO<br>2.2 Mailing test<br>2.3 Document database<br>2.4 Wile<br>2.5 Indice meeting planner<br>2.2 Discussion forum<br>2.7 EGI blog                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Wi                                                                                    | ki              |  |
| What links here<br>Related changes<br>Special pages<br>Permanent link<br>Print/export    | Welcome to the DCH-RP Wiki<br>The DCH-RP has just been created, and no general structure has been d<br>Work Package 5 deals with carrying out the Proofs of Concept (PoC) for<br>A DCH glossary is currently being developed and will be successively mig                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | his project, and chose the Wiki as one of its collaboration tools.                    |                 |  |
| Create a book<br>Download as PDF<br>Printable version                                    | DCH-RP collaborative tools overview           The DCH-RP Wiki is part of a set of collaborative tools that EGI au as partners in the DCH-RP Wiki contributes (as is) to the project, serving two purposes.           • Pacilitate collaboration between partners for the duration of the project.           • Pacilitate collaboration between partners for the duration of the project.           • Pacilitate collaboration between partners for the duration of the project.           • Pacilitate collaboration between partners for the duration of the project.           • Pacilitate collaborative tools and their intended use.           EGI SSO           EGI SSO is primarily used as a identity provisioning and group management system. Every collaborative tool used in EGI is integrated with EGI SSO.           You can reach EGI SSO to preve and manage your account at https://www.edi.eu/sso@.which is at the same time the entry point for any group administrator to manage group |                                                                                       |                 |  |
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|          |                                                                                  | Forum                                                                                                   | Topics            | Posts      | Last post                                      |
|          | DCH-RP General Discussion<br>DCH-RP General Discussion                           |                                                                                                         | 3                 | 3          | 18 Apr 2013, 16:13<br>Rosette Vandenbroucke +D |
|          | DCH-RP Case Studies and Best Practices (WP4)<br>Moderator: Rosette Vandenbroucke |                                                                                                         | 1                 | 4          | 17 May 2013, 17:42<br>Marco de Niet →D         |
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| ome » DCH-RP » Proofs of Concept                                                                          |                                              |
| Proofs of Concept                                                                                         | Go to parent category   ICal export   View + |
| The Proofs of Concept team will record its regular meetings here.                                         |                                              |
| Managers: fresa, A.; Prandoni, C.; Drescher, M.                                                           | Event Dianner                                |
| Managers: fress, A.; Prandoni, C.; Drescher, M. August 2013 I 12 Aug Sprint 11 planning meeting July 2013 | Event Planner                                |

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| Publications   | 8 |                                                            | These documents on DCH-KP p                                            | roject and SUD-topics           | are available:     |                    |           |
| Projects       | 8 | Restrict search by topic to the most recent versions only. |                                                                        |                                 |                    |                    |           |
| Collaborations |   | EGI-doc-#                                                  | Title                                                                  | Author(s)                       | Topic(s)           | Last<br>Updated    | Status    |
|                |   | <u>1916-v1</u>                                             | Proof of Concept 1 Report Sweden                                       | Eva Toller                      | WP5<br>DCH-WP5     | 26 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | 1699-v11                                                   | Material for testing scenario 2.4                                      | Eva Toller                      | DCH-WP5            | 19 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | <u>1892-v3</u>                                             | Proof of Concept phase 1 reporting template                            | Michel Drescher                 | DCH-WP5            | 12 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | 1765-v10                                                   | Work Progress for scenario 2.4 (internal)                              | Eva Toller                      | DCH-WP5            | 08 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | <u>1697-v12</u>                                            | Material for testing scenario 1.3                                      | Eva Toller                      | DCH-WP5            | 08 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | 1722-v17                                                   | Work Progress for scenario 1.3 (internal)                              | Eva Toller                      | DCH-WP5            | 08 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | <u>1698-v15</u>                                            | Material for testing scenario 2.2                                      | Eva Toller                      | DCH-WP5            | 07 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | 1764-v11                                                   | Work Progress for scenario 2.2 (internal)                              | Eva Toller                      | DCH-WP5            | 07 Aug 2013        | DRAFT     |
|                |   | <u>1677-v3</u>                                             | DCH-RP: Proofs of Concept Scenarios                                    | Michel Drescher                 | DCH-WP3<br>DCH-WP5 | 16 Jul 2013        | DRAFT     |

## **Communication Platform**



#### www.digitalmeetsculture.net

Interactive online platforms for cooperation and information in the field of digital technologies applied to cultural heritage and the arts



#### Longer term plans towards a DCH infrastructure for preservation



- The longer term plan is to implement a dedicated infrastructure able to provide **distributed safe storage** and **seamless access** to a "continuum" of data coming from the largest number of small and big cultural institutions in Europe and internationally.
- Preservation services, that are at the core of the DCH-RP project represent one part of the problem, that in fact relies on the fact that the problem of the distributed storage has been solved.

## **Target Users**



- **researchers** in the humanities
- Leaching and learning actors (schools, training centres, university courses)
- cultural and creative industry for the creative use and re-use of the digital cultural content (in this sense, the networks of the creativity projects launched under CIP ICT-PSP in the "Europeana family" would be an interesting target group)
- And then...
  - **Content providers** (e.g. cultural managers of national institutions and libraries, small institutions, private and public publishers, etc.).
  - Policy makers and programme owners
  - Final users (e.g. researchers, practitioners, students and amateurs)
  - e-infrastructure providers and the R&D institutions

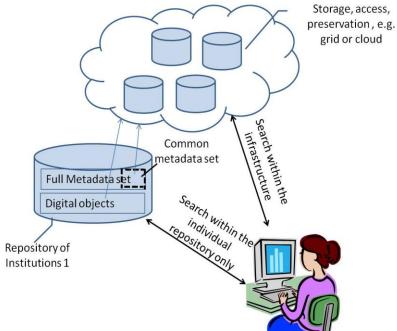
## **Features and Services**



- AAA services to authenticate the users and grant them different types of authorisation to access data
- Powerful search engine (e.g. semantic search)
- Identification of the best common metadata model
- Scalability to adapt on the basis of the increase of the number of users and of data
- Automatic extraction of metadata

#### End-user interfaces

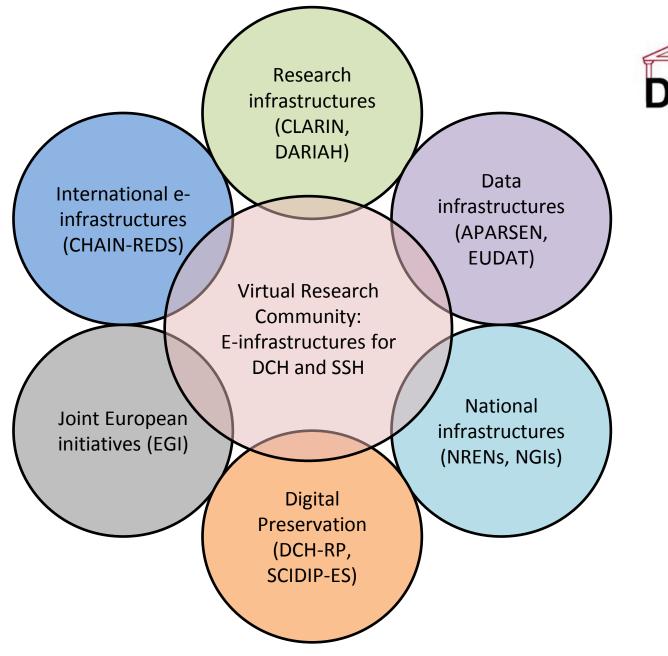
- To owners of cultural digital repositories who want to join the infrastructure (both big and small institutions, e.g. museums, libraries, archives)
- To individuals, with different access rights (e.g. researchers, teachers, students)
- To educational institutions (e.g. to manage groups of users associated to a university, a school, a training center)
- To private enterprises, providing testing access and commercial access to content



## Virtual Research Environments & Virtual Research Communities



- VRE and VRC are key new paradigms and practical opportunities for doing research
- Virtualisation and large-scale collaboration play key roles in handling born digital and digitised cultural content
- □ VRE brings into close vicinity the resources, VRC brings into close vicinity the partners. They help research in Humanities by:
  - Simplifying the **access** to diverse resources
  - Helping to extract/uncover/link useful/important/valid information from spread data archives
  - Enhancing visualisation of complex cultural data (3D, virtual environments)
  - Enabling the connection of diverse parallel activities on separate DCH segments
  - Supporting management, administration, documentation, dissemination, cooperation
- VRCs can also serve as competence centres facilitating European and global collaboration in the DCH and humanities research and enabling joint activities between diverse organisations, projects and networks



Madrid, 18 September 2013, EGI Technical Forum

DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ROADMAP FOR PRESERVATION

### Conclusions



- The vision for the next two decades is to implement a federated infrastructure to support the application of open science in the arts and the humanities
- The use of existing e-infrastructure for research and academia (including NREN, NGI and the newer data infrastructures) would be an efficient channel for the delivery of advanced services to the DCH
- VRE and VRC can contribute towards establishing a European platform of integrated services in DCH
- Such European platform will combine flexible organisation and technical framework to make interoperable related local-nationalinternational activities
- Federated collaboration of cultural institutions, humanities research and e-Infrastructures providers can result in true VRCs that use for their operations the European platform with new organisational, operational and business models

### Next appointments



#### October 30th, 2013 – Rome

- Preservation Workshop at the 2nd EUDAT Conference
- □ November 7th, 2013 Vilnius
  - Networking Session at the ICT 2013 Conference





# Thank you!

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