



**The Impact Centre of
Competence in
Digitisation: activities
and coordination with
other centres**

Vilnius, November 7th, 2013

Part 1

European Centres of Competence in Digitisation and Digital Preservation

Definition

- Centres of competence are seen as a key infrastructure to bridge the innovation gap.
- They play the role of hubs for the dissemination of expertise and communication of stakeholders.

Main roles

- Advise on right tools for entire workflow
- Promotion of open standards, resources and interoperable tools
- Harmonization of licensing schemes
- Seamless integration of tools
- Benchmarking services
- Certification
- Professional training
- Establish public-private partnerships for innovative usage of existing technology
- Collect research questions from the field and communicate them to research groups

Risks

- Low number of members/lack of stable funding
- Overlapping target members
- Insufficient R\&D output from new projects
- Competition of largest companies in disseminating knowledge
- Geographic dispersion of knowledge
- Inadequate legal forms

A possible funding scheme

- Membership fees and knowledge transfer services.
- Research (public and private) contracts.
- Core (variable) funding.
! (No core funding in Research Infrastructures in Horizon 2020; possibly at national level)

On cooperation

- Vision document SUCCEED (to appear 15th November) discusses 3 scenarios:
 - - Shared layer
 - - Competitive model
 - - Do nothing

On cooperation

- Most realistic scenario:
- Competitive model with collaboration between centres that form “a natural class”
- Incremental pilots
- Evaluate added value of cooperation

Part 2

Impact Centre of Competence in Digitisation

Latest news

- 24 members include 14 libraries, 5 research centres, 5 companies
- May 2014: Digital Access to Cultural Heritage (DATECH) conference. Call for papers open (www.datech2014.info).
- Demonstrator platform in the centre website now showcases 24 tools and services.

Benefits for members

- Maintains an active website where services, data and resources are showcased and distributed.
- Provides basic services such as advise on licensing, packaging and dissemination or evaluation of tools.
- Raises awareness of innovative results by organising scientific events, training, contests and expert groups meetings.
- Serves members to create (and connect with) research clusters and identify future needs and private or public funding opportunities.
- Facilitates the participation of members in special working groups on digitisation standards.

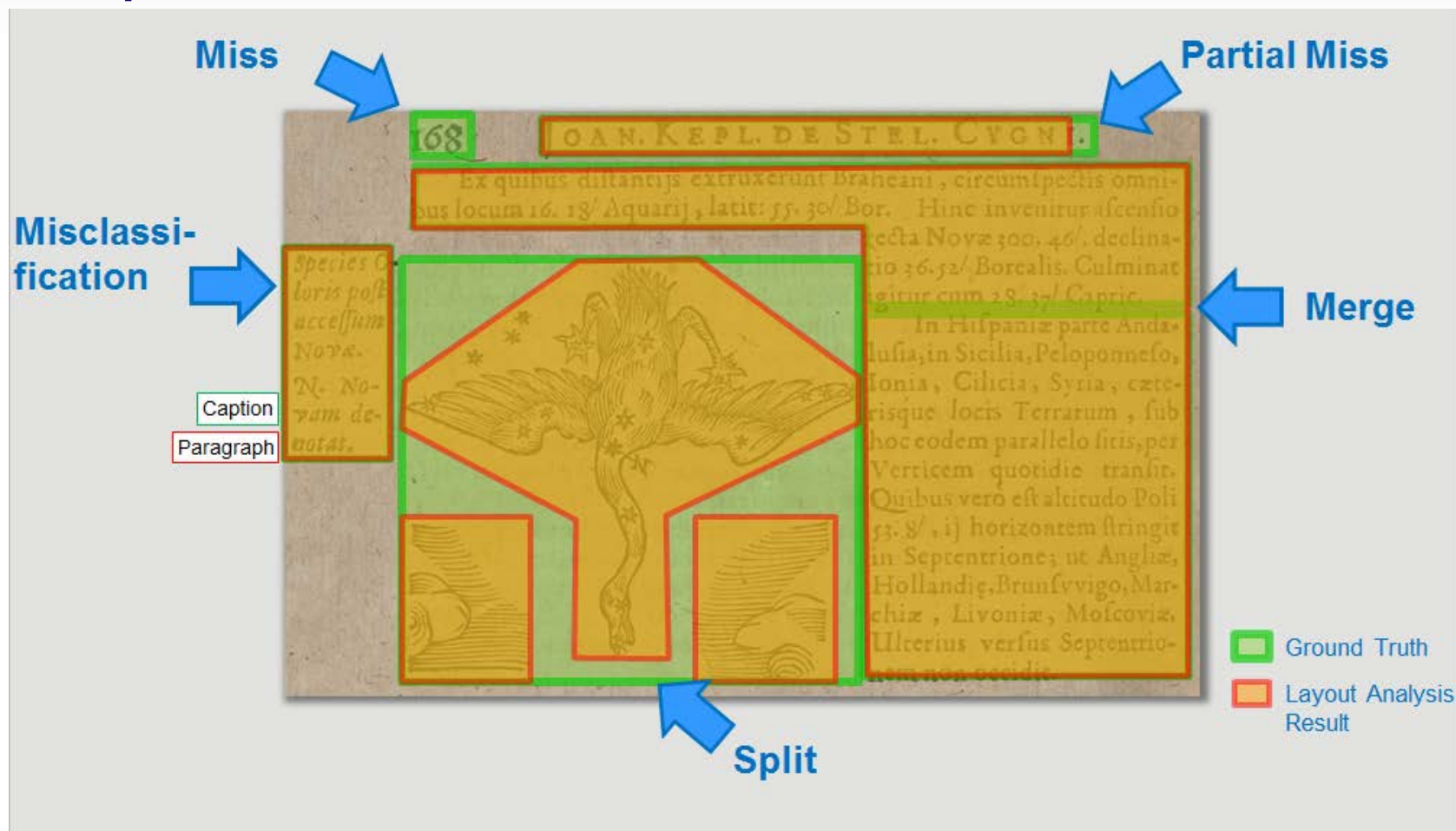
Essential services

- Tools: showcasing, documentation, support.
- Data: access, licensing.
- Services: consultancy, adaptation, validation.
- Community support: events, expert groups.
- Training: courses, certification, dissemination of standards and good practices.
- www.digitisation.eu

Our expertise

- Deployment of large digitisation programmes and digital libraries.
- Provision of digitisation services.
- Successful research programmes creating advances in digitisation techniques.
- Creation of linguistic resources for digitisation.
- Normalisation, interoperability and standards for tools data and resources.
- Software packaging and dissemination, IPR consultancy
- Community building and networking.
- Cooperation between private and public institutions

Example: OCR Evaluation tools



DEMO

The screenshot displays the website's interface. At the top left is the 'impact digitisation.eu centre of competence' logo. To its right are social media icons for Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook, and Google+. Further right are 'Join' and 'FAQs' buttons, and a search bar. A navigation menu below the logo includes 'About', 'Tools', 'Data', 'Services', 'Training', 'Community', and 'Contact Us'. On the right side of the header, there are 'My Account' and 'Logout' buttons.

The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Tools > Browse > Interoperability Framework >'. Below this, a sidebar on the left lists categories under 'Demonstrator Platform' and 'Browse', including 'Image Enhancement', 'Segmentation', 'OCR Engines', 'OCR Post-correction and Enrichment', 'Toolbox for Lexicon Building', 'Evaluation', 'Experimental Prototypes', 'Information Retrieval', and 'Interoperability Framework'. There are also 'Search' and 'Join us' buttons in the sidebar.

The main content area is titled 'GPPBinarisation1' and features a 'Back to Selection' button. Below this, it shows 'Available Operations: gppBinarise' with a dropdown arrow. A checkbox labeled 'Display available default values' is checked. A 'Show Operation Inputs' button is also present.

On the right side of the main content area, there is a 'Latest tweets' section with a tweet from @VinfraSA mentioning the IMPACT! project. Below this are sections for 'Data' (with a thumbnail of a cityscape), 'Services' (with a thumbnail of a person), and 'Share' (with social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Google+).

Conclusions

- The Impact centre (following the EC Recommendation of October 27, 2011) will contribute to:
- Optimising the use of digitisation resources, since it fosters public-private partnerships and cross-border collaboration by
- promoting the uptake of the latest technology.
- Promoting the use of common digitisation standards: an expert group will deliver recommendations.
- Building on competence centres for digitisation in Europe: joint workshops to share legal forms and business models have started.