DCH-RP e-Infrastructure Concertation Workshop

23-24 April 2014, Tallinn

Concluding remarks

- A very rich and useful meeting

- The intermediate Roadmap was well received and appreciated

- Your contributions, comments and suggestions will be taken into account (technical, organisational, etc). "Inputs captured from the Tallinn Workshop". The final Roadmap will be very different from the intermediate one

- Target groups of the roadmap:
  - Policy makers (EC and Member States)
  - DCH institutions
  - e-Infrastructure providers

- Objectives / Content:

- Specific recommendations should be added for the various target groups
- Political, legal, financial, organisational, technological dimensions must all be covered: the roadmap is not only a technology roadmap
- Be less technical in some parts, concentrate on services
- The social and cultural factors are also major general drivers
- Provide tools: user-friendly and not complex. An overview of tools is needed (combine existing ones): the basis is not technology but the needs/services. Different groups have different needs: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS
- The cost aspects must be very clearly emphasized: "who will pay" is a major question
- The institutional/political barriers must be identified: fragmentation, diversity of regulations, funding systems, etc
- More generally: "Who will do what with money from whom" ?
- The roadmap is a start, providing up to date information and recommendations (based on a broad consultation process) aimed at raising awareness and rallying stakeholders in Europe. The action plan should contain something on the future of the roadmapping process itself

- Alliances / Closer collaboration / Synergies should be established or strengthened between the DCH and the "Research world":
  - Ministries of Education and Research / Ministries of Culture / Research e-Infrastructures
  - A win-win cooperation: DCH can reinforce the SSH research field and contribute to multi- and interdisciplinary research topics (also in the context of addressing the societal and environmental Global Challenges) - DCH can provide a huge amount of "research data" - DCH sector is facing problems and challenges similar to those encountered by hard sciences - DCH research is an integral part of the "Research world"
- New opportunities should also be explored within the framework of e-Government initiatives, in particular for Archives

- Various issues ("pot pourri") that should be addressed more clearly in the Roadmap:
  - Preservation and access are different concepts but closely interlinked and inseparable: need to develop a dynamic approach
  - What do we want to preserve ? A selection process should be implemented, to face the ocean of data. Selection criteria should be defined to identify the "cultural material" that must be preserved. An interdisciplinary approach is mandatory. Big data issues: preserve the possible hidden relevant data/knowledge sources (data mining, statistics)
  - Sustainability (political, financial, institutional/organisational, technological). Which model: market/business approach with customers vs universal public service with users
  - The crucial role of human resources: awareness raising, training, communication are an integral part of the action plan to be set up
  - Socio-economic aspects/ impact of digital preservation and access:
    - a complementary part of the arguments in favour of a strong support to digital preservation;
    - a possible source of additional incomes ("commercial" services: e.g. tourism, publishing);
    - links to be established with publishers and more generally the private sector