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ATHENA

First Report on the network of national coordination

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eContentplus

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¹ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Objective of the work to be coordinated by WP5

The overall objective of the ATHENA work package 5 is to coordinate “the digital content contributed by the participating cultural institutions and to realise the full potential of the different content for their effective inclusion into Europeana”.

This could be realised following two integrated ways, which are strategic and practical:

- clarifying the strategies set up by Member States in terms of aggregation of digital content and provision to Europeana in order to avoid any confliction between the participation to the ATHENA project and that ones to the Europeana family initiatives;
- verifying the real substance of the content that are foreseen to be provided (as well as the future ones).

The result of this couple of approaches will allow the ATHENA consortium to gather a significant core of digital European content coming from museums collections, whose metadata and thesauri will be aligned to the Europeana Semantic Elements structure though the ATHENA plug-ins, which are under development by WP7.

This work is being carried out in full cooperation with both the Europeana representatives that are partner of the ATHENA project through the Stichting European Digital Library, and the “Europeana Content & Partners Group” recently created in the framework of European v1.0 project.

1.2 Purpose and content of the deliverable

The aim of the first ATHENA WP5 deliverable (“First Report on the network of national coordination”) is to describe the work carried out during the months 1-6 (November 2008-April 2009), its results and plans for the future activities.

The first part of the deliverable illustrates the network of National Contact Point (NCP) set up in the framework of the project to respond to the need of a practical mechanism of gathering digital content for the project, filling in the questionnaires which are preparatory to the development of the ATHENA technical framework, manage the relationship among the involved institutions, and organise dissemination activities.

Each NCP has been requested to contribute to the writing of this deliverable and compile a national report including information on the policy or strategy set up at national level for the implementation of Europeana, the new collections which are supposed to be provided to ATHENA during the future months, and the national/international events that will be held during the year 2009 where the ATHENA project will be introduced.

2. THE NETWORK OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

2.1 Overview

“For the purpose of content coordination, a practical mechanism of coordination both at country level and at European level is needed. To manage the relationships with the institutions whose content are expected to be used by the project, a contact network among the institutions will be built up”¹.

This paragraph is taken from the Description of work of the ATHENA work package 5 and is related to the very first period of work ending with the preparation of this deliverable. In fact, the first objective of the “Coordination of content” working group was to organise into a network the ATHENA partners so that they could act as ‘focal point’ at countrywide level, and bring the information on national digitisation strategies and standards implemented by the museums.

The NRG acted as "a steering group for the activities related to the co-ordination of digitisation policies and programmes". The NRG shared the national digitisation experiences and good practices, brought them at European level, and created a common platform for cooperation and coordination of national activities across the European Union. In the framework of the NRG activity many projects and initiative started up.

The ATHENA National Contact Point network acts to bring afloat towards a European context the national museum experiences on digitisation, and at the same time to raise awareness on ATHENA and Europeana in the Member States.

The NCP is a support group for the activities related to the ATHENA project. The NCP will facilitate the coordination of the project’s activities at national level, in particular, helping the cultural institutions to provide the content for the project.

The NCP context: in the framework of the ATHENA project a need of content coordination at national level and in accordance to the overall objectives of the project raised; this question must be faced in order to assure the coherence of the content provision to ATHENA and, as a second step, to Europeana.

The NCP mission: the network has been created to support the whole set of activities of the ATHENA partners, both at institutional and technical level. It could expand its role and become a point of reference for Europeana itself and the other related projects. Each NCP has also been invited to work closely to his/her respective national representative of the Member States’ Expert Group on digitisation of the European Commission (MSEG)² in order to keep them informed about the project’s progresses and receive update information about the Commission’s policy inputs.

The NCP tasks:

- to support the cultural institutions for the provision of content the ATHENA and check if those ones provided fit with the project’s goals;

1 ATHENA Description of Work, p. 59, Work Package 5 Description.

2 http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/mseg/mseg_web.pdf

- to assure the coordination of the content provision to ATHENA and Europeana to avoid overlapping with the other related projects and in full respect of the national strategies of content aggregation and provision to the European Digital Library;
- to investigate the national coordination mechanisms in terms of creation of aggregators (thematic, regional, national) and provision of content to Europeana;
- to disseminate the knowledge about ATHENA at national level;
- to set up group of national experts for facilitating the running of the ATHENA activities;
- to arrange and participate to events, workshops, conferences to disseminate the ATHENA and Europeana activities;
- to inform and work closely with the national representative of Member States' Expert Group;
- to support, when requested, all the other ATHENA working groups.

In a few words, the National Contact Points network is the real engine of the ATHENA project since they are responsible for the concrete implementation of the activities (support in content provision, dissemination) that will realise the success of the initiative. The NCP is a bridge between the ATHENA management and the museums and cultural institutions of the partner countries.

In a long-term perspective, the National Contact Points could become a stable reference for the Europeana activities.

2.2 The National Contact Points

The NCP nomination process was stated up by the ATHENA management during the plenary meeting held in Rome on 13th February 2009; at the beginning interim representatives were appointed by the project's coordinator until the conformation of their nomination.

At the first time, only one delegate per country was nominated but at present, since some states were represented by more than one institution/body, in some case they became two or three; in general, when this happens, each NCP deals with different aspects of the project (for instance, in Italy and Greece, one contact point faces the technical issues, the other one the content provision).

The NCP network includes also the non-European country that joined ATHENA for dissemination (Azerbaijan, Russia, and also Malta, whose representative is not included into the Description of Work but is invited as expert at the meetings in reason of the previous activities carried out with many partner of the network (the MINERVAplus and MICHAELplus projects); also Israel, that shares the ATHENA's goals of delivering content to Europeana, has its own representative.

Also the Europeana office is represented in the network in order to have a constant feedback on the progress of the work.

The list of the National Contact Points has been published on the ATHENA web site so they can be easily reached by new content providers coming from their own state¹.

1 <http://www.athenaeurope.org/index.php?en/132/national-contact-points>

TABLE 1: list of the National Contact Points

COUNTRY	NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
Azerbaijan	Efsun Ahmedov	Ministry of culture	efsun_mct@yahoo.com
Belgium	Barbara Dierickx	Packed	barbara@packed.be
Belgium	Rony Vissers	Packed	rony@packed.be
Bulgaria	Sabine Aneva	CL-BAS	sabina@cl.bas.bg
Cyprus	Franco Niccolucci	STARC – The Cyprus Institute	f.niccolucci@cyi.ac.cy
Cyprus	Marinos Joannides	Higher Technological Institute of Cyprus	gammat@cytanet.com.cy
Cyprus	Sorin Hermon	STARC – The Cyprus Institute	sorin.hermon@gmail.com
Czech Republic	Pavel Dousa	National Museum Prague	pavel_dousa@nm.cz
Estonia	Indrek Eensaar	Ministry of Culture	indrek.eensaar@kul.ee
Finland	Pirjo Hamari	National Board of Antiquities	pirjo.hamari@nba.fi
Finland	Sirkka Valanto	National Board of Antiquities	sirkka.valanto@nba.fi
France	France Marie-Véronique Leroi	Ministère de la culture et de la communication	marie-veronique.leroi@culture.gouv.fr
Germany	Monika Hagedorn-Saupe	SMB-SPK	m.hagedorn@smb.spk-berlin.de
Greece	Vassilis Tzouvaras	NTUA	tzouvaras@image.ntua.gr
Greece	Dimitrios K. Tsolis	UP	dkt@hpclab.ceid.upatras.gr
Greece	Katerina Moutogianni	Ministry of Culture	kmoutogianni@culture.gr
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Hungary	Ivan Ronai	Ministry of Education and Culture	ivan.ronai@okm.gov.hu
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Italy	Marzia Piccininno	Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali	marzia.piccininno@beniculturali.it
Italy	Giuliana De Francesco	Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali	defrancesco@beniculturali.it

Latvia	Una Balode	Kultūras informācijas sistēmas	una.balode@is.gov.lv
Luxembourg	Guy Frank	Ministry of Culture	guy.frank@mc.etat.lu
Malta	Noel Zammit	Heritage Malta	noel.zammit@gov.mt
The Netherlands	Cathy Jager	Rijksmuseum	c.jager@rijksmuseum.nl
Poland	Maria Sliwinska	ICIMSS	maria.sliwinska@uni.torun.pl
Romania	Dan Matei	CIMEC	dan@cimec.ro
Russia	Nadezhda Brakker	Center PIC	nbrakker@gmail.com
Slovak Republic	Alexandra Burianova	Ministry of Culture	alexandra.burianova@culture.gov.sk
Slovenia	Franc Zakrajsek	Ministry of Culture	franc.zakrajsek@guest.arnes.si
Sweden	Ann Hagerfors	Luleå University of Technology	ann.hagerfors@ltu.se
United Kingdom	Gordon McKenna	Collections Trust	gordon@collectionstrust.org.uk
Europeana	Georgia Angelaki	EDL Foundation	georgia.angelaki@kb.nl

2.3 The work carried out by the National Contact Points

During the period March-April 2009 (months 5 and 6) the National Contact Point representatives were urged to fulfill a couple of important tasks related to the work packages 3 and 5.

The work to carry out in the framework of WP3 was mainly to fill in the questionnaire that the WP leaders elaborated in order to retrieve the information for the deliverable due at month 6 (D3.1 “Report on existing standards applied by European museums”; for further details, see this document in the ATHENA web site). They had to compile the online survey form¹ collecting the information on the digital collections that were briefly described in the ATHENA Description of Work.

This action’s aim was to have a clear overview on the standards applied by the participant museums and institutions so to build the ATHENA technical plug-ins, according to the task 3.1 of WP3; anyhow, some queries of the survey are helpful to manage the future content for the project and the results, as soon as they will be definitive, will be taken into account for the development of the ATHENA network and the increase of the core of contents:

- 19 - the subject of the collection
- 20 - the time periods which the content of the collection covers
- 23 – quantity of thumbnails or samples to send to Europeana
- 115 and 116 – if the metadata are aggregated by anyone else and, if so, who

1 http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mwG9_2fDPQIzZC72HU_2bONqCA_3d_3d



The first couple of topics are related to the variety of content that ATHENA could collect so to represent the diversity of the European museums, while the other two has the specific object to gather, as much as possible, digital collections, that is consistent with the European requirements.

By the other hand, the NCP compiled for the WP5 a country report (see the “Reporting template”, annex 1), which is the core content of this deliverables; each one contains the following information:

- the policy or strategy set up at national level for the implementation of Europeana;
- the new collections which are supposed to be provided to ATHENA during the future months;
- the national/international events that will be held during the year 2009 where the ATHENA project will be introduced (synergy with WP2, see paragraph 5.1).

In a few words, the network performed both technical and dissemination tasks, and, mainly, started since the very beginning the research of new content providers and digital collections.

3. COUNTRY REPORTS

3.1 Introduction

The country reports were asked to the ATHENA National Contact Points with a double aim:

- to make them aware of the policy set up by Member states toward Europeana (when existing),
- to avoid that ATHENA have some misalignments with the national approach on the implementation of the European Digital Library.

The ATHENA consortium is made up of experts coming from different institutions of different levels: governmental bodies like ministries or state agencies for the heritage or the digitisation of CH, national libraries and museums, universities and private agencies dealing with the management of the cultural heritage and ICT, and research centers.

Furthermore, some partners are deeply involved into the development process of the digitisation European policies through their participation to the Member States' Expert Group on digitisation, online accessibility and preservation of content (Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, and Slovenia), and have a direct view on what's going on at Commission level about Europeana and the implementation of the Council Conclusions¹ of 20 November 2008 and the Commission Recommendation of 24 August 2006²; by the other hand, many other partners are less involved in this process.

In this light, the report the NCP were asked to compile was intended to make the ATHENA partners more acquainted with the respective national digitisation strategies, and to avoid, when possible, overlapping or, which is a worst, conflict when they will be asked to bring new content providers to the ATHENA project.

In particular, the ATHENA contact points should have collect information about the existence of:

- national advisory boards/committees/offices to drive the implementation of Europeana at national level;
- aggregators/portals (national or thematic) that provide content to Europeana.

The background documents for carrying on this work are the Member States' Expert Group national reports edited on March 2008 upon the request of the European Commission³. These reports contain the progresses that the European countries have made since November 2006 on digitisation, on line accessibility and digital preservation. In particular, the first two point of the Commission's questionnaire⁴ were considered as the most interesting for the integration with the ATHENA WP5 reports.

1 http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/communications/i2010diglib/council_concl_press201108.pdf

2 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32006H0585:EN:NOT>

3 They have been online published among the Digital Libraries Initiatives web pages http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/experts/mseg/reports/index_en.htm, and on paper by the MINERVA eC project.

4 “1. Progress on the systematic gathering of information about current and planned digitisation of books, journals, newspapers, photographs, museum objects, archival documents, audiovisual material and the availability of overviews of such digitisation in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote collaboration and synergies at European level”.

Also a couple of non-European partners, at present officially not involved into the European Digital Library building process, namely Israel and Russia provided their contributions. Azerbaijan is not included in this deliverable because it is involved into ATHENA without budget only for dissemination purposes.

The texts of the following national reports are those ones provided by the ATHENA National Contact Points; only few editorial changes were made.

On the whole, the information collected by the NCP respected the task they had to deal with; anyhow, there's some lack of homogeneity which is the effect of the different ranks of the institutions that are partners of the ATHENA consortium and the diverse state of the art of digitization at national level.

The Luxembourg partner (Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche) couldn't provide any report.

3.2 Belgium (by Barbara Dierickx, PACKED)

Policy and government

Initiatives exist at Flemish Community and federal level, each entity being responsible for its own institutions.

The Scientific and Technical Information Service (STIS) of the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) operates a portal called Digipat¹. This website provides information and links on the progress of the federal digitisation plan (at the moment in its first phase: 2005-2009) and on the participation in European initiatives. A 'Digitisation Unit' has been installed; this unit will monitor the implementation of the digitisation plan and prepare the launch of its second phase (focussing on aspects of long-term preservation).

The Flemish Ministry for Culture, Youth, Sport and Media² did not define a top-down model in setting quantitative goals for the digitisation of analogue material. In Flanders cultural heritage institutions are funded in such a way that the institutions make decisions and set out goals individually for their digitisation. The website of 'Agentschap Kunsten en Erfgoed' (Agency of Arts and Heritage) of the Ministry of the Flemish Community³ provides an overview of funded digitisation projects.

Research concerning digital cultural heritage

One of the research topics concerning digital cultural heritage is intellectual property rights. Consultations on the issues of copyright were held since August 2007 with the Belgian Intellectual Property Office. The Belgian Advisory Board on IPR identified the main specific issues related to copyright and neighbouring rights, and investigated in which framework these issues in relation with digitisation, digital preservation and online accessibility could be best handled in Belgium. A report on these outcomes will soon be published in Dutch and French. Additional discussions occur at Community level; at the moment a study called 'Auteursrecht in de digitale samenleving' (Copyright in the digital society) is being conducted

"2. Progress on the development of quantitative targets for the digitisation of analogue material in archives, libraries and museums, indicating the expected increase in digitised material which could form part of the European Digital Library and the budgets allocated by public authorities".

1 The Digipat portal - <http://digipat.stis.fgov.be/>

2 Flemish Ministry for Culture, Youth, Sport and Media - <http://www.cjism.vlaanderen.be/>

3 Agency of Arts and Heritage - <http://www.kunstenenerfgoed.be/>

by the ICRI (Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and ICT) under supervision of the Ministry of the Flemish Community. Flemish heritage organisations and archives also responded to the Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy. Their reaction can be found online¹ (only in Dutch).

A cross-domain research project (BOM-VI, 'Bewaring en Ontsluiting van Multimediale Data in Vlaanderen') concerning the long-term preservation and distribution of audiovisual material has started in Flanders. This project is 80% funded through the Institute for the promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders (IWT-Flanders); 20% of the funding comes from the researchpartners in the project which are as well public as private actors.

Projects and portals

Several digital cultural heritage projects have been started. An agreement has been reached between the Library of the University of Ghent and Google to digitise a part of their collections². The Royal Library recently launched its own digital library called Belgica³. Other cultural heritage institutions are taking up a role as thematic or regional aggregator, such as Move⁴, The Flemish Art Collection⁵, and ErfgoedLimburg⁶.

European participation

Several institutions are involved in projects connecting to Europeana. These projects are:

- ATHENA: participation of PACKED vzw and Royal Museum of Art and History.
- EuropeanaLocal: participation of PCCE⁷ and Move.
- EDLNet: participation of the Catholic University of Leuven and the Royal Library⁸.
- Europeana v1.0: participation of the Catholic University of Leuven and FARO⁹.
- GAMA: participation of argos vzw¹⁰.

1 Reaction on the Green Paper - http://www.faronet.be/files/bijlagen/blog/Groenboek_COM_2008_466_3_BibArchVlaanderen.pdf

2 The Library of the University of Ghent - http://lib.ugent.be/index_en.shtml

3 The Belgica portal - <http://belgica.kbr.be/>

4 Move, 'Musea Oost-Vlaanderen in Evolutie', is a partnership between the museums in the East of Flanders.
<http://www.museuminzicht.be>

5 The Flemish Art Collection is the structural partnership between three art-historical museums in Flanders: the Groeninge Museum Bruges, the Museum of Fine Arts Ghent and the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp. <http://www.vlaamsekunstcollectie.be/index.aspx?local=en&p=>

6 ErfgoedLimburg is an online database, linking several digital databases on cultural heritage in the province of Limburg. <http://www.erfgoedlimburg.be>

7 PCCE, 'Provinciaal Centrum voor Cultureel Erfgoed', is a partnership between the Flemish government and local authorities, involving relevant stakeholders from different cultures and sectors. The partnership is set up to preserve local heritage and improve its contextualisation and distribution.
<http://www.limburg.be/pcce/>

8 The Royal Library - <http://www.kbr.be> only NL/FR

9 Faro is the Flemish support center for cultural heritage. <http://www.faronet.be>

10 argos vzw is a centre for art and media, based in Brussels. The organisation houses a public media library and provides international distribution facilities for artist's films, videos and installations.

- DIGMAP: participation of the Royal Library.
- MinervaEC: participation of the federal Scientific and Technical Information Service and the Agency of Arts and Heritage (Ministry of the Flemish Community).
- Michael: participation of FARO and the Agency of Arts and Heritage (Ministry of the Flemish Community).

Some institutions already contribute their content directly to Europeana. These are the Flemish Art Collection¹, the Library of the University of Ghent², the Royal Library and the Royal Museum of Mariemont³. In particular, Flemish Art Collection representatives won't deliver content in order to avoid duplication, but they will participate in the research and the network

Communication and consultation

Two consultation platforms were set up to exchange the information on Europeana, and on participation in European cultural heritage projects. Participants in these platforms are mainly representatives from the ministries and from the different cultural heritage institutions.

The federal Scientific and Technical Information Service acts as secretary for the consultation platform EDL-Net-Belgium. This platform includes representatives of the Royal Library; members of the Flemish consultation platform, the Commission of the university libraries of the French Community and the archives and museums of the French Community.

The Flemish consultation platform is called Europeana Vlaanderen Overlegplatform and distributes information on Europeana among interested parties. The platform is organised by the Agency of Arts and Heritage. It also identifies possible digital content for Europeana and supports the content providers. The meetings of this platform are a chance to bring the participants in European cultural heritage projects together to talk about their respective projects – thus avoiding overlap in content and research. The consultation platform also has an advisory role towards the Catholic University of Leuven (a partner in Europeana v.1.0): the platform advises on technical, political and organisational aspects of the Flemish participation in Europeana. Members of the platform are the Flemish institutions involved in projects relating to Europeana (see above).

3.3 Bulgaria (by Sabina Aneva, Central Library of Bulgarian academy of sciences)

Bulgaria does not have any national policy regarding the implementation of Europeana. There is even no strategy on any kind of digitisation of cultural heritage. While libraries are aware of the importance of digitising rare books, periodicals and other unique items, both museums and archives are at a really basic stage (in terms not only of technology, but also of mentality). There is no unified ICT adopted for museum purposes, be it on local or national level.

The Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (CL of BAS) has developed BASLIB – a software for museum collections management. The Library has implemented it

1 The Flemish Art Collection - <http://www.vlaamsekunstcollectie.be/index.aspx?local=en&p=>

2 The Library of the University of Ghent - http://lib.ugent.be/index_en.shtml

3 The Royal Museum of Mariemont - http://www.musee-mariemont.be/home_en/

as a pioneer project at the Sofia Museum of History, where, by means of this software, has been prepared an inventory of digitised landscapes from Sofia (more precisely these are paintings by Joseph Oberbauer and Vladimir Manski). Immovable monuments of culture as well as photographs are going to be digitised and described in 2009 – again with the help of this software.

A project entitled *The Russian Emigration in Bulgaria* begins in 2009. It will be also based on the same software (BASLIB) and the following institutions will take part in it: the CL of BAS, the Scientific Archive of BAS and the National Historical Museum (with its branch *Bulgaria and the Slavic World*).

Another forthcoming event is our contract with the National Archaeological Institute with Museum related to the BASLIB software instalment, digitisation of museum items and their availability online. In addition, are ongoing the first steps in contracting the Ethnographic Museum and the Institute of Architectural Studies in Sofia.

The software product BASLIB was initially created for the Central Library of BAS only, but after its first successful implementation it was decided to offer it to the Sofia Museum of History – as some sort of experiment because it was intended for library use – but as the things worked quite well, its use increased.

On the basis of the know-how that the CL has from the use of BASLIB at the Sofia Museum of History, it is planned to install the product free of charge (yet not open source) at other museums.

These are the activities that we plan for the year 2009. We hope to enlarge this net in the near future.

3.4 Cyprus (by Franco Niccolucci, the Cyprus Institute)

Please refer to the Cyprus report edited by the national representative of MSEG in March 2008¹ for the required information since no significant updating was realised.

In Cyprus, a complication in the digitisation of tangible cultural heritage comes perhaps from the fact that antiquities fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Communications and Works, and coordination with the Ministry of Culture is therefore required.

A digitization initiative is under way at the Department of Antiquities, concerning some collections of the Nicosia Archaeological museum, but it still has to start. Probably such digitization policies for tangible heritage will be coordinated by the Department of Antiquities, which in any case must give the necessary permissions.

3.5 Czech Republic (by Pavel Dousa, National Museum)

Digitisation and digital preservation in museums of the Czech Republic are significantly hindered by a lack of money, slowing digitisation and preventing us from building a truly

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/recommendation/report_implem_submission290208/cyprus.pdf

trusted (and certified) digital repository – as you can find in the national MSEG report on March 2008¹.

The situation should improve dramatically very soon. The Czech Ministry of Culture and the Czech Government have accepted the National Digital Library as a strategic priority and candidate for European funding under the umbrella of the Integrated Operational Programme - IOP (Smart Administration).

The Czech Ministry of Culture has prepared a broad concept covering digitisation, long-term preservation of and access to the entire national cultural heritage in digital form. One national portal will provide users with access to Czech national cultural heritage covering library documents, archival documents, museum collections, architectonic monuments, performing arts and media.

Documents owned or produced by any Czech library, museum, archives or other institution can be selected to be part of the National Digital Library. The digitisation, creation of metadata and preservation of these selected documents are funded by the Ministry of Culture.

The centre, or heart, of the whole system called the National Digital Library contains selected digital objects as the core national cultural heritage. These digital objects intended for long-term preservation are digitised analogue documents or born digital materials. They are produced within three large national projects funded by the Ministry of Culture: Manuscriptorium, The Kramerius, WebArchiv.

Institutions with digital objects not selected for the National Digital Library will also be invited to deposit their data in the Central Digital Repository at their request, but additional funding will be required from other ministries (depending on the different subject areas), regions or institutions. Digital data are produced also by other institutions, but these institutions are not interested in depositing the data in the Central Repository. Digital data stored in local repositories built by such institutions and funded by various ministries, local authorities, individual institutions and corporations can be integrated under the umbrella of national, or international, portals and other integrating tools if those agencies adhere to agreed standards.

Several national grant projects made it possible for our digitisation projects to start in the early 1990s. All results can be easily integrated into miscellaneous portals (TEL, Europeana etc.).

Despite being a small country, the Czech Republic (National Library Prague) has earned a worldwide recognition for its long tradition and remarkable results in the area of digital preservation: in 2005, the National Library of the Czech Republic was awarded the first UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize for its contribution to the preservation and accessibility of our documentary heritage.

The Czech Republic has joined:

- Michael and Michael plus European projects aiming at the creation of a multilingual European heritage inventory;
- ATHENA - Access to cultural heritage networks across Europe;

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/recommendation/report_implem_submission290208/czech_republik.pdf

- BHL - Biodiversity Heritage Library for Europe (National Museum is WP leader responsible for dissemination);
- EUROPEANA 1.0.

3.6 Estonia (by Indrek Eensaar, Estonian Ministry of Culture)

To co-ordinate digitisation and digital preservation of cultural heritage in Estonia and monitoring progress in digitization the Council for Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage was affiliated to the Ministry of Culture of Estonia.

In Estonia digitisation is assembled to relevant competence centres such as Estonian National Library, Estonian National Broadcasting Company and State Conservation Centre “Kanut”. Estonian National Library is participating at TEL project. Estonian Ministry of Culture is participating to the ATHENA project.

In Estonia the Ministry of Culture is deploying new museum software named MuIS, which has central database, so all data about museum objects are stored in one place; the museum workers use the software with Internet browser.

The technology is based on J2EE, Oracle Database and data structures are based on CIDOC CRM although it differs in some parts. The development started in 2005 when Europeana wasn't actual at this time; therefore it doesn't have any data exchange interfaces today.

It is foreseen that at the end of 2009 all 28 museums under supervision of Estonian Ministry of Culture will be using the MuIS software.

The central museum software also has public portal but it has very basic functionality today¹. It is planned to start development of the user interface at this year to make it more user-friendly, multilingual and create some features for e-learning purposes, thematic virtual exhibitions etc.

3.7 Finland (by Sirkka Valanto, National Board of Antiquities)

In Finland the digitisation of cultural heritage is an essential part of the development of the information society. It has been included in the governmental policy as well as in the programmes of the Ministry of Finances and the Ministry of Education.

The cultural heritage owned and maintained by memory organisations is regarded as a central asset in the creation of cultural contents to Finnish and European net works.

The grounds of the national policy and actions have been presented in the report Implementation of the Commission Recommendation on Digitisation and Online Accessibility of Cultural Material and Digital Preservation in 2008².

The key effort in the digitisation of cultural heritage in Finland is the National Digital Library – a project started by the Ministry of Education in 2008 encompassing digitisation of cultural heritage materials from museums, archives and libraries and making them accessible through

¹ www.muis.ee

² http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/experts/mseg/reports/index_en.htm

a national access point. In addition to accessibility the project also focuses on long term preservation of both digitized and born-digitized material.

Based on political decision, budgetary resources for the digitisation of cultural heritage material and for accessibility and preservation of digital cultural content have been increased in the state budget.

The aim of the National Digital Library is to establish one national access point, through which the core cultural heritage collections will be searchable on the item level. The service will allow access also to databases of immovable heritage and various services of museums, archives and libraries.

The project aims at promoting development of feasible, cost-effective solutions for centralized digitisation of different kinds of material, and at creating lasting mechanism for long-term preservation of digital cultural material and scientific information.

The National Digital Library will be run and maintained by the Ministry of Education. The project has a high level advisory board as well as a managerial body. Under them there is a working group for the accessibility, a working group for long-term preservation and a technical expert group. The members of the working groups cover 35 institutions including ministries, national institutions responsible for the preservation of cultural heritage, scientific and public libraries, archives and museums.

The creation of National Digital Library will be carried through during 2008-2011.

The detailed goals of the National Digital Library are as follows:

- enhancing the accessibility and usability of the information resources of the archives, libraries and museums in the net works;
- developing solutions to problems of long term preservation of electronic cultural heritage materials;
- creating one access point to electronic cultural heritage materials in archives, libraries and museums;
- digitising a core prioritised materials of the archives, libraries and museums and including them to a joint search service;
- increasing awareness and knowledge of digitisation and electronic accessibility as well as long term preservation of cultural heritage materials.

The strategy of Finland to provide content to Europeana is based on the creation of the National Digital Library. It will be the aggregator including cultural heritage contents to Europeana. Material to the National Digital Library will be collected partly from other aggregators like Finnish Museums Online.

The interoperability of digitised material at European level will be ensured by e.g. common guidelines, instructions, recommendations, conditions of state subsidies and contracts.

3.8 France (by Marie-Véronique Leroi, Ministère de la culture et de la communication)

1) Implementation of Europeana at national level

The horizontal “digitisation” steering committee (archives, libraries, museums) of the Ministry of Culture and Communication (MCC) is monitoring the different actions and projects linked to the implementation of the recommendation of the European Commission (2006) and the Council Conclusions to develop Europeana (2006 and 2008).

Since 2007, French participants (MCC, BnF and INA), have participated in the thematic network EuropeanaNet in charge of the development of Europeana. They are also participating in ongoing European projects that contribute to Europeana (Athena, Michael, APEnet etc).

The French national strategy for contributing to Europeana relies on three complementary initiatives:

1. The *national digitisation plan of the MCC*: The following objectives of the national plan are in line with the goals of Europeana to provide access to content from all domains (archives, libraries, museums, monuments and archaeology):

- develop a global offer of digitised content structured according thematic or regional programs (network of institutions and contents regardless of domains or formats);
- significantly heighten the offer of digital cultural resources made up of coherent collections with critical mass;
- promote free and open access to cultural heritage for all internet users;
- favour individual usages by making emblematic heritage collections accessible.

Six thematic programs structure the digital content according to national priorities: the territories; the people; French and the languages of France; art and archaeology; architecture; contemporary creation. An annual call for projects is endowed with a 3 million Euros budget to finance projects. The access through the national aggregator “Collections” (see below) is privileged for the integration in Europeana.

2. The *mass digitisation of books performed by the BnF (French National Library)*.

The book digitisation led by the BnF, in the context of Gallica¹, is carried out following a documentary charter that defines the priority digitisation criteria to ensure geographic, chronological, linguistic and content domain coverage and that guarantees the balance with other print digitisation operations at the national level (networked digitisation)².

3. *The digitisation of audio-visual archives of the INA (National Audiovisual Institute)*.

INA’s Preservation and digitisation plan (PSN) aims at guaranteeing the conservation of “old” collections, facilitating exploitation of the collections, providing better access and better ensuring its mission of promoting heritage.

2) Tools providing content to Europeana

¹ Gallica is the digital library developed by the BnF (<http://gallica.bnf.fr>)

² http://www.bnf.fr/pages/infopro/numerisation/pdf/Charte_Gallica.pdf.

Three national resources are integrated in Europeana prototype (November 2008):

The “Collections” portal, launched in 2007, brings access to the resources of archives, libraries, museums and heritage departments via the Culture.fr portal¹. This portal integrates more than 30 resources (including Joconde, the national database of museums, bringing together collections from 300 museums in France), bringing the total number of accessible heritage records to 3 million with 2 million illustrated with images. It includes the advanced search functions based on semantic functionalities and multilingualism (English, French and Spanish).

The MCC, in association with public institutions (Louvre, Georges Pompidou Centre, Quai Branly Museum, Réunion des Musées Nationaux) and regional administrations, is pursuing the opening of its digitised resources to the general public.

The catalogue of national digitised collections of cultural heritage, *Patrimoine Numérique* (Digital Heritage)² is one of these sources. It is the French instance of the European MICHAEL project³ and is built around the “digitisation” steering committee of the Ministry that brings together the network of cultural institutions. A version intended for the institutions of University education (NUMES) is under development by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, in coherence with *Patrimoine numérique*.

*The Gallica site*⁴, launched in 2000, provides access to over 250 000 digitised works, including press collections, and 100 000 images. A new version of this site, Gallica 2⁵ has been online since 2008. Gallica users also benefit from the new functionalities: full-text based search engine and the possibility to create a personal space where documents can be saved and bookmarked. In late 2010, some 400 000 copyright free documents will be available in text and image mode. To these 400 000 thousand printed documents will be added press clippings stemming from the five years press digitisation plan (3.5 million pages) as well as documents from the digital preservation pipelines of the BnF: specialised collection, printed and audiovisual.

The conception of Gallica 2 took into account the user remarks collected during the BnF study (see: Report on the usages and the expectations of Europeana users, *Noémie Lesquins*, June 2007⁶).

Audiovisual collections: the “Archives for all” portal of the INA

Since 2004, the whole of the PSN digitised programmes have been accessible online worldwide on the professional site “inamediapro.fr,” open to 6400 accredited clients.

INA opened its archives to the general public on the ina.fr portal, “Archives pour tous”, in 2006. Ina.fr is today a leader of Video on Demand in terms of volume and quality of content: over 100 000 documents can be consulted online, corresponding to 18 000 hours of programming (14 000 hours of television and 4000 hours of radio). This offer is enriched by

¹ <http://www.culture.fr>.

² <http://www.numerique.culture.fr>

³ <http://www.michael-culture.org>

⁴ <http://gallica.bnf.fr>

⁵ <http://gallica2.bnf.fr>

⁶ http://bibnum.bnf.fr/usages/BnF_Europeana_EtudeUsages2007.pdf

over 50 000 hours a year and has been enlarged to the online education field with “Learn” (“Apprendre”), an audiovisual learning tool.

3.9 Germany (by Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, Institute for Museum Research, State Museums Berlin Foundation Prussian Cultural Heritage (IfM SMB-PK))

In Germany there are plans to build a German Digital Library (working title: Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek – DDB), but there is not yet a political decision for it. If – on political level – this decision is made, this Digital Library will be the main contributor to Europeana from Germany.

If this German Digital Library will be created it will have as one of its sources the digital data already collected in the BAM-portal¹. BAM currently is a cross-sectoral portal which functions as an opac providing information where to find museum objects, books and archival material from many cultural heritage institutions in Germany but gives also access to digitised material where possible. The search in the BAM-portal can be restricted to digital material only. Part of this information is being provided to Europeana already.

Beside the BAM-portal there exist and are under development several regional and thematic museums and cross-sectoral portals². Most of the information presented on regional level can also be accessed through the BAM-portal and if the providing institution has agreed will be included in the German Digital Library, in case there is a positive decision to create one.

For museums in Germany the Special Interest Group “Documentation” within the German Museum Association (Fachgruppe Dokumentation im Deutschen Museumsbund) supports German museums in providing digital information on their collections to portals.

One of its working groups, the working group on Data Exchange (Arbeitsgruppe Datenaustausch) is the main developer of the “museumdat” harvesting format which is already implanted in several museum softwares which allows museums more easily to provide their data to portals such as the BAM-portal or Europeana³.

3.10 Greece (by Dimitrios Tsolis, University of Patras)

In Greece there are more than 500 digitisation activities and projects taking place, which are mainly funded by the Community Framework Support Programmes (the C CFS ending at June 2009, the “Digital Strategy” Information Society Operational Programme 2008 - 2013 and the newly developed and just initiated National Strategic Reference Framework (ESPA) 2007-2013). All types of content are being digitised, including books, photographs and 2-D objects, paintings, videos, films, sound documents, music, 3-D (archaeological) objects and monuments.

The major part of the content refers to books and written documents with more than 4 million pages being generated, including more than 300.000 photographs, 30.000 2-D and 10.000 3-D

¹ www.bam-portal.de

² www.digicult-sh.de, www.digicult-saarland.de, ...

³ <http://www.museumdat.org/index.php?ln=en&t=home>

objects, more than 20.000 art designs and paintings, more than 5.000 hours of video/film material and 10.000 hours of sound.

The key governmental bodies supporting digitization in Greece are:

- The Hellenic Ministry of Culture is responsible for driving the cultural domain, i.e., museums and cultural archives.
- The General Secretariat of Communication and Information (with the Hellenic National Audiovisual Archive as an implementation branch and point of reference) advances the developments in the audiovisual domain.
- Developments related with libraries and “classic” archives lie with the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

All responsible organisations keep up closely with developments in the European Digital Library, so that all national developments fit and permit synergies with Europeana. The National Audiovisual Archive participates in the Expert Group for Digitisation and Cultural Heritage set up by the European Commission, as well as in European projects and activities for the digitisation and preservation of audiovisual archives.

The Hellenic Ministry of Culture participates in European developments, such as in the Michael Plus and ATHENA projects. Technical developments in these frameworks are implemented with the assistance of the National Technical University of Athens, which is also member of the EDLnet technical thematic network. Greek libraries also participate in the TEL and in the EDL development.

Within the period 2003-2007, some 100 M€ were devoted to digitisation activities in Greece. The new Digital Strategy 2008-2013 foresees a similar amount of funding for advancing the area developments. In this framework it is expected that the content to be digitised, annotated and shared with Europeana in the end of the above period will be two to three times greater than the current digital content in museums, libraries and archives. Already a new call for cultural digitization for educational purposes has been published from the Digital Strategy and new projects will start during July 2009.

The Ministry of Culture and research organisations as the National Technical University of Athens and University of Patras, consider the formation of – Competence - Centres for Research, Digitisation or Preservation, which will be able to assist digitising organisations in technological and implementation issues.

The National Technical University and the University of Patras expects that in the first years of the national Information Society Programme 2008-2013, there will be implementation studies leading to creation of at least one or two such Centre. It is well recognized that development in this area can be made only if large scale digitisation facilities are built and put in action. Economies of scale and parallel development of digital preservation, standardisation and research capabilities are possible if action is taken on a national basis, with a national scope, big and global projects and – if possible – with a multinational perspective.

The University of Patras has already started to develop a national – regional digitization of cultural content and long term preservation centre¹ in the infrastructure and facilities of the

¹ <http://digitization.hpclab.ceid.upatras.gr>

University of Patras. The ambition is the creation and establishment of an aggregator of digital content from national level to the Europeana level.

In this framework a digitization study has been completed and appropriate hardware and software has been developed towards this objective. The digital content collected so far refers to private collections, archives and museums. This aggregator will be focused mainly on Museums and Archives heritage.

Similar practices have been developed by the National Technical University of Athens¹, the Cultural and Educational Technology Institute².

3.11 Hungary (by Ivan Ronai, Ministry of Education and Culture)

A working group has been set up consisting of the representatives of the government agencies concerned with the implementation of Europeana. It is led by the representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The participants are: the representative of the Ministry of Justice; the representative of the state secretary responsible for information society; the representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; the representative of the Hungarian Patent Office.

The task of the WG is to overlook the activities of the Member States Expert Group, to advice on the implementation of Europeana at national level.

The working group has met a few times discussing the issues raised by the MSEG. We have not documented our activity so far, but we plan to make it more formal and expand the partnership.

Aggregators are the National Széchényi Library and the Neumann Digital Library.

1. National Széchényi Library and Neumann Digital Library³: some more (brief) details on their kind of content and if they have already undertaken contact with Europeana.

The National Széchényi Library is the National Representative in EDLNet, it is active in the TEL and TEL Plus project which will be an aggregator of Europeana. The Neumann Digital Library has made available the sources on an OAI server for the EDL for harvesting, and besides they have made contacts with the technical manager of Europeana, Bram van der Werf.

2. The Hungarian Digital Image Library project.

The Hungarian Digital Image Library is realised by the National Széchényi Library. It contains the images of digitised codices, maps, prints, placards and posters, photographs and illustrations held by various libraries in Hungary. It will be launched in March and the data format enables its inclusion in Europeana.

A couple of major Hungarian museums, the Open Air Ethnography Museum and the Hungarian National Gallery could be the possible new ATHENA content providers; contacts are ongoing.

¹ <http://www.ntua.gr>

² <http://www.ceti.gr>

³ <http://www.neumann-haz.hu/en>

3.12 Israel (by Dov Wiener, Makash)

The implementation of Europeana is followed up in Israel by the MINERVA forum, which includes all the institutions with statutory responsibilities in the area of cultural heritage and with an interest in the application of advanced technologies.

Since the 5th EVA/MINERVA Conference at the end of 2008¹ two important institutions have joined this forum: the Israel Film Archive and the Israel Center for Libraries.

The present providers of content for Europeana include:

- The content partners of ATHENA: Israel State Archive, National Library of Israel and the Israel Museum Jerusalem.
- There is a systematic effort of the Department of Museums and Visual Arts at the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sports (headed by Idit Amihai) to involve the Museums; for this purpose the department has nominated its consultant to be active in the ATHENA WP7 in view of bringing content from the Museums from Israel, through ATHENA to Europeana. The department is establishing a computerization service for all recognized museums in Israel.
- The National Library of Israel has provided some of its digitized content to the MultiMatch project in view of testing multilingualism issues and having its metadata in Europeana.
- The Israel Film Archive is collaborating with the EFG – European Film Gateway in view of aligning its metadata to that of Europeana and having its holdings accessible.
- The Israel State Archive has established contact with another Europeana project APENet (Archives Portal Europe) whose objective is to build an Internet Gateway for Documents and Archives in Europe.
- The Division for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has shown interest in developing the aggregated access to Israel culture through Europeana. Some initial clarifications are being carried out concerning this matter.

3.13 Italy (by Marzia Piccinino, Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali)

Since the very beginning Italy supported through the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities the European Digital Library building process; in fact, the national representative by the Member States Expert Group has actively contributed to the elaboration of last Council Conclusions and found the most suitable way to assure a first Italian funding to Europeana.

In terms of political approach the Italian Ministry decided to maximise the national efforts for aggregating content and send them to Europeana. In fact, since 2005 MiBAC started up the project of a national cross-domain aggregator, CulturalItalia, the Italian culture portal². The portal is only part of a wider digitisation strategy that includes the digitisation itself, the creation of cultural web sites, and the survey on the national digital collections (the MICHAEL service).

¹ <http://www.minervaisrael.org.il/program2008.html>

² www.culturaitalia.it

CulturaItalia's mission is to communicate the various aspects of Italian culture (arts, archaeology, landscape, cinema, music, literature, architecture, etc.) and create a unique and integrated point of access to Italian cultural heritage:

- to bring out the digital cultural content and make it visible to an extensive public;
- to increase the production of digitised content;
- to foster the development of services for tourism;
- to contribute to the building process of the European Digital Library.

CulturaItalia aggregates the metadata coming from online and offline data bases of every kind of content related to the Italian culture; no topic nor sector are left behind: art, literature, archaeology, archives, books and libraries, architecture etc.

The portal was thought to give an integrated access to all these digital information and assure visibility to big and small institutions. In fact, every cultural body, public or private, local or national, can contribute to CulturaItalia sharing its own content.

CulturaItalia gathers also the information coming from other Italian aggregators, i.e. library aggregators (SBN, Internet Culturale)¹, archive aggregator (SAN)² or regional aggregators (for instance, SIRBEC from Lombardia region)³.

As far as the museum sector is concerned, CulturaItalia doesn't include such a thematic aggregator (not existing at national level) but the data coming from the general Italian catalogue of the heritage, which includes not only museums objects but also those ones distributed in churches, historical buildings, stores of the preservation offices etc.

The general catalogue is called SIGEC⁴ will be soon online; at present, the section related to art objects (ArtPast)⁵ can be seen through CulturaItalia only.

At present, more than 2,5 millions of metadata can be browsed.

CulturaItalia is perfectly interoperable with Europeana since it uses the same standards and protocols: basically, an application profile based on Dublin Core and OAI-PMH for the metadata harvesting. CulturaItalia and Europeana have the same workflow and approach, one on a national basis, the other at European level.

By the technical point of view CulturaItalia is ready to open a direct harvesting channel; the first test was successful and more than 40,000 metadata have been already published on Europeana on the occasion of the official launch. Other information is being sent.

As far as the workflow is concerned, CulturaItalia takes specific agreements with the cultural institutions that wish to share its own metadata; such agreements define the provision of content both to CulturaItalia and Europeana, in order to maximise the efforts.

¹ <http://opac.sbn.it/opacsbn/opac/iccu/informazioni.jsp> - <http://www.internetculturale.it/genera.jsp?l=en>

² <http://www.archivi.beniculturali.it/>

³ <http://www.lombardiabeniculturali.it/sirbec/>

⁴ http://www.iccd.beniculturali.it/cataloguing/information-systems/information-systems?set_language=en .

⁵ www.artpast.org

The campaign that the Ministry launch to implement the national cross-domain portal refers at the same time to Europeana too so that cultural institutions can have a double benefit from the participation to these initiatives.

Europeana can also benefits from the work done by CulturaItalia since it will receive good metadata and will avoid undertaking official agreements with every single institution.

Another important Italian aggregator, which is also integrated with CulturaItalia is the MICHAEL service¹. In fact, in Italy, MICHAEL has proved to be the most suitable tool for the systematic gathering of information about projects and programmes for the digitisation of cultural content and

objects of any kind, including information about the physical collection source for the digitisation and outcome of the projects: digital collections, online and offline services.

In Italy, besides all the Ministry of Culture's offices and managed institutions (more than 600), the project involves the 20 Regions and coordinates the cataloguing of the resources belonging to local institutions located within their borders and the 77 Italian universities that are cataloguing the digital collections belonging to their museums, libraries and research departments.

The important effort made in order to achieve a comprehensive census covering the greatest number of archives, libraries, museums, heritage preservation offices, audiovisual archives and any other kind of cultural institution, both public and private, small, medium and large, is now proving successful.

The close cooperation with the project for the Italian culture Portal CulturaItalia, guarantees that MICHAEL covers the main Italian public and private digital cultural content providers. On the other hand, through MICHAEL Italy, CulturaItalia is able to identify possible further content providers from various different fields or sectors.

3.14 Latvia (by Una Balode, State Agency "Culture Information Systems")

The main institution creating and co-ordinating the state cultural policy in Latvia is the Ministry of Culture².

To encourage partnership and digital cooperation the Ministry of Culture in December 2003 made a decision to reorganize the Library Information Network Consortium. The result of this reorganization was an establishment of the State agency "Culture Information Systems" (CIS) which took possession of all functions of Consortium and there were also additional functions added.

CIS operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. *Mission* of CIS is to help memory institutions – archives, libraries and museums (ALMs) – to preserve and make more accessible culture heritage for future generations, making use of the contemporary information technologies. Aim of the CIS is to ensure ALMs with the necessary IT resources in order to preserve and ensure its accessibility to the public. Main functions of the CIS are:

¹ <http://michael-culture.it/mpf/pub-it/index.html>

² <http://www.km.gov.lv>

- to develop information systems of ALMs and as well as information systems of other culture institutions (jointly – culture information systems),
- to ensure processing, accumulation and dissemination of information collected from ALM field.

Responsibility of CIS¹ is to administrate and implement projects, which include preservation, digitalisation and online accessibility of information resources and cultural heritage kept by ALMs. CIS administers projects of national, European and international scope within ALM field.

Gathering of information and process of planning activities of digitisation of culture heritage as well as implementation of projects by CIS is organized in close cooperation with the libraries of Latvia, Directorate General of Latvia State Archives and State Authority of Museums of Latvia.

CIS in collaboration with State Authority of Museums of Latvia (SAM)² is carried out project “Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums”.

Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums will provide both digitization of heritage museums’ potential into Latvian education system, usage of the resource in state tourism industry as well as inclusion of Latvia’s culture heritage into both Europe and world culture assets.

Accordingly to the statistics collected by State Authority on Museums of Latvia, which oversees museums system, National Holding of Museums consists from more than 5 millions museums objects.

National Holding of Museums to be added with 100 000 museum objects per year.

National Holding of Museums holds different museum’s items about Latvia and world history: artifacts from archaeological digs, hoards of jewellery and coins, folk costumes, traditional tools, applied art, domestic items, natural objects, photographs, documents, maps, engravings, paintings and other Latvian historical, art and natural material. Implementation of the project covers all the territory of Latvia in 110 accredited museums:

- 25 state museums;
- 80 Latvian local government museums;
- 5 private museums.

By implementation of all project activities every museum will have an opportunity to digitize its holding and include baseline data on museum objects in the Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums³.

There are more than 250 000 descriptions of museum objects currently available on the Joint catalogue.

¹ For more information <http://www.kis.gov.lv>

² For more information about State Authority of Museums of Latvia: <http://www.mvp.gov.lv>

³ <http://www.nmkk.lv>

3.15 Malta (by Noel Zammit, Heritage Malta)

Heritage Malta, together with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture, has setup a committee to establish reference point for Europeana content provision.

Heritage Malta is currently cataloguing information on museum objects. An overview of Heritage Malta can be extracted from its website¹.

Heritage Malta manages 30 museums and 5 world heritage sites. Digitization of content within these museums is still underway due to the large number of objects hosted in museums.

An off the shelf collection management system (CMS, like the ones listed in the Collections Trust website) is currently being designed for procurement. This CMS will eventually host all cultural heritage objects and their related digital assets. The CMS shall comply with SPECTRUM standards and shall have the facility to output to RDF pages for easier interoperability with other systems and portals. The below list of content is prone to change as we develop the CMS to include a larger number of collections from our museums.

Heritage Malta is also active in other eContent Plus project, STERNA² that will provide content to Europeana as a side deliverable.

Currently, Heritage Malta can supply ATHENA with RDF based pages of content from the National Museum of Fine Arts and from the National Museum of Natural History for testing purposes³.

3.16 The Netherlands (by Kathy Jager, Rijksmuseum)

The strategy for digitalisation is a national issue in the Netherlands. There is no coordination on a project level. The implementation and distribution of Europeana is effectuated following the agreements settled upon by the conclusions of the Council on November 20th of last year.

Reports from the Netherlands concerning the state of affairs and implementation of the recommendations of 2006 are adapted annually on request of the committee.

In the Netherlands there is no institution responsible for a national policy towards Europeana. The national policy towards Europeana is the responsibility of the government in the Netherlands. They do sustain Europeana both in terms of finance and organisation. Institutes in the Netherlands are encouraged to take part in Europeana and all projects connected to Europeana.

¹ <http://www.heritagemalta.org/>

² www.sterna-project.net

³ <http://www.heritagemalta.org/ccm/acquisitions/acquisitions.html> -> go to TRANSFERS, ALBERT GANADO MAPS, VIEW SAMPLE.
<http://www.heritagemalta.org> -> browse sites/museums and view the photos and collections related to the museum.

It is important to note that these links will change soon to URI's.

It is worth to underline the role of DEN - Digitaal Erfgoed Nederland that is working with Europeana. In the Netherlands DEN has the position of clearinghouse for standardised digitised heritage. They do not represent heritage institutes. Their clearinghouse position requires them to operate independently.

3.17 Poland (by Maria Sliwinska, ICIMSS)

The Polish Ministry of Culture established the Committee for Digitisation in June 2006. The Committee, elected for 4 years period, should provide the Ministry with the national policy in digitization.

The work done till today include a guide about existing standards: „Standardy w procesie digitalizacji obiektów dziedzictwa kulturowego" available also online¹.

- Aggregators/portals (national or thematic) that provide content to Europeana
Since 1999 Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center develops dLibra software for the regional digital library in Poznan area. The results have been successful so the other regions, and libraries, including the National Library implemented the same software offered by the Supercomputing and Networking Center for free.
In 2007 the libraries using dLibra software created the Digital Libraries Federation. Supercomputing and Networking Center in Poznan is the main national aggregator for libraries but the digital library Polona of the National Library that delivers own content directly to the Europeana even is included into the Federation based on the same system.

Archives plan to deliver materials to Europeana through the created in March 2008 National Digital Archive that reports to The Head Office of the State Archives included to the APENet project as content provider.

Museums took already part in MICHAEL project registering digital collections but are not prepared yet to participate in Europeana. ATHENA will support museums in joining Europeana.

3.18 Romania (by Dan Matei, CIMEC)

Following the drafting (early 2008) by the Ministry of Culture, Religious Affairs and national Heritage of a *Public policy for the digitization of the cultural resources and for the development of the Digital Library of Romania*², the Government of Romania issued on December 10th, 2008 the Government Decision #1676³ for the "approval of the *National Program for the Digitization of National Cultural Resources and the Creation of the Digital Library of Romania*".

The Government Decision appoints a Program Committee in which are represented the Ministry of Culture, Religious Affairs and National Heritage, the Ministry of Administration

¹ <http://bcpw.bg.pw.edu.pl/publication/1113>

² www.cultura.ro/Files/GenericFiles/PPP-Digitizare.pdf

³ www.cultura.ro/Files/GenericFiles/HG-1676-2008-digitizare.pdf

and Interior, the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Communication and Information Society.

On the other hand, the Program organises the process of digitization on five major "pillars":

- written heritage;
- movable cultural heritage;
- immovable cultural heritage;
- audio-visual heritage;
- archival heritage.

The Government appoints *CIMEC - the Institute for Cultural Memory* as national aggregator, which acts as an interface between the Romanian content providers and Europeana.

For the management of the allocated funds, for the associated public procurement and for the monitoring of the Program, a Program Implementation Unit [PIU] will be created within the Ministry of Culture, Religious Affairs and National Heritage.

3.19 Russia (by Nadezhda Brakker, Centre on the Problem of Informatisation of Culture)

Russia is a dissemination partner of ATHENA without EC financing. The aim of participation in ATHENA is to raise awareness about Europeana and supporting projects in Russia.

In fact, Russian cultural professional communities are not so aware of Europeana though there were papers at EVA2008 Moscow and at EVA2007 Moscow and the Russian State Library is a partner of The European Library.

By now there are no plans to supply the content to Europeana neither on the federal nor on the institutional level. The possibility of content provision from the Russian museums and other cultural institutions will be investigated during the project.

There are just a few aggregators of museum information and cross-sectoral information in Russia.

There are several united library catalogues like, for instance, RILC, the portal provides an on-line advanced search facility across the bibliographic and digital resources of [five largest libraries in Russia](http://www.ribk.net/) (<http://www.ribk.net/>), or the National Information Library Centre (www.nilc.ru).

- RUSART.info, Russian United Space of Art Resources and Technologies, (<http://altsoft.rosbi.net:210/>). Administrator: Alt-Soft. Information and communication technologies, Saint-Petersburg (www.alt-soft.spb.ru).

RUSART.info integrates the following information resources:

- Encyclopaedia of Saint-Petersburg (www.encspb.ru)
- Encyclopaedia of Leningrad region
- Encyclopaedia of Perm and Perm region
- Russian State Archive of Literature and Art (www.rgali.ru)
- Central State Archive of cinema-photo-audio documents (<http://altsoft.rosbi.net/rgakfd>)

- Cultural and Historical Monuments of Saint-Petersburg and Leningrad region
- State Museum “Vyborg Palace”
- Rybinsk State history, architecture and art museum-preserve (<http://www.rybmuseum.ru/>)

Language: Russian.

Data schema: CIMI, RUSMARC.

Access: Z39.50.

- Museums of Karelia (<http://www.museums.karelia.ru/kamis/web/title.htm>). Integrated catalogue of 9 museums of Karelia Republic, Russia.

Language: Russian.

Collections: bonistics, graphics, old Russia art of Karelia, paintings, engraved copperplates, applied arts and ethnography.

- Russian Literary Heritage On-line: A project supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and managed in partnership with the British Council, Moscow (<http://tolstoy-nasledie.rsl.ru:8880/en/mainmenu/about>).

This is the first attempt to create a partnership between a library and a literary estate in the Russian Federation. The project developed the on-line union catalogue, which offers integrated access to the catalogue of the Memorial Library of Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy, held by the State Memorial and Natural Preserve Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy "Yasnaya Polyana", as well as to all related bibliographic records and a selection of digital resources in the Russian State Library.

Languages: Russian, English.

Data schema: RusMARC.

- There is a very good aggregator oriented to schools, organised and supported by the Ministry of Education (<http://school-collection.edu.ru/>). Anyhow, the licences do not allow supplying information to other portals, only using for education purposes.

Language: Russian.

3.20 Slovak Republic (by Alexandra Burianova, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic)

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic plays several roles in implementation process of content providing for Europeana.

1. Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic is developing a national aggregator for Europeana from cultural sector. It will have a form of national portal, which will be running in short period of time. Recently, there is no national aggregator of content for Europeana in Slovak Republic.

2. It is an Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority of Operational Programme Informatisation of Society for the Priority axis "Development and renewal of the national infrastructure of repository institutions. The main goal is to provide digitization of cultural heritage objects and make it accessible to public. All digitized content will be accessible via National Portal and via Europeana.

3. Ministry of Culture supports national cultural institutions (e.g. Slovak National Gallery, Slovak National Library) in participation process in Europeana prototype stage.
4. As a partner of ATHENA project (together with associated partner Slovak National Museum) is guaranteed that content of Slovak National Museum will be a part of consolidated digital content delivered to Europeana.

As a sector aggregator, the Slovak National Museum provides Centralized System of Museum Evidence. Within this system, the whole network of museums that belongs to Slovak National Museum is working. What's more, a huge majority of local museums are also using this system.

Because Slovak National Museum is also partner of EuropeanaLocal project, it is set, that regional content will be delivered as part of EuropeanaLocal project and content from Slovak National Museum and his network will be delivered through ATHENA project.

5. During National event in April 2009 new museums will be offered to join The Centralized System of Museum Evidence and their content will be added to ATHENA.

3.21 Slovenia (by Franc J.Zakrajsek (Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia))

1. To establish the strategic framework of digitisation, preservation and accessibility of cultural content the special part of the "Strategy of Development of Information Society in the Republic of Slovenia si2010" is devoted to the national vision and strategic goals of digital cultural content. It has been adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in June 2007.
2. In order to harmonise digitisation plans and monitor the activities and prevent duplication of digitization the national expert group on digital cultural content has been nominated in 2006. The experts come from different cultural fields; museums, galleries, libraries, archives, multimedia centres, audiovisual field etc. The expert group is lead by the state secretary of the Ministry of Culture.
3. To overview the digitalisation activities at the beginning of 2007, the national form about past and planned digitisation of cultural material has been established. The forms are submitted on national level mainly when executing the procedures of financing or co-financing by the Ministry of Culture.
4. To improve dissemination of information the thematic portal on digital cultural content named e-culture is in developing phase. The data base on digitisation is published on the portal, as well as actual information and recommendations regarding digital cultural content, accessibility and preservation of cultural material. Exchange of information among museums, libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions is encouraged.
5. The operational measures for preservation, digitalisation, and accessibility of the digital cultural content are part of the "National programme for culture (2008-2011)" which has been adopted recently. The benefits of these efforts are recognised as existence of national cultural contents for future generations; increase the use of cultural contents in lifelong learning and creative industries and with this creative inclusion into information society, knowledge

society and recognisability of Slovenian cultural heritage in Slovenia, Europe and world. The following measures are introduced:

- establishment of a common centre for secure and long-term preservation of digital cultural contents at national level for museums, libraries, archives, mass media and other cultural fields
- acceleration of the digitalisation of the existing analogous cultural contents in a form and content appropriate for multipurpose uses for permanent preservation, education, research, presentation and repeated creative use
- increase accessibility of digital cultural content, especially through Internet, support of development and function of e-facilities, e-business, “one-stop” portals, information systems for maintenance and use of digital content and web services
- linking digital cultural contents (e-mass media culture, e-fine arts and multimedia, e-cultural heritage, e-archives, dLib Slovenia) in common presentation and interoperable framework, applicable for e-services, e-education, research, promotion, creative industry and inclusion in the European Digital Library and other international digital collections.

6. The above mentioned Programme also introduces the following indicators for measuring the success of digitisation and accessibility of digital content:

- the number of institutions in the field of culture that provide for the sustainable preservation of the digital contents
- the share of the digital cultural contents for which sustainable preservation is provided (physical scope)
- the number of digitised units per year, the number of units displayed by means of the Slovenian joint culture portals
- the number of units displayed in the European Digital Library (EDL) originating from the Slovene museums, libraries, archives and other cultural institutions
- the number of units transferred using web services

7. The main financial instrument is cofinancing the digitisation of analogue cultural contents, especially the content of important cultural value for Slovene and European culture. The core of this financing is state budget.

8. The next step is to develop common method for the selection of the material to be digitised. The analytic hierarchy process methodology is suggested to be used for prioritization decision support model.

9. The monitoring of digitalisation in museums, libraries and archives in 2008 shows the following quantitative results:

Organisations	No. of collections	No. of digitised objects
Archives	6	179.647
Museums and galleries	239	181.139
National University Library	6	418.510
General public libraries	20	8.789
Immovable heritage protection	2	14.438
Sum	273	802.523

According to reports from Slovenian cultural organisations we can summarize that libraries digitised the most objects, then follows archives and museums and the last is the digitisation of immovable cultural heritage. Museums mostly digitised general historical collection (ethnological, archaeological and similar) and visual art collections. Noticeable for this phase of digitisations is also that museums digitised their documentation in photo-, nego- and diatek- form. They add presentation data in digital form to their basic documentation.

Slovenia digitised some museum and library collections that are interesting also for European public: German and Italian collections of photographs in the Museum of modern history of Slovenia, Slovenian archive of the animal voices¹ at Natural Sciences Museum, and also several cultural-historical and scientific collections in the National University Library already accessible via Europeana.

3.22 Sweden (by Jacob Lundqvist (Knowledge Management in Museums))

The National Library of Sweden² is our National representative. They are discussing how to organise a national portal or resource point with other major Swedish institutions, hopefully a decision can be reached at the end of the year.

Aggregators:

- Knowledge Management in Museums – aggregates regional Swedish museums
- Riksantikvarieämbetet - delivering own material
- Statens arkiv, Riksarkivet - delivering own material
- KB / Statens ljud- och bildarkiv - delivering own material

The situation is presently quite unclear in Sweden.

The museum coordinator has presented her final report, but it is now out on submission for comment. The report does however not mention European perspectives to any great extent.

In addition, the cultural investigation has also put forth its report. This report suggests quite large changes in the structure of the ALM-sector in Sweden. Also this report is out on submission for comment.

Political decisions cannot be expected until, at soonest, the fall.

At present, the National Library of Sweden is the national representative or contact point for Europeana.

3.23 United Kingdom (by Gordon Mc Kenna, Collections Trust)

Collections Trust³ is an independent organisation that promotes the accessibility and sustainability of the UK creative and cultural industries by raising standards and promoting best practice. Its work covers the ground between collections, technology, consumers, commerce and copyright. It is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

¹ <http://www2.pms-lj.si/oddelki/bioakustika/bioakustika.html>

² <http://kb.se/english/>

³ <http://www.collectionstrust.org.uk>

(MLA), Museums Galleries Scotland, and CyMAL (through the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales).

Collections Trust has been tasked by MLA with the leadership of the UK cultural sector's 'digital agenda' under the *OpenCulture* programme¹. Collections Trust's work on ATHENA, its 'sister project' EuropeanaLocal (formerly EDLocal), and Europeana itself forms part of this.

The *OpenCulture* network brings together key players from across the creative and cultural industries to discuss issues of common interest in the digital agenda. The network includes:

- Arts Council;
- Channel 4;
- BBC;
- British Library;
- National museums;
- National Archives;
- London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG);
- And a wide variety of other organisations.

At launch Europeana contained UK-hosted content from:

- Scran;
- The Natural History Museum;
- The British Library;
- National Maritime Museum.

The UK's contribution to Europeana will be increased through the developing national aggregator - *The People's Network Discover Service* (PNDS)².

The PNDS ingests content mainly using harvesting (OAI-PMH) from online data sources ranging from regional aggregations to individual organisations.

It uses the *Discovery Service Dublin Core Application Profile* (PNDS DCAP) to hold metadata about the content³. It also advises the content sources it harvests from to do the same for ease of interoperability. Originally set up and run by MLA it will soon become Collections Trust's responsibility under *OpenCulture*.

Currently the service has about 600,000 content records. About 350,000 of these have images or other kinds of multimedia associated with them. There are 26 content sources covering most of the country:

- Beamish Treasures [Co Durham];
- Bede's World [Co Durham];
- Collect Britain [national];
- Commanet [national];
- Devon Etched;
- Dorset Coast Digital Archive;

¹ See <http://www.collectionstrust.org.uk/digital>

² See <http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/discover/>

³ See <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/pns/pndsdcap/>

- Durham County Council;
- English Heritage Viewfinder [national];
- Exploring 20th Century London (Bishopsgate);
- Exploring 20th Century London (Croydon Museum and Heritage Service);
- Exploring 20th Century London (Hampstead);
- Exploring 20th Century London (Jewish Museum);
- Exploring 20th Century London (London Transport Museum);
- Exploring 20th Century London (Museum of Domestic Architecture);
- Exploring 20th Century London (Museum of London);
- Farne [Northumberland];
- Fitzwilliam Museum [Cambridge];
- Kirklees Image Archive [West Yorkshire];
- Lambeth Landmark [London];
- Leodis [Leeds];
- Manchester City Galleries;
- Picture the Past [national];
- Sense of Place South East;
- Seven Stories, The Centre for Children's Books [national];
- Tyne and Wear Museums, Imagine [national];
- iSee Gateshead [Tyne and Wear].

The PNDS also contains collection descriptions, from *MICHAEL-UK* and *Cornucopia*, and information about cultural organisations themselves.

It is planned to include in the PNDS online cultural content from all possible sources, with a significant increase during the period of Collections Trust's involvement in ATHENA and EuropeanaLocal projects. This process will be helped past investment by the UK government in digitisation of cultural material by a number of different funding initiatives, including:

- Designation Challenge Fund;
- Renaissance Programme;
- New Opportunities Fund (NOF);
- Heritage Lottery Fund;
- Big Lottery Fund.

Another factor which will aid aggregation is Collections Trust's close relationship with most of the major companies supplying collection management systems to UK museums in the *SPECTRUM Partner Scheme*. These companies are (with number of UK systems in parentheses):

- ADLIB Information Systems (75 systems)
- Calm (15)
- Gallery Systems (24)
- KE Software (20)
- Mobydoc (26)
- MODES Users Association (544)
- System Simulation (20)
- Vernon Systems Ltd (23)
- zetcom Informatics Services Ltd (2)

Collections Trust will work with SPECTRUM Partners to ensure that organisations wanting to contribute to the PNDS, and therefore to Europeana, will be able to do so easily. This will be done by providing them with the tools embedded in their CMSs.

Another advantage that the UK has in providing content to a national and international networked environment is Collections Trust's over 30 years management of a *MDA Code* system¹. This allows for the unique identification, usually with a five letter code, of cultural collections and organisations. Using this code together with an identifier unique to an object in a collection means it is possible to have a persistent identifier for UK cultural content. By adding a 'sub-code' for the UK it can be seen that the system to work internationally.

3.24 The national reports: some relevant issues.

a. The aggregators.

Many countries represented in the ATHENA consortium set or are setting up aggregators and/or national digital libraries. In fact, according to the reports that the NCP sent, the initiatives for the aggregation of content on a national or thematic basis seems to be one of the most "hot" issue that Member States face in the digitisation of cultural heritage field.

Most part of these initiatives takes into account the standards and the instances of Europeana in order to be as compliant as possible; moreover, some aggregators have been appointed to act as national provider of content for Europeana.

Obviously, there are a large amount of aggregators of digital content owned by the libraries - that the ATHENA projects won't deal with- that are often mandated to represent its own national as official provider of content to Europeana; anyhow, in the library context some interesting experiences were born. For instance, the Central Library of the Bulgaria Academy of Sciences (CL of BAS) developed BASLIB, software for the museum collection management that is being implemented by some major Bulgarian museums and will be given for free to the other museums; by the other hand, the Hungarian Digital Image Library is realised by the National Széchényi Library to contains the images of digitised codices, maps, prints etc. owned by the Hungarian libraries, while in Sweden the National Library is discussing how to organise a national portal with other major national institutions.

As far as the cross-domain aggregators there are both portals and digital libraries that were created to enhance the accessibility of information of different kind of institutions, creating services, and, sometimes, for preservation purposes too.

CulturaItalia², Culture.fr/Collections³, and BAM⁴ are the national cross-domain portals of Italy, France, and Germany that are already running since some years; they realises on a national level what Europeana is doing in a European context. By the other hand, CIMEC⁵

¹ See <http://www.collectionstrust.org.uk/mdacodes>

² www.culturaitalia.it

³ <http://www.culture.fr/fr/sections/themes/collections?typeSearch=collection&SearchableText=&SearchWhere=>

⁴ <http://www.bam-portal.de/?jsessionid=CE4E9575361FCE23968DB09A8D15AAA3?locale=en>

⁵ http://www.cimec.ro/e_default.htm

and Neumann Digital Library¹ are single access point to cross-domain Romanian and Hungarian content coming from different data sources.

Finland, Germany, Greece, Romania, and Slovak Republic are deploying their own cross-domain national digital library or portal. In Czech Republic a National Digital Library has been set as a government's priority.

The aggregation of content in the museum sector happens sometimes on a regional basis or through the collection of data coming from a restricted number of museums. In Belgium there are three interesting initiatives: MoVE, the museums of the East of Flanders, the Flemish Art Collection, whose contents are provided by three art-historical museums in Flanders. In Russia RUSART.info - Russian United Space of Art Resources and Technologies² integrates different information resources related to the artistic, archive, and architectonic heritage from St. Petersburg, Leningrad and Perm region. A regional aggregator of museum object exists in Sweden too (Knowledge Management in Museums³).

Among the national thematic portal it is worth to mention the Estonian one, which is based on MuIS⁴, software for the management of the museum objects that implement also CIDOC CRM (with some slight differences) in data structuring; the Finnish museums online, that will be integrated into the National Digital Library; in Latvia is being implemented the project "Joint Catalogues of the national Holdings of Museums"⁵ that will provide both digitization of heritage museums' potential into Latvian education system, usage of the resource in state tourism industry. The "Centralized System of Museum Evidence" of Slovak National Museum will provide content to ATHENA.

It is interesting the approach that Estonia, Poland, Italy (but probably other countries did it) to distribute for free software for managing collections or the data exchange (OAI PMH repositories) to the cultural institutions in order to maximise the economic efforts made at central level and to promote the interoperability.

Moreover, the Slovak National Museum provides a central repository for other institutions and realises the "Centralized System of Museum Evidence".

Finally, it is worth to mention the great expectations that Israel places in ATHENA, Europeana and related projects since it aims at aggregating their national content on thematic (ATHENA, APEnet) or cross-domain (Europeana) basis.

In conclusions, ATHENA can much benefit from the experiences on the aggregation of content that are running across Europe and have back useful information on standards applied for the metadata description and the data exchange, and on multilingual issues. This topic will be further investigated during next months so to extract good practices on national inter-institutional cooperation frameworks.

¹ <http://www.neumann-haz.hu/en>

² <http://altsoft.rosbi.net:210/>

³ <http://samsok.museum24.se/>

⁴ www.mu.is.ee (at present, the portal is a little bit basic and doesn't show all the software possibilities).

⁵ For more information check the web site of the State Authority of Museums of Latvia: <http://www.mvp.gov.lv>.

This work will be held to offer a concrete contribution to the debate that Europeana is starting up on the role of the aggregators as national content providers (a meeting on this topic is foreseen in autumn).

b. Progresses.

With respect to the report of the Member States Expert's Group dated back to March 2008, some little progress on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural content seems to have been made, although they are not equally distributed

In fact, almost all countries represented in the ATHENA consortium set up recently multi-year digitisation strategies under the umbrella of i2010 and related documents (Council Conclusions, Recommendation) and, as a consequence, worked on the aggregation of content at national level, on a thematic or cross-domain base.

As far as Europeana itself is concerned, almost all the Member States set up targeted initiatives for the contribution of content, usually by the appointment of official content providers (cross-domain aggregators or National Libraries), sometimes setting up coordination mechanisms such as interinstitutional committees or working groups addressing the national policy on the matter (for instance, France, Belgium).

c. Libraries.

As far as the standards highlighted in the new content list, Dublin Core is relatively frequent, MARC21 is less common but present. This issue will be further analysed by the ATHENA WP3 by the technical point of view; anyhow, from the strategic side, it seems that interoperability, in museum sector too, goes often through a library standard, and, therefore, ATHENA has a good chance to develop tools for the integration of the digital resources that could really be agreed and shared by the European museums.

d. Expectations.

Many ATHENA partners, in particular those ones who can't count on national cross-domain or thematic aggregators, have great expectations to be in Europeana through ATHENA. This issue, although is not mandatory according to the project's grant agreement, will be surely tackled by the consortium.

4. NEW CONTENT PROVIDERS AND COLLECTIONS

4.1 Overview

According to the *Description of Work*, “it is recommended that each partner of ATHENA bring to the network 5 new institutions”. This assumption doesn’t fit with some national organisational framework in terms of aggregation of content; for instance, the Slovak Republic, represented in the ATHENA consortium by the Ministry of Culture (MKSR), put at disposal of the project digital museum collections coming from the central data base (“Centralized System of Museum Evidence”), since the major Slovak museum (the Slovak National Gallery) is already partner of Europeana.

In Romania there’s a similar situation, where CIMEC plays the role of national aggregator of cross-domain content and, for this reason, is already contributing to Europeana and other related projects.

In a few words, many times the presence of national or thematic aggregators that are institutionally mandated for the collection of digital content into a national repository, allows the ATHENA partners to bring to the project new museum digital collections rather than institutions. The ATHENA approach toward this issue is to let the partners free to organize their internal work according to the policies that are carried out at national level in terms of digitization and aggregation of content.

The relationships with the aggregators will be deepened during next months because their presence could bring to the project a larger amount of content.

4.2 The represented institutions

This first survey on the future institutions and collections to be involved into ATHENA presents an interesting result. In fact, in the first core of content listed into the *Description of Work*, the museums collections don’t represent the major part of the partner contribution (38,5%, plus 7,7% aggregators). This second round of content provision could bring to the project much more collections than before that are owned and managed directly by museums (87%) and thematic or cross domain aggregators (8%), against AV archives (4%) and libraries (1%) (see table 3).

This will help the project to better target the scope of bringing a wide variety of museum digital data to Europeana.

TABLE 2: THE INSTITUTION BREAKDOWN

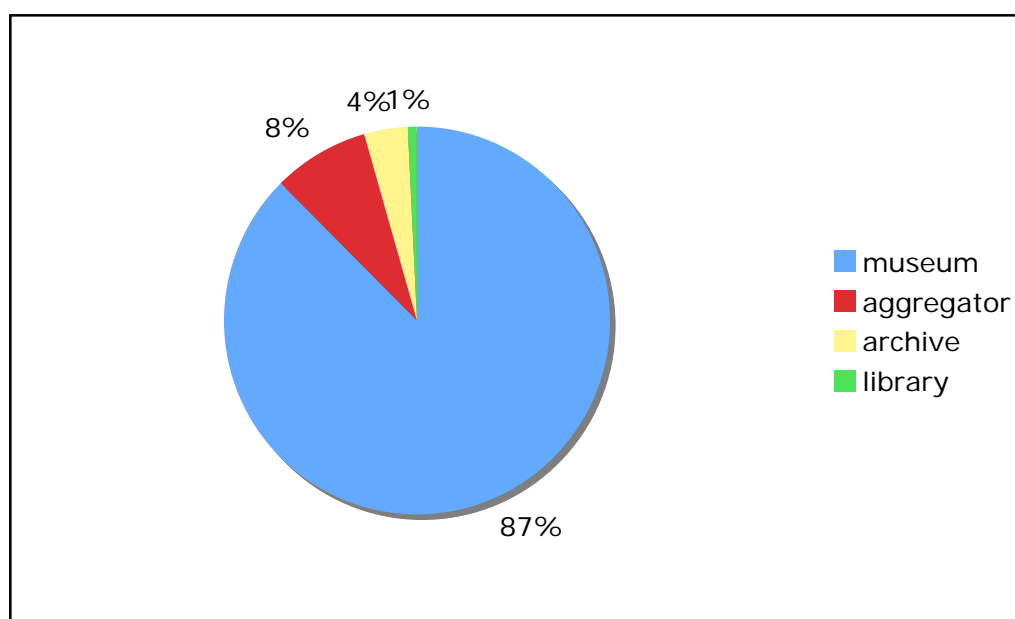
	MUSEUMS	AGGREGATORS	ARCHIVES	LIBRARIES
BE		1		
BG	2		1	
CZ	5			1
EE		1		
FI	5			
FR		6		
GR	3		2	
HU	4		2	
IL*	56			

IT	3			
LV				
MT	4			
PL	6			
RO	2	2		
RU**	10			
SE	8			
SK		tbd		
UK	13			
TOT	119	11	5	1

* Suggested collections

** Possible collections

TABLE 3: MUSEUMS AS CONTENT PROVIDERS



4.3 The workflow

For the national reports included into the present deliverable, the ATHENA partners have been asked to give only some basic information about the new institutions or collections that they intend to bring into the project, similarly to the way they are described into the *Description of Work*:

- Provider
- Type
- Quantity & Definition
- Format & Quality
- IPR
- Existing Metadata
- Language
- Additional Comment.

By July 15th, further details on these collections have been asked to the National Contact Points; they will have to fill in the ATHENA questionnaire in order to retrieve additional and useful information about the standard used by the European museums, that will be used by the

ATHENA technical work packages (WPs 3, 4, 7), and check the real consistence of the collections proposed.

In fact, some partners have already certainly individuated the new institutions and/or collections, while some other gave only suggestions (for instance, Israel, that listed a large amount of museum digital collections, or Hungary, that is handling the involvement) and some other, like the Estonian Ministry of Culture, has individuated the provider (a thematic aggregator, in this case) but not yet the amount of the collections.

Moreover, the representatives of some other countries (namely Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Slovak Republic, didn't appoint any new content for various reasons: the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, for instance, is waiting to complete the annual financial plan for digitalisation from the national budget source; at the end of this process the new providers and the content will be known, while the Slovak Ministry of Culture is organising in April 2009 a national event where new museums will be offered to join the *Centralized System of Museum Evidence* and their content will be added to ATHENA; after this event, it could be possible to specify it more precisely. Germany up to now didn't actively approached new museums to invite them to deliver content for ATHENA to be delivered to Europeana. This process will be started as soon as ATHENA has mechanisms and workflow in place and tools available which will allow museum data to be visible in Europeana in a clear defined time period.

The Netherlands representative (Rijksmuseum), instead, will maximize the results of previous projects and refer to the MICHAEL service to obtain an overview of the digital collections¹.

Before filling in the ATHENA questionnaire, each National Contact Point, responsible for the data collection in his/her own country, have been urged to follow some basic criteria for choosing the new providers and collections:

- to make sure if the digitisation of this collection is effectively ready and complete, and, if not, when;
- to verify if the digital content that are supposed to be provided to ATHENA are being delivered to Europeana directly or to other related projects;
- to check if the institutions providing content are already in Europeana, although with different collections.

This care is due to the fact that every possible overlapping should be avoided (see paragraph 4.5).

After this validation process by the National Contact Points, the involvement of the new institutions into the project will be formalised through the subscription of the *Cooperation Agreement* that is published in the ATHENA web site in the section *How to Join*².

4.4 Non-European content providers

The ATHENA consortium includes three non-European countries: Azerbaijan, Russia, and Israel. The first two have been included without budget only for dissemination of the project's

¹ <http://www.michael-culture.nl/mpf/pub-mpf/index.html?curlang=en>

² <http://www.athenaeurope.org/index.php?en/131/cooperation-agreement>

inputs and results since they are carrying out at national level activities aimed at raising the internal visibility of the project.

Nevertheless, the Russian representative listed some significant digital collections coming from the major Russian museums that could be involved for contributing to the ATHENA process and delivering content to Europeana. This could happen only by official invitation from high EU level to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

By the other hand, Israel gave a lot of suggestions in terms of digital collections that could provide their content and, it is worth to say, is the country that at present has been able to involve the largest amount of cultural institutions, demonstrating that in this country there's a strong request of sharing cultural content in a European dimension, due to the shared cultural roots and the tight liaisons with the European history.

The contribution of non-European countries to Europeana in terms of content is at present not really deepened; during the next months it will be discussed in the framework of the Europeana 1.0 working group named "Content & Partners Group" (see paragraph 4.4).

4.5 Synergy with Europeana: the "Europeana Content & Partners Group"

In the framework of the Europeana office a new working group was recently set up with the aim of coordinating the content provision from some related projects to the European Digital Library.

The group is chaired by Karin Heijink on behalf of the Europeana office and will meet for the first time in September 2009.

At present the following projects have been involved: APEnet, ATHENA, BHL Europe, Europeana Connect, EuropeanaLocal, Europeana travel, EFG, EU Screen, Judaica, MIMO, and TEL.

The context for the creation of this working group are the two main releases of Europeana v1.0 that should lead to the aggregation of at least 10 millions of digital objects; they are named (Rhine and Danube and will happen respectively in summer 2010 and spring 2011).

In this light, it is important for the projects related to Europeana, including ATHENA, to target the goal of providing a significant core of digital content by these dates; to achieve this result, ATHENA will have to check if and how to phase the work plan with the Europeana v1.0 one (for this reason, an ATHENA WP leaders meeting has been arranged in Rome on June 16th).

The other main objective of the "Content & Partners Group" is also to define a clear workflow of the content provision to Europeana. In fact, it is impossible for the European office to deal with every single institution that wish to share its content directly; for this reason, it is opportune to define a workflow to address the cultural institutions to the most appropriate aggregator or project before joining the European Digital Library. This specification will avoid first of all overlapping, and secondly any kind of conflict with the national policy of content provision to Europeana (through aggregators, through appointed institutions etc.).

ATHENA can strongly contribute to the definition of this workflow since gathered in this deliverable many useful information on the strategy set up by Member States towards Europeana, in particular on the topic of the aggregators.

The memo that was sent on April 28th by the working group coordinator was made available to the ATHENA partners for comments that should be provided by May 15th.

4.6 Overlapping between ATHENA and other projects of the Europeana family

The content that are illustrated in the ATHENA Description of Work have some overlapping with those ones managed by Europeana itself; the overlapping concerns the institutions that are partners of both projects, although they provide them different digital collections.

This issue is common to other projects of the Europeana family and is due to the fact that when all these initiatives were written and then started up, the Europeana office hadn't already defined a clear policy on the content management and provision.

In fact, the "Content & Partners group" that was recently created in the framework of Europeana v1.0 is beginning now to tackle this task in a systematic way.

As far as ATHENA project is concerned, during the second plenary meeting in Rome on February 13th, the National Contact Points were urged to tackle this issue and verify the real status of the content provision.

A couple of scenarios were foreseen:

- to change the ATHENA content provider that is sharing the same content with Europeana and related projects;
- to agree with the content providers to put at disposal of the project a different digital collections.

This second option seems to have been the most appropriate to solve the problem because of various reasons:

- each ATHENA partner has an institutional obligation with the content providers that it has involved in the project. In fact, each provider sent a formal "Expression of Interest" to the ATHENA management to get included into the activities. Furthermore, any change in the list of content providers would have as a consequence an official request of contract amendment to the Commission;
- the content providers themselves are conscious of the fact when they decided to participate to more than one related projects and so gave them different collections: Victoria & Albert Museum, National Finnish Archives, CIMEC, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Similarly, the overlapping of the Cyprus collections between ATHENA and EuropeanaLocal is only apparent since the institutions involved (the Ministry of Culture and the Department of Antiquities) will provide different collections.

Nevertheless all these efforts, some particular situations need to be further investigated during next months; they concern the Fitzwilliam museum, the French Ministry of Culture, and DigiCult. The cooperation with the "Europeana Content & Partner Group" will be fundamental.



In conclusion, the ATHENA consortium will do its own best to avoid duplications in the phase of content provision to Europeana, although this is not a task contractually foreseen. In fact, ATHENA has to realise a model of workflow and technical plug-ins to aggregate in a semantic way the data listed in the Description of Work, independently from their provision to other initiatives.

Anyhow, if duplications of content should still exist at the end of the project, they won't be exactly the same already in Europeana since ATHENA will make available enriched metadata, already prepared for the future upgrade of the Europeana Semantic Elements.



4.7 New content list

Provider	Type	Quantity & Definition	Format & Quality	IPR	Existing Metadata	Language	Additional comments
BG - Sofia Museum of History	Images	Paintings, immovable monuments of culture, photographs	JPEG	Under the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture	Domestic	Bulgarian	
BG - Scientific Archive of BAS		Documents	TIFF	Under the Scientific Archive of BAS	Domestic	Bulgarian	
BG - National Historical Museum (Bulgaria and the Slavic World branch)	Images	Museum items	TIFF	Under the National Historical Museum (Bulgaria and the Slavic World branch)	Domestic	Bulgarian	
CZ - Moravian Library in Brno	Images of text including OCR	100,000+ page images of texts, including OCR.	JPEG, DJVU, TXT c. 300 dpi, greyscale	Depends on copyright term. 100,000 pages are freely accessible		Czech	
CZ - Technical Museum in Brno	Text	45,000 cards of collected objects	ACCESS 97 – fields of database	Local, protected by password		Czech	
CZ - Technical Museum in Brno	Images	c. 2,000 photographs of repositories	JPEG, 100 dpi Colour	Local, protected by password, linked to database fields		Czech	
CZ - Moravian Museum in Brno	Text	5,000 collected objects	MDB	Upon agreement		Czech	



CZ - Moravian Museum in Brno	Images	5,000 images	JPEG (colour, <2 Mpix)	Upon agreement		Czech	
CZ - Museum of Brno	Images	6,000 books	JPEG, 200-300 dpi	Owner		Czech	
CZ - Moravian Gallery in Brno	Text	50,000 items	MDB			Czech	
CZ - The Czech Museum of Fine Arts	Images	700 images	JPG			Czech	
CZ - Regional Museum of Litomyšl	Text, Metadata	5,000 items	JPG, TXT		Yes	Czech	
EE – MKE	Text, image	5,000 objects	HTML, JPEG	Public domain	Database	Estonian	
FI - Design museum	Text and images of objects		JPEG	Public domain		Finnish (searches also in English and Swedish)	http://www.suomenmuseotonline.fi/SIR/smol/museot_etusivu.html
FI – City Museum of Helsinki	Text and images of objects and photographs		JPEG	Public domain		Finnish (searches also in English and Swedish)	http://www.suomenmuseotonline.fi/SIR/smol/museot_etusivu.html
FI - Turku Provincial Museum	Text and images of objects and photographs		JPEG	Public domain		Finnish (searches also in English and Swedish)	http://www.suomenmuseotonline.fi/SIR/smol/museot_etusivu.html
FI - Helinä Rautavaara Museum	Text and images of objects		JPEG	Public domain		Finnish (searches also in English and Swedish)	http://www.suomenmuseotonline.fi/SIR/smol/museot_etusivu.html
FI - Ostrobothnian Museum	Text and images of objects and photographs		JPEG	Public domain		Finnish (searches also in English and Swedish)	http://www.suomenmuseotonline.fi/SIR/smol/museot_etusivu.html
FR - Musée d'Archéologie de Feurs	Museum	Collection of bits				French	Through the national aggregator Collections.fr
FR - Musée de l'Horlogerie	Museum	Collection of objects linked to the sea				French	Through the national aggregator Collections.fr



Aliermontaise							
FR - Musée gallo-romain d'Aoste	Museum	Collection of ceramics; Collection of costumes; Collection of glassware				French	Through the national aggregator Collections.fr
FR - Musée d'Elbeuf	Museum	Objects of maritime heritage				French	Through the national aggregator Collections.fr
FR - Museum d'Histoire Naturelle	Natural History Museum	Drawings by Charles Alexandre Lesueur, Nicolas Martin Petit Collection of prints				French	Through the national aggregator Collections.fr
FR - Musée de l'Ancien Havre	Museum	Boat and propeller models				French	Through the national aggregator Collections.fr
GR - Greek Press Museum	Text & Image	300.000 pages	TIFF, JPEG, PDF	Public Domain	Dublin Core	Greek	
GR - Municipality of Kalamata	Text, image	1000 pages, 1500 images	JPEG	Public	Dublin Core metadata	Greek, English, French	
GR - STUDIO – Filmfiles	Text, image, movie	1500 pages, 3500 images, 20h HD movies	JPEG, MPEG	Public	Dublin Core metadata	Greek, English, French	
GR - Greek Film Archive	Text, image, movie	1000 pages, 1500 images, 10h HD movies	JPEG, MPEG	Public	Dublin Core metadata	Greek, English, French	
GR - Solomos Museum	Image, Text, Sound	1000 images, 1000 pages, 5 sound clips	JPEG, MPEG, MP3, AVI	Public	Dublin Core metadata	Greek, English, Italian	
HU – PIM	Literary museum	171,844 digital objects	Tiff, jpg, xhtml, mpeg	Licensed	MARC, DC	Hungarian	
HU - Hungarian National Museum	National museum	202,497	Tiff, giff, jpg	Licensed		Hungarian	Planned to be involved
HU - Open Air Ethnography Museum	Ethnographic museum	197,081	Tiff, giff, jpg	Licensed		Hungarian	Planned to be involved
HU - Hungarian National Gallery	Fine art museum	31,400	Tiff, giff, jpg	Licensed		Hungarian	Planned to be involved



HU - Hungarian Radio Archive	Sound	15,000	Mp3, mp2, wav	Licensed	Dublin Core	Hungarian	
HU - Hungarian Radio Archive	Music	20,000	Mp3, mp2, wav		Dublin Core		
IL – see the separated list below*							
IT – Soprintendenza per il Polo Museale Fiorentino	Works of art and inventories from 300 BC to 2008	17,000 records	XML, JPG, IMGF		ICCD OA, Italian national standard for the description of works of art (Opere d'Arte, OA)	Italian	
IT – Superintendence to the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary art – GNAM	Italian and foreign sculpture of 19th-20th centuries	250 images (40,000 database records)	Pdf, Word, JPG, FLV		Dublin Core, ISAD(G)	Italian	
IT – Direzione regionale per i beni culturali e paesaggistici della Liguria and Regione Liguria – Dipartimento pianificazione territoriale	Digitized Archives of Direzione regionale BAC and Regione Liguria	c7000 digital objects from prehistory to present (50,000 BC-2008)	Pdf, plain text, Word, GIF, JPG		Descriptive metadata, local scheme	Italian	
LV – Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums		250 000+ museum's items descriptions	Text and Images		Dublin Core	Latvian	www.nmkk.lv
MT - Heritage Malta, National Museum of Fine Arts	Multimedia and text	Over 8,000 objects	Images TIF, high quality, RDF	Heritage Malta	EXIF info	English	We can provide RDF pages
MT - Heritage Malta, National Museum of Natural History	Multimedia and text	Over 3,000 natural history objects	Images, TIF, high quality, RDF	Heritage Malta	EXIF info	English	We can provide RDF pages on museum content. Same content being provided through STERNA ecp project
MT - Heritage Malta Libraries	Text and Bibliographic capture	Over 20,000 books	Text and XML in MARC21	Heritage Malta	MARC21 XML	English	



			format				
MT - Heritage Malta, Map collection	Multimedia and text	Over 500 old maps	Text, XML (OAI format), JPG	Heritage Malta	XML OAI-PMH, EXIF	English	
MT - Heritage Malta, WAR Museum	Multimedia and text	Over 2,000 objects		Heritage Malta		English	
PL - State Archaeological Museum (Warsaw)	Museum	1,000	JPEG, TIFF	yes	Yes, mixed standards	80% Polish 20% English	
PL - Torun Museum (consisting of 5 separate museums)							
RO – CIMEC	Image	c. 9,000 page images	JPEG	Public domain/ rights obtained	ESE (i.e. extended Dublin Core)	Romanian/French	Archaeological library (classical and contemporary)
RO - Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu	Image	c. 50,000 page images	JPEG	Public domain	MARC	Latin/ German	Incunabula
RO - Romanian Association of Open Air Museums	Image	c. 10,000 exhibits	JPEG	Rights obtained	Custom (granular)	Romanian	The Virtual Museum of Ethnographical Monuments in Romania
RO - CIMEC - Institute for Cultural Memory	Image	c. 15,000 images	JPEG	Rights obtained	Custom	Romanian	Religious buildings in Romania
RU – The State Ermitage	The World art from the Stone Age to the 20th century		High quality images and 3D on line			Russian, English	http://www.heritagemuseum.org
RU – The Moscow Kremlin museums	Russian, European and Eastern applied art		High quality images			Russian, English	http://www.kreml.ru
RU – The State Tretyakov Gallery	Russian Art		High quality images on line			Russian	http://www.tretykovgallery.ru



RU – The State Russian Museum	Russian Art		High quality images on line			Russian, English	http://www.rusmuseum.ru
RU – Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera), Russian Academy of Sciences	Anthropology and Ethnography of the peoples of the World					Russian, English	http://www.kunstkamera.ru/en/
RU – The State Saratov Art Museum after Radishshev	Russian and Western Art					Russian	http://old.sgu.ru/ogis/katalog/rus/frames2.htm
RU – Rybinsk State history, architecture and art museum-preserve	Russian art and applied art, Italian Art, east art					Russian	http://www.rybmuseum.ru/
RU – Chuvashia State Art Museum	Russian Art, chuvashia folk art					Russian	http://www.artmuseum.ru/
RU – Perm State Art Galley	Russian art and applied arts, west European art					Russian	http://www.gallery.permonline.ru
RU – KIZHI State Open-air Museum of History, Architecture and Ethnography http://kizhi.karelia.ru/main_menu_e.htm						Russian	http://kizhi.karelia.ru/collection/catalogs.htm
SE – Nordiska museet	Sweden's largest museum of cultural history	Online about 30 000 photos and items. Totally 1,5 million items and 5 million photos				Swedish	http://www.nordiskamuseet.se http://primuswebb.se
SE - Göteborgs stadsmuseum	The City Museum of Gothenburg	Totally 1,000,000 items and 2,000,000 photos				Swedish	http://www.stadsmuseum.goteborg.se/



SE – Armemuseum	Swedish Army history from Viking times onward	Online 100,000 items				Swedish	http://www.sfhm.se/ArmeDefaultPage_27.aspx?epslanguage=EN http://primuswebb.se
SE - Etnografiska museet	Museum of Ethnography	Hundreds of thousands of objects from all over the world!				Swedish	http://www.etnografiska.se/
SE - Upplandsmuseet	Countymuseum of Uppland	Totally 750,000 items and 1,5 million photos, 40,000 online.				Swedish	http://www.upplandsmuseet.se/ http://primuswebb.se
SE – Jamtli	Museum of cultural history of Jämtland and Härjedalen	More than 85,000 photos available online				Swedish	http://www.jamtli.com
SE - Norrbottens museum	Norrbottens museum is regional museum for the biggest county in Sweden, covering almost 1/4 of the land area of the country.	Totally 60 000 items and 1 million photos				Swedish	http://www.nll.se/nodsida.aspx?id=12103
SE - Stockholms stadsmuseum	The Stockholm City Museum is the largest municipal museum in Sweden.	300,000 items of historical interest; 3 million photographs				Swedish	http://www.stadsmuseum.stockholm.se



SE - Malmö museer	The largest museum in southern Sweden, with extensive collections including those of textiles and photography.	3 million photos. Some online				Swedish	www.malmo.se/museer
<p>UK - Collections Trust will seek to aggregate content, in the first instance, through the People’s Network Discovery Service. Museums and other organisations taking part in the PNDS will also be given the opportunity to participate in ATHENA. To give an idea who they might be here are some museums using systems from the MODES Users Association (with significant collection size in parentheses):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cuckham, Oxfordshire; • Charleston, Lewes, East Sussex; • National Gas Museum, Leicester (c4000); • National Coal Mining Museum for England, Wakefield; • The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum, Salisbury (c15,000); • The Beacon Museum, Whitehaven, Cumbria; • Wakefield Museums, West Yorkshire (c23,000); • Winchester Museums, Hampshire; • Witney Blanket Story (c600); • Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes (c6000); • Bassetlaw Museum, Nottinghamshire; • Bridgnorth’s Northgate Museum, Shropshire (c4500); • The Egypt Centre, Swansea. <p>MUA is specifically interested in submitting content.</p>							

***Digital content suggested by the Israel partner (Makash):**

The Largest Museums

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem (<http://www.imj.org.il>) belongs to the group of the 10 worldwide largest encyclopaedic museums. It is already participating in ATHENA. In addition to it there are several important museums in Israel with substantial digitized resources:

- The Museum of the Jewish People – The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora which includes very large digitized collections of photos, audio, films and documents. Its regular exhibitions are regularly digitized. Issues concerning IPR are the main obstacle for access to such resources. See: <http://www.bh.org.il/index.html>
- The Yad Vashem Museum – Holocaust Remembrance Authority Include very large digitised holdings in its archives and online exhibits. The archives hold several million documents. The museum present many online exhibitions including photographs, films, art objects and more (<http://www.yadvashem.org/>)
- The Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv - The first museum to participate in the computerization program of the Ministry of Culture (<http://www.erezmuseum.org.il/main/site/index.php3?mod=firstPage&langId=1>)
- The Tel Aviv Museum of Art - Israel's main art museum, first opened to the public in 1932 in the home of Tel Aviv's first mayor, Meir Dizengoff. The Museum quickly became the cultural center of the Tel Aviv, presenting local and foreign artists (<http://www.tamuseum.com/museum/index.htm>)
- MadaTech the Israel National Museum of Science - Features the Cinematrix, the first of its kind in the world, is an extraordinary, innovative SMART Theatre, which engages all senses simultaneously. It provides an amazing experience for young and old alike. Using the 3E4DMi formula, it educates, explores and excites, engaging four dimensions: Seeing, Hearing, Feeling and Riding (<http://www.madatech.org.il/Pages/Index.aspx?language=English>)
- Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem - Presents exhibitions consisting of interactive exhibits on subjects of science and technology, and integrates these exhibits into a context through a wide range of educational activities (<http://www.mada.org.il/en/default.aspx>).

The Haifa Museums

They include four museums: The Haifa Museum of Art <http://www.hma.org.il/>; the Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art <http://www.tmja.org.il/>; the National Maritime Museum <http://www.nmm.org.il/> and the Haifa City Museum <http://www.hcm.org.il/>.

Particularly interesting is the New Media Archive in the Haifa Museum of Art. It is the only Israeli archive dedicated to the systematic study of New Media works, with the goal of offering the general public access to scholarly research on this subject. The archive will open to the public over the course of the following year; it will offer access to full-length works by pioneering avant-garde video artists and filmmakers in Israel and abroad, alongside historical and contemporary works by Israeli artists. The archive will also offer access to a range of digital artworks, interactive art and games, while displaying early and recent examples of Net art.

Art Museums

- The Janco Dada Museum <http://www.jancodada.co.il/en/index.php>

- The Nahum Gutman Museum <http://gutmanmuseum.co.il/Default.aspx>
- The U.Nahon Museum of Italian Jewish Art <http://www.jija.org/ENGLISH/JIJA/Home/JIJAHome.html>
- The L.A.Mayer Islamic Art Museum <http://www.islamicart.co.il/>
- Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art <http://www.herzliyamuseum.co.il/english/homepage>
- Petach-Tikva Museum of Art <http://www.petachtikvamuseum.com/en/>
- The Museum of Israeli Art of Ramat Gan <http://www.m-i-a.co.il>
- The Museum of Art Ein Harod - was established in the 1930's in a wooden hut in Kibbutz Ein Harod and was one of the first art museums founded in the country <http://www.museumeinharod.org.il/english/>
- The Rubin Museum <http://rubinmuseum.org.il/home.asp>
- Moshe Kupferman Studio, Collection and Gallery http://www.kupferman.co.il/default_eng.asp
- The Art Gallery at the University of Haifa <http://hcc.haifa.ac.il/gallery/english.htm>
- The Wilfrid Israel Museum in Kibbutz Hazorea <http://www.wilfrid.org.il/content/view/22/50/>
- Open Museums in Tefen and Omer - present the best of Israeli art in permanent and changing exhibitions. In Tefen it is active also the Museum for German Jewry <http://www.iparks.co.il/museum/default.aspx>

Archaeology

- Bible Lands Museum - Biblical history through ancient Near Eastern art, from the dawn of civilization through the early Christian era. Substantial digitized resources in online exhibitions <http://www.blmj.org/>
- Tower of David – Museum of the History of Jerusalem - The exhibition offers primary sources for the existence of Jerusalem as far back as the Canaanite period, and illustrates the city's history through to early 20th century. Substantial digitized resources that appear in a chronological exhibition at the web site <http://www.towerofdavid.org.il/eng/upload/crusader/main.html>
- Hecht Museum – University of Haifa - Archaeology of the Land of Israel. Part of the Hecht Collection is integrated into a display arranged in chronological sequence, beginning with the Chalcolithic period and ending in the Byzantine period. Another part is integrated into a display arranged chronologically and thematically <http://mushecht.haifa.ac.il/>
- Ein Dor Museum of Archeology <http://www.eindormuseum.co.il/>
- The Philistine Ekron Museum <http://www.touryoav.org.il/museums>
- Museum of Regional and Mediterranean Archeology (Ikvot BaEmek) [<http://www.yardend.org.il/sites/museums/>
- Miriam's House – Maritime Archeology <http://www.palmachim.org.il/museum.html>

Settlement, Heritage and Cities Museums

- The Yigal Alon Museum (Hebrew) - History of the settlement in Galilee and the Ancient Boat from the Tiberiades Sea <http://www.bet-alon.co.il/>
- Museum of the History of Gedera and the Bilu [<http://www.gedera-m.org/english.htm>
- The Merhavia Large Courtyard - Museum documenting the first experiments in establishing a cooperative and the first settlement in the Yisreel Valley. <http://www.merchavyard.org.il/en/main.php?page=sipurcoop>

- Museum on the Seam (Jerusalem) - Socio-political contemporary art museum. Through the works of artists from Israel and abroad, who respond to the stress and tension between and within groups, the museum invites the visitors to examine the degree of influence of the social environment on the individual and vice versa <http://www.mots.org.il/eng/Index.asp>
- Joe Alon Center – The Museum of Bedouin Culture http://www.joealon.org.il/english/eng_home.htm
- The Galilee Bedouin Museum
- The Khan Museum Hadera <http://www.khan-hadera.org.il/about.html>
- The Fisher House – The Pioneer Settlers of Kiryat Ata (Hebrew) <http://www.rishonim.org.il/kiryat-ata/>
- Rishon Lezion Museum (Hebrew) <http://www.rishonlezion-museum.org.il/>
- The Mazkeret Batya History Museum (Hebrew) <http://www.mazkeret-batya.muni.il/contents/4500.asp>
- The Old Courtyard Museum for the Beginning of Settlement <http://www.courtyard.co.il/>

Historical Museums

- The Herzl Museum <http://www.herzl.org/English/>
- Weizmann House (President Hayim Weizmann) (Hebrew)
- The Menachem Begin Heritage Center (Hebrew) <http://www.begincenter.org.il/>
- Hungarian Jewry Museum <http://www.hungjewmus.org.il/>
- The Baram Museum of Jewish Art

Holocaust Museums

- Ghetto Fighter's House [<http://gfh.org.il/eng/>]
- Massuah – The Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Memorial to the members of Zionist youth movements in disaster and revolt, Kibbutz Tel Yitzhak [http://www.massuah.org.il/index_eng.asp]
- Beit Theresienstadt [<http://www.bterezin.org.il/index.html>]
- Yad Mordechai - The Mordechai Anilevich Museum(Hebrew) [<http://www.yadmor.org.il/info/tayrut/mozeon/mozeon.htm>]

Defence Related Museums

- The Unit for Museums at the Ministry of Defence <http://www.mod.gov.il/pages/heritage/welcome.asp>
- The unit provides support and web management facilities for 12 Museums. Among them: Hashomer in Kfar Giladi; the Museum for prisoners members underground movements in Aco; Haapala – Illegal immigration and the Navy Museum in Haifa; Joara, the youth pre-military basis; the Jewish Brigades Museum in Netania; the Haganah Golomb Museum; the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv; the Etzel Museum in Tel Aviv; the Etzel Feiglin Museum in Tel Aviv; the Lechi Stern Museum in Tel Aviv; the Batei Osef Museum for the History of the IDF in Tel Aviv; the Museum for the prisoners members of the underground Haganah, Etzel and Lechi in Jerusalem.
Among these museums we have identified a collection of 30,000 digitized photographs available at the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv.

Other museums related to defence matters:



- Israel Air Force Museum, <http://www.iaf-museum.org.il/site/homepage.asp>; Ammunition Hill Museum (Jerusalem) <http://givathatachmosht.org.il/en/index.php>; Ayalon Museum – Givat Hakibutzim, Rehovot (Hebrew)

Nature and Science

- The Tel-Aviv University Nature Campus <http://www.campusteva.tau.ac.il/campusen/>
- Clore Garden of Science – the museum-without-walls at the Weizmann Institute of Science http://www.weizmann.ac.il/diff_angle/garden/home_e.php
- Man and the Living World Museum at the National Park, Ramat Gan (Hebrew) <http://www.adamvechai.org.il/>
- The Gordon House for Nature, Agriculture and Knowledge (Hebrew) <http://www.beitgordon.museumline.co.il/>
- The Tel Hai Site Museum <http://www.hatser-telhai.org.il/>

5. DISSEMINATION

5.1 Overview

The dissemination of the project's achievements plays a fundamental role for attracting into the network new museums as content providers. For this reason, on the occasion of the current deliverable, it was foreseen in agreement with the ATHENA management (WP1) and Awareness and dissemination group (WP2) that the NCP should point out the events where ATHENA was or will be disseminated during 2009 and which kind of audience was reached. In fact, the involvement of many new institutions will be possible only with a wide strategy aimed at raising consciousness on the ATHENA project, Europeana and, last but not least, the importance of the application of standards in digitisation and the online accessibility of content.

The public that attended these events comes mostly from the museum and/or digitization sectors.

ATHENA was also the occasion for raising awareness on digitization, online access, digital libraries etc. among the cultural institutions.

The list of events below has been managed by the ATHENA WP1 and published on the project's web site.

5.2 Synergy with the ATHENA WP2

From the deliverable 2.1: "Since WP2 is mandated for the elaboration of dissemination activities, the project website is to be run by the overall project management WP1 and WP5 has the task to build up a contact network to assure the coherence of the content and make sure that the information arrives to the national stakeholders, it seemed opportune that the efforts of these WPs should be carried on, in close cooperation.

This will assure coherence among the dissemination activities and the strategies that should be followed to achieve concrete results. In fact, because of "the specific situations in the partner Member States, the ways of taking the content into Europeana will be different case by case: where national or local aggregators, or aggregators through associations of museums already exist, a direct effort to interact with them will be made".

So, the group of national contact points that WP5 has to set up to produce an overview on policies towards Europeana and aggregators will also contribute to the dissemination of ATHENA and Europeana through the participation or organization of focused events or meetings with national stakeholders. And all these activities have to be reflected in the ATHENA webpage for which WP1 is responsible.

During months 7-12 the group will also work on the organisation of national workshops, according to the first outlines of the dissemination plan elaborated by WP2.

A close cooperation among WPs 2 and 5 will allow to maximise the efforts and to outline a general content map for cultural institutions for the future inclusion into Europeana of a wide variety of quality museum content".

5.3 National workshops, conferences, expert meetings

During 2009 ATHENA will be introduced more than 50 times across Europe on the occasion of national workshops, local, national, and international conferences, expert meetings.

The fulfillment of the project's goal goes through a massive dissemination activity. This means that it is not sufficient to give presentation during national or international conferences and events, but it is necessary to organise targeted workshops.

Many institutions partner of the ATHENA consortium take this chance to organise the ATHENA national workshops that were (or will be) focused, of course, on the project's results and on the issues related to Europeana, but mainly on the national digitisation strategies and standards.

In a few words, through ATHENA are being organised events that aim at raising awareness on digitisation, both by the institutional and technical points of view.

During 2009 have been (or will be) organised national workshops in Brussels (BE), Sofia (BG), Nicosia (CY), Helsinki (FI), Athens (GR), Moscow (RU), Florence (IT), Rome (IT), Riga (LV), Jerusalem (IL), Ljubljana (SI), Hännösand (SE), and Lund (SE). The Swedish ones are particularly interesting since they are joint seminars with EuropeanaLocal and APENet. The other country that didn't plan yet a national workshop have been invited to organise it.

Sometimes the ATHENA partners considered opportune to arrange restricted meetings with experts coming from the museum sector in order to illustrate the initiative and to receive feedbacks on the project and on the future plans.

They have been (or will be) held in Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Slovak Republic, and United Kingdom.

In some countries the experts have been involved on a permanent perspective of cooperation, like in Greece, Israel, Italy etc. in order to allow the contribute to the development of the national initiatives in a European perspective and provide a local contribution to the Member States debate.

Finally, ATHENA was and will be introduced on the occasion of a large amount of conferences across 15 countries represented in the partner consortium.

All these events will be the right occasion to new possible content providers.

BELGIUM

Title	National workshop
Place	The Royal Museum of Art and History, Jubelpark, Brussels (BE)
Date	08/01/2009
Online reference	http://www.athenaeurope.org/index.php?en/117/belgium-brussels-8-january-2009
Organising body	PACKED vzw & KMKG/MRAH

Target audience	The targeted audience was Belgian ATHENA content providers, government delegates, Belgian Europeana Local delegates and other interested parties (such as Belgian museums not yet active in the project). The goal was to inform the content partners about the ATHENA-project (goals, actions, work packages, ...), to get an idea why the content partners joined the project and what they expect from it and to establish a personal relation with the content partners in order to create a good base for future actions within the project. The workshop achieved the aimed result; PACKED vzw & KMKG/MRAH were able to get to know the content partners, not only as institutions but also in a more face to face way. This will improve further cooperation. The participants shared their knowledge about and experience in projects on digital cultural heritage with each other. Several Belgian institutions are also involved in other European projects than ATHENA. Some partners did not know of the existence of some of Europeana's satellite projects, now they do. There was an exchange of ideas and
Language	Dutch (NL)

Title	Meetings of Flemish and Federal consultation platforms
Place	No fixed place
Date	No fixed date: several times/year
Online reference	http://www.kunstenenerfgoed.be/ake/view/nl/1589834-Europeana.html#ppt_2124764 This website provides notes on the Flemish platform (Europeana Vlaanderen Overlegplatform) and on the Federal platform (EDL-Net-Belgium).
Organising body	Flemish platform: Agency of Arts and Heritage. Federal platform: Scientific and Technical Information Service.
Target audience	Participating institutions in digital cultural heritage projects that are linked to Europeana.
Language	Dutch (NL), French (FR)

BULGARIA

Title	ATHENA – Can It Work in Bulgaria?
Place	Sofia, Central Building of BAS, Main Hall
Date	November, 10 th 2009
Online reference	
Organising body	Central Library of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Target audience	Museums
Language	Bulgarian

CYPRUS

Title	Meeting of Cyprus digital assets stakeholders (1)
Place	Nicosia
Date	3 February 2009
Online reference	NA
Organising body	The Cyprus Institute
Target audience	Representatives of owners of (potential) digital assets from Cyprus (ca 30 attendees)
Language	Greek

Title	Meeting of Cyprus digital assets stakeholders (2)
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Place	Nicosia
Date	End of April 2009
Online reference	NA
Organising body	The Cyprus Institute
Target audience	Representatives of owners of (potential) digital assets from Cyprus (ca 30 attendees)
Language	Greek

This initiative is aimed at progressing in digitization planning, setting an agenda etc.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Title	European digital library
Place	Prague – National Museum
Date	September, 30 th 2009
Online reference	www.emuseum.cz
Organising body	National Museum – Centre for presentation of cultural heritage
Target audience	Museum professionals
Language	Czech

ESTONIA

Title	TBD
Place	Tallinn
Date	November 2009
Online reference	
Organising body	Estonian Ministry of Culture
Target audience	Representatives of Museums
Language	Estonian

FINLAND

Title	Museopäivät (the National Museums' Conference)
Place	Kokkola
Date	13-15.5.2009
Online reference	http://www.museoliitto.fi/index.php?k=9804
Organising body	Finnish Museums Association
Target audience	The owner organisations and the personnel of Finnish museums
Language	Finnish

GERMANY

Title of conference	digiCULT Conference 2009
Place	Kiel, Germany
Title of presentation	Kulturerbe digital - europäische und nationale Entwicklungen Europeana – ATHENA – DDB - http://digi.cult.museen-sh.de/pdfwrap.php?file=vortraege/2009/ifm_kulturerbe_digital_96dpi.pdf
Date	9 March 2009
Online reference	http://digi.cult.museen-sh.de/vortraege/2009/digicult_einladung_programm.pdf
Organising body	

Target audience	About 100 persons from museums and cultural policy makers
Language	German

Title of conference	Standards und Normvokabular in der Museumsdokumentation
Place	Halle
Title of presentation	Museen auf dem Weg nach Europa
Date	5.5.2009
Online reference	Not available
Organising body	Museumsverband Sachsen-Anhalt
Target audience	Staff from medium-sized and small museums
Language	German

Title of conference	MAI-Tagung 2009
Place	Xanten
Title of presentation	Das ATHENA-Projekt - Museen und Sammlungen auf dem Weg in die EUROPEANA
Date	28.5.2009
Online reference	http://www.mai-tagung.de/maitagung+2009/programm.htm
Organising body	Landschaftsverband Rheinland-Fachbereich Kultur
Target audience	Museum specialists
Language	German

Title of conference	EDV-Tage Theuern
Place	Kümmersbruck
Title of presentation	Deutsche Museen sichtbar in Europa: mit ATHENA zur EUROPEANA
Date	17.9.2009
Online reference	Not yet available
Organising body	Bergbau- und Industriemuseum Ostbayern u.a.
Target audience	Staff from medium-sized and small museums
Language	German

GREECE

Title	Conference on Digitization of Cultural Content and IPR protection and
Place	Athens
Date	30 th of April 2009
Online reference	http://digitization.hpclab.ceid.upatras.gr
Organising body	University of Patras
Target audience	Cultural and ICT organizations, Universities and other Academic Institutions
Language	Greek – English

Title	National workshop: ATHENA (Access to cultural heritage networks across Europe) - EUROPEANA
Place	Byzantine and Christian Museum, Athens

Date	9 April 2009
Online reference	http://www.yppo.gr/3/g32.jsp?obj_id=29710
Organising body	Hellenic Ministry of Culture & NTUA
Target audience	Cultural institutions throughout Greece, departments of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and other interested organisations
Language	Greek

HUNGARY

Title	Networkshp 2009
Place	University of Szeged, Hungary
Date	15-17 April, 2009
Online reference	https://nws.niif.hu/nws2009/
Organising body	National Information Infrastructure Development Institute
Target audience	Information technology experts, researchers, suppliers and users of information networks and solutions in libraries, museums and archives
Language	Hungarian (follow up article will appear in the Library and Information Journal <i>Scientific and Technical Information</i>)

Title	ICLM Annual Conference 2009
Place	Petőfi Literary Museum, Budapest
Date	20-24 September 2009
Online reference	www.pim.hu
Organising body	International Committee of Literary and Music Museums
Target audience	Literary museologists and music historians and museologists, researchers
Language	English /French

Title	Sharing Experiences
Place	Petőfi Literary Museum, Budapest
Date	22 May 2009
Online reference	www.pim.hu
Organising body	Petőfi Literary Museum and Hungarian Radio Archives
Target audience	Expert museologists from museums that can be potential partners in Athena
Language	Hungarian

ISRAEL

Title	ATHENA National Event in Israel
Place	Jerusalem, Israel
Date	April 22, 2009
Online reference	http://www.minervaisrael.org.il
Organising body	MINERVA Israel Forum
Target audience	Representatives of all public institutions in Israel with statutory responsibilities in the area of culture.
Language	Hebrew

Title	The 15th World Congress of Jewish Studies
Place	Jerusalem, Israel
Date	August 2-6, 2009
Online reference	http://www.jewish-studies.org/ShowDoc.asp?MenuID=118
Organising body	World Union of Jewish Studies
Target audience	A whole session completely dedicated to Europeana has been included in the program. An extensively presentation of ATHENA has been included. The target audience are scholars and educators in the area of Jewish Studies interested in the new possibilities open for their work through online access to scholarly resources.
Language	English

Title	6th EVA/MINERVA Jerusalem International Conference on the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage
Place	Jerusalem, Israel
Date	November 10-11, 2009
Online reference	http://www.minervaisrael.org.il
Organising body	Israel MINERVA Forum
Target audience	Professionals and decision makers from Israel and from abroad in the areas of Libraries, Museums, Archives, Online scholarship, Film, Video, Sound and Music, New Media and related institutions and corporations interested in the application of advanced technologies to culture.
Language	English, Hebrew

Additional events are being considered with the sub-committee of ICOM Israel/Israel Association of Museums in charge of planning their 2009 calendar for workshops, seminars and conferences.

ITALY

Title	EVA-MINERVA 2008
Place	Jerusalem, Israel
Date	12 November 2009
Online reference	http://www.minervaisrael.org.il//program2008.html
Organising body	Israel MINERVA Forum
Target audience	Professionals and decision makers from Israel and from abroad in the areas of Libraries, Museums, Archives, Online scholarship, Film, Video, Sound and Music, New Media and related institutions and corporations interested in the application of advanced technologies to culture.
Language	English

Title	Numérisation du patrimoine culturelle
Place	Paris, France
Date	26 November 2008
Online reference	http://numerisationeurope.eu/pro/fiche/quest.jsp;jsessionid=B9BD2409BCF33F39561EDB3D20266D9C118
Organising body	Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication
Target audience	Policy makers of digitisation
Language	French, English

Title	CulturaItalia e il contributo italiano a Europeana. The programme included the presentation of CulturaItalia as national aggregator towards Europeana, Europeana itself (by Jill Cousins) and ATHENA.
Place	Rome, Italy
Date	2 april 2009
Online reference	http://www.otebac.it/index.php?it/262/convegno-nazionale-roma-2-aprile-2009
Organising body	Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities
Target audience	400 attendees. Experts on digitisation and policy makers from public and private cultural institutions.
Language	Italian, English

Title	Workshop on CIDOC-CRM
Place	Florence, Italy
Date	28 April 2009
Online reference	http://www.otebac.it/index.php?it/280/seminario-cidoc-crm-roma-6-aprile-2009
Organising body	Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali – Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo delle Biblioteche Italiane
Target audience	Restricted meeting of experts from cataloguing offices, museums, and on digitisation.
Language	Italian

Title	Workshop on ATHENA Project and Europeana. A representative of the STERNA European project was invited to introduce the initiative.
Place	Florence, Italy
Date	28 April 2009
Online reference	http://www.athenaeurope.org/index.php?en/111/events/35/eva-2009-florence-italy-workshop-on-athena-project-and-europeana
Organising body	Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali
Target audience	Experts from cataloguing offices, museums, and on digitisation.
Language	Italian

Title	SEEDI conference 2009
Place	Belgrade, Serbia
Date	April 16 – 17, 2009
Online reference	http://www.ncd.matf.bg.ac.yu/seedi/events/SEEDImeetingBelgrade2009/SEEDI_Beograd2009.htm#Program
Organising body	
Target audience	Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Language	English

Title	IFLA off site conference Digital Library futures: user perspective and institutional strategies
Place	Milan, Italy
Date	August 25, 2009
Online reference	
Organising body	Ministero per I Beni e le Attività Culturali - IFLA
Target audience	Experts on digitisation.
Language	English

Title	ATHENA event in the framework of Borsa Mediterranea del Turismo Archeologico
Place	Paestum, Italy
Date	http://www.borsaturismo.com/2009/ENG/Presentation/introduction.htm
Online reference	19-22 November 2009
Organising body	Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali
Target audience	Experts from cataloguing offices, museums, and on digitisation, in particular archaeologists.
Language	Italian

LATVIA

Title	Seminar “ The Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums of Latvia and ATHENA project – cooperation and development ”
Place	Riga (venue not fixed)
Date	October 2009 (exact date not fixed)
Online reference	Not applicable
Organising body	State agency “Culture Information Systems”
Target audience	Audience of c50 specially invited organisations (mainly museums)
Language	Latvian

MALTA

Title	National Cultural Heritage Forum
Place	Valletta, Malta
Date	December 2009
Online reference	www.heritagemalta.org events section
Organising body	Heritage Malta and Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture
Target audience	Cultural Heritage and Information Management professionals
Language	Maltese and English

THE NETHERLANDS

Title	Annual congress of the museums
Place	Unknown
Date	Unknown

Online reference	Unknown
Organising body	The Netherlands Museums Association The Netherlands Museums Association looks after the interest of the museum sector and acts as the representative organ of Dutch museums.
Target audience	Museum staff
Language	Dutch

POLAND

Title	Multimedial Museums - MMM'09
Place	Szreniawa (near to Poznan)
Date	24.04.2009
Online reference	http://www.wirtualnemuzea.pl/mmm09/
Organising body	Economic University in Poznan
Target audience	Museum curators and researchers
Language	Polish

Title	Coral and Pearl
Place	Wilanow
Date	6-7 May 2009
Online reference	http://www.stfz.art.pl/2009/05-torun.html
Organising body	Wilanow Museum and Torun Museum
Target audience	Museum curators, researchers
Language	Polish

Title	Meetings with digital artifacts – Picture as a subject and research method
Place	Wroclaw
Date	24-25 September 2009
Online reference	http://historiasztuki.uni.wroc.pl/konferencje/2009_cyfrowe.html
Organising body	University of Wroclaw. Institute of Fine Arts History
Target audience	Museum curators, researchers
Language	Polish

ROMANIA

Title	Annual Archaeological Reports Session
Place	Târgoviște
Date	end of May
Online reference	n/a
Organising body	Ministry of Culture
Target audience	Archaeologists
Language	Romanian

Title	Seminar on Cultural Heritage Documentation in the context of europeana.eu
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Place	Bucharest
Date	October 15 – 16
Online reference	n/a
Organising body	CIMEC - Institute for Cultural Memory
Target audience	museum documentalists
Language	Romanian

RUSSIA

Title	Workshop “Integration of Cultural Heritage Information in Europe” at the annual conference of ADIT, the Russian museum association on documentation and IT
Place	Cheboksary, Republic of Chuvashia, Russian Federation
Date	15 – 19 June, 2009
Online reference	www.adit.ru
Organising body	ADIT and Chuvashia State Art Museum
Target audience	Museum specialists
Language	Russian

Title	International ATHENA Workshop at the 12th International Annual Conference “EVA MOSCOW”
Place	Moscow, Russian Federation
Date	30 November – 3 December, 2009
Online reference	www.evarussia.ru
Organising body	Centre PIC, the Russian State Library for Foreign Literature
Target audience	Museums, libraries, archives specialists
Language	Russian, English

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Title	TBD
Place	Martin
Date	The End of May
Online reference	
Organising body	Slovak National Museum together with Ministry of Culture of the SR
Target audience	Museum management
Language	Slovak

SLOVENIA

Title	The first ATHENA workshop
Place	Ljubljana, Slovenia
Date	19.2.2009
Online reference	
Organising body	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia
Target audience	Slovenian Project Partners
Language	Slovenian

Title	Digital Cultural Content: National Languages, Terminology, Multilingualism (National ATHENA workshop)
Place	Ljubljana, Slovenia
Date	19.5.2009
Online reference	n.a.
Organising body	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia
Target audience	Cultural institutions
Language	Slovenian, English

Title	International ATHENA conference
Place	Ljubljana, Slovenia
Date	4.9.2009
Online reference	
Organising body	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia
Target audience	Cultural institutions, Athena project partners and interesting public
Language	Slovenian, English

SWEDEN

Title	TBA – joint seminar ATHENA / Europeana Local / APE Net
Place	Härnösand – Sweden
Date	2009 October 6-7
Online reference	TBA
Organising body	Länsmuseet Västernorrland
Target audience	Swedish ALM institutions
Language	Swedish

Title	TBA – joint seminar ATHENA / Europeana Local
Place	Lund – Sweden
Date	Around 2009 october 15
Online reference	TBA
Organising body	LTU is organising the Athena parts
Target audience	Primarily Swedish abm institutions
Language	Swedish / English

United Kingdom*

Title	Collect
Place	London (venue not fixed)
Date	June 2009 (exact date not fixed)
Online reference	No applicable
Organising body	Collections Trust
Target audience	Audience of c50 specially invited organisations (mainly museums)
Language	English



*Collections Trust will take part in a series of national, regional, and subject specialist events (some organised by the Trust, some by others) at which ATHENA, and Europeana in general, will be introduced. Activity could include one or all of:

- Giving presentation/workshop;
- Taking part in discussion panel;
- Distribution of marketing materials;
- Networking.

Here is selection of possible major events for this activity with date and venue if known:

- Museums Association Conference (London, October);
- Museums and Heritage Show (London, May);
- Association of Independent Museums Conference (Ellesmere Port, June);
- EVA London (July).

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Introduction

From the Description of Work: “For the purpose of content coordination, a practical mechanism of coordination both at country level and at European level is needed.” This goal was achieved through the nomination of the ATHENA National Contact Points (NCP).

The NCP were invested with the responsibilities of acting both at national and project levels. They play a key role for the success of the project

During the first project phase the NCP worked mainly on a national basis: they collected the technical information about the digital content that are foreseen to be provided to ATHENA, and then to Europeana (activity of WP3), outlined their national policy framework in which the project’s activities are carried out, suggested new content (WP5), and started up the organisation of ATHENA dissemination events (WP2).

6.2 NCP criticisms: state of the art and how overcome them.

On the whole, the workflow between the NCP and the ATHENA WP5 was quite good, although some general criticisms exist:

- the deadlines for the submission of the WP5 reports haven’t been always respected and this led to a delay for the presentation of this deliverable and WP1 management reports;
- very few NCP didn’t give an active feedback for the compilation of the WP5 national reports and their texts miss some information.

To overcome this critical issues the ATHENA management is pressing the defaulting partners to make them more conscious about their role in the project. Moreover, it is worth to underline that the National Contact Points were appointed only in February 2009 and didn’t have enough time to start working at their full capacity. The NCP network derives its philosophy from the collaborative approach of the MINERVA consortium¹ since a large amount of the ATHENA partners are the same; anyhow, some other partners didn’t share this experience and need some more time to enter into the process.

For the future, the NCP engagement in the ATHENA process will be increased because the network is called to provide detailed information on the collections, finding out new digital museum content, and support the first test of content ingestion by the ATHENA plug-in (probably after June, after the release by WP7).

Finally, some NCP set up national working groups to contribute to the ATHENA working groups; they will be cited as good practices and the other NCP fostered to do the same.

¹ www.minervaeurope.org

6.3 The new collections

The new content provided by the National Contact Points is more focused on the project's goals compared to those one listed in DoW because of a larger presence of museums collections. This means that:

- the task assigned to the NCP was fulfilled and the network is working with consciousness;
- there's a real demand of coordination among the European museums.

7. MONTHS 7-12

During next semester the national inter-institutional cooperation frameworks that came afloat in the national reports will be charted and analysed in order to extract some good practices and guidelines.

In particular:

- extracting good practices and suggestions from the national reports about the cooperation mechanism at national level towards Europeana;
- analysing the content coordination mechanisms of other projects;
- checking the real status of the future collections through the ATHENA survey.

In parallel, this information will be disseminated in compliance to the dissemination plan of WP2, in order to approach new museums and involve them into the ATHENA consortium. This work will be included in the deliverable 5.2 “Guidelines and Best practices for Setting up National Cooperation framework”, due for October 2009.

The work of the first months has been carried out in cooperation with all the NCP; for the elaboration of the deliverable 5.2 a restricted working group will be organised. For this purposes, a specific mailing list was created¹.

Further details on the work plan will be defined in June after the WP leaders meeting.

TABLE 4: ACTIVITY DEADLINES

WHAT	WHEN	WHO
COMMENTS to the Europeana memo “Content & partners”	15 May	All
NEW CONTENT into the questionnaire	15 July	NCP
Detailed WP5 work plan	after WP leaders’ meeting	WP leader
DELIVERABLE 5.2	31 October	WP5

¹ athena-wp5@amitie.it

Annex 1: REPORTING TEMPLATE



WP5 – COORDINATION OF CONTENT
First Report on the network of national coordination

REPORTING TEMPLATE

**PLEASE RETURN
BEFORE 15 MARCH 2009
TO Marzia Piccininno marzia.piccininno@beniculturali.it
CC maria Teresa Natale natale@mclink.it**

COUNTRY

- BE BG CY CZ DE EE FI FR GR HU
IT
 LU LV MT NL PL SE SI SK RO UK
 AZ IL RU

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	
Organisation	
E-mail	

FOREWORD

The text that you are asked to give will be part of the first ATHENA WP5 deliverable “First Report on the network of national coordination”, which will describe the mechanisms that ATHENA set up to manage the coordination of the content within both the project consortium and at national level.

Please, provide a factual report and online references.

DEADLINE

*Delivery of the report: **15th March 2009**.*

1. Overview on the policy or strategy set up at national level for the implementation of Europeana.

The information to be provided should focus on the strategy that each Member States represented in the ATHENA consortium is implementing to give a core of national content to Europeana.

The objective of such overview is mainly to avoid that ATHENA have some misalignments with the approach that each European country is having towards the implementation of the European Digital Library.

In this paragraph should be collected information about:

- *national advisory boards/committees/offices to drive the implementation of Europeana at national level*
- *aggregators/portals (national or thematic) that provide content to Europeana*

*The **background papers** are the Member States' Expert Group national reports edited on March 2008, whose text should be updated according to the ATHENA goals*

(http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/experts/mseg/reports/index_en.htm).

Max 6,000 characters.

2. New museums or cultural institutions with considerable digital collections (in terms quality of data and metadata) that could be involved into ATHENA.

Please, start a new row for each new provider. It is not mandatory to fill in all fields; if you can't supply such detailed information, please give a free text description of the provider and its collection(s).

Provider	Type	Quantity & Definition	Format & Quality	IPR	Existing Metadata	Language	Additional comments

3. List of national/international events that will be held during the year 2009, with particular regards to those ones involving museums, in which you suppose to introduce ATHENA.

Title	
Place	
Date	
Online	
Organising	
Target	
Language	