

EUREKA PROJECT E!2209 - EUROCARE EACH

1. General description

Project	E! 2209 - EUROCARE EACH	Status	Announced - 26-JUN-2003
Title	European Agency For Cultural Heritage		
Class	Sub-Umbrella	Technological area	Information technology
Start date	26-MAY-2003	End date	26-MAY-2005
Duration	24 months	Total cost	3 Meuro
Partner sought	Yes		
Summary	This Project Deals With The Creation And Organisation Of An Internet Portal Which Will Offer Products And Services On Cultural Heritage Concerning Many European Countries.		

Budget and duration

Phase	Budget(Meuro)	Duration (Months)
Definition phase	1.5	12
Implementation phase	1.5	12
Total	3	24

Member contribution

Member	Contribution	Position	Since
Italy	65.00%	Contact Member	19-MAR-2003
Austria	5.00%	Participating Member	26-JUN-2003
Germany	6.00%	Participating Member	26-JUN-2003
Spain	6.00%	Participating Member	26-JUN-2003
Hungary	4.00%	Participating Member	26-JUN-2003
Greece	5.00%	Interested	26-MAY-1999
Sweden	5.00%	Interested	27-MAY-2003
Slovenia	4.00%	Interested	22-JUL-2002

Participants

Company	Country	Type	Role
Progetto Finalizzato 'Beni Culturali' - Itabc	Italy	Research Institute	Main
Institut Fuer Chemie Und Biologie Des Meeres (Icbm) Carl-Von-Ossietzky Universitaet Oldenburg	Germany	University	Partner
Ait - Angeandte Informationstechnik Forschungsgesellschaft Mbh	Austria	Governm./Nat. Admin.	Partner
I.Net2 Srl	Italy	SME	Partner
Es Progetti E Sistemi	Italy	SME	Partner
State Center For Restoration Of Historic Monuments	Hungary	Research Institute	Partner

Participants

Company	Country	Type	Role
Granada Networks S.L.	Spain	SME	Partner

2. Project outline

Project description

The Portal is divided into ten channels which refer to various aspects of the scientific and technological activities concerning the safeguard of European Cultural Heritage.

The channels are the following:

1. Archive channel
2. Database channel
3. Technology channel
4. Publishing channel
5. Events channel
6. Training channel
7. New Enterprises channel
8. Institutions News channel
9. Scientific News channel
10. Forum

The contents of these channels will be provided and made available by the various national partners by using standard data entry forms and templates.

1. Archive channel

This database will contain data from the surveys carried out by the EACH partner countries concerning Enterprises and Scientists.

The archive channel currently contains the results of the survey carried out in ITALY.

2. Database channel

This database channel currently contains many important Italian databases on specific themes; it will be extended and updated to the European level by the various national partners of the EACH project.

3. Technology channel

This channel is particularly concerned with offering services related to the safeguarding of Cultural Heritage (diagnostics and restoration). It is targeted at public bodies such as regional and local councils. Furthermore, it gives ample opportunity for the promotion of business-to-business (B2B) activities. A fundamental element of the activities of this channel will be the introduction of scientific and technological innovations into enterprises which, in this sector, are often too small to be able to get funds for innovation.

4. Publishing channel

This channel deals with the promotion of every type of manual, monograph, textbook and any publishing activity in the Cultural Heritage field. At this moment, the channel only contains material issued in ITALY.

This channel deals also with the distribution of multimedia products (CD, VHS, DVD, etc.).

5. Events channel

This channel consists of logical lists of events related to Cultural Heritage which take place all over Europe; the channel also offers services connected to the organisation of congresses, meetings, workshops, etc. Spreading awareness of these events all over Europe is absolutely unique: no other Internet site is available on this subject with such detail and completeness.

6. Training channel

Via this channel we aim to promote awareness of the numerous European Cultural Heritage-related training courses held by Universities, research bodies, ministries, regional and local councils and private and European bodies, aimed at the various categories of possible users, particularly students and enterprise technicians.

Also in this case, spreading the knowledge of these training courses all over Europe is absolutely unique: no other Internet site is available on this subject offering such a large scale service.

7. New Enterprises channel

This channel deals with activities connected to the creation of new business, utilising the contents of the other channels. Specifically, the technologies and equipment will be made available for the creation of new enterprises. These products will engineer prototypes and organise their subsequent sale or use in diagnostics or restoration work on Cultural Heritage artefacts.

This action is of high value in order to increase employment and generate entrepreneurs by means of exploiting public funding.

8. Institutions News channel

This channel includes information on every type of scientific and technological activity in the Cultural Heritage field generated by European public state bodies (beginning with the Ministries for Culture) as well as by regions and local councils.

Again, there is no Internet site which can offer affordable data on this subject on a large-scale approach; this service may be offered with the contribution of the individual national partners to the EACH Project.

9. Scientific News channel

This channel offers information on activities in the various sectors of Cultural Heritage published in scientific journals worldwide: short items, continually updated, also the so-called grey literature, like local reports on different subjects will be available. This type of information is so far non-existent inside any other Internet Portal or site, but is of the utmost importance for any scientist working in this field.

10. Forum

This channel offers interaction with users and customers about problems, new ideas, debates, etc. concerning the services offered by the previous channels.

Keywords: management, cultural heritage, network.

Technological development envisaged

From an information technology point of view, the Portal is divided into sub-systems and components between the European Common Hub Centre and the many National Hub Centres it interacts with.

The Portal architecture is sub-divided into the following sub-systems:

- Web Server (WBS) (which includes Database Server);
- Back-End Server (BES) (which corresponds to Common Hub Centres);
- Log Server (LS) (which includes a Database Server).

The Portal interfaces with the following external bodies or systems:

- Users;
- Operators;
- National Hub Centres.

Users access the Portal via the Internet through the WBS subsystem (based on a web server, an Application Server (AS) for Internet applications, and a Relational Database Server (RDBMS) with informative data.

The WBS interacts with the LS subsystem for the memorisation of information on:

- Sessions;
- Errors;
- Operations carried out.

New data (or updates of external data) collected and normalised from the various National Hub Centres will be transferred to the database managed by the Portal via the Back-End sub-system (BES).

The interaction between the Common Hub Centre and the various National Hubs will be achieved via a common interface (PInt). This software will provide the Centre with a unique interface, interacting with the specific National Hub applications.

The BES will deal with recording the data on the connections of the various national systems on the LS (Log Server).

The BES also includes semi-manual functions for the normalisation of data, for use in the case of data needing corrective treatment before insertion in the WBS database.

Finally, an interface (Oplnt) is available via the BES sub-system to back-office operators through which the following actions may be carried out:

- Normalisation and homogenisation of data from the National Hubs;
- User profile configuration;
- Database administration;
- Session monitoring;
- Historic data consultation;
- Production statistics on access data and system function usage.

Markets application and exploitation

The quality of the products and services offered on the Portal will be of the highest and most reliable available today in our countries.

At the moment, no other national or European Project can offer the same products and services, both in terms of quality and diversity.

This Portal will offer a unique opportunity to spread awareness of products and services in both Public Administration and private companies. It will also become a reference point in Europe for all those who, professionally or simply as citizens, have at heart the safeguarding of their own cultural heritage. This is a much more complicated problem than just the simple restoration and conservation of individual artefacts.

The general architecture of the Portal must allow the following actions:

- 1 - Local national data entry;
- 2 - Many national hub centres and back offices;
- 3 - A common European hub centre and back office.

Each national partner should possess a net of local data entry (a certain number of staff members distributed all over the country) in order to constantly implement the channels of the Portal.

The flow of local data entry should be collected in a national hub centre.

As an example, as far as ITALY is concerned, a net of twelve local data entry staff members will be active in different sites throughout the country. They will send the data they on a regular basis collect to the national hub, which is located at the secretariat of the CNR 'Cultural Heritage' Project in Rome; this hub will review and filter the data before sending them to the common hub centre.

It is worth noting that the number of staff members required for data entry strongly depends on the extent of national involvement in the EACH Portal Project. For instance, in the case of a small country, a network of two or three people taking care of this activity should be enough during the start-up period; in any case, the extent of this involvement will depend on the extent of financial support to the project from national and/ or European sources.

The national hub centres will send data to a common hub centre in order to obtain a standard and uniform format. The extent of the common hub will obviously depend on how many countries participate in the project. During the start-up period it may be on the same site as a specific national hub centre.

National and/ or international telephone providers will take care of the Portal on the net. The back-office work will be carried out by the various hub centres, on an interactive basis with the possible customers, in order to supply products and services.

The market application and exploitation will be of extraordinary importance for SMEs in the area of cultural heritage. In fact, all over Europe these enterprises are very small and have difficulties in technological innovation. This Portal will be a centre of coordination for the technological development required by these enterprises.

Project codes

BSI

A	general section
M	control and computer technology

NACE

73	Research and development
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3. Main participant

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Organisation type	Research Institute
Participant role	Main

Contribution to project

As far as ITALY is concerned, the Portal is the spin-off of the Project CULTURAL HERITAGE, which is the only large scale Project on this subject carried out recently in Europe at the national level. The contribution to this project will consist of the continuous online availability of the products and services developed in this Project. In addition to these products and services, the contribution will consist of organising training courses and new enterprises in this area.

Expertise

The Council initiated a Project on CULTURAL HERITAGE in 1997. The Project covers the following subjects: *1st Subproject: Protection of cultural heritage patrimony. For the first time in ITALY, specialists in archaeology, geophysics, cartography, photogrammetry and tele-surveying are working together to explore archaeological sites and, more importantly, to develop methodologies for their protection. *2nd Sub-project: Diagnostics and restoring cultural heritage. Each restoration of cultural heritage artefacts presupposes an optimal knowledge of materials and a diagnosis of their state of conservation. *3rd Sub-project: Paper heritage. The aim of this sub-project is to reduce the chemical, physical and biological decay of paper-like and non paper-like materials. *4th Sub-project: Biological archive. Ancient DNA, paleo-anthropological and paleo-botanic studies regarding our biological past. *5th Sub-project: Museum management. Museums, by which we mean all those places in which Cultural Heritage artefacts of all types and origin are conserved, must not be considered only as 'deposits'. They have a much more important function: creating centres of culture whose contents stimulate the imagination and act as bases for improving the cultural knowledge of visitors. Its management is of the utmost importance for ITALY. This project involves 350 scientific groups spread all over ITALY and belonging to Universities, public research institutes and enterprises. The complete text of this Project is available on the Internet in five languages (www.culturalheritage.cnr.it). The total budget of this national Project is about 30 million Euro. The Project is well known today in Europe: translated into English, French, Spanish, German and Arabic, it has been outlined in a countless number of congresses, meetings and assemblies. As an example of the international awareness of this Project, we can point to the case of SPAIN: in fact, the Spanish Government's National Research and Development Plan for 2000-2003 takes into account the activities carried out in ITALY in this field. The Project on Cultural Heritage is generating a huge amount of products. The following table contains some figures: Equipment 59; Databases 107; Patents 30; CD Rom 68; DVD 4; VHS 13; Web Sites 37; Software 63; Manuals, Monographies 270;

4. Partner

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Organisation type University
Participant role Partner

Contribution to project

The contribution to the Project will consist of the following: i - collection of data concerning scientists and enterprises; this data will be organised and filtered by staff members. ii - collection of data concerning all the other channels of the Portal and transfer of this to the national hub centre. iii - transfer of all the national data to the European central hub. iv - back-office activity: based on requests for products and services from international surfers and possible customers, this group will organise any useful answers on a national basis, and organise contacts between enterprises, scientists and public bodies.

Expertise

The company's expertise is based on a complete knowledge of the activities concerning any scientific and technological effort carried out inside GERMANY regarding the safeguard of Cultural Heritage artefacts, from mobile objects to historical buildings, paper heritage and museums.

4. Partner

Company **Ait - Angeandte Informationstechnik**
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Organisation type	Governm./Nat. Admin.
Participant role	Partner

Contribution to project

The contribution to the Project will consist of the following: i - collection of data concerning scientists and enterprises; this data will be organised and filtered by staff members. ii - collection of data concerning all the other channels of the Portal and transfer of this to the national hub centre. iii - transfer of all the national data to the European central hub. iv - back-office activity: based on requests for products and services from international surfers and possible customers, this group will organise any useful answers on a national basis, and organise contacts between enterprises, scientists and public bodies.

Expertise

The company's expertise is based on a complete knowledge of the activities concerning any scientific and technological effort carried out inside AUSTRIA regarding the safeguard of Cultural Heritage artefacts, from mobile objects to historical buildings, paper heritage and museums.

4. Partner

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Organisation type	SME
Participant role	Partner

Contribution to project

- Logical and physical design of the databases; - Database management procedures; - IT architecture

design; - Definition of communication protocols.

Expertise

The company, connected to BRITISH TELECOM PLC, is one of the leading companies in the development of projects, IT solutions and products. It offers a wide variety of products and services such as: - Acquisition, editing and archiving of images; - Design and development of application software relating to: *Catalogue database management *Thematic cartography; - Multimedia products for learning and educational purposes; - Web and e-commerce sites and applications; - Multilingual translation of dictionaries as well as scientific and didactic texts; - Project management.

4. Partner

Company	Es Progetti E Sistemi Massimo Stazione, 11 80 127 Napoli Italy Tel +39 081 573 4842 Fax +39 081 731 0378 www.es-it.com
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Organisation type	SME
Participant role	Partner

Contribution to project

- Analysis and design of data and definition of the Portal; - Design and implementation of the user interface.

Expertise

The company is a leader in the development of portals and web connections, particularly in the field of Cultural Heritage.

4. Partner

Company	State Center For Restoration Of Historic Monuments Dugovics Ter, 13-17 1036 Budapest Hungary Tel +36 1 430 6090 Fax +36 1 250 2068
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Organisation type Research Institute
Participant role Partner

Contribution to project

The contribution to the Project will consist of the following: i - collection of data concerning scientists and enterprises; this data will be organised and filtered by staff members. ii - collection of data concerning all the other channels of the Portal and transfer of this to the national hub centre. iii - transfer of all the national data to the European central hub. iv - back-office activity: based on requests for products and services from international surfers and possible customers, this group will organise any useful answers on a national basis, and organise contacts between enterprises, scientists and public bodies.

Expertise

The company's expertise is based on a complete knowledge of the activities concerning any scientific and technological effort carried out inside HUNGARY regarding the safeguard of Cultural Heritage artefacts, from mobile objects to historical buildings, paper heritage and museums.

4. Partner

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Organisation type SME
Participant role Partner

Contribution to project

The contribution to the project will consist of the following: - Collecting data concerning scientists and enterprises; this data will be organised and filtered by the staff members of this organisation. - Collecting data concerning all the other channels of the portal and transfer of this to the NATIONAL HUB CENTRE. -

Transfer of all the national data to the EUROPEAN CENTRAL HUB. - Back-office activity: in response to requests for products and services from international surfers and possible customers, this group will organise answers on a national basis, organising contacts between enterprises, scientists and public bodies.

Expertise

- Global implementation projects on the world wide web (Internet). - Creation and design of web site domains adapted to on-line databases. - Processing and compilation of all types of data and their incorporation into a digital format. - Experts in the systematising of contents related to Cultural Heritage. - Development of search engines specialised in specific subject matters. - Creation and development of international portals. - For a graphic example of an Urban Portal already in operation: www.granada.net