

Advocacy paper – Final version of the Roadmap *Based on the Handbook*

Target: policy-makers

Digital preservation is a main stake for DCH institutions: they produce a large volume of data which needs to be safely stored, permanently accessed and easily re-used over time by different end users.

However, even if it has been identified as a key issue for DCH, there is a lack of best practices and common approaches. Member states are developing and implementing national preservation strategies, but there are many commonalities which could be addressed at European level.

Indeed, the DCH-RP project was designed to answer these needs, and to develop a roadmap to implement a federated preservation infrastructure for DCH, dedicated to support the application of open science in the arts and the humanities

Stakes:

- To make digital cultural heritage accessible and usable long term
- To contribute to the research capacities development of the DCH sector

The policy support is of high importance for the successful implementation of a federated infrastructure.

A first European Roadmap for digital preservation

Roadmaps are useful instruments to present the scope and coverage of an e-infrastructure. They are also frequently used within projects and institutions in the digital preservation domain. There is no roadmap on digital cultural heritage preservation.

The DCH-RP project Roadmap aim is to provide a practical instrument to decision makers from all DCH community – policy makers, cultural institutions, e-Infrastructure providers.

It offers:

- An unique European overview of the challenges, the main obstacles, the needs regarding digital preservation
- Examples of existing solutions
- Recommendations for each target group

It provides a Roadmap with short term to long-term perspectives based on major and connected steps.

What are the main components of the Roadmap?

A need of agreement on shared basic consideration

The first step for the development and the sustainability of the Roadmap is the agreement / shared conviction of all stakeholders to 3 basic points:

- A vision of distributed digital preservation architecture
- Challenges to target
- The need of an explorative approach

Four Major areas to concentrate on

In order to provide a useful instrument both to policy makers and cultural institutions, 4 major areas have been identified as priorities:

- Harmonisation of data storage and preservation
- Improved interoperability
- Establishment of conditions for cross-sector integration
- Governance models for infrastructure integration

Need for policy support

- Fragmentation of programmes between regions and Member States in Europe represents a barrier to be overcome
- To enable liaisons and connect interests between stakeholders
- Acknowledgment of the importance of such infrastructure
- To provide the necessary financial instruments and support joint programming actions

Recommendations for policy makers

- To endorse the roadmap in order to define the programme and financial supports to the federated infrastructure
- Policies should correspond to the actual needs of the sector: policy makers should follow awareness and communication programmes
- Links with the private sector are necessary, and public-private partnerships need to establish clear rules to respect the interests of both parties in a balanced way
- To understand the need for a plan for investments in preservation
- National preservation strategies have to be followed by concrete efforts in terms of human and economical resources

The Roadmap perspectives

The Roadmap perspective is based on strategic and operational steps, with a time frame with short-term (2014-2015) to medium and long-term perspectives (2016-2018+) in order to be adaptable to all institutions

Short term 2014-2015

Step 1: agreement on shared basic consideration by stakeholders: on a vision, challenges to target, on the need of exploration

Step 2: actions on the 4 main areas of the Roadmap

Step 3: choose services to address according to functional areas, services types and objects, type of architecture, level of maturity, license conditions

Mid term (2016-2017)

Step 1: summarize priorities decisions and considerations taken during the short time period into a *Preservation as a Service (Praas)*

Step 2: take further actions in the identified 4 major areas of the Roadmap

Step 3: plan for work during the long-term stage

Long term (2018 and beyond)

Take further actions in the identified 4 major areas of the Roadmap

Want to know more?

- On line:

- DCH-RP website: www.dch-rp.eu
- Showcase on Digitalmeetsculture.net : www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp
- Handbook “A ROADMAP FOR PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONTENT”: www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp/dch-rp-roadmap-for-preservation

- Events :

- 2nd of October 2014: The Hague (The Netherlands): SUCCEED technical workshop on interoperability of digitisation platforms;
- 6th-10th of October 2014: Frankfurt (Germany) : Frankfurt Book Fair 2014;
- 10th-12th of November 2014: Rome (Italy) : e-IRG workshop (10/11/2014) and delegates meeting (11/11/2014) ;
- 13th-14th of November 2014: Rome (Italy) : Event of the Italian EU Presidency;
- 17th-18th of November 2014: London (UK) : DPC and 4C conference ‘Investing in Opportunity: Policy Practice and Planning for a Sustainable Digital Future’;
- 16th-21st of November 2014: New Orleans (USA) : Supercomputing Conference 2014;
- 28th of November 2014: Paris (France) : SUCCEED Final Conference;
- 10th-11th of December 2014: Rome (Italy) : National Aggregators’ Conference;
- 10th-11th of December 2014: Muscat (Oman) : 4th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE 2014;
- 17th of December 2014: Guwahati (India) : CHAIN-REDS Workshop at the NKN Conference.