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EUROPEAN NETWORK ON RESEARCH PROGRAMME APPLIED TO THE PROTECTION OF TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE



NET-HERITAGE fulfils a real need within EU research policy, in that it aims to overcome barriers to the coordination of national research activities, which is vital for the creation of a real European Research Area in a sector recognised for its worldwide leadership.

Research applied to Tangible Cultural Heritage Protection will benefit from NET-HERITAGE for pursuing the following goals:

- Strengthening the European research area by establishing a critical research mass in key areas;
- Fostering innovation and sustainable development in this important European sector;
- Facilitating mutual learning and enhancing multidisciplinary partnerships;
- Improving coordination of national research activities and minimising unintended duplication and redundancy;
- Pursuing long-term RTD strategies;
- Improving validation of RTD programmes and their respective financial level of support;
- Underpinning common educational and training actions;
- Supporting EU policies, by coordinating policy response to shared challenges;
- Coordinating responses towards common challenges (i.e. international cooperation).

NET-HERITAGE will facilitate the launch of joint actions determined by the needs of ministries and agencies.

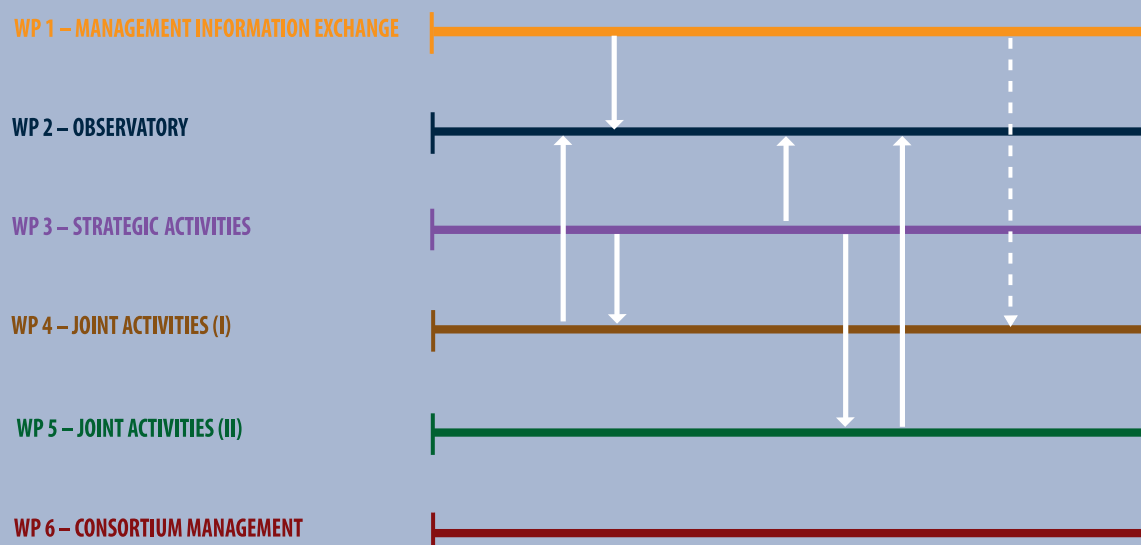
The outputs of transnational research initiatives have not been fully understood or appreciated at the highest strategic and political levels within national settings, nor are they known throughout Europe.

NET-HERITAGE will promote mutual learning and provide a route toward the greater spread of joint initiatives.

The bottom-up nature of HERITAGE-NET is a challenging opportunity for programme owners and managers to underpin catalytic actions in support of RTD research applied to tangible cultural heritage.

NET-HERITAGE is structured in six separate Work packages, as shown in the following Figure

GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF WORK PACKAGES



WORK PACKAGE 1**WP 1 SYSTEMATIC EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF RUNNING RTD PROGRAMMES ON THE PROTECTION OF TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (INFORMATION EXCHANGE)**

This Work package comprises an overall assessment of the Research Programmes applied to the Protection Tangible Cultural Heritage through information exchange among Partners on capacity, national management, financing mechanisms, procedures, practices and evaluation. The Work package will identify strengths and weakness of the systems currently in place. Recommendations on common approaches will be generated in consultation and with the consensus of all the Partners. Furthermore, the Work package will provide these recommendations to the NET-HERITAGE Observatory (WP2) for wider dissemination

WORK PACKAGE 2**WP2 EUROPEAN NET-HERITAGE OBSERVATORY ON CULTURAL HERITAGE RESEARCH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION (INFORMATION EXCHANGE)**

The Observatory addresses a need that exists at a European level to provide a platform for the exchange of peer-reviewed scientific research and policy among academic researchers, heritage experts and European citizens. There is no Observatory like this in existence.

This Work package aims to implement a web portal as an information-based system, which takes an input (information), adding value to it (peer-review), and presenting it for use via a service (Observatory). These management processes underpin the four objectives for a successful launch of the NET-HERITAGE Observatory:

- Create the point of entry into the system, by developing the technical architecture of the web portal;
- Gather, collate and edit content through the technical implementation of the web portal;
- Test what happens once content is in the system including the development of a strong brand identity;
- Evaluate how content is used to create a service, working in a partnership with an expert provider.

A Europe-wide Net-Heritage Observatory will have a profound impact on the scope and effectiveness of RTD activities in participating member states. In providing an infrastructure to support knowledge transfer and the flow of data, it will also provide a mechanism for much-needed coordination of activity between member states.

WORK PACKAGE 3**WP3 STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES BETWEEN RTD PROGRAMMES APPLIED TO THE PROTECTION OF TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES)**

Work package 3 aims to identify areas for potential future cooperation in the following fields [WP Leader: MUR, Italy]:

- Environmental assessment and monitoring (pollution, climate change, seismic risks);
- Investigation of damage mechanisms to establish preventive conservation strategies;
- Measurement instruments of practical relevance for end-users;
- Innovation on materials and technologies for conservation and maintenance;
- Evaluation of treatments and materials used in conservation at present and over recent decades, assessing their suitability and future consequences;
- Alteration and conservation of materials with special focus on modern materials used in contemporary art and architecture and also as cultural information storage (CDs, DVDs, etc);
- Anthropropic pressure evaluation and management;
- Security technologies and systems in museums, libraries, archives and for the movement of artefacts;
- Tele-survey and Geographic Information System for protection and management of tangible cultural heritage.

WORK PACKAGE 4**WP4 IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE COORDINATION BETWEEN NATIONAL RTD PROGRAMMES ON TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (JOINT ACTIVITIES I)**

This Work package follows on from the establishment of strategic activities for the implementation of joint working mechanisms and joint action plans between Partners. Raising visibility of the importance of this sector both within member states and on the European level, delivering substantial information to European Governments, EU Council, Parliament and Commission, with the goal of anchoring the protection of cultural heritage as an essential part within the sustainability strategy:

WORK PACKAGE 5**WP5 IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE COORDINATION OF ADVANCED TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (JOINT ACTIVITIES II)**

Analysis of existing training possibilities, Definition of the model for Advanced Training Programme and Promote activities to encourage the formation of a pilot group of training institutions in Partner states willing to use and evaluate the programme developed

WORK PACKAGE 6**WP6 NET-HERITAGE CONSORTIUM COORDINATION FRAMEWORK**

Oversee the development of the Project, the Partners' work and contacts with the EU Commission