Summary

The CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES project is about the participation of **citizens** in research on **cultural heritage and humanities**.

ICT are powerful drivers of creativity, but specific technical know-how is still generally lacking in the creative industries sectors. In addition, humanities scholarship is not yet taking full advantage of ICT to engage with wider audiences. New skills are needed to enable the cultural sector to grasp employment and commercial opportunities.

The project aims to develop and validate a **Roadmap** for the use of **e-Infrastructures** to support the participation of European citizens in research on cultural heritage and digital humanities. Critically, the Roadmap will offer support for improved **social cohesion** arising from the sharing of knowledge and understanding of Europe's citizens common and individual cultures.
The partners are committed to the values of open data, open source and open innovation.

Objectives

- ➢ Analyze the needs of researchers, citizens, cultural institutions and creative enterprises
- ➢ Develop a new Roadmap based on key findings
- ➢ Validate the Roadmap through one Pilot in Ireland and two case studies in the UK
- ➢ Encourage Research institutions to establish clear protocols for citizen engagement and shared research goals where achievable
- ➢ Ensure widespread impact of the project findings with a strong communication and dissemination plan
- ➢ Establish a durable network of common interest to connect cultural institutions, research bodies, creative industries, e-infrastructures and citizen associations

Action plan

The project consists of five work-packages:

WP1 - Project Management

WP2 - Identification of requirements

WP3 - Roadmap development

WP4 - Pilot and Case Studies

WP5 - Dissemination, communication and sustainability

Project acronym: CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES

Project theme: INFRASTRUCTURE-2013-2

Start date: 01/08/2014

Duration: 16 months
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Keywords:

citizen scientists, digital cultural heritage, digital humanities, e-infrastructure, creative industries, skills development, standards, metadata, strategic research agenda, knowledge economy

Events:

3 focus groups; 2 case study meetings;
3 workshops; 1 final conference

Research activities

While the academic research lifecycle and the potential offered by e-Infrastructures and virtual research environments to support research have attracted significant attention over the last decade, an understanding of how citizens can be involved in research and creativity within the digital domain is still in its infancy. Models of academic research lifecycles, mapped to digital infrastructures, could help to some extent because the nature of academics and citizens involvement and their need of support differ considerably. Initial research carried out on **citizen science** has typically not addressed the generic lifecycle but has tended to concentrate on specific activities. Further work is necessary to refine those tasks, and to map how they correspond to existing tools, which can be used within e-Infrastructures. This issue will be addressed in WP2, WP3 and WP4 of the CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES project.

A rich dissemination programme, including a major international conference, will ensure that the project has maximum outreach and impact.

User communities

The outreach activities of CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES aim to contribute to the creation of the network of actors (called in the project the **Network of Common Interest**) who are willing to commit themselves to the implementation of the Roadmap developed by the project. The project targets the whole value-chain, from public funding bodies through to the cultural content owners, publishers and creative industries, e-Infrastructure providers and end users (researchers, educators, students, practitioners and citizens in general).

The following are the key **targets** for the dissemination of the CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES project's results:
  - ➢ Ministries and state agencies with responsibility for e-Infrastructures;
  - ➢ E-Infrastructure providers, usually National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), grid and cloud providers (e.g. EGI);
  - ➢ Policy-making bodies which map out the future of e-Infrastructures on behalf of the European Commission, of national government and of others. Good examples are e-IRG and ESFRI;
  - ➢ Cultural heritage organisations, including Ministries of Culture and memory institutions (museums, libraries, archives, etc.);
  - ➢ Organisations which coordinate and represent memory institutions (e.g., NEMO, EMF, ICOM, EBLIDA, CENL);
  - ➢ Research organisations that provide technical and expertise advice to cultural stakeholders;
  - ➢ Cultural and creative Industries;
  - ➢ Other projects in the digital culture, digital humanities, e-Infrastructures and policy arenas.

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