CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES
Development of a Roadmap for Citizen Researchers in the age of Digital Culture

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EGI Conference – Platforms for Citizen Science Session
Lisbon, 19 Sept 2015

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The Project

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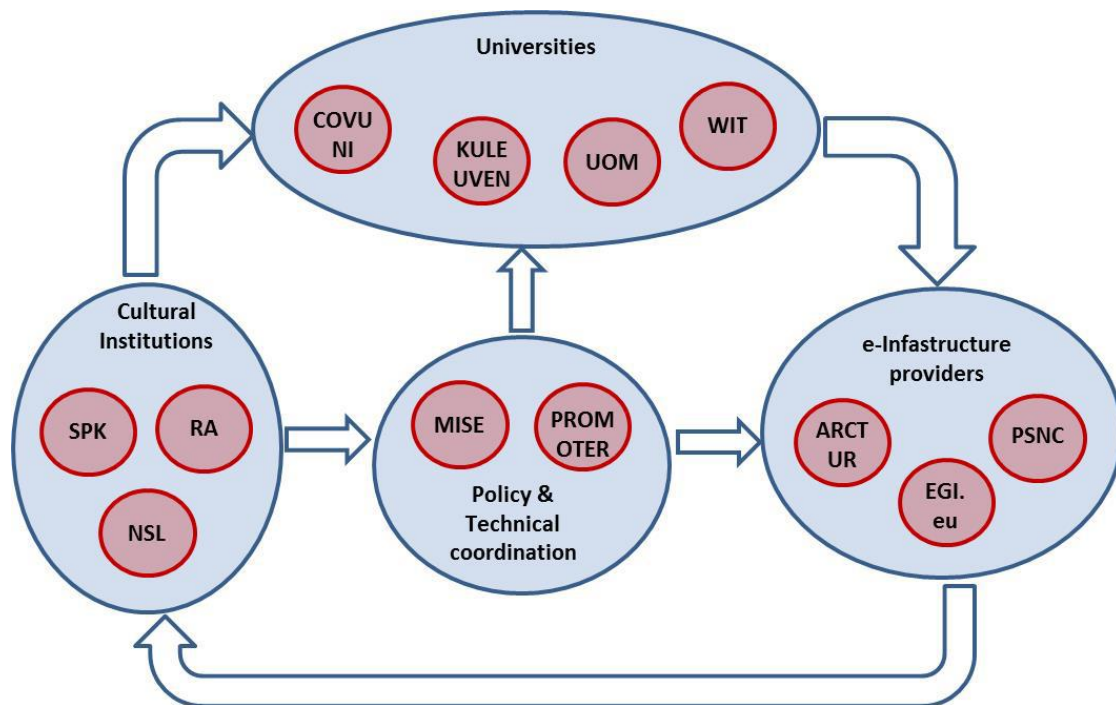
Rationale of the project

A potential not yet exploited:

- A vast quantity of digital cultural heritage is now ready to be used, but the actual exploitation of these content is lacking dynamism

- In particular, citizens risk to remain disconnected from the digital culture, because of several technical and legal problems:
  - Connectivity
  - IPR

- Cultural institutions are focusing more on digitisation than on creativity and artistic expressions, including co-creation processes

- ➢ **Citizen science in digital culture, including crowdsourcing as a specific area of work can unlock this potential**

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Project Objectives

- Analyse the **needs** of researchers, citizens, cultural institutions and creative enterprises aiming to work together

- Propose a set of **priority steps** (for researchers, cultural institutions, students, scholars, e-infrastructure providers, creative industries) contributing to the definition of a shared **Roadmap**

- Validate the Roadmap through **pilots and case studies**

- Deliver a strong **communication and dissemination** plan

- Establish a durable **network of common interest** to connect cultural institution, research bodies, creative industries, e-infrastructures and citizen associations
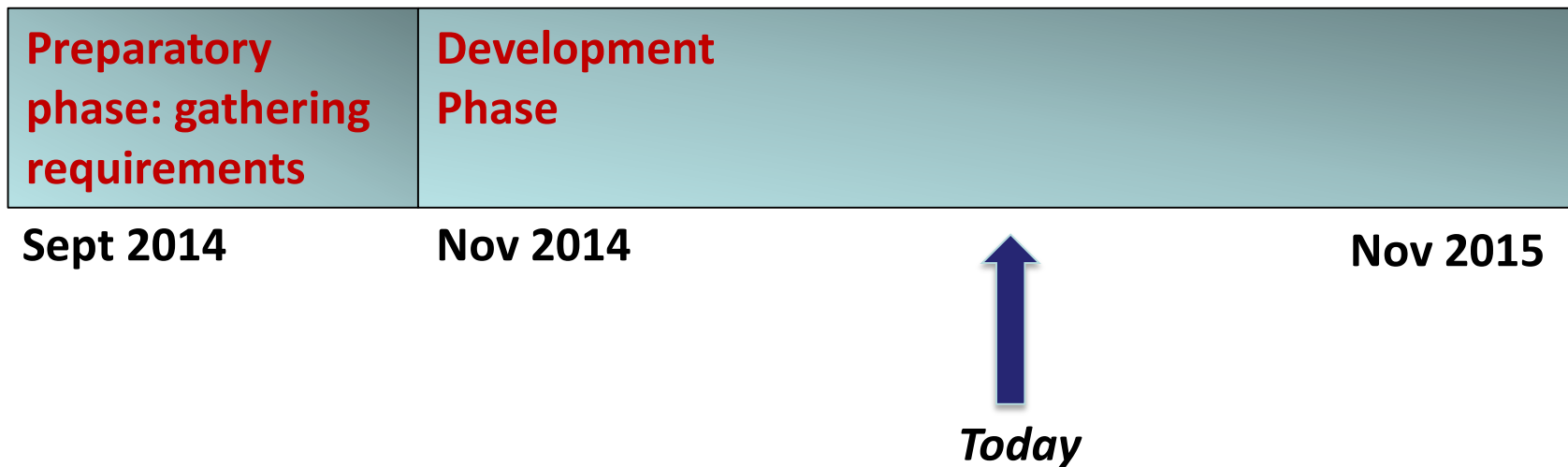
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Consortium overview

12 partners from 11 European countries

Partner name	Country
Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico (MISE) - **Coordinator**	Italy
Promoter srl – **Technical Coordinator**	Italy
Riksarkivet (RA)	Sweden
Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SPK)	Germany
National Széchényi Library (NSL)	Hungary
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU LEUVEN)	Belgium
Coventry University (COVUNI)	UK
University of Malta (UoM)	Malta
Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC)	Poland
Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)	Ireland
Arctur d.o.o. (ARCTUR)	Slovenia
Stichting European Grid Initiative (EGI.eu)	The Netherlands

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Project's phases

A very ambitious and compact action: 16 months

Preparatory phase: gathering requirements	Development Phase
Sept 2014	**Nov 2014**

Nov 2015

Today

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Development Phase

November 2014 – November 2015

- The **Roadmap** is finalised, including a reflection on a possible **strategic research agenda**, and a **registry of services**, shared with a wide range of stakeholders

- **Pilot and Case Studies** are developed and their results are reflected in the Roadmap

- Project Dissemination and Communication is carried out, including the development of **targeted online training material**

- The Network of Common Interest is established through dedicated cooperation agreements

Case Studies and Pilot

The CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES Roadmap is validated by two case studies and one pilot whose results are analysed to extract knowledge, lessons learnt and best practice

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Case Studies in Coventry

The case studies examines how community groups of citizens engage with cultural heritage and participate in the generation and reuse of cultural heritage using digital technologies:

1. Participation of volunteers in cultural activities (e.g. theatre, dance, music, art, film making, photography)
   - ❑ Volunteers from: Homeless/vulnerably housed members of Crisis

1. A visitor app of Coventry City Council, providing new user perspectives and understandings of the role of cultural heritage knowledge in local economic regeneration and growth.

The pilot runs an ethnographic study focused on Western Ireland, to record, capture and document heritage composed of stories heard from elderly relatives and neighbours.

Role of EGI and e-Infrastructures

e-Infrastructures sustainability models

- Develop a **business model** for an **e-Infrastructure to support** Civic Epistemologies and **citizen scientists**, primarily based on the information collected the "Requirements Identification" project activity.

- Look at several alternative **revenue streams** that alone or in a mix and match model may cover the costs of such an e-Infrastructure.

- Examine **IPR issues** and how they may contribute to, or hamper with cost recovery strategies.

- Curation of data for payment as well as business relations with creative industry will be taken into account in the proposed model.

Leading

Supporting

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The Roadmap

Form and Content of the Roadmap

WHY — overall objectives for making a roadmap

WHO — who to address: target groups and/or user groups, stakeholders in general, members of society

WHERE — where to go (specific objectives and goals for the roadmap to be a basis for requirements like improving access, enhance quality of holdings/collections, social enclosure or...?)

WHEN — when shall these specific objectives and goals be reached (time line for implementing the roadmap)

WHAT — what to produce: a roadmap, but what are the basic drivers and the added values of citizen research and crowd sourcing as a method and what are benefits of using distributed e-infrastructure

HOW — how shall the roadmap be structured (address each target group and/or user group or be structured on general level)

A Vision (Why)

The project's over-riding strategic objective is to:

*support the development of policy on the **role e-Infrastructures can play** in encouraging and facilitating the mediation process of **citizen science** in the area of DCHH, in order to bring about **a closer alignment between the private and public spheres**.*

By:

- Identifying and deploying new services and protocols enabled by e-Infrastructures

- Supporting Europe's citizens, its creative enterprises and its wider cultural industries to enter into productive technology-enabled dialogue with cultural heritage institutions and Humanities research.

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Target Groups (who)

Several types of actors are considered to be targets of the Roadmap, including mainly the following:

- Memory institutions (museums, libraries, archives)
- Humanities research (universities, academies)
- Artists and artistic production centres, with particular regard to the new forms of digital art
- Schools and the education sector in general
- E-infrastructure providers
- Policy makers
- Citizens in general, and through their associations
- Etc.

A Web-space for the Roadmap (Where)

Roadmap is not the final step!

- Living document that needs to be continuously maintained, updated and improved as time passes, technology changes, new requirements have to be taken into account, and so on.

Interactive webspace

- Download the last version of the Roadmap
- Provide feedback and comments, a kind of Forum
- Discover e-infrastructure services and facilities for citizen science and crowd sourcing targeting the DCHH domain.

The webspace is already online at

http://www.civic-epistemologies.eu/outcomes/roadmap/

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A Timeframe (When)

The Civic Epistemologies Roadmap should make it possible for each institution in the DCHH domain to define its own practical action plan with a realistic timeframe for the implementation of its stages.

- **Short-term** (2015 - 2016)

  The purpose of proposing a short-term action plan (2015) is to initiate the development of e-infrastructure services on a level that will be self-sustainable and continue to progress on its own. This further progress is defined in terms of two further proposed time spans:

- **Medium-term** (2017-2018), i.e. two years after the end of the Civic Epistemologies project), and

- **Long-term** (2019 and beyond) for the logical continuation of the work.

The Roadmap as an Instrument (What)

The Civic Epistemologies Roadmap integrates three domains of necessary intervention:

1. Business change

2. Policy framework

3. Better tools

with the major PEST factors (political, economic, scientific, and technological).

The compilation of the roadmap also needs integration of a multitude of viewpoints and aspects, both those foreseen in the planning of the project and new ones discovered during the project's lifetime.

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The Roadmap as an Instrument (What)

The so-called 'hard sciences' are already demonstrating that research can advance its capability by the use of e-Infrastructures.

A basic assumption is:

- **Existing e-Infrastructures** for research and academia (including NREN, NGI and other data infrastructures) **could be efficient channels** also for the **delivery of advanced services** to the Digital Cultural Heritage and Humanities (DCHH) domain in the field of citizen science and crowd sourcing.

- Will be possible to **establish common policies, processes and protocols** which will allow cultural heritage organisations to **access e-Infrastructures**, despite the fact that e-infrastructures (like NRENs and NGIs) are national entities, often with different policies and procedures for access and usage.

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The Roadmap as an Instrument (What)

Problem:

Many cultural heritage institutions have **in-house solutions** for processing their digital collections and holdings but also their research applications. When comparing in-house solutions with distributed e-Infrastructure services, it is inevitable that some barriers appear, such as **incompatibility** of purposes or scope, lack of technical or semantic **interoperability**, reliance on different standards, and **jurisdictional and legal barriers**, etc.

Solution:

Therefore, the Civic Epistemologies Roadmap should keep a focus on what to do and on the **usability of services and technologies** and **not on the services and technologies themselves**. This has been strongly stressed by several stakeholder groups.

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The Roadmap as an Instrument (What)

The project has adapted a very simple structure of the roadmap:

```
┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐        ┌──────────────┐
│   Today's    │      │  The Road    │        │   Vision     │
│  landscape   │      └──────────────┘        │              │
│              │ ──────────────────────────▶  │              │
│              │      ┌──────────────┐        │              │
└──────────────┘      │  Timeframe   │        └──────────────┘
                      └──────────────┘
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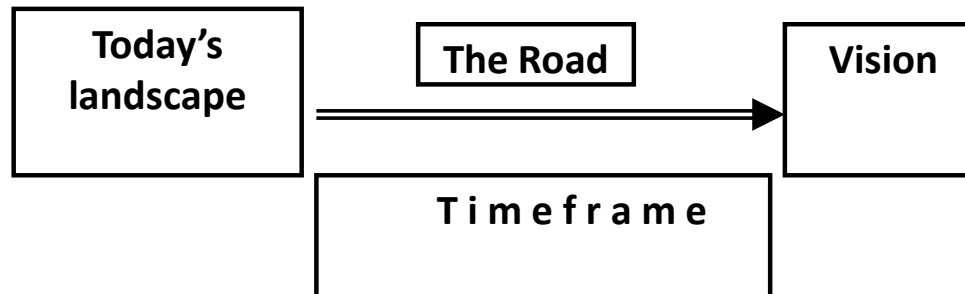
Reaching the Target Audience (How)

- Focus groups
  - Policymakers, citizen scientists, activists/citizens associations
- Questionnaires
- Workshops with stakeholder groups
  - Researchers, the wider cultural heritage community, creative enterprises, artistic communities, e-infrastructure providers, etc.
- Pilot study
- Case studies

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The Roadmap online

Description of the Roadmap

Link to download the first version of the Roadmap

Link to the Information on the Workshop

Comments and feedback from users

EGI Conference – Platforms for Citizen Science Session
Lisbon, 19 Sept 2015

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Next appointments & events

- *Project meetings and public events organised by CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES*
    - **Workshop on Innovation in CH institutions**, Budapest 9-10 July 2015
    - **Final International Conference,** Berlin 12-13 November 2015

- *Third parties event where the participation of CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES is planned*
    - **EGI Conference 2015 – "Platforms for citizen science"** session**,** Lisbon 19 May 2015
    - **ELPUB 2015,** Malta 1-3 September 2015
    - **Digital Heritage,** Granada 28 September-2 October 2015
    - **ICT2015**, Lisbon 20-22 October 2015 (proposal for a networking session under submission)
    - **DCDC - Discovering Collections Discovering Communities Conference,** Manchester 12-14 October 2015

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Conclusions

ICT are powerful drivers of creativity in a number of areas

❑ But technical know-how is still often lacking

e-Infrastructures have proven valuable, but services and support for citizen science are in its infancy

❑ Services for citizen science and crowd sourcing are normally structured around development of tools
  - But also needs to involve policy instruments necessary to achieve efficient intervention
❑ Support services have to not only be flexible, but also easy to adapt and utilise
  - This is a clear message from most stakeholder groups
❑ Introduce the possibilities to customise the citizen science services provided by e-Infrastructure
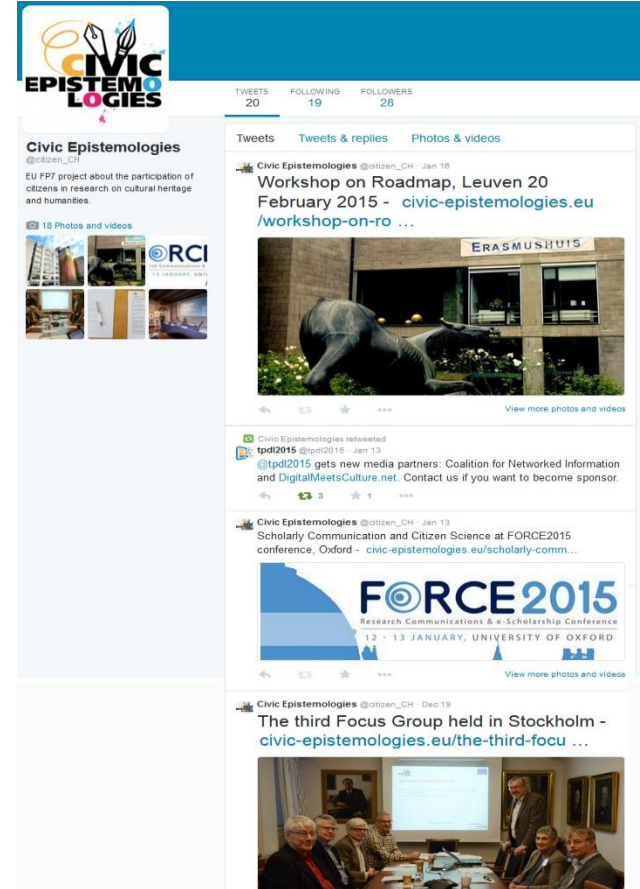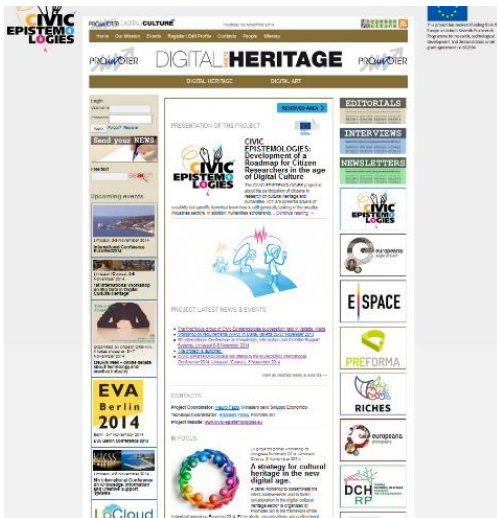 - Tailoring the service portfolio and characteristics to the actual tasks and requirements

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Thank you!

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