

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, April 2005

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Editorial

Dear reader,

Welcome to the first issue of the TEL-ME-MOR newsletter!

TEL-ME-MOR is a new EU-funded project designed to raise awareness of opportunities for New Member States to participate in European projects funded within the Information Society Technology (IST) Programme, particularly in the areas of Cultural Heritage and Learning.

In addition, TEL-ME-MOR will support the 10 national libraries from the New Member States to integrate their electronic resources into [The European Library](#), an initiative established under the aegis of the [Conference of European National Librarians](#) (CENL), providing unified access to the digital and non-digital resources of the National Libraries of Europe.

This newsletter is just one of the ways, which will be used by TEL-ME-MOR to disseminate information on the new resources, which will be gradually made available via The European Library, as well as on current and future calls for proposals within the IST area, with the aim of stimulating and encouraging a greater involvement of New Member States in the 'enlarged Europe'.

During the lifetime of the project, in addition to the three issues of this newsletter, information on current and future opportunities for projects will regularly be posted on the TEL-ME-MOR website <http://telmemor.net>. From this website you will also be able to find links to the local TEL-ME-MOR websites where this information is available in the languages of the New Member States: <http://telmemor.net/local.php>. We therefore recommend you to keep an eye on our site!

We do hope that you find this newsletter useful. You are welcome to send your suggestions and comments to the editorial team at info@telmemor.net.

Toomas Schvak, editor

1. About TEL-ME-MOR

Background

TEL-ME-MOR: The European Library: Modular Extensions for Mediating Online Resources was launched on 1 February 2005. The project was selected by the European Commission, [Directorate E - Content](#), as a result of the third IST call for proposals, published in 2004, and is funded within the *Activity 2.3.6.1*, aimed at stimulating, encouraging and facilitating the participation of organisations from the New Member States and the associated candidate countries in the activities of the IST area.

TEL-ME-MOR has a budget of about 1.4 million euro and will last for two years.

Objectives

The three main objectives of TEL-ME-MOR are:

- **To develop the research agenda for the knowledge society in the 10 New Member States.** To achieve this goal, TEL-ME-MOR will investigate the requirements of the national libraries and of other key players in the area of research and technologies and their state of readiness to participate in IST projects and activities, by raising awareness and establishing potential partnerships through seminars, meetings and exchanges.

- **To raise awareness of the opportunities for participation in future IST activities** and to foster an increased participation of organisations from the New Member States and associated candidate countries in future IST calls for proposals especially within the Cultural Heritage and Learning sectors. The TEL-ME-MOR website will therefore regularly publish and update information about projects, events, activities and calls for proposals within the IST area and will offer guidance and support to any organisation in the New Member States interested in joining in a European partnership. To facilitate this task, most information will be made available in the national languages of the partners from the New Member States. In addition, this newsletter, a series of national and regional workshops and a final European Conference, to be held in Estonia at the end of the project, will further contribute to this activity, bringing together key players in the information society and encouraging new partnerships for research consortia.

- **To enhance and increase access by researchers, scholars, teachers, students as well as the 'informed citizens' across Europe to essential European information resources** and materials (mainly in digital format), held by European national libraries.

In order to achieve this objective the project will support the 10 national libraries in the New Member States in becoming full members of The European Library, thus, benefiting from the TEL networking services and enabling their users to access information and resources from any of the participating libraries from anywhere and at any time.

Participants

The consortium of TEL-ME-MOR includes the following 16 partners:

[Die Deutsche Bibliothek \(The National Library of Germany\) – Coordinator](#)

[Koninklijke Bibliotheek \(The National Library of the Netherlands\)](#)

[The British Library](#)

[National Library of Switzerland](#)

[Conference of European National Librarians \(CENL\)](#)

[Eremo srl, Italy](#)

[National Library of the Czech Republic](#)

[Ministry of Education and Culture, Cyprus \(Cyprus Library\)](#)

[National Library of Estonia](#)

[National Széchényi Library of Hungary](#)

[National Library of Latvia](#)

[Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania](#)

[National Library of Malta](#)

[National Library of Poland](#)

[National Library of Slovakia](#)

[National and University Library of Slovenia.](#)

A good start

Although the project only started two months ago, its partners have already undertaken with commitment and enthusiasm a number of preliminary actions:

- **Kick-off meeting**

A kick off meeting was held on 9-10 February 2005 at Die Deutsche Bibliothek, in Frankfurt to officially launch the project; the meeting gathered all the project partners to discuss and clarify the workplan with a focus on the first activities to be carried out.

- **Project**

Thanks to the Estonian National Library, responsible for dissemination activities, the project has

already developed a website, available at: <http://telmemor.net/>. The site is divided into two areas: one devoted to the project's progress and results, the other focused on the IST Programme and specifically on the opportunities for participation of New Member States in projects in the IST's learning and cultural sectors.

- **Local language websites**

Summary information on TEL-ME-MOR and on the IST Programme (including open calls) was published by the New Member States partners in the own languages. These pages are linked from the TEL-ME-MOR website at: <http://telmemor.net/local.php>. By July 2005, these local language websites will be finalised, presenting the same structure of the general project website and reflecting its content, while also providing additional information on related national events and initiatives in the New Member States.

- **First dissemination action on Call 4**

During February and March 2005 the project has undertaken an intensive dissemination action about Call 4, which was published by the European Commission in December 2004 and closed on 22 March 2005. As outlined in the paragraph below, the call offered interesting opportunities for New Member States, encouraging specifically their involvement in the 'enlarged Europe'. TEL-ME-MOR publicised the call, by posting relevant information on the project website and circulating an informative press release via a number of existing European networks, including [National Contact Points](#), the [IDEAL-IST List](#), [Minerva](#), [Calimera](#) and others.

This activity has proved very useful, having prepared the ground for future dissemination actions and having raised the interest of some organisations, which expressed their willingness to take part in future IST calls. Partners from the New Member States have established preliminary contacts with organisations and national networks, which will be used to channel information and raise awareness on future projects' opportunities during the lifetime of the project.

- **Analysis of research requirements of national libraries in the New Member States**

The National Library of the Czech Republic, responsible for this activity, has compiled a questionnaire, which was forwarded to all the New Member States' partners. The questionnaire will help to identify main issues, challenges and future directions in the Research and Development (RD) area of the 10 national libraries. The results of this investigation will be compiled in a report, which, once finalised, will be published on the TEL-ME-MOR website.

2. About Call 4

Published in December 2004 and closed on 22 March 2005, **CALL 4** addressed the following two areas of the Fifth Framework Programme (FP6):

1. **Technology-enhanced Learning** (Strategic Objective 2.4.10) with objectives (1) to explore interactions between the learning of the individual and that of the organisation in order to investigate how current or emerging ICT can mutually enhance the learning processes for the individual and for the organisation; and (2) to contribute to new understandings of the learning processes by exploring links between human learning, cognition and technologies.
2. **Enlarged Europe** (Strategic Objective 2.4.13) with the objective to develop and validate innovative and efficient ICT-based systems and services in key application areas for the social and economic development of the enlarged Europe, with a view to strengthening the integration of the [IST European Research Area](#).

The proposals received in response to Call 4 will be evaluated by the European Commission in April 2005. The results of the evaluation will be announced on the [Digicult website](#) as well as on the [TEL-ME-MOR website](#) as soon as they are available.

3. Current & Future Opportunities

CALL 5

The next IST call for proposals (**CALL 5**) will cover the areas of **Cultural Heritage** (Strategic Objective 2.5.10) and **Multimodal Interfaces including Multilingual Communications** (Strategic Objective 2.5.7). The call is due to open in May/June 2005.

The work within the area '**Access to and preservation of cultural and scientific resources**' (Strategic Objective 2.5.10) will focus on two main objectives:

1. Access – To support the emerging complexity of digital cultural and scientific objects and repositories, through enriched conceptual representations and advanced access methods.

Work should focus on applying leading edge technologies (knowledge technologies, visualisation, virtual reality), to be tested in real but innovative scenarios:

- Automated methods for capture, indexing & semantic representation – non-textual and cross-media objects
- Knowledge representation & access technologies for complex, unstructured, dynamic cultural heritage objects

- Domain ontologies
- Collaborative content authoring – online communities
- Application models for ubiquitous access to cultural information.

Research in this area should lead to **a more participative and creative use of cultural heritage by citizens and by cultural institutions**, at all levels, through creative, online communities.

Instruments (project types) & partnerships: **STREPs** will be the main mechanism for the longer-term research on the access and use of cultural content. Partnerships will involve the Cultural Heritage research community, technology research and developers, including high-tech SMEs and cultural institutions.

To learn more about the types of instruments [click here](#).

2. Digital preservation – To explore how to preserve the availability of digital resources over time, through novel concepts, techniques and tools.

Research in this area should investigate methods and systems for guaranteeing the long-term preservation of digital objects. Work is open to both short term experiment and longer term research. Research is needed to develop test-beds and systems that will support the availability and accessibility of multi-sourced and multi-formatted resources. Longer-term research is needed to address the preservation of complex, dynamic and very high volume digital objects, including those with high levels of interactivity.

Instruments: **IPs** are the preferred instrument for the test-beds of multi-sourced resources. The structuring and building of the research interests in digital preservation including a better understanding of digital longevity issues over extended timescales is likely to be best addressed through **CAs**.

To learn more about the types of instruments [click here](#).

A summary of the research goals in the cultural heritage domain with a link to the full work programme is available from: http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_e/digicult/programme.htm.

In connection with the call, the European Commission's Unit 'Learning and Cultural Heritage' will organise an **Information Day on 16 June in Luxembourg**. The event aims at building consensus on trends and challenges in future research, at facilitating a better understanding of the FP6 instruments, sharing ideas and experiences, and helping to find partners for project consortia. The agenda, an on-line registration form and other information are available from: http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_e/digicult/events.htm.

Details on **CALL 5** will be made available at: http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/calls_activity.cfm?ID_ACTIVITY=124 as soon as the call is published. This page provides information on all past and current calls for proposals published by the European Commission in the IST area.

Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

The European Union's framework programmes for research and technological development are the Commission's main instruments for funding European research. Although the current Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) will run until 2006, the European Commission has already started the process for identifying thematic domains for future European support under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

TEL-ME-MOR will play an important role in the shaping of FP7's priority areas for research and development in the New Member States, by investigating and identifying research needs in these countries. Information about this action as well as about progress of work on FP7 will be posted on the TEL-ME-MOR website, when it is available.

Details on FP7's work progress can be found on the [European Commission's website](#).

eTEN CALL ON eLEARNING

On 10 February 2005 a call for proposals was published by eTEN. This is a European Community Programme designed to help the deployment of services based on telecommunication networks with a trans-European dimension. To learn more on the programme, see the [eTEN website](#).

The new call addresses six priority areas including eLearning (Theme 4). The eLearning area supports the use of multimedia technologies, the Internet and other delivery channels to improve the quality of learning by facilitating access to resources and services and the provision of collaborative and remote interactions.

More information on the call is available on the [eTEN website](#).

4. Related News

▪ The European Library is Live

[The European Library](#) was launched this month! Building on the successful results of the EU-funded project [TEL](#), The European Library currently provides access to the collections of 9 national libraries and it will gradually include more European national libraries. As mentioned, during the course of the TEL-ME-MOR project, the 10 national libraries from the New Member States will become full members of The European Library.

The Vision of the European Library is:

Provision of equal access to promote world-wide understanding of the richness and diversity of European learning and culture.

To learn more, go to <http://theeuropeanlibrary.org/>.

▪ Communicating European Research Conference

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research organises the second "Communicating European Research" conference. It will take place in Brussels from 14 to 15 November 2005. The conference, which will focus on science communication, aims to provide a forum for discussion for scientists, communication professionals and journalists. The conference will also take stock of the way towards the Seventh Framework Programme. Details [here](#).

▪ eCulture newsletter

The new issue of eCulture, the European Commission's [DigiCULT](#) newsletter (Volume 6, Issue 1, February 2005), is now available from the [Digicult website](#). In the light of the upcoming Call 5, the issue focuses on priorities for research targeting the IST strategic objective 'Access and Preservation of Cultural and Scientific Resources'. The newsletter also features an article on TEL-ME-MOR.

▪ Global Information Technology Report

The [Global Information Technology Report 2004-2005](#) of the World Economic Forum offers interesting data on ICT developments in the world, including European New Member States. According to the report, Estonia leads the central and eastern European countries with a rank of 25 out of 104. The formerly centrally planned economies in this region tend to rank higher than some of the larger countries in Latin America, with Estonia, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Lithuania, scoring higher than Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, the three largest Latin American economies. The process has been made possible by impressive levels of foreign direct investment.

Overall, the report gives an excellent overview of the extent to which ICT is leading to real services over the world and is therefore an useful study tool for institutions interested in participating in the

IST Programme.

▪ **DigiCULT: Technology Watch Report 3**

The third DigiCULT Technology Watch Report was published in January 2005 with the title *Core Technologies for the Cultural and Scientific Heritage Sector*.

The report examines six core technologies, underlying a wide range of future applications, including Open Source Software, Natural Language Processing, Information Retrieval Technologies, Location Based Systems (especially GIS and GPS), Visualisation of Data, and Telepresence, Haptics and Robotics.

The report can be downloaded here:

- [high resolution \(30 MB\)](#)
- [low resolution \(6MB\)](#)

▪ **DigiCULT: Thematic Issue 7**

The Future Digital Heritage Space. An Expedition Report was published in December 2004.

This report summarises the results of an expedition into the possible future of digital heritage in the next 10-15 years.

It is based on contributions from researchers, heritage experts and professionals to a DigiCULT online forum as well as the project's ongoing research.

The report is intended as a navigation tool for boards and directors of heritage organisations and research centres, IT project managers, and curators of digital collections, virtual exhibitions and environments, providing recommendations which may be useful for ensuring the creation of a thriving and inclusive future digital heritage space.

The document (81 pages) is available for downloading [here](#).

▪ **CALIMERA: new Country Reports published**

Country reports for Armenia, Belarus and Cyprus were published in February by the CALIMERA project. These comprehensive country reports provide current information on museums, archives and libraries covering topics such as policies, strategic activities, statistics, ICT in local institutions, key standards and research activities. The reports include links to policy initiatives, innovative practices and new programmes.

All country reports are accessible via the official [CALIMERA website](#) by clicking on the country of interest on the interactive map.

- **DELOS Summer School 2005, Sophia Antipolis, France, 5-11 June 2005**

The [DELOS Network of Excellence](#) is a four-year project funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme to synergize and foster technology for the next-generation of Digital Libraries. It builds on the work of [an earlier project](#) under the Fifth Framework Programme, which ran from 2000-2003. DELOS regularly organises workshops, seminars and summer schools related to Digital Libraries. This year, the DELOS summer school on 'Digital Preservation in Digital Libraries' will be held in France. The event will assist the participants in understanding how to address digital preservation challenges in the context of the digital library as well as to provide a networking opportunity for researchers, international experts and practitioners across disciplinary and national boundaries. [Details on the event.](#)

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