



THE IKONOS PROJECT

Distance learning & categorization in conservation of cultural heritage

www.ikonosheritage.org

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Meeting Minutes: Project PRO0094/01

Subject:	IKONOS 4th Steering Committee Meeting
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Recorded By:	Carmen Dalli Joanne Mallia	Approved By:	
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Meeting held:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, 28 th October 2003	12:30	Via Video Conference hosted by the Malta Centre for Restoration, MCR

Attendees (Partners):	Attendees IKONOS Project Office staff:	Members Excused:
Evangelia Varella (EV), AuTh, Greece Ziad al-Saad (ZS), IAA, Jordan Mustafa Al Naddaf (MN), IAA, Jordan Nizar Abu Jaber (NAJ), IAA, Jordan Rachid Benslimane (RB), LTTI, Morocco	Joseph A. Cannataci (JAC) Carmen Dalli (CD) Joanne Mallia (JM) Sean Pollacco (SP) Vanessa Camilleri (VCC)	Ingval Maxwell (IM), HS, Scotland Hoceine Belahreche (HB), MdS, Algeria Messoud Hamiane (MH), UdB, Algeria Wim Jacobs (WJ), ICN, Netherlands

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The Fourth IKONOS Steering Committee Meeting was held on the 28th October 2003, via Videoconference. Dr. Joseph Cannataci from the Malta Centre chaired the meeting for Restoration.

Topics:

Items	Notes	Action By	Due Date
Matters arising from Minutes			
81	<p>Item 53 b - Update on Partners</p> <p>c. Tunisia: The <i>Institute National du Patrimoine</i> of Tunisia officially signed the agreement with MCR on 17th October 2003. Work on the project will start soon, with the aim of finalising the installation of the node in 3 to 6 months' time. The delay is caused by the need to restore the site chosen, which is a beautiful palace in Tunis.</p> <p>d. France: Although very interested in the project, the INP has declined our invitation to participate in IKONOS. However, during a recent visit to MCR, the INP delegation clearly indicated their wish to participate in future projects.</p> <p>e. Spain: Negotiations with IPHE and the conservation schools in Spain are still going on. The project would require IPHE to work in close collaboration with at least one conservation school. Due to regionalisation, there are currently 5 conservation schools in Spain and it is proving difficult to get them to unite and work together on the project, especially since these schools do not answer to a central Spanish authority but to different regional authorities.</p>		
82	<p>Item 53c - I-Heritage</p> <p>JAC informed the partners that thanks to the support of the IKONOS Consortium and MCR's stand on I-Heritage, the Maltese Government has consented to give its promised assistance to Iraq in the form of services offered by MCR in the cultural heritage sector.</p>		
83	<p>Item 53d - Digital photography</p> <p>New ideas have been developed in this field since the last Steering Committee. VCC is currently in the process of organising a whole new project to improve the original course. EV, as an eligible partner under the Minerva call for applications, has already been</p>		

	contacted to join.		
84	<p>Item 53 e - Update on courses</p> <p>a) All partners should have received a copy of the course catalogues of all four degrees offered by MCR. JAC asked the partners to send their feedback on the courses. This should be copied to SP. He also notified the partners that SP has been recently promoted to Associate Assistant Director of Studies but that he will continue to coordinate parts of the different degree programs as well as the IKONOS Introductory Course. SP and JM to chase the different institutions for their feedback.</p> <p>b) Following the success of the Introductory Course (Sub-project 5.1), the partners should now focus on taking it a step further to sub-project 5.2 where the lectures given via VC would be aimed at graduate students.</p> <p>Scholarships – Out of 179 students who applied for the course, 60 students from all over the Mediterranean sat for the examination out of which 30 students passed. Out of the 30 candidates, 2 students fulfilled all the requirements established by MCR and the University of Malta. These were 2 Greek students who have just arrived in Malta to follow the course. JAC thanked EV but pointed out that ten scholarships, not eight, had been reserved for 2004.</p> <p>During the courses given this year, there may have been some misunderstandings as to the qualifications necessary for the B.Cons (Hons) course, qualifications that go beyond the English proficiency test. JAC pointed out that SP, Dr. Martina Caruana and VCC had repeatedly told both coordinators and students what these requirements were. The University of Malta cannot accept students who lack even one of the qualifications requested, regardless of their success or otherwise in the entrance exam.</p>		
85	<p>Items 60-64 – Sub-Project 1</p> <p>JAC informed partners that Nizar Abu Jaber, as a representative of the IAA, has successfully taken on the coordination of Sub-Project 1. The sub-project should be concluded within the next few weeks.</p>		
86	<p>Item 65 a – Sub-Project 3</p> <p>With regards to Sub-Project 3, preliminary research in</p>		

	<p>the building up of such a database is currently underway. For the next phase, the Maltese team will be working very closely with RB, as Team leader. A series of VCs will be organised by CD, JM and DA with RB in order to outline the building of the database. All the other partners will subsequently be asked for their feedback.</p>		
87	<p>Item 72 - Fourth Steering Committee Meeting The date of the Fourth Steering Committee has had to be changed from the 21st to the 29th October, as some of the partners could not be available at the last minute for 21st. SP has already sent an email with the dates for next year's courses.</p>		
88	<p>Item 73 - Fifth Steering Committee Meeting RB had extended an invitation to hold the fifth Steering Committee Meeting in Morocco. JAC reported to the partners that the second tranche of EU funds for the IKONOS project should be arriving within the next 6-8 weeks and therefore such a meeting would be possible. He asked RB to suggest tentative dates when such a meeting could be held. He also proposed to give the Steering Committee Meeting a theme and since Morocco will be hosting the event, the theme should be the IKONOS database. JAC asked RB to set a date for the meeting and to coordinate it with the work to be done on the database, that is, either before or after a certain amount of work on the database is achieved.</p>		
89	<p>Item 76 - Tempus With regards to the Tempus project JAC updated the partners on the latest developments. Following a short meeting with ZS on Tempus, it has been confirmed that Malta will be able to participate after its official entrance into the EU, on 1st May 2004 and therefore an effort should be made then.</p>		
90	<p>Additional non-Mediterranean partners: <u>United Arab Emirates</u> Between the 30th September and 4th October, JAC participated in the CIPA International Symposium and the RecorDIM meeting, both of which were held in Antalya, Turkey. JAC informed the partners that during the conference he gave a presentation on IKONOS, which was very well received by the participants. As a result of the presentation, JAC was invited to visit the universities of Al Ain and Abu-Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Both universities were interested in joining IKONOS on a self-financing basis. JAC was also invited to give a presentation on</p>		

	<p>IKONOS in UAE in two months time in order to explore this possibility. JAC asked all partners whether they would agree to let them join the project, outside the Euromed Heritage funding scheme.</p> <p><u>United States of America and Africa</u></p> <p>JAC also received a similar invitation from the Director of the Getty Fund Program. JAC was invited to give a presentation to the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) and the Getty Grant Program (GGP) to explore the possibility of financing IKONOS II in order to expand the network to other countries in Africa or in any other location where they might be useful. The Getty was also interested in setting up a node in Los Angeles on a self-financing basis. JAC explained that this was a very good opportunity for the IKONOS project to obtain new sources of funding. JAC asked the partners whether they would agree to continue investigating the Getty's proposal to continue expanding the IKONOS network. The IKONOS presentation in Los Angeles is scheduled to take place soon along with other meetings JAC will be having in the US in order to help raise funds for I-Heritage.</p>		
91	<p>Other projects</p> <p>MCR is currently working on at least two other projects which are</p> <p>i) DoCH-Net - a major new project launched by MCR which feeds off the ideas of Heritage 3D. The aim of the project is to create a network of Cultural Heritage Institutions who work together on documentation. JAC suggested that, should the partners agree, CD and JM will send the concept document of the project so as to give everyone a brief overview. In brief, the project involves training students in documentation techniques such as Thealasermetry and Photogrammetry. The equipment necessary, which will include a mobile Field Expeditionary Team, will be purchased and later housed in the different institutions. This project is very similar to Heritage 3D but, unlike the latter, it is linked to the B.Doc course offered by MCR. MCR is currently trying to acquire funding for the project from both the EU and the Getty Institute.</p> <p>JAC also reported that, at the CIPA conference in Antalya, his paper on 'e-heritage' was very well</p>		

	<p>received and that, once the right partners are found, it will be promoted at EU level.</p> <p>At the same time, at the RecorDIM meeting, the degree course in documentation was very favourably treated. In fact, thanks to MCR's efforts in documentation, JAC was invited to take over chairmanship of the Committee for the Documentation of Cultural Heritage. Several countries, as well as the Getty Conservation Institute, are very interested in supporting this course. JAC invited all partners to join in the project.</p>		
92	JAC invited all the partners to comment on the matters discussed in the following order – Jordan, Morocco and Greece.		
Jordan			
93	<p>Courses - ZS congratulated SP for his recent promotion and promised to send his feedback on the degree courses very soon.</p> <p>Technical Problems - ZS pointed out that they had not yet solved the problem with the sound in the VC room and that they still have a problem with the gooseneck mike.</p> <p>5th Steering Committee Meeting - With regards to the 5th Steering Committee Meeting, ZS expressed no preference for a particular date as long as it is held in the first half of next year. He also agreed with the suggestion of giving the Meeting a theme.</p> <p>Tempus – ZS reported that he had already discussed a new proposal for TEMPUS with NAJ and that they would be sending a brief proposal soon.</p> <p>Projects – ZS informed partners that he is very interested in the DoCH-Net project, especially in the documentation of archaeological sites, and would be glad to participate fully in the project.</p> <p>Sub-Projects – Progress on sub-project 1 will be discussed in separate meetings.</p>		
94	JAC informed ZS that while he was sorry to see that the sound problem had not been solved, he had discussed the matter with MCR's technical staff who have reported that they had asked MN to send digital pictures of the status of mixer from the back and front due to fact that the fault in sound is erratic and it therefore might be connected to the instrument settings. JAC reminded MN to send the requested		

	<p>pictures to NZ as soon as possible. As for gooseneck mike, a separate VC is to be organised in order to discuss the issue and test the microphone.</p>		
Morocco			
95	<p>Technical problems – RB reported that they were experiencing some problems with receiving the video signal although audio was clear.</p> <p>Courses - RB also congratulated MCR staff for the good job they did throughout the Introductory Course. He explained that he considered the course to be a success despite the fact that he is not happy with Moroccan results. However, he acknowledged that the problem lay with the required qualifications in chemistry. RB stated that he would try to tackle this problem by screening the students for the next course.</p> <p>Steering Committee Meeting – RB informed partners that the UNESCO conference will be held in Fez between the 12th and 13th December 2003 and therefore it will not be possible to organise the Steering Committee Meeting back-to-back with it. RB said that his invitation to hold it in Morocco still stands and that, since he had no personal preferences for dates, he would be glad to receive the partners anytime.</p>		
Greece			
96	<p>Courses - EV congratulated SP and the rest of the team for their hard work. She informed JAC that she has already prepared a list of courses to be given by Greece, including a course on the treatment of organic materials and that she would like to receive something similar from Malta.</p> <p>Tempus – EV reiterated her interest in the Tempus and Socrates Mundus programmes, which, as she pointed out, were not meant solely for European countries. She also stated that the University of Thessaloniki would be very interested in a joint degree with Malta.</p> <p>Projects – EV also showed an interest in the DoCH-Net projects and said that, while she would like to know more about the projects themselves, she is very willing to participate if she can do so. She also confirmed that she has already sent a fax</p>		

	with regards to the Minerva project.		
Project Update			
97. Project Sustainability	<p>Additional non-Mediterranean partners:</p> <p>JAC reported to the partners that IKONOS was currently receiving a great deal of interest from as far as the United Arab Emirates and United States (as already mentioned in Minute No.90), Canberra in Australia, and South Africa. Several experts in the field have in fact offered to participate in the project by lecturing.</p>		
98. EU Monitoring Mission in Malta	<p>JAC updated partners on the current status of the project with regards to EU relations. He reported that during the month of September two delegations from Brussels visited Malta and MCR. One was the EU Monitoring Mission and the other was a visit by Ms Claire Kupper, Operations Manager at the Euromed Heritage office.</p> <p>Monitoring Mission - JAC informed partners that the Monitor was very complimentary to the IKONOS project, deeming it one of the best-managed projects he had thus far encountered. He also agreed that the project has great potential for long-term sustainability. Was very glad to receive such comments.</p> <p>During the second visit, a few days later, Ms Claire Kupper was also very positive in her remarks commenting only on possible minor changes to the reports presented to Brussels.</p>		
99. Cost G8 Conference via SEVC	<p>During the ECTN conference in Greece, Mr. Daniel Vella, a member of MCR's DSL department, also received very positive remarks from many of the participants. JAC asked the partners to include the Cost G8 meeting, to be held on 8th January at MCR and broadcasted live to all partners, in their agenda. He invited the partners to advise all their staff with regards to this very important meeting so as to maximise its academic value. A full conference program is already available on the internet on the Cost G8 website. The conference would also be a good opportunity to publicise the value of the IKONOS SEWAN to their staff and the general public.</p>		
100. Steering Committee Meetings	<p>Fifth Steering Committee Meeting</p> <p>JAC pointed out that the Fifth Steering committee should take place at least two weeks before the beginning of the next Introductory Course, which will start on 13th March. He suggested Tuesday, 24th</p>		

	<p>February, as a tentative date for the next meeting. The meeting should ideally be held in Malta so as to enable Prof. Wim Jacobs to attend since he might be visiting MCR at the time.</p> <p>Sixth Steering Committee Meeting The Sixth Steering Committee meeting can then possibly be held on the 10th/11th May, in Morocco. JAC asked RB to include a technical excursion to Voloubilis and other important cultural heritage sites in the programme. SP and JM to check the internet to make sure that no other conferences were being held on those dates so as to avoid clashes.</p> <p>Seventh Steering Committee Meeting A third meeting, the Seventh Steering Committee Meeting, is to be held in early October. JAC proposed the 19th October, provided that it does not clash with Ramadan. RB to check the actual dates for the Ramadan.</p>		
101	JAC invited all partners to give their comments and suggestions on any of the items discussed before concluding in the following order – Greece, Morocco, Jordan		
Greece			
102	EV had no further comments although she advised all the partners not to forget the possibility of exchanging courses via SEVC. EV will confirm her availability for the proposed dates via email.		
103	JAC invited EV to follow the inauguration of the M.Cons the day after at 12:30 Malta time. He also invited EV to point out any courses in the M.Cons that she might wish to have broadcasted.		
104	EV confirmed her interest in the M.Cons. EV also said that she would like to follow the inauguration and that she would also invite other representatives of Aristotle University to attend so as to publicise IKONOS.		
Morocco			
105	RB agreed with the dates proposed for the different meetings. With regards to the Cost G8, RB asked JAC whether it would be possible to use the SEVC to ask questions from Morocco to the experts in Malta.		
106	JAC assured RB that all partners will be able to follow the meeting via SEVC and that it would be fully interactive. He asked RB, ZS and EV to send a list of the participants from Morocco so as to enable the organiser to make an allowance for question time.		

	With regards to the SC meeting to be held in October, RB informed the partners that the 19 th October would indeed clash with Ramadan and that perhaps the meeting should be held on the 12 th or the 13 th .		
107	JAC agreed to RB's suggestions. He confirmed that the Steering Committee Meetings for 2004 would be held as follows: 5 th SCM – 24 th February via SEVC 6 th SCM – 10 th /11 th May in Morocco 7 th SCM – 13 th October via SEVC		
Jordan			
108	ZS and NAJ agreed to the proposed dates. ZS was also interested in attending the M.Cons Inauguration. ZS agreed to all other points discussed and went on to say that he was looking forward to working together on other projects in the near future. Courses - With regards to the Introductory Course, ZS pointed out that Jordan was at a disadvantage time-wise since, due to the time difference, students were forced to stay very late in the evening. He requested that this problem should be solved. Cost G8 Conference - ZS promised to inform all his staff about the 8 th January CostG8 conference. ZS indicated that his staff would be very interested in such a conference and that they would probably have a good turnout in Jordan.		
109	JAC said that he was very conscious about this time problem in Jordan but he also pointed out that Malta was caught in the middle. He invited SP to comment on the issue. SP informed all the partners that he had already had a VC with MN and VCC and they proposed the following solution: The Introductory Course would retain its old schedule, that is, it would still start at 10:00 and finish at 17:00 Malta time, but all practical sessions will be scheduled in the afternoon so that students can leave early and continue practising at home.		
110	JAC informed ZS that, following his participation at the Madrid conference, he might be coming back to him to request cooperation in the organisation of a trip to Baghdad, possibly in the next 4 to 12 weeks. JAC said that he had been notified of an escalation of activities in Iraq and that he is currently in contact		

	with the Ministries of Culture and Education in Iraq. JAC also reported that a new fund, the Iraq Heritage Fund, had recently been set up to be sponsored by the Maltese government as well as other countries. He asked ZS to remind the President of Yarmouk University of his promise to help with the Iraq issue. JAC said he expected Iraqi authorities to come back to him with a 2/3 wk notice of when they should visit Iraq.		
111	ZS said he was still determined to go ahead with the Iraq project but he also cautioned everyone to be very careful. ZS offered to monitor the development of security issues in Iraq and agreed to contact the President of the university.		
Conclusion			
112	JAC thanked everyone for his or her cooperation and support and adjourned the meeting.		

Meeting ended at 14:45. The meeting was adjourned to the 24th February 2004 at 10:00.