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# APEnet – Interoperability Issues in an Archival Portal Project

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## Two Directions

- Into the portal
  - EU has 23 members
  - With even more official languages
  - Different archival and administrative traditions
  - Own archival systems
- From the portal
  - To EUROPEANA – the European digital library

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## APEnet Partners

URL:

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Partners:  
12 + 2 National Archives  
+ EDL Foundation

Funds:  
2.4 Mill €



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## Get Content in

- Starting point
  - Most national archives have databases conforming to the ISAD(G) data model
  - Some have experiences with EAD for data exchange
  - Few use EAD for data capture and display
  - All have structured displays of their descriptive data on the Internet

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## Workflow

- Archives: Export data to own EAD-subsets
  - Using ISAD(G) – EAD crosswalk
- Archives + project: Draft a mapping from local EAD to APEnetEAD
- Project develops transformation style sheets and provides converting tools
- Archives: convert, validate and upload data

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## Next Steps

- Install flying WP4 team
  - Visit several countries and prepare the conversion of their data on site
- Form an APEnet-Liaison-Group with non EU-countries who are members of EURBICA
  - To help them preparing their data for integration
- Launch the pilot
  - End of 2010

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## Deliver Content to EUROPEANA

- EUROPEANA (European digital library)
  - Only wants digitized material
  - No display of structured descriptions
  - Data model based on DC with CIDOC-CRM
- APEnet has developed a converter from APEnetEAD to EUROPEANA data format (ESE)
  - Hierarchy is „inherited“ to descriptions on lowest level (<c level=file>)
- [Link back to the original presentation](#)

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## Open Question

- EUROPEANA display
  - Search result: digital image
    - Albums with photos, atlases with maps ?
    - Volumes of textual records?
  - All upper series titles are shown as one text block together with the image
- No real discussion yet about the display

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## APEnet Objectives of the Project

- Provide tools for repositories
  - Adapted to their local data format
  - Doing all necessary conversion and preparations
- Support later adaptation to new developments of local systems
  - Tools have to fit into the local systems
  - They have to be flexible enough

## APEnet Interoperability in the Portal

- A key for being accepted as useful by content providers
- Maintaining interoperability on the long run is as necessary as providing it now – but even more difficult