

Demonstration Case IV German Test bed IMAC

The „Testbed Germany & Switzerland“ was established by the CSC Representative Germany & Switzerland (IMAC), the hosting of concrete applications was provided by the responsible technical partners (no own application server used). The campaign started in October 2002 and was mainly introduced by two means:

- an information event for Swiss CH organisations, Zürich, Landesmuseum (2002-10-24)
- a booth and presentation during EVA 2002, Berlin (2002-11-06 – 2002-11-08)

Information event. The event was dedicated to the presentation of the project and the demonstration of the tools developed so far. Using different address pools (including museums, libraries, archives and other organizations and companies) potential interested parties were invited. The goal was to find (external) partners to participate in the REGNET Testbed for German-speaking countries; that means to integrate new collections (test data) and test users in order to get feedback to the tools and the needs of cultural organizations. The participants mainly belonged to the domain “museums” (mostly, but not only small museums), moreover representatives of archives, libraries and universities attended the event (about 60-70 participants). More information about the event could be found in D6 (case study).

EVA conference: The conference EVA (Electronic Imaging & Visual Arts) Berlin 2002 belongs to a series of conferences which take place around the world to bring together especially scientists and interested people from museums, galleries, libraries and public administration. The main topics of EVA 2002 event in Berlin were: Digitization and Visualization, Preservation of the Cultural Heritage, Edutainment and Transfer of Cultural Knowledge, Use of Mobile Information Technologies, Communicating and Navigating in Digital Worlds and Internal Cooperation. The event which runs 3 days was divided in a 1. Workshop day, 2. Conference Day (with an accompanying exhibition of PC and Internet applications) and 3. Cooperation Day (for the presentation of EC-projects and networks). 37 exhibitors presented their products and projects, approx. 50-80 attendants visited conference and exhibition - mainly museum & heritage organizations, research institutions and university representatives and suppliers of databases, online information services and multimedia & processing systems. The REGNET project was presented in two ways: 1. During the exhibition with an own booth organized by IMAC and 2. During the cooperation day with a presentation of the actual status and the testbed activities. The main goal was to enhance the publicity for the project and with regard to the testbed campaign to find new partners. The exhibition included facilities for the demonstration of the REGNET system (online). Project flyers in English and German were laid out together with registration forms for the participation in the testbed campaign.

For the information and online-registration a web site was set up (in German) covering the follow subject matters:

- project information
- testbed information
- registration form
- contact form

To be accessed by URL: <http://regnet.arte24.ch> it was meant to be an interim solution, later on to be detached by a more comprehensive service platform under the brand of the CSC (Europe). Figure 1 shows screenshots of the interim site as well as of the envisaged new site (actually under construction). The new portal site should be augmented in order to service all information and communication needs of interested parties, participants and customers. Using an open source portal management and content management system (Postnuke) highest possible interactivity should be guaranteed. The information base contains product and service information, FAQs concerning the REGNET system solution as well as news, articles about related themes, events and recommendations. All visitors could contribute

using the forum/discussion board, transmitting links and articles and customize the site according to their needs (registration required). It is planned to position this site as a central access point to all matters related to the CSC Representative in Germany & Switzerland. Offering information not only in German the platform can easily be enhanced and adapted to the needs of other geographical target groups (markets). Other accompanying activities were carried out to promote the testbed campaign, e. g. a distribution of registration forms and project flyers during the „Herbsttreffen zur Museumsdokumentation – German Museum Organisation“ (2002-10-21 – 2002-10-23).

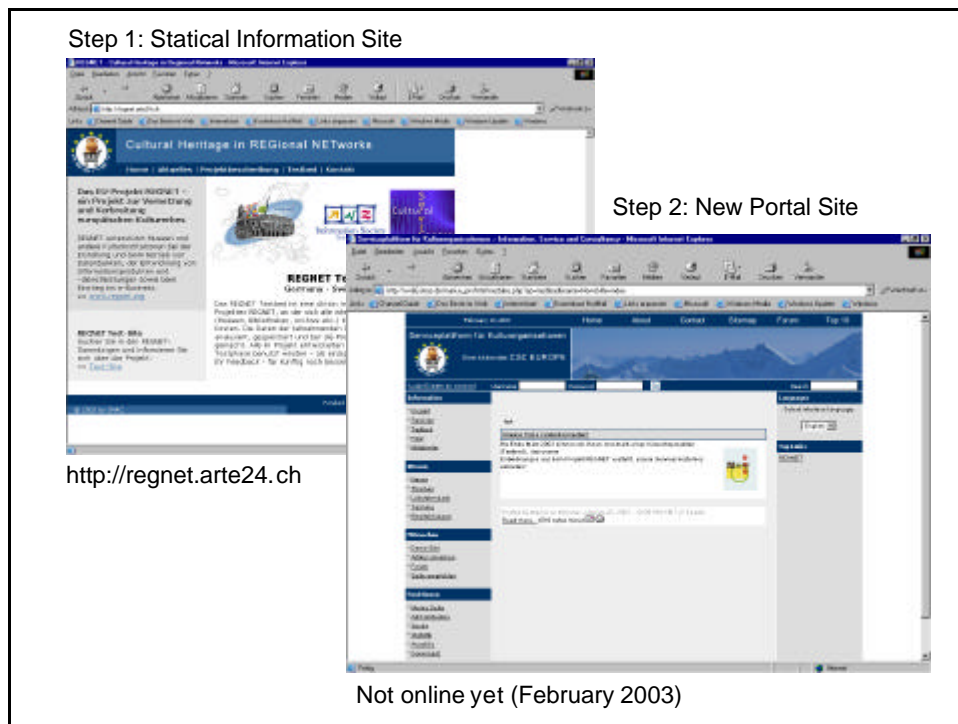


Figure 1: Testbed Germany & Switzerland – Web access

Assessing the testbed campaign as one possible demonstration activities it could be concluded that this is/was an adequate mean to attract potential customers. In general a great interest was detected and a lot of valuable feedback collected. Taking this as a further input not only conclusions could be drawn for the the functionality and usability of the REGNET-System but also for the re-definition of the product and service portfolio of the Cultural Service Centres.