



PARTHENOS

Pooling Activities, Resources and Tools
for Heritage E-research Networking,
Optimization and Synergies

WP2 press release July 2015

Parthenos Work Package 2 (community involvement and requirements) has begun its work.

The Parthenos project aims at providing overarching solutions and services for integrating initiatives and infrastructures for the humanities and social sciences – solutions regarding (a) data policies, (b) standardization, (c) interoperability and semantics, (d) services and tools, and (e) skills, professional development and advancement; each of these areas has one dedicated work package.

At the core of Parthenos lies its Work Package 2, “community involvement and requirements”, because it provides the requirements for the solutions to be developed in the other work packages (including WP8 on aspects of communication, dissemination and outreach of Parthenos), and it then verifies that the solutions proposed and developed by the other work packages will actually serve and eventually satisfy the needs and requirements of the user communities.

Therefore, especially in the first months of Parthenos, work in WP 2 is of key importance for the project as a whole, and each of the Tasks (parts) of WP 2 corresponds roughly to one or several Parthenos work packages.

Already by the end of month 9, WP 2 is expected to provide the first major deliverable, an extensive user requirement document covering the areas of most of the other work packages (except WP 1, project management). It is to be structured according to the Tasks and Sub-Tasks of WP 2, and all Tasks will contribute to this first deliverable D 2.1.

The work in WP 2 has indeed started at the beginning of the Parthenos project itself, in May 2015. After a phase of gathering information and organizational set-up (a process which is still ongoing on some of the Parthenos partners), WP 2 has set up first working structures and made plans on how to tackle its huge task in the coming months up to January.

Setting: the people at most institutions that contribute to Parthenos (all of them also contribute to WP 2; many of them to several tasks) have been identified and connected; many of them have met at the WP-2–kick-off-meeting hold together with the general Parthenos kick-off-meeting in Florence.

We formed a council of the task leaders and sub-task-leaders within WP 2, consisting of:

Sebastian Drude (CLARIN, WP 2 leader)





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S. Di Giorgio & M. Piccininno (MIBACT-ICCU, leaders of Task 2.1 and Sub-Task 2.1.3)

P. Links (KNAW / NIOD, leader of Task 2.2)

E. Degl'Innocenti (SISMEL, leader of Task 2.3)

H. Neuroth & S. Schmunk (UGOE, leaders of Tasks 2.4 & T2.5 and Sub-Tasks 2.1.1 and 2.1.2)

The council will meet at least once in two weeks online; two online were already held.

The concrete plan, to be refined by the council over the coming week, consists of the following actions:

1. Identify core PARTHENOS user communities
2. Identify relevant existing user requirement documents
3. Decide on a common format / structure for the different parts
4. In each task / subtask: survey user requirement documents

On all these points, work has started:

1. Three primary groups of user communities have preliminarily been identified:
 - a. Studies of the Past, including History (in particular recent Hist.), Archaeology, Art History, Epigraphy, ...
 - b. Language-related Studies, including Literature, Linguistics, Philology, Language Technology, Epigraphy, ...
 - c. Heritage & Applied Disciplines, including Cultural Heritage, Archives, Libraries, Museums, Digital curation / edition / publishing, ...
 - d. In addition, the broader Social Sciences are of secondary importance within the Parthenos setting, including Sociology, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Political Science, ...
2. Already at the kick-off-meeting in Florence, most partners reported on relevant documents, such as project reports from earlier or ongoing projects, we have a list of around 20 major and several minor documents from which user requirements relevant for Parthenos can be extracted and compiled. References to these are being collected, classified, tagged, and commented on in a dedicated Zotero group; everyone in Parthenos is invited to contribute. The documents themselves are being uploaded in the Parthenos workspace in D4Science.
3. Two partners, SISMEL with the support from MIBACT-ICCU, have started working on a general outline of the user requirements specifications, so that the different parts of the first





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deliverable are similarly organized and thus easier to parse and exploit within Parthenos. A first version is expected for this week, even before the end of month 3.

4. In the coming months, the people involved in the respective Tasks and Sub-Tasks within WP 2 will read the user requirement documents collected in D4Science and referenced in Zotero, extract the user requirement information relevant for the respective Tasks, and compile it according to the general outline-model (see the previous point 3, above). From November on, the user requirement document will be improved and revised, and finally delivered in January 2016. The detailed distribution of work is being decided in these weeks within the respective Tasks in WP 2.

Work in WP 2, and in Parthenos in general, is already now characterized by a very collaborative, proactive and enthusiastic mood. The other WPs are already contributing to WP 2, providing their input on user requirements or the template for the general structure of the parts of the first deliverable. This positive spirit continuing, we expect no problems in delivering the user requirement document in due time.

