

# NETConnect – Connecting European Culture Through New Technology

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Cultural and historical sites are one of the major fields of the leisure industry. Currently, the curators of archaeological sites provide the public with textual information, drawings and reconstructions of ancient sites. Still, these information sources do not sufficiently provide the user with desired information and context. To experience and understand a historical site, visitors are in need of interactive and mobile tools allowing access to the cultural background of the site, its historical context, artistic aspects and other valuable information. In addition, the visitors require tools to interconnect the visited site with other culturally similar or related archaeological sites in order to obtain a wide picture of cultural and stylistic interrelations between various sites in Europe.

The aim of the NETConnect project within the »Culture 2000« framework program of the European Commission is to use the available new technology to support the vision of a culturally interconnected European continent, creating a central hub for accessing archaeological content, and, thus, to present history to a wide number of users (laymen and experts) as well as to make the virtual visit accessible to the physically handicapped. To reach this goal, multimedia content, like text, maps, images, videos and 3D-reconstructions, will be acquired,

enhanced, elaborated and made available to the public by using state-of-the-art technology, such as Virtual Reality, GIS and mobile systems. Starting from three archaeological sites and their surrounding landscape in Italy, Poland and Germany as scenarios, the aim is to build a sustainable methodology for connecting the sites that could provide the basis for a European network. The NETConnect consortium is led by the University of Calabria with the consortium partners:

- Asociación Centro de Interacción Visual y Comunicaciones VICOMTech, Spain
- Fondazione Graphitech, Italy
- Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research IGD, Germany
- Institute of Archaeology, Warsaw University, Poland
- Roman-Germanic Commission of the German Archaeological Institute, Germany
- School of Architecture at the School of Art, UK

## Points of Contact

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## German Abstract

Innerhalb des von der EU im Rahmen des Programms »Culture 2000« geförderten Projekt NET-Connect werden verfügbare neuartige Technologien genutzt, um kulturelle und historische Stätten miteinander zu verknüpfen und somit »die Vision eines kulturell verbundenen Europas zu unterstützen«. Hierzu werden neuartige Technologien wie Virtual Reality (VR), 3D-GIS und mobile Informationssysteme eingesetzt, um kulturelle und historische Stätten digital zu rekonstruieren, thematisch zu verknüpfen und virtuell begehbar zu machen und sie somit den Bürgern unterschiedlicher Alters- und Bildungsstufen in einer ansprechenden und begreifbaren Form näherzubringen.

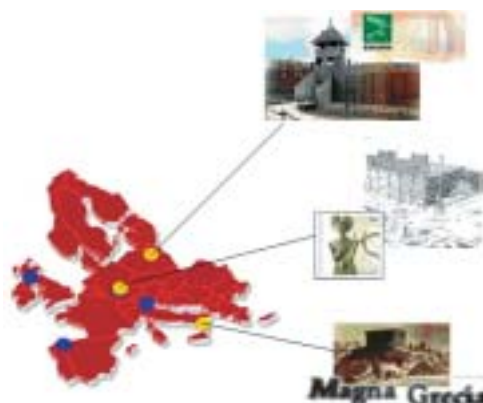


Figure 1: The three scenarios of NETConnect