

MEDRA, a project to develop a Multilingual European DOI Registration Agency, launched

Press release

Within the framework of the eContent programme, the European Commission has approved the MMEDRA (Multilingual European DOI Registration Agency) project. The project began on July 1st 2002.

MEDRA is co-ordinated by the AIE, Associazione Italiana Editori (Italian Publishers Association) and involves as partners significant representatives of the publishing community in France, Germany and Spain (see technical sheet below). Technical support is provided by the Cineca consortium.

MEDRA aims at developing the first multi-lingual and multiple-application DOI-RA. MEDRA's objective is to build up an agency or a network of agencies developing a number of applications and targeting multi-lingual content production, also taking into account the requirements of small and medium enterprises. The system will be promoted first in Italy, Germany, Spain and France but designed to be disseminated also in further countries and language areas.

The project starts with a market survey aimed at identifying publishers' needs for the identification of digital content in the four countries involved. On the basis of the survey results (expected by November 2002) the DOI applications to be provided by the agency will be designed and the process for implementing related DOI Application Profiles will be launched.

The International DOI Foundation (www.doi.org) has endorsed the development of MEDRA, and will work with the MEDRA consortium in developing proposals to formally appoint the resulting initiative as one of the DOI Registration Agencies.

The system implementation is planned to start in March 2003 in order to have a fully operative agency by November 2003. MEDRA will offer European content industries the necessary infrastructure, software tools and services to provide the market with the access to an identification scheme applicable to different types of content, produced by different content industries, in different countries and in different languages.

MEDRA will be presented to the international publishers community during the next Frankfurt Bookfair (October 2002: schedule and venue to be announced).

For further information about MEDRA, please contact Piero Attanasio or Paola Gabaldi at AIE (paola.gabaldi@aie.it)
For information on the DOI see www.doi.org

Technical sheet

MEDRA – Multilingual European DOI Registration Agency

A European project within the eContent programme

1 July 2002 - 30 June 2004

PARTNERS:

AIE - Associazione Italiana Editori (Italian publishers association), co-ordinator (www.aie.it)

Cineca (Consorzio Interuniversitario del Nord-Est italiano per il Calcolo Automatico) a technological consortium created by 15 Italian universities (www.cineca.it).

Editrain (Spain), parent company of a group providing services and information to publishing community in Spain, including the vertical portals www.infolibro.org and www.inforevista.org.

Buchhändler-Vereinigung GmbH, company owned by the German publishers and booksellers association; it holds the ISBN registration agency in the German linguistic area

Syndicat National de l'Edition, the French publishers association

OTHER ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

EDItEUR will be sub-contractor in the project phases on metadata issues

IPA - International Publishers Association supports the project, notably by offering its expertise on DOI to the project steering committee and in disseminating the project results.

IDF - International DOI Foundation endorsed the project during the preparation phase and will collaborate in order to guarantee the full interoperability between the applications developed by the MEDRA consortium and the international DOI system.

Office of Publications of the European Commission is interested in developing – in collaboration with the project consortium – an application profile devoted to digital public information content.