

A Networked Audiovisual Competence Centre in Europe

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PrestoPRIME is a European project on digital audiovisual content: how to save it, how to access it into the future. It follows on from PrestoSpace. PrestoPRIME will research and develop practical solutions for the long-term preservation of *digital* media objects, programmes and collections, and find ways to increase access by integrating the media archives with European on-line digital libraries in a digital preservation framework. The project will deliver a range of tools and services and will demonstrate and evaluate these within and with partners outside the project consortium.

A principal objective of the PrestoPRIME project is to establish a Networked Audiovisual Competence Centre. The Centre's two main functions are gathering, organising and distributing PrestoPRIME's output, and, as to PrestoPRIME's main action areas, becoming an important networking resource for actors in the (European) audiovisual content domain.

Creating an impact on the relevant communities will be realised through three essential channels: a Competence Centre Communication Platform, the setup of a legal entity and close collaboration with European digital libraries.

The Communication Platform aims to continue PrestoSpace's track-record of impact excellence by building further on the preservation website (2nd rank on Google for "audio visual preservation solutions"). It will host the Project's tools, models, registries, best practices, all the information needed to confidently create and maintain audiovisual digital content. It will play a central role in training as well as provide tailored advice and mediation when requested.

The establishment of a legal entity will be the second European wide "impact" channel to the Project's innovative solutions. The Competence Centre is the means to ensure that the PrestoPRIME project will not just develop technology and then fold up its tent and leave. The project's central intention is to create a sustainable entity in the form of the Competence Centre which has a core business service to disseminate and exploit the project results. During the project duration, PrestoPRIME will reserve resources to support online and offline dissemination activities. After the project the Competence Centre, as a separate legal entity, will continue this work. To that purpose, the PrestoPRIME Project will closely collaborate with FIAT/IFTA, the EBU and others alike, and the PrestoSpace Consortium core partners are also core partners in PrestoPRIME.

The third "impact" channel will be the collaboration with the European Digital Library Foundation and other European digital library repositories. Broadening access to audiovisual content will not only enrich the European cultural heritage sector but will supply the preconditions for the creation of new business models and market opportunities for audiovisual content holders.