



EUROPEAN DOCCUMENTATION CENTRES

EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTERS (EDCs)

- EDC network is one of the Information Networks that come under the **EU information service – Europe Direct.**
 - Established on 1963.
 - Before 2001 they belonged to the Directorate-General (DG) of Education.
 - 2001: They are subjected to the General Directorate on Communication in order to comply with the commitments of the Treaties of Maastricht and Amsterdam to disseminate the European information to citizens.
 - 2004: under the auspices of a wider European information network called “EUROPE DIRECT.
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EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTERS (EDCs)

- Mission: the support of educational process and research on European issues, especially on European integration.
 - Each host structure signs up a framework agreement and contract with EC.
 - EDCs are host in Universities and Research Centers.
 - They consist a department of the libraries, in the most of the cases.
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Legislative framework and Operational goals

According to their agreement, EDCs must respond to the following goals:

1. Educational goal: support host structure to promote and integrate the teaching and research activities on the European integration.
 2. Operational goal: make the European information and policies accessible.
 3. Communicative goal: participate to the discussion about European Union, in cooperation to other centers of the European information dissemination.
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Legislative and Operational framework

European Commission Commitment

- Free subscription to the official publications in print and electronic form,
 - Today the most of resources are electronic and the open access is offered,
 - Networking and training support,
 - Annual evaluation and assessment of their procedures and activities.
 - EC Representations are responsible for establishing new Centers and keeping a well-functioning Network.
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Legislative and Operational framework host structure Commitment

The host structure is responsible for:

- The human resources of EDC.
 - A specialist in documentation and information and
 - a faculty member as scientific supervisor.
 - They both manage the EDC processes.

 - Separate space, preferably in library.

 - Facilities for the effective operation, promotion and publicity within and outside the body.
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Greek EDC Network

<http://www.edc-network.gr>

edc@edc-network.gr

12 European Documentation Centers

- Athens University of Economics and Business- AUEB (1992)
 - Centre of International and European Economic Law (Thessalonica, 1978)
 - Democritus University of Thrace (Komotini, 1992)
 - Greek Parliament (Athens, 2006)
 - Hellenic Centre for European Studies (Athens, 1988)
 - National and Kapodestrian University of Athens (1992)
 - Panteion University (Athens, 1992)
 - University of Aegean (Mytilini, 2006)
 - University of Crete (Rethymnon, 1999)
 - University of Patras (2000)
 - University of Peloponnesus (Tripoli, 2009)
 - University of Piraeus (1990)
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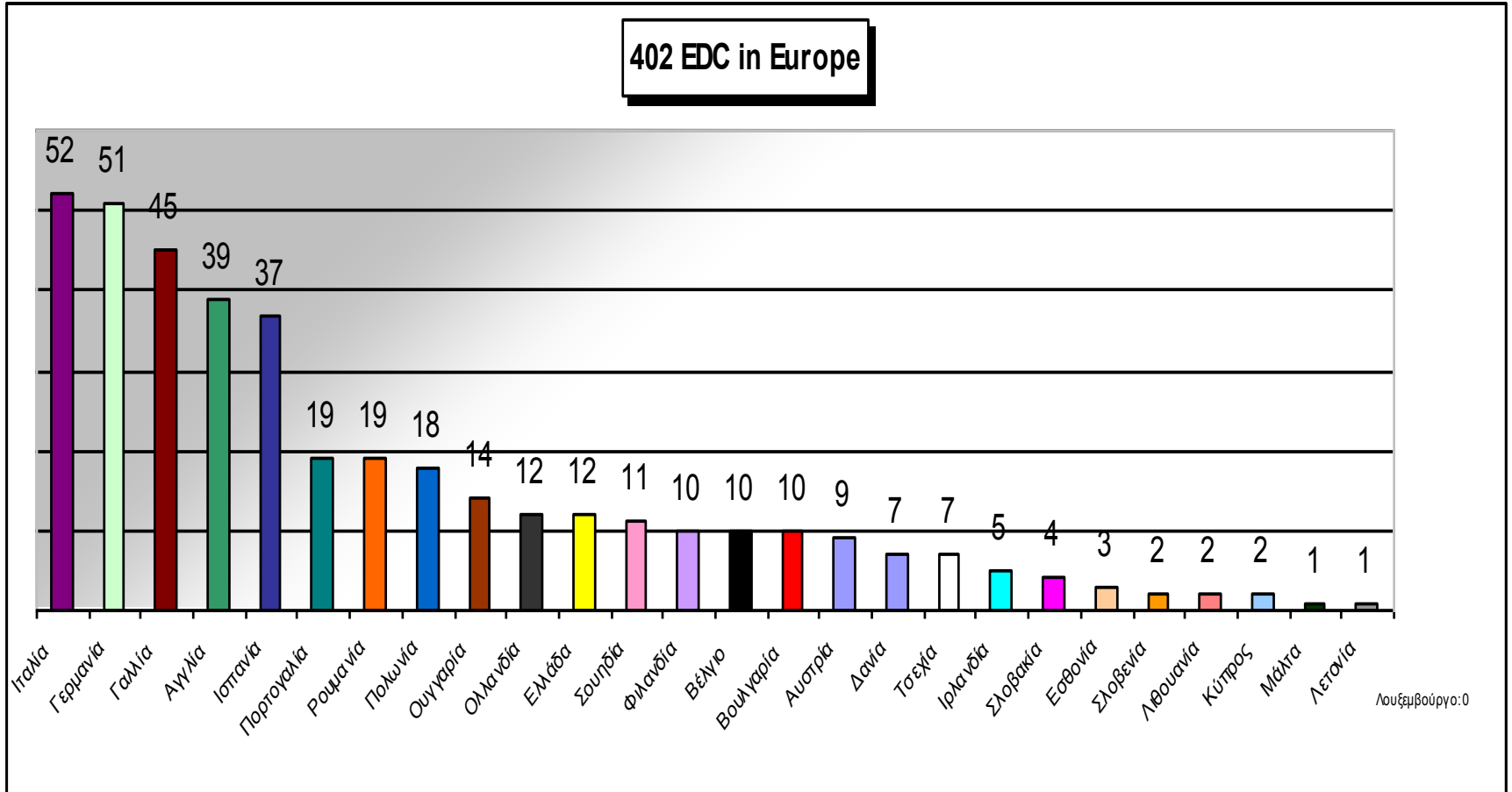
Greek EDC Network

Greek EDCs – host structures

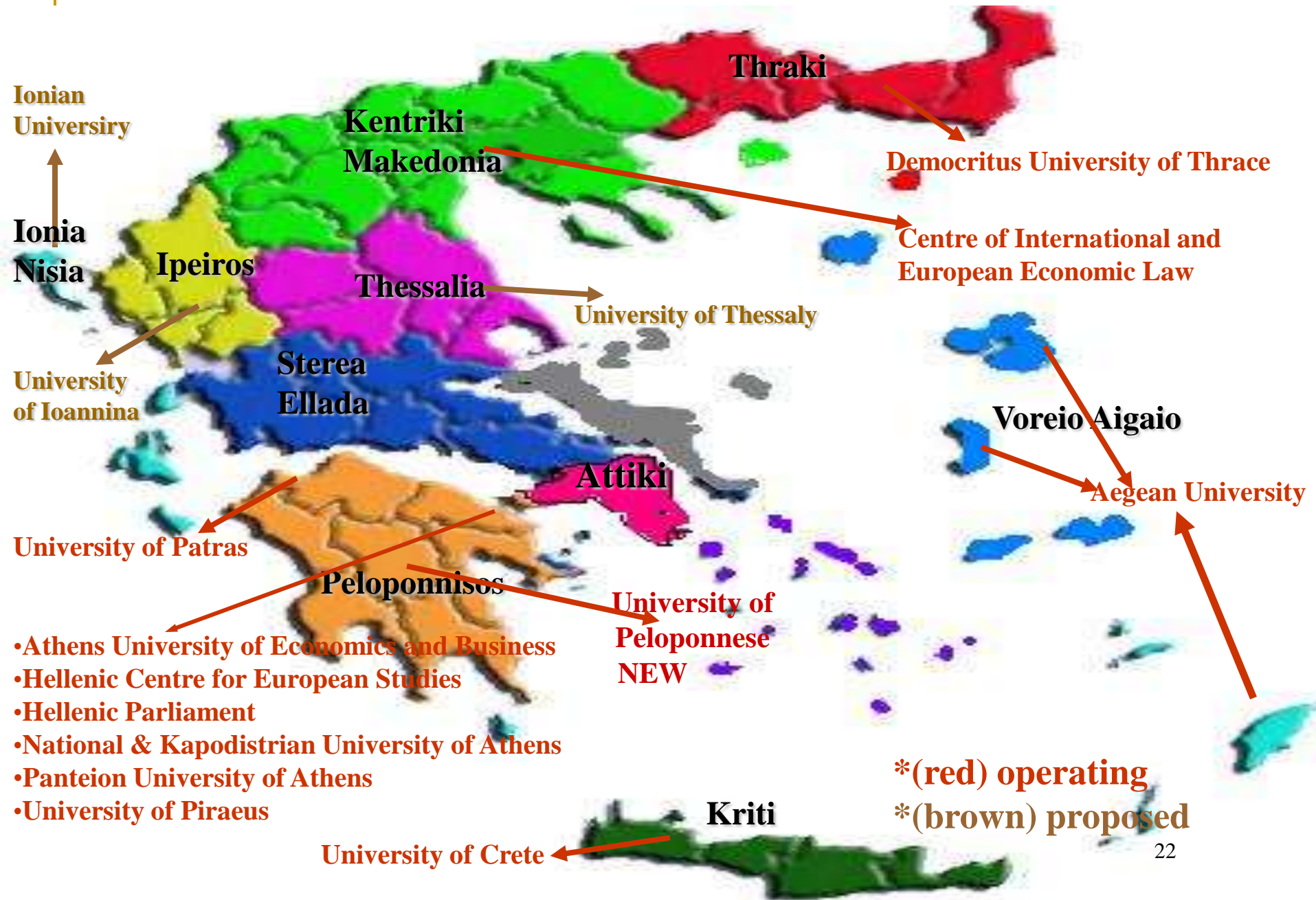
- 9 belong to Universities
 - 2 belong to Research Centers
 - 1 belong to the Greek Parliament
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- 9 consist a part of the libraries,
 - 3 are come under the European studies faculties (University of Aegean, Panteion University and Hellenic Centre for European Studies).
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European EDC Network

http://europa.eu/europedirect/meet_us/interactive_map/index_el.htm



Greek EDCs



EDCs Documentation: Collections

- Organization of their collection: Cataloguing, Subject analysis, Classification, Indexing.
 - Various standards used for organization or the collection:
 - International cataloguing and classification standards: AACR2, Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress Subject Headings. Integration to the Library's collection.
 - European Classification Library System of the European Library system (ECLAS), Thesaurus Eurovoc.- Integration to the European documentation.
 - In abroad, some EDCs prefer to organise their collection on the basis of the European Institutions and Directorates General, while others follow the arrangement of the OPOCE.
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EDCs Documentation: Collections

Official Publications of E.U.

➤ Official Journal: The unique authentic resource of European Legislation, since 1958.

COM documents: Proposed legislation, annual reports, communications to the Council, green and white papers.

➤ Reports of European Parliament.

Opinions and Reports of the European Economic and Social Committee (CES) & the Committee of the Regions (CdR).

➤ Case law produced by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

➤ Statistics by Eurostat

➤ Monographs, Journals, Leaflets

EDCs Subject disciplines

- Institutional questions
 - Customs union and commercial policy
 - Agriculture, silviculture and fisheries
 - Employment and labor
 - Social questions
 - Laws and procedures
 - Transport
 - Competition and undertakings
 - Finance
 - Economic questions – consumer
 - External relations
 - Energy
 - Regional policy
 - Environment
 - Scientific and technical research
 - Information, education and culture
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EDCs Documentation: Collections

Websites containing official EU information

➤ Europa – Official Website of the EU <http://europa.eu>

➤ EU Bookshop – All EU publications

<http://bookshop.europa.eu>

➤ Privileged access for EDCs to EU-Bookshop - bulk orders of general public publications

➤ Eur-Lex – Access to EU Law <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

➤ TED Tenders Electronic Daily <http://ted.europa.eu>

➤ RAPID - Press Releases <http://europa.eu/press>

➤ ECLAS - EC Libraries Catalogue <http://europa.eu/eclas>

➤ Eurostat – Your key to European Statistics

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

EDC Documentation Services

- Access to EU databases, e.g. Europa, EUR-Lex, Eurostat and other European information sources offered by host structure such as scientific journals.
 - Training courses, seminars, workshops on EU information sources, learning materials, teaching aids.
 - Provision of specialized European information to everyone interested.
 - Information Literacy programs for students of relevant faculties, e.g. Guide about Greek EDCs (AUEB EDC) and European Information Resources (University of Crete EDC).
 - Dissemination of information material, e.g. Maps, leaflets, pocketbooks relevant to the everyday life in Europe.
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EDC Documentation Services

- EDC web pages
 - Dissemination of EU information in and outside host institution
 - Conferences, presentations, exhibitions
 - Newsletters, articles, papers, studies
 - Promotional material
 - Information and promotion activities for specific target groups, e.g. public librarians, students of library science, youth networks.
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Typology of Information disseminated:

- General information on EU
 - Information related to European law
 - Information related to European policies and institutions
 - Information related to the activities of the EDC
 - Information related to (electronic) resources of EU information
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Typology of Information disseminated:

- Information on EU actions of interest to citizens
 - Information on EU actions of interest to students
 - Information on EU actions of interest to academic staff (professors, lecturers)
 - Information on EU actions of interest to fellow librarians, EDC staff
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The European Union Information: Labyrinth

Problems on Information access

- There is a great volume of European Information in daily basis,
 - Information produced by the European Institutions,
 - There is great difficulty for the media and citizens to distinguish the trivial from the significant facts,
 - The press officers of institutions offer to journalists large and organized Press Releases,
 - Web Services.
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EDCs: Communication and Networking

EDCs supported by European Commission, the Representatives of the Commission in countries and the host structures have enhanced their activities in national and European level. The cooperation is achieved by:

- Intranet <http://ednetwork.ec.europa.eu>
 - Annual network meetings at national and European level
 - Training seminars and visits to EU institutions
 - Mailing lists and discussion groups, Eurodoc discussion list <http://eurodoc.jiscmail.ac.uk>
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EDCs: Communication and Networking

- National coordinator: 1998-2007 AUEB.

2007 till today University of Piraeus

- Pan-European Working Groups and exchange programmes
 - Common WebPages and information tools
 - Joint organization of training, information & promotion activities
 - Exchange information, share good practices and expert knowledge.
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Cooperative Tools and Services of EDCs

- Draw, develop, apply new information and communication tools with (inter)national cooperation of Centers, for example
 - websites, repositories, databases, reference services, portals.
- Traditional EDCs services enriched with modern, cooperative electronic services.
- Best practices in serving users and providing European information.

In a Volunteering basis

Cooperative Tools and Services of EDCs

- Greece
 - Common webpage <http://www.edc-networking.gr>,
 - common e-mail address edc@edc-network.gr and
 - Common repository [http://digilib.lib.unipi.gr/ket/?](http://digilib.lib.unipi.gr/ket/)
 - Germany & Austria - ArchiDoK Repository of EU Documents
<http://archidok.uni-mannheim.de/en>
 - Italy - Common webpage of Italian EDCs, common information actions and campaigns, wikiguide, catalogue of EU periodicals
<http://www.cdeita.it/>
 - Spain – European Union Digital Archive
<http://seda.uji.es/info-en.html>
 - United Kingdom – European Sources Online
<http://www.europeansources.info>
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Cooperative services: MITOS

- Electronic System of Questions and Answers on European subjects.
 - Created by Athens University of Economics and Business EDC when it was coordinator,
 - It is an online service which accepts the questions of the academic community and the public, answer them and catalogue both.
 - A database is created containing the questions and their answers.
 - The questions are about european policies, legislation, projects.
 - **Importance of the DB:** the references and the documentation is retrieved only once for every subject.
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Cooperative services: MITOS

How it works:

- The information specialists /documentalists of the Greek EDC network receive the question and classify them according to the polyglot thesaurus of the system.
 - Depending on the difficulty of the subject, they retrieve to
 - The catalogue and databases of the EDCs
 - The portals,
 - The repositories,
 - International databases of European interest.
 - The search result that is printed and electronic information resources are recorded in an answer form and forwarded to the user.
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Cooperative services: *Ketlib*

European Repository of Greek EDCs hosted at the University of Piraeus Library,
<http://digilib.lib.unipi.gr/ket/>

- Contains digital or digitized documents, works, texts of (and on) the European Union,
- Main Advantage: The repository integrates authors, kinds of documents, subjects, organizations, DataBases, e.g. Theses, Council Decisions, the Results of a Consultation, Scientific Articles etc. under the same subject.
- **Value-added service.**

Pan -European Working Groups EDC Goals

- The gathering of expertise and the cumulative tacit knowledge and practice of the EDC members and exploitation of the know how.
 - Knowledge exchange during annual meetings, subject focused workshops and seminars,
 - The transformation of this knowledge into tangible results, in information products and communication.
 - The Dissemination of the results to the other members of the Network and to Europe Direct Network.
 - Subject Expertise who act as contact point for the other member of the Network.
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Pan -European Working Groups EDC

Added valued participation

- Exchange of Best practices,
 - Promotion of the participated EDCs in the Europe Direct Network,
 - Enforcement of the EDC in the host structure,
 - Participation to the Communication activities of the DG of Communication promoting its work,
 - Benefit from the support and management of the executives and experienced coordinators,
 - Development of the group knowledge.
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1st Pan- European Working Group 2010-2011

- **“EDCs and electronic repositories of information sources –**
17 members, 2 Greek participations (Univ Piraeus, Aueb)
 - Access, analysis, documentation of the European
Repositories that are designed and implemented by EDCs. They
are: :
 - ✓ ArchiDok (<http://www.archidok.eu> , German- Austrian)
 - ✓ KETlib (<http://digilib.lib.unipi.gr/ket/?lokale=en> Greek)
 - ✓ Portuguese European Database (<http://oeuropeu.eu>
Portuguese)
 - ✓ European Sources Online
(<http://www.europeansources.info> English)
 - The results of the work are published in a document titled:
“EDCs: Online Repositories of Information Sources”.
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2nd Pan- European Working Group 2012-2013

➤ **The challenges for the EDCs' work on the 21st century**

17 members, 3 Greek participations (Univ of Crete, Univ of Piraeus, Aueb)

1st Action: Social Media

➤ Goal: an e-book on best practices of the use of social media in everyday work of EDCs

➤ Coordinator Ian Thomson UK

2nd Action E-books

➤ Goal: the publication of a document about the value and usability of e-books in everyday work of EDCs

➤ Coordinators: Milos Petrovic SI, Anthi Katsirikou GR

2nd Pan- European Working Group

2012-2013

3rd Action: On-line Repositories of the European Information Resources

- Goal: Guidelines on the cooperation among Commission and EDCs.
- Coordinators: Jeremy Jenkins UK, Pattie Punch IE, Nuno Henriques PT, Ivona Olariu RO

Activities:

- Investigation of the possibilities of Cooperation among EDC network and the Library of Commission ECLAS (<http://europa.eu/eclas>),
 - Creation of a sub-catalog in the ECLAS including the records of EDC Repositories and the Institutional Repositories of the Universities,
 - Investigation of the possibility to record the theses in ECLAS
 - Cooperation among EDC repositories and platform DRIVER (<http://www.driver-community.eu>).
 - Study of similar initiatives, e.g.
 - the Repository of the AEI (Archive of European Integration <http://aei.pitt.edu>) and
 - The JRC (Joint Research Center <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository>).
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Conclusions

The challenges for the EDCs' work on the 21st century

- Social Media
- E-books
- European Cooperative Repositories

are the 3 main keystones that European Commission sets as future challenges to EDCs just in the anniversary of 50 years.

European Documentation Centers are required to:

- meet the challenges of 21st century technology,
- exploit the tools of networking and information,
- continue their qualitative modern services to academic and research community.

And they are ready to do them, despite the lack of human and economic resources.

References

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
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