



Case: Erfgoedplus.be

Marcel Roofthoofd
IT M&CS

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Vision

- Vision developed within the province of Limburg – Cultural direction
- Vision:
Make all kind of existing cultural heritage information within Limburg fully accessible through the internet within an enriched context



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Vision example: tourism

A product designer wants to develop a new project about castles in Haspengouw (a region within Limburg)

The future system delivers via internet:

- inventory of castles in that region
- geographical and multimedia material
- dependencies (with farms, mills, chapels, gardens, ...)
- objects in the castle (or other musea / collections)
- relations (habitants, other castles, styles, ...)
- documentation (books about, stories, ...)

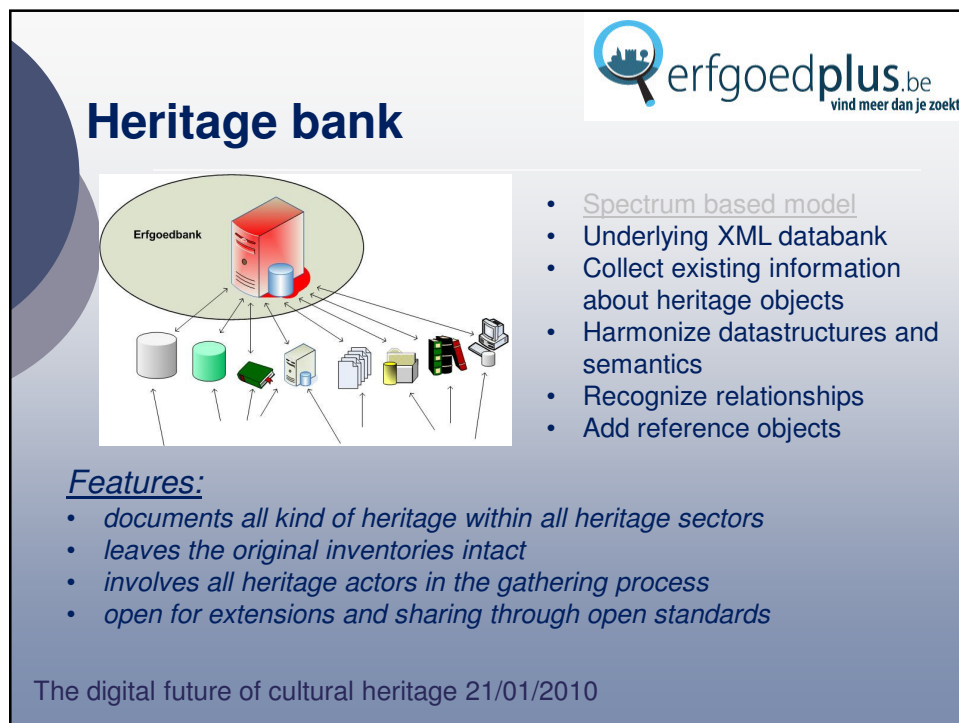
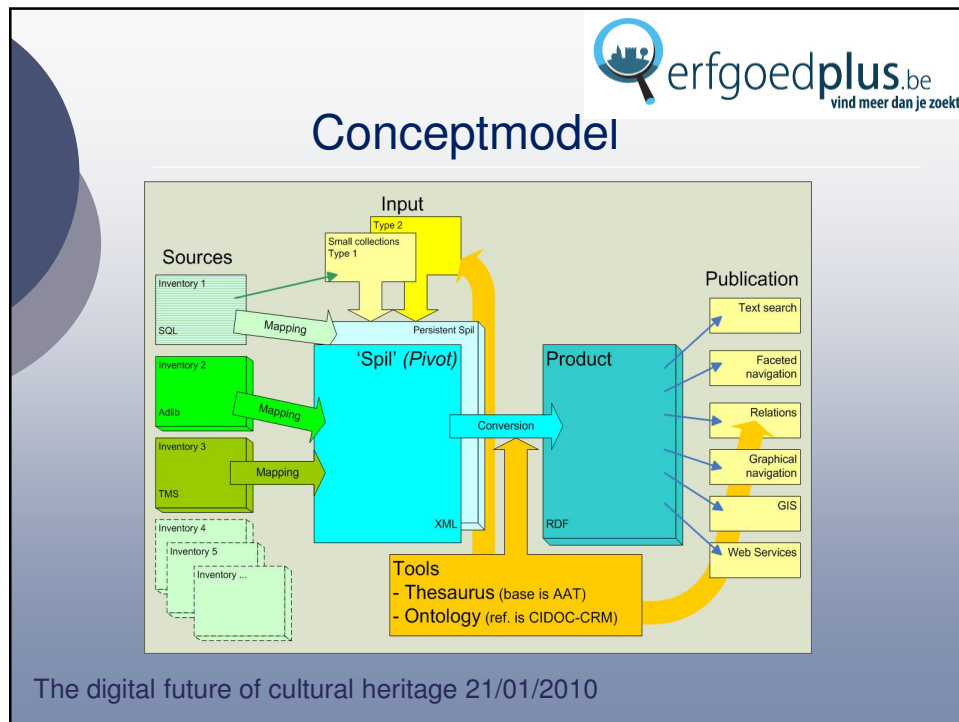
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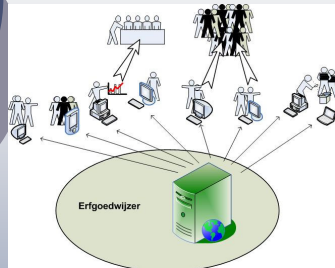
Mission

- Mission assigned to the PCCE (cultural heritage unit of the province of Limburg):
 - collect all kind of existing digital cultural information
 - facilitate the collection of non-digital cultural information
 - enhance the quality of the digital cultural information
 - harmonize data structures and semantics
 - recognise and enrich with relationships
 - aAdd context information
 - publish on the web with Web 2.0 and 3.0 functionalities

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Heritage index



Features:

- offers all collections delivered
- heritage content in context
- *internet technology, 'Semantic Web'*
- rich user interface, easy to use, GIS and graphical tools
- finding information, beyond searching

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For all user categories:

- (Partner) policy / administration
- collection administrators
- heritage sector: researchers and technicians
- tourism and education
- individuals for personal interest

For partners:

- personalization if required

Heritage registry



For all kind of collections:

- religious (churches)
- regional history groups
- local lore study groups
- postcard collections
- photo collections
- ...

Features:

- intended for smaller collections
- internet technology, no client installation
- easy to use interface, user-friendly, help facilities
- controlled registration
- education and assistance for its use

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History

- 2002: Vision / mission (Limburg / PCCE) and concept (Jef Malliet) 'Erfgoedbank'
- 2002 end 2004: Conceptuel design and feasibility (Marcel Roofthoofd), decision Limburg: Go!, tender procedure, project organization 'ErfgoedLimburg.be'
- Juni 2005: Start development with Amplexor
- Extension of the project:
 - December 2006: Following question city of Leuven
 - December 2007: Participation province Vlaams-Brabant

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History (cont)

- Early 2007: Heritage registry v1 operational for religious heritage in Limburg
- 2008: Re-focus to Erfgoedplus.be
- September 2008: Heritage registry v2 operational for all sorts of heritage
- May 2009: Launch website / Heritage index v1
- September 2009: Heritage registry v3 operational adding content description
- Consolidation exercise (about 150 collections!) and business case (in process)

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Partners of ErfgoedPlus

- Province Limburg (PCCE)
initiating and leading partner
- Province Vlaams-Brabant
partner
- The city of Leuven
prime partner of the province of Vlaams-Brabant
- Other (external) partners
 - + Getty Institute
 - + [Europeana Local and Europeana V1.0](#)
 - + Koninklijk Instituut voor het Kunstpatrimonium (KIK)
 - + Vlaams Instituut voor Onroerend Erfgoed (VIOE)
 - + Move (Province of Oost-Vlaanderen initiative)

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Results:

- Products
 - Heritage registry
 - Heritage index and website
 - Heritage extranet for partners
- By-products
 - usage of heritage thesauri (AAT and own reference lists in general)
 - heritage ontology for places, later persons
 - aggregation platform for other projects (both receiving and delivery – Dublin Core)
 - forerunner for use of semantic technology in Flanders

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Results (cont):

- Activation of the sector for digitalizing of heritage collections
- Harmonizing collaboration of all partners concerned
- Quality of existing participating collections improved
- Documenting heritage information above basic data collection leads to more knowledge
- Networking adds to gaining knowledge and experience for other and own projects

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More need for:

- more direct involvement of the content providers
 - Joint semantic concepts must be clearly defined and identifiable **out of any context**
 - The content providers are **the only ones** who can correctly interpret their own information in its original context and make the connections with the joint semantic concepts
 - The content providers are **the experts** for maintaining the joint semantic concepts

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More need for (cont):

- Jointly work on authority lists for persons / institutions
 - Based on experience of the archives
 - Accurate identification required
- Jointly work on an ontology of places
 - Location on a map
 - Named places – including historical names
- Maintenance of thesaurus & authority lists
 - Experts are the content providers
 - Dynamic, interactive
 - Authority must be preserved and perceived

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Some conclusions:

- Difficult (but exciting!) project
 - technical: new technology (not yet fully mature)
 - functional: introduce new concepts, diversity of the sector
 - organizational: understaffed, work on top of normal work
- Project transition to operational environment
 - initially not fully addressed
 - a new long-term mission for PCCE and partners
 - develop future plan: project based or within operational
- A budget is what you stay within if you go without
 - unfortunatly this was not the case !
 - minimal budget available for such a project
 - more or less within budget, extensions included

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Future plans:

- Create business case
 - Future vision and mission
 - Scope and planning
 - Consolidation platform and growth with new collections
 - Agree right scope for future Heritage register and develop
 - Develop new future ready Heritage index
 - Add functionalities: documentation, multimedia, immaterial heritage, immovable properties, ...
 - What about archives and depots?
 - Agree scope of the extranet and re-develop, additional supporting modules necessary?

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Future plans (cont):

- Create business case
 - Future organization
 - separate entity or continue current structure
 - staffing
 - New partners
 - other provinces in Flanders or the Netherlands
 - collaboration with Flanders government
 - Financing
 - settle ownership matters if necessary
 - division of costs with partners
 - extra subsidizing possible?
 - generate income?

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Demo

ErfgoedRegister

www.ErfgoedPlus.be

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Need more information?

- Contacts Erfgoedplus.be
 - Technical and functional:
 - Jef Malliet:
jmalliet@limburg.be
 - Marcel Roofthoofd:
marcel.roofthoofd@it-mcs.com
 - Other:
 - Jef Malliet (see above)
- URL: www.erfgoedplus.be

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