The history of the CIDOC CRM

The international standard for cultural documentation, CIDOC CRM (https://cidoc-crm.org/), was launched in 1992 (33 years ago), in the ecosystem of Crete, specifically at the Centre for Cultural Informatics (CCI) of the Institute of Computer Science of FORTH, in collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and faculty members and postgraduate students from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Crete. More than 20 postgraduate diplomas and doctoral theses have been completed in the Department of Computer Science, contributing to the development, application and evolution of the standard in various scientific fields. Officially, from 2000 to the present we have been continuously working on it, and we coordinate the international team (SIG) that develops it. This team includes 41 international organizations and universities.

In 2004, in the framework of the 3rd Operational Programme "Information Society", Measure 1.3, we were assigned to produce a guide for cultural documentation and interoperability. Within this framework, version 4.1 of CIDOC CRM was translated into Greek. This guide became a national standard for documenting cultural information across all projects funded by the Information Society that dealt with the documentation of cultural material.

Currently, the standard is used in over 400 international projects, and almost all European and national infrastructures (e.g. DARIAH eu, Lifewatch eu, ARIADNE RI, KRHPIS I & II etc.). It has also been selected as the model for the ECHOES project, which will establish the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH). The CCI is a key partner of ECHOES, with significant active participation in the development of the models which should be harmonized with the CIDOC CRM.

We are proud of this success because CIDOC CRM is the **only ISO standard** (21127) concerning the documentation of cultural content, **which originated from Greece**.

Today, the "CIDOC CRM community" encompasses CIDOC CRM and an additional 11 compatible models that are specializations of CIDOC CRM in various scientific fields, specifically: LRMoo-Library Reference Model, PRESSoo-Model for publishing of periodicals, CRMinf-argumentation model, CRMarcaheo-Excavation Model, CRMsci-Scientific Observation Model, CRMgeo-Spatiotemporal model, CRMdig-Model for provenance metadata, CRMba-Model for Archaelogical Buildings, CRMtex-Model for the study of ancient texts, CRMsoc-Model for Social Phenomena, CRMact-Model for Activity Plan.

The Center for Cultural Informatics (CCI) of the Information Systems Laboratory of the Institute of Computer Science (ICS-FORTH) operates as the **competent center for CIDOC CRM ISO 21127**, contributing to the development and exchange of expertise, providing consulting services to researchers and implementers, and promoting, maintaining, and evolving the standard as well as its compatible models. It is the oldest and internationally recognized Greek research unit that specializes in the analysis, design, development, and implementation of information systems in

the fields of culture and the humanities. Consequently, anywhere in the world, CIDOC CRM is associated with CCI.

In recognition of CIDOC CRM as an international standard, a related press release was issued in 2006.

This achievement has been realized through the immense effort and work of all the CCI members (22 in total) over decades. The current head of the Center for Cultural Informatics (CCI) is Prof. Yannis Tzitzikas (Professor of the Department of Computer Science and Vice-Chairman of the Department), while the head of the Information Systems Laboratory (to which the CCI is part of) is Prof. Dimitris Plexousakis (Professor of the Department of Computer Science, Director of ICS-FORTH, and Vice-Chairman of FORTH).

Regarding the **connection of the standard with the educational activities of the University of Crete**, it is worth noting that during the academic years 1998-99 and 2002-03, based on the Ministerial Decision published in the Government Gazette no. 848/12898, issue B, an **Interdepartmental** Postgraduate Program (IPP) operated within the Departments of **History and Archaeology and Computer Science at the University of Crete**. The IPP collaborated with the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS) and the Institute of Computer Science (ICS) through the Center for Cultural Informatics of FORTH, where the postgraduate course "Methods and Systems of Cultural Documentation" was offered during those academic years. The course included conceptual modeling based on CIDOC CRM. The list of graduates can be found here.

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