

Europe has a widespread rural cultural heritage of landscapes, practices and productions: the diffused rural heritage, currently preserved thanks to a sort of moral economy. This preservation, robust on a local scale, is precious. Therefore, it should be improved and better sustained by studying new applications in an enlarged, general scale. Our goal is to support a contextualization of all the rural heritage knowledge in its overall environment, connect it and make it available both to the general public, allowing implementation of a new generation of exhibitions and rural paths, and to administrations, offering tools for defining and implementing synergic enhancement policies. The idea is to build a tool - a dedicated knowledge management system – ad-hoc designed to give unity and visibility to the EU rural heritage. It will be a technological platform constituted as a federation of databases. The innovative added value will be in the integration/reconciliation of data and in the building of an additional layer which will allow researchers to model a wide range of relationships among the various items of the diffused rural heritage. By querying the platform, it will be easier to discover relationships among objects and topics. Benefits are expected for: scholars (more complete information for studies), curators (information synergies at EU level), administrators (more complete view for policy decision), end-users (better experience of cultural education). The system will be exploited in five exhibitions, that will show the local heritage in a more integrated way and exploit connections with multimedia information from the other countries. Good practice documents will be issued for archiving, exhibition building and policy making. Workshops for requirement definition will be held in the 1st year, collecting feedback from stakeholders, to allow the DRH system to create links among the different domains, offering a harmonized view of the diffused rural heritage.