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## *Success factors for Dutch-Flemish cooperation in the field of digital heritage*

### *Introduction*

In 2013, the Council for Dutch Language and Literature presented its advisory report entitled *Valuing Partnership - Advice on Dutch-Flemish policy for the sustainable management, preservation and dissemination of Dutch-language digital heritage* (only published in Dutch as *Waardeer Samenwerking – Advies over Nederlands-Vlaams beleid voor het duurzaam beheren, behouden en beschikbaar stellen van Nederlandstalig digitaal erfgoed* - <http://taalunieversum.org/publicaties/waardeer-samenwerking>) to the Committee of Ministers of the Nederlandse Taalunie (Dutch Language Union). On the basis of this advice, it was decided to establish the Taalunie Commission on Digital Heritage, with a mandate to formulate answers to the following three questions:

1. Which lessons can be learned from other major digitisation projects that are being or have been undertaken?
2. What are the success factors for Dutch-Flemish cooperation in the field of international data infrastructures?
3. Under what circumstances would institutions allow their collections and data relating to their collections, to be made available in the form of open data in order to achieve optimised use and reuse?

The first two of the above questions have been answered by the Taalunie Commission on Digital Heritage by means of two reports. The commission is currently in the process of answering the third and final question of the Taalunie Committee of Ministers.

### *Success factors for Dutch-Flemish cooperation in the field of digital heritage (only published in Dutch as *Succesfactoren voor Nederlands-Vlaamse samenwerking rond digitaal erfgoed*)*

This second report relates to which success factors are evident in Dutch-Flemish cooperation in the field of international data infrastructures, and is based on the report on the lessons for the future drawn from past major Flemish and Dutch digitisation projects. The established success factors and policy recommendations have been grouped into three clusters:

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## Impact on society

1. Put the customer at the centre. Recommendation: in future policy development, it is important to take into account how heritage institutions interact digitally with their customers.
2. Combine knowledge of digital usage and user behaviour. Recommendation: carry out research into the impact and use of digital heritage.
3. Assess the impact on society. Recommendation: develop a clear and shared framework of values for digital heritage, preferably in line with existing frameworks for analogue culture and heritage.

## Interrelationships

4. Ensure that robust networks are put in place. Recommendation: use targeted funding and evaluation to encourage the creation of a differentiated network structure across the Dutch-Flemish language area that incorporates hubs, where knowledge and facilities are brought together and from which they are further disseminated.
5. Enhance sensitivity to the context. Recommendation: work on developing a - preferably shared - long-term vision for public-private relations in the sector and in the short term ensure that there is greater flexibility in funding requirements in order to respond better to contextual developments.
6. Ensure a dialogue between policy and implementation. Recommendation: develop policy in direct dialogue with implementing parties on the basis of a shared network. This will make it possible to promote sustainable results and create awareness to leave room for innovation and experimentation as well, enabling learning to occur within the shared network and allowing connections to be created with other societal domains such as education and science.

## International context

7. Responding to international developments. Recommendation: coordinate policies while maintaining an outward focus, particularly in relation to the European perspective; participate actively together in international networks in the field of digital heritage, in order to share perspectives and practices with other countries.
8. Connect local, national and international interests. Recommendation: ensure the involvement of local and regional heritage institutions in further policy development by sharing international developments and opportunities with them and involving them in knowledge exchange and shared facilities.

The Taalunie Committee of Ministers has endorsed these recommendations and has asked the Taalunie Commission on Digital Heritage to bring them to the attention of the relevant ministers in the Netherlands and Flanders, separately, requesting to incorporate them into their own policies and to provide feedback on the follow-up through their official representatives on the commission.

The full report is available in Dutch at <http://taalunieversum.org/publicaties/succesfactoren-voor-nederlands-vlaamse-samenwerking-rond-digitaal-erfgoed>.