

Case Study

Agonia



Profile

Website's name / Domain	Poezii, literatura, cultura, arte (Poetry, literature, culture, arts) / http://www.agonia.ro
Country of origin	Romania
Geographical scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional National EU
Language/s / tackling of language issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English French German Italian Portuguese Romanian

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other (Russian) <p>Whole website in several languages (content depends on the language, but is not translated into all languages)</p>
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Website owner

Contact	office@agonia.net
Type of organisation	Mixed (joint venture, public-private partnership)
Description of the owner organisation	www.agonia.net is an international interactive portal on literature, formed by several linguistic communities that can interact thanks to the possibility of online translation of any text on the site (developed by the author itself or another community member).
Importance of the website within the organisation structure	The initiative is web based only.

Description of the website's mission and objectives including the main activities of the website and which domains and disciplines are addressed, as well as how the accomplishment of the mission is facilitated

Agonia promotes the written arts by providing means of online exchange communication in the literary and social context, effectively creating a community where writers can share their work and improve their technique by receiving feedback from other community members reviewing their work, and learning from the literary resources the community has to offer.

The site addresses several linguistic communities, Romanian, English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Portuguese, among others and allows them to interact by giving the possibility to have texts translated to several languages either by its author or another community member.

Each community addresses several literature disciplines: poetry, prose, essays, reviews and articles of general interest on social-cultural topics, and gives its members the possibility to interact by giving opinions to texts on the site.

Resources of interest for writers such as articles on literary techniques, a virtual library with numerous texts of known authors and even an online bookshop are also available for community members.

Website facilities

Kind of facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information repositories (news, events, documents, downloads) - Online selling / buying - Photo / video gallery - Forum - Chat - Contact us
Member / non-member facilities	<p>Registered users can contribute by participating in the communities, commenting website content and posting essays.</p> <p>Unregistered users can only browse the website content.</p> <p>Registered users have different contribution options depending on the quality and consistency of their contributions to the community</p>

Importance within the website content	<p>Experienced users, with a vast activity on the site and with a consistent contribution to the development of this portal have more capabilities compared to the newcomers. For example, their texts and opinions appear on the site immediately after posting both on their personal pages and on the main page without needing to be reviewed first. The other members may post comments, but they will appear within the site accordingly to their level or to the editor's opinion.</p> <p>On the other hand, texts from non-experienced users need to be revised before being posted, and might be rejected.</p>	
	<p>The most important asset of this website is the user generated content; member facilities are therefore very important to this initiative because for a user to be able to publish essays or participate in the community, s/he has to be a member.</p>	
Frequency of usage	Number of visitors (monthly):	550,000
	Frequency and number of uploads of contributors:	No information
	Frequency of website updating by the website owner:	Daily
Does the website show any results for working communication and debate on a European / cross-border level?	<p>The website promotes and facilitates interaction between different linguistic communities from Europe and beyond.</p>	

Evaluation of the website

Mission and objectives, accomplishment of mission	Attitude towards the European idea, incorporation of the European idea	The website promotes and facilitates interaction between different linguistic communities. The website activities, contents and audiences reach beyond Europe.
	Cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue – exchange – debate • Intercultural dialogue and understanding • Artistic expression • Equality, inclusion and accessibility • Innovation and creativity
Presentation, navigation, structure	<p>Navigation is clear and the website structure, while dense, is easy to navigate. The website has not been renewed since 2003 and this can be noticed in its presentation and general usability.</p>	
Trustfulness	<p>Content on the website is generated and moderated by its community of users, and the initiative has no backing</p>	

	from public bodies from any country.
Main strength	Multi-language presentation, news uploaded in real time
Main drawback	Presentation and search capabilities are rather outdated and could be improved.
Usage of communication facilities	Agonia brings its users feature-rich participation and communication functionalities, allowing them to publish essays, review essays from others and participate in community discussions. Visitors have the possibility of RSS syndication.