
Digital cultural heritage

Cultural heritage has a new breath of life thanks to digital technologies and the internet. Citizens now have opportunities to access cultural material online.



New technologies bring cultural heritage sites back to life. Virtual Museums offer visitors the possibility to see art works residing in different places in context and experience objects or sites inaccessible to the public.

The European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology has conducted extensive policy, coordination as well as funding actions to supplement Member States' cultural policy in areas of digitization and online access to cultural material and digital preservation.

The role of the European Commission

The European Commission fuels the policy debate and brings stakeholders together to improve the framework conditions for digitisation and digital preservation through the Commission Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation.

The European Commission's Expert Group on Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana

(DCHE) monitors progress towards the implementation of the Commission's Recommendation. The DCHE works with cultural institutions to enrich Europeana. It also facilitates the exchange of information and good practices of Member State policies and strategies.

Current funding instruments

Actions under Horizon2020 Societal Challenges 6 programme for 2014-2020 have supported the following topics with an EU funding of around €70 million:

- Curation of digital assests and advanced digitisation (2018)
- European cultural heritage, access and analysis for a richer interpretation of the past (2017)
- Cost-effective technologies for advanced 3D modelling to enhance the understanding of cultural heritage and Innovation Ecosystems of Digital Cultural Assets, Virtual Museums (2014-2016)

Latest

Commission launches public consultation on digital access to European cultural heritage

The Commission has opened a public consultation on the opportunities offered by digital technologies for the cultural heritage sector. Stakeholders and all interested people are invited to provide feedback on the Recommendation of 2011 on digitising cultural material and digital preservation. The aim is to propose a more appropriate policy instrument to support the digital transformation of cultural heritage. EU Member States sign up to cooperate on digitising cultural heritage

27 European countries signed a Declaration of cooperation on advancing digitisation of cultural heritage. They will work more closely together to better use state-of-the-art digital technologies in addressing risks that Europe's rich cultural heritage is facing, enhancing its use and visibility, improving citizen engagement, and supporting spillovers in other sectors. Europeana launched Love Transcribathon to crowdsource World War I love stories for Valentine's Day

For Valentine's Day, Europeana launched a special Love Transcribathon, an online crowdsourcing

campaign developed to unveil unique testimonies of the First World War by encouraging people to transcribe handwritten love letters from that time. Europeana 280: connecting Europeans to their art heritage

Europe's digital library - Europeana - today launches Europeana 280, a cross-border campaign to get people interested in Europe's artworks and their evolution across the centuries.
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The European Film Forum

The European Film Forum is a platform for a structured dialogue between policy makers and stakeholders in the audiovisual sector.

Access to finance for the Cultural and Creative Sectors

The Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility helps SMEs in the cultural and creative sectors to scale up and become more competitive.

The Europeana platform

The Europeana platform is Europe's digital cultural collection for responsible, accessible, sustainable and innovative tourism.

Expert Group on Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana (DCHE)

The Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana Expert Group is a forum for cooperation in digitisation, and online cultural material and preservation.

Source URL: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/cultural-heritage>