



# EuropeanaPhotography

European ancient photographic vintage repositories of digitized pictures of historical quality: digitisation and contribution to Europeana

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# Photography and the digital change

## Photography:

- An evolving technique
- A form for artistic expression
- A form of communication:
  - ✓ Historical photos – witness of time passing by
  - ✓ Reportage photos – witness of events
  - ✓ Digital age photos – everyday life

The role of photography in the cultural heritage and in the society is changing, also due to digital technologies.

# New products and services

Public cultural institutions, museums, private archives and agencies are engaging with big and small enterprises to take advantage of digital technologies

Digital technologies are fostering the creation of new products and services for:

- Digitization
- Preservation
- Creative use and reuse of digital content

# Success factors

Success factors in the process of applying digital technologies to the cultural heritage, including photography are:

- To establish factual dialogue between technology providers and content owners
- To create models of cooperation between public and private organisations
- To improve understanding and clearing methods for access, use and re-use of digital content

**EuropeanaPhotography** project

Coordinator: KU Leuven

Technical coordinator: Promoter srl

Duration: 1 February 2012 – 31 January 2015

Supported by the European Commission in the frame of  
CIP ICT PCP Programme



*Courtesy of Arbejdernuseet*

# The partners

- 17 public and private archives from 13 European countries:
  - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, PROJECT COORDINATOR
  - Parisienne de Photographie, France
  - Imagno, Austria
  - Istituto Centrale Catalogo Unico, Italy
  - Polfoto, Denmark
  - Ayuntamiento de Girona Crdi, Spain
  - United Archives, Germany
  - Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain
  - Nalis, Bulgaria
  - Arbejdermuseet, Denmark
  - Divadelny Ustav, Slovakia
  - National Art Museums, Lithuania
  - Icimss, Poland
  - Topfoto, United Kingdom
  - Alinari, Italy
  - Royal Museums of History and Arts, Belgium
  - Museum of History of Photography, Krakow, Poland
- National Technical University of Athens, Technology Provider
- Promoter S.r.l., TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

# Objectives of the project

- To select masterpieces of ancient photographs
- To enrich their metadata
- To digitize the images in high-resolution formats
- to contribute metadata and thumbnails to the European Digital Library Europeana
- To plan for the sustainability of the network on a long term basis



# Outcomes of the projet

- The project aims to deliver over 430,000 digitized pictures from the first 100 years of photography (1839-1939), with high historical, artistic and cultural value
- These collections of ancient photography represent the very essence of news agencies, archives and museums. They are:
  - the richness in terms of business for the private partners  
and
  - the fragile evidence of cultural heritage for the cultural and research institutions.

# Themes, Collections and Content

At beginning, content providers met in Leuven to discuss about Themes, Collections and Content to be selected for digitization.

They shared their expertise and knowledge about:

- Content selection,
  - Methodology for identification of masterpieces,
    - Workflow best practices,
      - Care and handling of original items,
        - Long term preservation of digital content.



*Courtesy of Parisienne de Photo*

# Digitization techniques

The second appointment was the digitisation workshop hosted by the digitisation centre of the **Centre for Image Research and Diffusion in Girona**, with the following goals:

- To overview the available systems for digitization of original photographic materials;



- To discuss successful procedures for obtaining the best results in terms of image quality and fidelity to the original

*Prof. Carles Mitjà, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)*

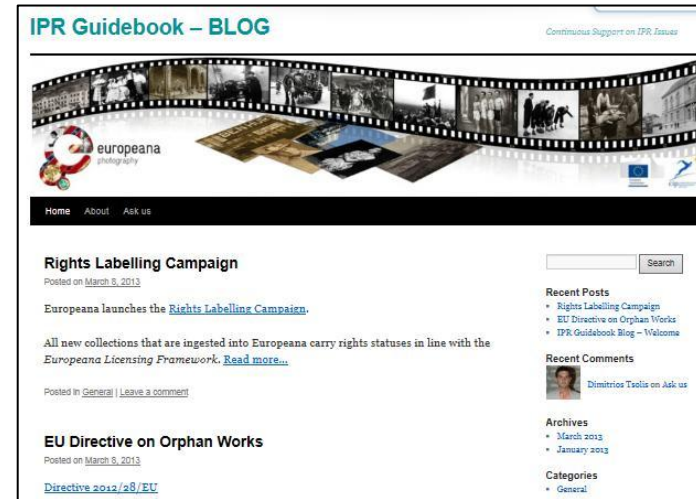
# The rights issues

A suite of instruments are developed by Europeana Photography concerning copyrights and IPR issues:

- Online IPR Guidebook



- IPR Guidebook Blog



- A program of seminars and workshops

[www.digitalmeetsculture.net/article/specialized-ipr-support-from-europeana-photography/](http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net/article/specialized-ipr-support-from-europeana-photography/)

# Next appointments about IPR

## **Paris, 14-15 November 2013**

A focused workshop about IPR and publication to Europeana

## **Vilnius, 7 November 2013 (9.00 am, booth 5)**

During big event ICT2013 organised by the European Commission, Europeana Photography is chairing a networking session about IPR related to digital content

A range of technical tools are developed by the project and offered to the community interested in the digitisation of photography, as outcomes of the project:

- The EuropeanaPhotography multilingual vocabulary
- The MINT mapping tool

*A list of multilingual location names extracted by GeoNames is under preparation*



*Courtesy of Nalis*

# Specialized Vocabulary

The EuropeanaPhotography multilingual vocabulary:

- over 500 concepts related to photography
- structured in a multifaceted, hierarchical way
- 12 languages: English (as the pivotal language), French, Dutch, German, Italian, Polish, Danish, Bulgarian, Slovak, Lithuanian, Catalan and Spanish



*Courtesy of Lithuanian Museums*

MINT is the ICT tool developed by NTUA that enables the transformation of original metadata structures into the XML harvesting schema called LIDO.



LIDO schema is intended for:

- delivering metadata, for use in a variety of online services, from an organization's online collections database to portals of aggregated resources,
- exposing, sharing and connecting data on the web.



# The next steps

The amount of Digital Cultural Heritage, including digitised photographic content is large and constantly growing, thanks to the investments at European, national and local levels.

The return on these investments should be assessed against the impact delivered to society in terms of use of these content, for research, study, education and by economic actors – most particularly the creative industries.

# Barriers to overcome

A number of barriers still slow down the full re-use of this material:

- lack of clear licensing of digital public domain works;
- lack of good discovery mechanisms for finding digital public domain works, due to poor metadata;
- lack of awareness amongst content holders about the value of the public domain itself.

Europeana Space (a new project under negotiation) will cope with the goal to unlock such a big potential.

- Europeana Photography Showcase on

DIGITAL MEETS **CULTURE** .net

[www.digitalmeetsculture.net](http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net)

<http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/europeana-photography/>

- Project's website: [www.europeana-photography.eu](http://www.europeana-photography.eu)

- Facebook page



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DOWNLOAD THE 4 PAGES LEAFLET (PDF, 3304 kb) AND THE BROCHURE (PDF, 4527 kb)



Unknown woman. Coloured ferrotype. The USA, 1860 ca. M. K. Clurman. National Art Museum.

Curiosity, 2013-02-01 Europeana is sta

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Project Presentation



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**Europeana Photography**  
 Europeana Photography will enrich Europeana's photographic holdings with vintage treasures.  
 Europeana Photography is a digitisation project playing a key role in Europeana. At present, Europeana has an impressive number of images mostly representing cultural objects while photographic images, the early... Continue reading →

News

Latest news from the project:

- Europeana Launches Rights Labelling Campaign
- EuropeanaPhotography is on Facebook! Follow us!
- Polish Collections in Europeana
- Roma: Immagini e memoria. gli Archivi fotografici di Istituzioni

Contacts

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33 "Mi piace"

George Eastman House International Museum of Photography & Film  
 Vintage Pictorialism  
 DigitalHeritageCulture  
 TRAGNO broadcasted images  
 Europeana.eu

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**THANK YOU**

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[www.digitalmeetsculture.net](http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net)