**Staying behind the trenches - bridging the borders**

**Historical Heritage of WWI in Europe**

**Abstract**

**“Staying behind the trenches - bridging the borders”** project will explore the many interlaced layers of the relationship of the cultural heritage of WW1 with the contemporary European societies and how this cultural background is reflected in the lack of a common European identity.

The proposed research will focus on the **big socio economic transformation** that has been triggered by WW1.We will investigate how this transformation, which was initially confined to the national states participating in the war, further settled widely in the cultural, social and economic organisation of Europe. The project will particularly focus on the dynamics of the border lands, which reshaped the **cross-border areas** into the wider European regions. These are in particular the areas which were once crossed by the trenches of WW1; today these are the priority regions to shaping an inclusive Europe.

The project will be articulated through 5 research themes devoted to explore the **mental and physical path** opened by the Great War in Europe, addressing: technological and socio-economic transformations, the ideological ridges which conditioned popular masses, the narratives of social echoes and personal traumas, the places of the war and the opportunities they offer for new discoveries and encounters, the historiographic reflection.

The results of the research will be the basis for innovative publishing and wide dissemination initiatives, particularly in the educational sector. The project will create new multidisciplinary research networks, participating in public debates, and outlining an **European itinerary of the memory** of the Great War.

The consortium represents academic expertise, combined with cultural heritage institutions and a SME. The project’s outcomes will be accessible through innovative platform and social media applications offering engagement services customised to the different targets, including students and teachers, cultural curators, scholars, and the general public.