A Code of Excellence in Friendship, Cooperation and Achievement



Photo courtesy of EUreka3D-XR consortium and CUT (Pambos Charalambous)

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe and respect!"
by *Anatole France*

This timeless reflection perfectly captures the spirit of our long-standing collaboration with **MiraLab** in Geneva. Over many years, our partnership has been built not only on scientific excellence and technological innovation, but also on mutual trust, friendship, shared values, and a common vision to push the boundaries of what is possible.

True partnerships are not measured solely by publications, projects or technological achievements. They are defined by the people behind them; their commitment, creativity, perseverance and belief that together they can transform ambitious ideas into reality.

Our collaboration with the exceptional MiraLab team has become a remarkable example of how excellence in research flourishes when expertise is combined with trust, openness and a shared passion for innovation. Together, we dared to dream beyond conventional approaches, and together we transformed that dream into reality.

The result was something unprecedented: the conception, development and successful implementation of a unique pilot scenario that, to the best of our knowledge, had never before been realised anywhere in the world.

For the first time in history, Artificial Intelligence, Extended Reality (XR), and Digital Cultural Heritage converged to create an extraordinary immersive experience: **bringing Saint Neophytos back to his nearly one-thousand-year-old home - the Enkleistra (Hermitage) that he established almost a millennium ago**. Through this groundbreaking digital revival, visitors were able to experience history in an entirely new way; not simply by observing the past, but by engaging with one of Cyprus' greatest spiritual figures as if he were welcoming them back into his sacred home.

This pioneering achievement attracted international attention, with **Euronews** highlighting the story under the memorable theme: "When Saint Neophytos Returns to His 1,000-Year-Old Home."

The impact of this collaboration extended even further. Building upon this successful pilot, the **Enkleistra (Hermitage) of Saint Neophytos** was selected as Cyprus' representative contribution to the **TwinIT ? Part II Campaign**, organised during the **Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union**. Today, this exceptional monument stands as **one of the representative digital memory objects of Cyprus**, preserving and showcasing the country's rich cultural and spiritual heritage within the European digital ecosystem. It represents not only an outstanding monument but also a symbol of Cyprus' commitment to safeguarding, digitising and sharing its cultural memory with Europe and the world.

This achievement perfectly illustrates the evolution from **digital documentation** to **digital remembrance**?where monuments become living carriers of collective memory through advanced technologies, high-quality 3D digitisation, artificial intelligence and immersive storytelling.

The project demonstrated that digital heritage is no longer limited to documenting monuments or preserving artefacts. It has evolved into a powerful medium for reconnecting humanity with its collective memory, allowing cultural heritage to communicate, educate and inspire future generations through immersive and intelligent experiences.

This success belongs to every member of the MiraLab team and to everyone who believed that innovation is born where imagination meets scientific excellence. It stands as proof that enduring friendships and trusted collaborations can achieve what once seemed impossible. Therefore, our sincere gratitude goes to the outstanding researchers, developers and visionaries at MiraLab. Their scientific excellence, creativity and unwavering commitment transformed an ambitious vision into a world-first achievement,

demonstrating that when trust, friendship and complementary expertise come together, barriers disappear and history is made. May this partnership continue to inspire future generations of researchers and innovators, reminding us that the greatest achievements are never the work of individuals alone; they are the result of shared vision, mutual respect and the courage to dream together.

Together, we did not simply develop an innovative technological demonstration: we created a new paradigm for preserving, communicating and experiencing cultural heritage. Together, we transformed MEMORY into a living experience. Together, we made history.

EUreka3D-XR project is co-financed by the Digital Europe Programme of the European Union.