

The role of cultural institutions and the development of the country: the digital dimension



A very important initiative in Italy, reported by **dr. Carmine Marinucci** from the Research and Education Italian Ministry (MIUR).

On October 8, 2012 in Rome, a panel discussion on the role of the Italian Cultural Institutes was organized by in the **Italian Cultural Institutions Association (AICI)**.



The occasion was particularly important also in the transnational perspective of the European Strategy 2020, and the meeting was a top event because it aggregated all the Italian institutes to discuss about Horizon 20:20 and the Digital Agenda. The meeting was also based on the belief that the capitalization of historical and archival heritage can make an important contribution to Italian cultural heritage and to Europe's identity in the Third Millennium.

The Italian Institutes of Culture (about 100 in Italy) are committed not only to preserve and store historical documents, but to preserve and disseminate the contents of those documents, in other words to preserve and disseminate Italian cultural memory.

Such Cultural Institutes are also deeply involved in understanding and developing innovative models of learning, especially those solutions which update the teaching of history (intended in any sense: the social, economic and political points of view). More generally, the final aim is to develop a modern school system that embraces new technologies, applications, models of social integration and inclusion.

The Cultural Institutes represent then a meeting place for culture and science, technology and creativity, to experience the new smart cultural services for the education system and also new forms of ebooks.

During the meeting the Institutes also decided to respond to the European Commission's public consultation about Research Infrastructures, by proposing a significant IR entitled European Political Identities: Constructing Europe 1939-1989 (EUPOLITES):

The overall objective is sustainable cooperation between European archives, museums, research centres related to the study of contemporary Europe. In particular, the construction of convergent European political identities will be observed from an innovative point of view, assuming as a starting point an overarching European approach. In this sense, Infrastructure will promote regional and national researches only if developed as local cases studies of more comprehensive and explicit European frame. In order to promote the study of Europe's political identities, the Infrastructure will provide access to its tangible and intangible heritage, offering all the technical tools necessary for research, to be conceived also as creation of audiovisual and/or digital products. The aim of this strategy is to consider European political histories as a diverse interconnected domain that can be studied in a unified centre of research, ruled by shared goals and common methodologies. Moreover, EUPOLITES shall offer the basis for constructing a shared and innovative open access smart platform and for developing accessible historical research paths. Today, the road towards reaffirming European political identities involves a diffused awareness of commonalities, which can be looked into by means of documental and archival sources to be retrieved on the basis of a digital media. The idea is to enable citizens to start their own search within a crossmedial offer constituted by digitized paper documents, iconological sources, filmic and musical material. The

platform shall provide: a) services to enhance the content itself; b) services for content providers and online data resources; - services for content consumers and end users: library and archival heritage will be integrated and available, and processes and results of researches will be accessible; c) services to support the governance of the matching of users demands w.r.t. providers supply and viceversa.

Download the AICI Manifesto: The role of cultural institutions and the development of the country: the digital dimension ([PDF](#), 289 Kb, Italian language)

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