OBJECTIVES

Linked Heritage has three main objectives:
• to contribute large quantities of new content to Europeana, from both the public and private sectors;
• to demonstrate enhancement of quality of content, in terms of metadata richness, re-use potential and uniqueness;
• to demonstrate and enable improved search, retrieval and use of Europeana content.

Linked Heritage will facilitate and deliver large-scale, long-term enhancement of Europeana and its services.

THE CONSORTIUM

The consortium includes representatives of all the key stakeholder groups from 20 EU countries, together with Israel and Russia. These include ministries and responsible government agencies, content providers and aggregators, leading research centres, publishers and SMEs. Several partners participate in related Europeana ecosystem projects; this guarantees alignment with Europeana’s evolution. In addition, organisations which have not in the past been involved will contribute for the first time to Europeana. 3 million new items will be delivered to Europeana, covering a wide spectrum of types of cultural content.
The Best Practice Network

The project is delivered through the work of 7 Work-packages (WPs), led by different partners. The activity of the WPs is carried on with the support of Thematic Working Groups set up at European level, while thematic or interdisciplinary National Working Groups set up in partner countries can work on the same topics at national level.
Supports the working package in:

• exploring the state of the art in linked data and its applications and potential;

• identifying the most appropriate models, processes and technologies for the deployment of cultural heritage information repositories as linked data;

• considering how linked data practices can be applied to cultural heritage information repositories, to enrich them and to allow them to align with other linked data stores and applications; exploring the state of the art in persistent identifiers (both standards and management tools);

• identifying the most appropriate approach to persistent identification, e.g. a unique standard or a set of different standards;

• designing a feasibility model and realising a demonstrator of a flexible, scalable, secure and reliable infrastructure for a network of ‘linked data enabled’ cultural heritage information repositories;

• exploring the state of the art in cultural metadata models, and in particular their interoperability across libraries, museums, archives, publishers, content industries, and the Europeana models (ESE and EDM);

• outlining the potential benefits that richer cultural heritage metadata could bring to Europeana, and to the other services which will use it.
Terminologies

It is dedicated to the development of a Terminology Management Platform (TMP) that will allow creating and updating a network of multilingual cross-domain thesauri and controlled vocabularies in a collaborative way.

It hereby aims to reduce the large gap between the actual state of terminology management in cultural institutions, and the skills and means necessary to deliver these vocabularies in a standardised format.

It aims also to make aware these institutions of the benefits of standardisation for enhancing the integration and alignment with other domain terminologies and Europeana.

The working group has the important role of providing inside information on the current status of terminology management within cultural heritage institutes in their countries to be able to define the generic functional needs for TMP (organization, mapping (SKOSification), alignment of multilingual terms, etc.) from any kind of content provider (libraries, museums, archives, publishers and content industries).

It shall also check the relevance and usability of the technical developments and will assist in testing the software and 1st experimentations in the creation of a collaborative multilingual terminology using the TMP.
Private-Public partnership

It aims to enable the discovery of in-copyright, commercial products in Europeana, from all four media types currently supported by Europeana (books, music, photography, film), and linking to the full content in online retail environments so that items can be purchased.

Benefits to Europeana envisaged include exposing some of the “20th Century Black Hole” major cultural works which still have commercial value by:

- linking their metadata to that of public domain content;
- promoting deeper understanding of commercial sector metadata and identifier standards and best practice;
- specifying technical means to aggregate such data and recommending a legal-commercial framework for commercial sector partnerships.
ELEARNING

It acts both as a locus for sharing ideas and discussions on e-learning issues and as a studio where participants contribute to the development of Learning Objects, testing the first “prototype” and providing content translation.

The University of Padua will design, develop and implement a comprehensive training programme about the most relevant topics of the project.

Its main activities will be:
- gathering training materials from different sources;
- planning and developing a set of new Learning Objects tailored for an entry-level target audience and making them available through a Virtual Library Environment.

The training program will also include a set of advanced modules showing the results of the project.

The e-learning Working Group will contribute to:
- define the Table of Contents of the training syllabus;
- test the Learning Objects produced by the University of Padua;
- provide translation of the Learning Objects in the mother tongue of Working Group members.

The Virtual Library Environment will be an open access service based on Moodle – an open-source PHP web application for modular internet-based courses – and will be hosted in the Moodle farm of the University.
The website is one of the most important instruments to support the project objectives, both internally and outside the consortium.

**It’s main goals are:**
- to promote and disseminate project activities and results to the project’s targets
- to satisfy partners’ needs in terms of project’s communication.

**The project website is mainly targeted to:**
Europeana stakeholders, the content-contributing community, government and policy bodies, digital cultural heritage experts from museums, archives, libraries and other cultural institutions, the private (publishing) sector, sister project’s.

**Here, you may find:** the composition of the consortium; the objectives of the project; activities carried out and the documents produced; past and upcoming events; news of interest for the community; information for joining the network; reports, documents and presentations, training materials, publications, useful links.

www.linkedheritage.eu
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