



Polish Science Contact Agency 'PolSCA'
of the Polish Academy of Sciences
and
Polish Institute Brussels
cordially invite you to the webinar:

CULTURAL HERITAGE IN DIGITAL AGE

Date: Wednesday, 21st April 2021

9.15-11.15

RATIONALE

Europe's cultural heritage, with its common values and its rich diversity of traditions, crafts, arts, literature, languages, is undoubtedly the core of European identity. Access to experience with cultural heritage contributes to social cohesion and inclusion by strengthening the sense of belonging and bringing people together. What is more, cultural heritage not only reflects our past but also shapes our present and creates our future. It is also a creative way of cultivating cross-cultural tolerance, dialogue, respect and understanding among miscellaneous actors across the world.

Hence, the digitisation of Europe's cultural heritage, which includes print (books, journals, newspapers), photographs, museum objects, archival documents, audiovisual material, monuments and archaeological sites has been of primary concern for the European Union for several years. Digital technologies from 3D models to artificial intelligence are being used to ensure preservation and wide access to cultural heritage and the arts. [Extensive research](#) has been already funded to support digitisation of libraries, archives, and archaeological sites as well as digital curation and preservation of cultural goods. However, Europe's common R&I action to protect, conserve, restore and repair its important cultural heritage in digital way or promote its digital use as one of the substantial European resources is still limited in scope and impact. According to [DARIAH Position Paper](#) (2020), Europe faces significant challenges in terms of effective and efficient digitisation of our cultural heritage. First of all, bearing in mind that over 80% of Europe's cultural heritage remains to be digitised, there is an urgent need to reconsider the European digitisation strategy in order to enable EU countries to work together more effectively towards the European Commission's ambitious, but hardly achievable, target of all European cultural heritage being digitised by 2025. Secondly, the vast proportion of the 10-20% of Europe's cultural heritage that has already been digitised can be considered today as out of date – DARIAH paper reveals that it is no longer of a high enough quality for analysis using advanced digital humanities methods. And last but not least, digital (digitised and born-digital) cultural heritage is fundamental data to the Arts and Humanities' research. From humanities' research perspective, there is an urgency of adopting better management policies, strengthening open access to heritage data and tighter cross-sectoral cooperation between Cultural Heritage Institutions and researchers in order to monitor digitisation across Europe.

In the light of this, more R&I actions still have to be done to expand and further support the areas where digital tools are applied responding to the real needs of preserving our cultural heritage and making it accessible to as wide as possible public. Therefore, there is a hope that further European research and innovation activities will make a greater contribution to the preservation and enhancement cultural heritage with advanced digital technologies by strengthening Pillar II of [Horizon Europe](#) framework programme in research and innovation, in particular Cluster 2 with its 2,28 mld euro budget¹. R&I interdisciplinary actions within this Cluster are expected to establish the state of the art of digital methodologies and tools to protect European cultural heritage as well as to widen access to cultural assets. R&I activities funded under Cluster 2 are also aimed at developing digital facilities in a sustainable and user-friendly way that will allow building shared infrastructures and facilitate knowledge and know-how exchange in addressing the real needs in the field of cultural heritage.

¹ Particularly destination 2: Innovative Research on the European Cultural Heritage and the Cultural and Creative Industries.

Moreover, the above-mentioned goal is to be achieved by ensuring synergies between Horizon Europe and other programmes which are sprinkled with digital flavour such as [Creative Europe](#) or [The Digital Europe Programme](#). This primarily requires efficient cooperation and active participation of a wide range of actors, including research institutes, universities, Cultural Heritage Institutions (CHIs), and the cultural and creative industries (CCI).

OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of the webinar is to get unique insights from decision makers and various practitioners representing European networks, Cultural Heritage Institutions, research institutes and research centres about the value of collaboration to provide efficient digital solutions to the real needs of accessing, protecting and preserving cultural heritage. The event represents also an opportunity to highlight European funded research projects or other relevant initiatives on the digitisation of Europe's cultural heritage, and to debate on further actions that could be undertaken in the future.

The online event will be divided into two sessions. The first one will focus on the policy level, discussing miscellaneous opportunities to foster the involvement of researchers and other relevant stakeholders in the process of digitisation of European cultural heritage. A particular emphasis will be placed on current instruments, developed under Horizon Europe, Creative Europe or Digital Europe programme, and their potential to set up accessible digital cultural heritage datasets. The second session will provide a practical insight into the activities undertaken by various actors in the field of cultural heritage's digitisation, highlighting the most important experiences and good practices to share.

The webinar, which will take place in English, is opened to everyone interested in the process of digitisation of European cultural heritage!

PROGRAMME

9.15 - 9.25 *Welcoming words*

Tomasz Poprawka, Polish Science Contact Agency in Brussels

Agnieszka Bolecka, Polish Institute in Brussels

9.25 - 9.30 *Preserving traces of heritage: a brief reflection on European literature*

Dorota Walczak-Delanois, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

9.30 - 10.00 *Opportunities and challenges for digitisation of cultural heritage*

Moderator: Mariusz Dzięglewski, InLAB Research and Innovation Centre, Pedagogical University of Cracow

Marita Kayamanidou, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, RTD E.4 Fair Societies and Cultural Heritage

Maciej Hofman, European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, EAC D.1 Culture Policy

Tomasz Parkoła, Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (DARIAH), Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center

10.00 - 10.15 *Q&A*

10.15 – 10.45 *Digitisation of culture in practice*

Moderator: Justyna Kramarczyk, Polish Science Contact Agency in Brussels

Maciej Eder, Institute of Polish Language of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Sonia Wronkowska, National Library of Poland

Mike Kestemont, Antwerp Centre for Digital Humanities and Literary Criticism

10.45 – 11.05 *Q&A*

11.05 – 11.15 *Closing remarks*