

EUROPEANA ARCHAEOLOGY



Europeana Archaeology (February 2019 - October 2020)
is a Project funded by the European Commission within
the Programme Connecting Europe Facility: Telecom.



Enisala Fortress, Romania, Institutul Național al Patrimoniului, CC BY

**EUROPE'S RICH HERITAGE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONUMENTS, HISTORIC BUILDINGS, CULTURAL
LANDSCAPES AND ARTEFACTS IN EUROPEANA**

Contacts

Website: <https://europeanaarchaeology.carare.eu>

E-mail: archaeology@carare.eu

THE SCOPE OF EUROPEANA ARCHAEOLOGY

The Archaeology collection in Europeana includes cultural heritage from the distant past to present day fieldwork. It includes heritage created in Europe or brought to Europe thanks to trades and exchanges. This rich heritage is made of archaeological monuments, historic buildings, cultural landscaped and objects.

The focus of our Action was:

- to make available new high quality digital content for Europe's rich heritage of archaeological monuments, historic buildings, cultural landscapes and artefacts to users of Europeana;
- to raise the quality of existing content for the archaeological and architectural heritage already available in Europeana;
- to facilitate the re-use of resources by encouraging institutions to make their content available under open licenses;

The final users of our Action are citizens, educators, students and companies for reuse applications.



19th Century Icon from the church of Asinou, Digital Heritage Research Lab of Cyprus University of Technology, Library of Cyprus University of Technology, Rights Reserved - Free Access

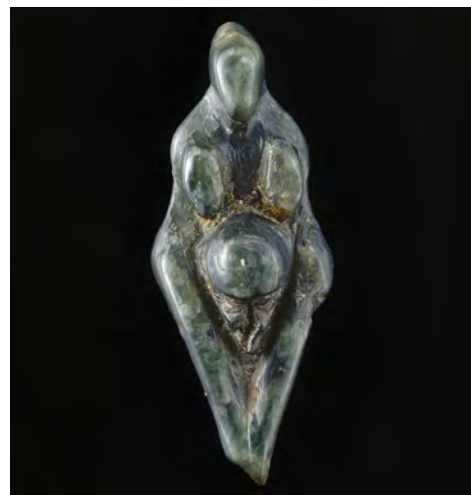


View of Stonehenge, Kate Fernie, 2Culture, CC-BY

INCREASING THE QUALITY OF EXISTING CONTENT

1 Development of the content plan

Each data provider analysed their collections already published in Europeana, identifying and planning improvements to the content to at least tier 2 of the Europeana Publishing Framework. Analysis was carried out for both content and metadata, noting the type of digital content (image, text, video, sound, 3D), the permitted uses (licenses), links to the contents and to what extent the provided metadata supported Europeana discovery scenarios. Analyses were carried out on the partners' native systems. The results consisted in a plan to improve the exported metadata, the availability of the selected digital objects at a higher resolution, the release of the content under open licences and the availability of controlled vocabularies and wordlists. Individual partners' plan included editing metadata, the reconfiguration of metadata exports formats, IPR clearance, wordlists to Linked Open Data resources, identification of the thesauri to be used for enriching each single record.



Female statuette called "The Lozenge", Musée d'Archéologie nationale, Domaine national de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, In Copyright



Hieratic Papyrus, Tales of wonder from Papyrus Westcar, Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, CC BY-NC-SA



Reconstruction drawing of the Early Medieval necropolis of Harmignies with the settlement in the background, Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis, Belgium, In Copyright

2 Implementation of the content plan

On the base of the selection plan, all content providing partners carried out improvements and enrichment to their content and metadata using the services made available for the Action. At the end of the process the contents were delivered to the domain aggregators for processing and ingestion to Europeana.

DELIVERING NEW HIGH QUALITY CONTENT

1 Development of the selection plan

Content providers had to provide new high quality content to the Archaeology collection of Europeana, reaching tiers 3 and 4 of the Europeana Publishing Framework. They developed therefore a selection plan identifying digital resources which could add value to the existing Europeana collections.



Polished jadeite axehead,
The Hunt Museum, CCO



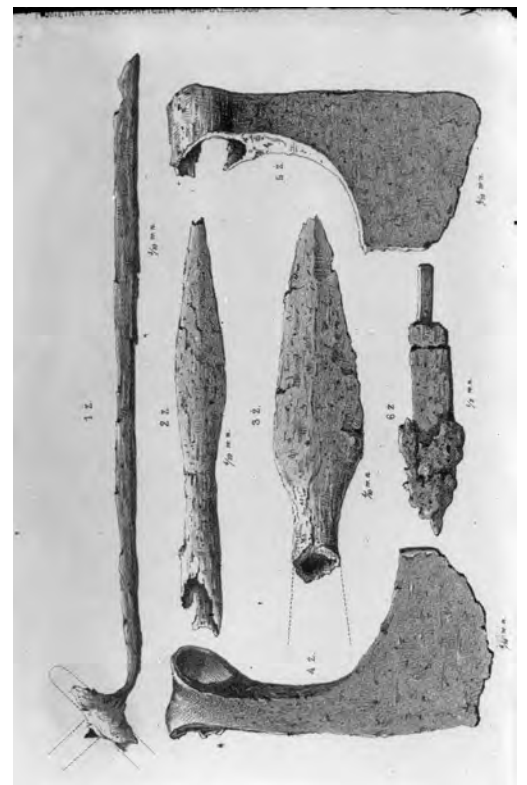
PAN-00019542
Military diploma,
Data Archiving and
Networked Services
(KNAW-DANS),
CC BY-NC-SA

2 Analysis of the selected datasets

Partners analysed the available metadata on their native systems and noted the potentials for improvements, identifying also vocabularies and wordlist suitable to be mapped to Linked Open Data.

3 Implementation of the selection plan

All necessary works were carried out to improve the quality of contents and metadata in order to conform to the Europeana Publishing Framework requirements. Tiers 3 and 4 were reached thanks to enrichment activities (identification of place names, addition of geo-coding, use of Linked Open Data for subjects, places and period concepts, labelling of the language used). At the end of the process the contents were delivered to the domain aggregators for processing and ingestion to Europeana.



Drawings of objects from Imbarè cemetery,
Tadas Daugirdas, Vilnius University Faculty
of Communication, CC BY-NC-ND

4 Targeted digitisation

Some partners identified content not yet digitised that could be relevant to show-case the theme of archaeology in Europeana and demonstrate the potential of openly licensed content for free reuse. In this case, records had to reach Tier 4 of the Europeana Publishing Framework.

ENABLING ENRICHMENT

Past cultures and modern political boundaries rarely coincide and thematic datasets often cover more geographical regions. Moreover, buildings, monuments, artefacts are described in national languages and cultural institutions use different conventions for associating subject terms, authority files, place names and time periods to single records.

An enrichment activity was necessary to improve interoperability and discovery across the different datasets and it was achieved increasing the use of Linked Open Data and making enrichment services available to the data providing partners and aggregators.

1 Creation of enrichment resources

Data providing partners contributed to develop resources to improve the discoverability and multilinguality of their content through a huge activity of mapping between their archaeological datasets to concepts published in Linked Open Data resources. In particular the following resources were used: the Getty's Art and Architecture thesaurus (AAT) for subject terms; Geonames for moderns place names; Pleiades for ancient place names, Perio.do for time periods, and Wikidata for subject terms and time periods).



Cooperative Bank, Ljubljana, Franc J. Zakrajšek (photographer), Lunida, CC BY-NC-ND

2 Creation of enrichment services

The design, development and implementation of a stand-alone cloud-based service (SaaS) was conceived to allow the content providing partners to upload metadata and reference resources (gazetteers, vocabularies and wordlists). This service is now available to external national, regional, domain and thematic aggregators which need to enrich archaeological content for Europeana.



Ramses II attacks a Syrian fortress (drawing), Gaetano Rosellini, Biblioteca Universitaria di Pisa, CC BY-NC-SA



Greece, Athens, Hadrian's library site, tetraconch church, University of Bologna, In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted

MONITORING AND SUPPORT

In each project, a crucial activity is represented by monitoring and supporting the workflow. All data providers received during the Action, all necessary support and guidance to be able to deliver their content in time and respect the Europeana Core Service platform requirements.

1 Monitoring and quality control

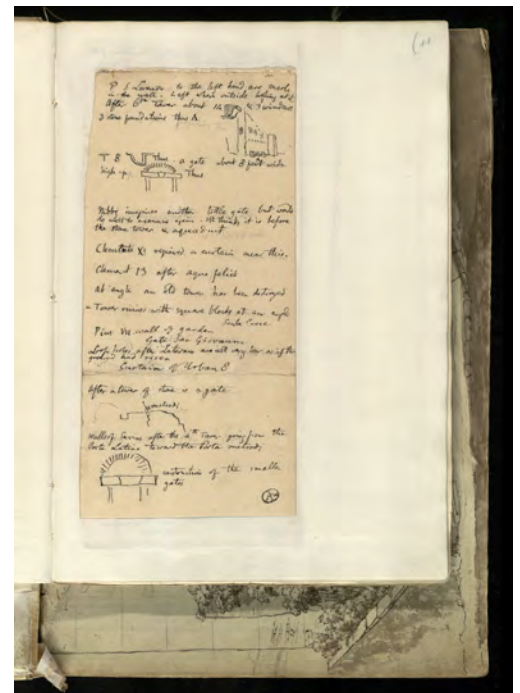
This activity consisted mainly in assessing the metadata delivered against the Europeana Publishing Framework and assessing the needs of the communities targeted for re-use in order to define any additional criteria needed to ensure good quality of the content.

2 Help-desk and training

Partners were supported thanks to an help-desk service and training on digitisation, metadata specification, data models, metadata mapping, use of controlled vocabularies, metadata enrichment, aggregation services (MINT and MORE), metadata harvesting, metadata ingestion, metadata publication.

3 Ingestion to Europeana

At the end of the enrichment procedure and the quality assessment, the metadata were ingested and made available to Europeana thanks to the domain aggregation services CARARE and MUSEU, respectively run by the CARARE Association and Michael Culture Association.



Paper manuscript, Biblioteca di Archeologia e Storia dell'Arte, In Copyright



Merovingian fibula with garnets, Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis, In Copyright



Griphomachia. Sculptural group of Cerrillo Blanco, Instituto de Arqueología Ibérica-Universidad de Jaén, CC BY-NC

COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

A huge activity of dissemination has been carried out to raise awareness of Europeana, the Archaeology collection and its potential for citizens, students and companies for reuse. This activity consisted in the production of a digital exhibition, several showcases and blogs, some use cases. A final event was organised at the end of the project.

1 Digital exhibition “Uncovering Hidden Stories: An Introduction to European Archaeology”

Archaeology helps us explore and understand what life was like for people through the ages. Their societies, settlements, crafts and entertainment, their agriculture, trade, their health and their warfare. This exhibition, created as part of the Europeana Archaeology project, introduces some of the fascinating archaeological monuments and finds that are preserved across Europe. The user may explore the exhibition to reveal stories of past landscapes and environments, urban planning and architecture, trade and migration, power and identity, and religion and funeral practices. He can also find out about some of the archaeological practices used to bring these items to light.



The Castle of Iruela (Iruela, Jaén, Spain), Instituto de Arqueología Ibérica-Universidad de Jaén, CC BY-NC



National and University Library, today Croatian State Archives, Zagreb, In Copyright

2 Galleries

All partners contributed to showcase their content on archaeology through amazing galleries on Europeana, displaying selections of images on different topics, periods, places and protagonists: textiles in Pre-columbian Peru, Art Nouveau in Danube, sanctuaries and ritual practices of Iberians, stone in religion and faiths, axe heads, archaeological tools and equipment, banquets in antiquity, famous archaeologists, obelisks, boats and navigation, etc.



PAN-00026918
Cicada-brooch in gilded copper-alloy, Data Archiving and Networked Services (KNAW-DANS), CC BY-NC-SA

3 Blogs and articles

Several posts and articles were published on Europeana Collections and Europeana Pro, as well as on other cultural websites. Partners valorised their collections through short stories, i.e. Italian travelers in ancient Egypt, medieval archaeological heritage of Eastern Andalusia, a the everyday reality behind the iron curtain told by Lithuanian archaeological content, Richard Lepsius and the musealisation of Egypt, the creation of the Hunt Museum permanent collections, Alesia: the Gallic War and the birth of French archaeology, etc. In a few cases, partners described some technological aspects and services.

4 Use cases

A set of use cases were created to demonstrate the re-use potential of the Archaeology collection, for schools, university students and tourism: from some content of the Library of Art and Archaeology in Rome reused in a tourist app to practical seminars for the reuse of archaeological content in Europeana targeted to students and museum guides.

5 Conference “Connecting archaeology in Europe: case studies and ongoing digital experiences ”

In the final phase of the project, a two-day online conference was organised in order to share experiences of making archaeology collections accessible via Europeana and developing virtual experiences for visitors. Items relevant to a culture are often distributed between institutions in different regions. Finding ways of improving the interoperability of these diverse datasets by increasing the use of linked open data, clear labeling of languages and rights were some of the topics discussed during the conference. The new enrichment service being made available to Europeana’s network of aggregators and data providers was launched.



Image grave of a man from Harmignies, Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis (KMKG-MRAH), In Copyright



Dome of the Daphni Monastery depicting Christ Pantocrator, University of Bologna, In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted

EUROPEANA ARCHAEOLOGY PARTNERS

The Europeana Archaeology project is lead by the Vilnius University



with the following consortium members:

Data Archiving and Networked Services (KNAW-DANS)



Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle biblioteche italiane e per le informazioni bibliografiche (ICCU)



Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis (KMG-MRAH)



Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna (UNIBO)



Universidad De Jaén (UJA-IUIAI)



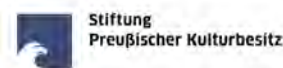
Athina-Erevnitiko Kentro Kainotomias Stis Technologies Tis Pliroforias, Ton Epikoionion Kai Tis Gnosis (ATHENA R.C.)



Technologiko Panepistimio Kyprou (CUT)



Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SPK)



Lunida Ltd (Lunida)



Musée d'Archéologie nationale Domaine national de Saint-Germain-en-Laye



2Culture Associates Ltd (2Culture)



The Hunt Museum (HM)



Institutul Național al Patrimoniului (INP)



Georg-August-Universitaet Goettingen Stiftung Oeffentlichen Rechts (UGOE)



Muzej za umjetnost i obrt (MUO)

