



#2 Newsletter

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May 2021

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WELCOME!

We are pleased to share the second issue of the Digital Heritage Lab Newsletter (DHRLab). Due to the pandemic of Covid-19 all major events went online and here at

DHRLab during spring we organized **more than seven events**.

This issue will firstly present a special celebration for two important dates the **ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites** celebrated on April 18th and the **ICOM International Museum Day** celebrated on May 18th by fostering a reflection on the future of Digital Heritage. The team of the DHRLAB decided to create **two special videos** as the most suitable way to introduce cultural heritage projects, to show some outcomes and discuss some crucial topics.

We therefore asked **four sites** and **three museums** from Northern to Southern Europe to answer the following questions:

- ⇒ What is your long-term view on the role of digital technologies for conservation, management, communication, and engagement?
- ⇒ How can these systems address your current and future challenges at your site/museum?
- ⇒ What is your ideal vision?

Four big events also took place during spring, the Study on Quality in 3D Digitisation of Tangible Cultural Heritage, the IMPACTOUR ReDiscover Europe Workshop, the 1st Ophera Workshop on Digital technologies for knowledge and the promotion of Cultural Heritage during the restoration & reconstruction process and the Greece-Cyprus 2021-2027: Bilateral cooperation in the field of Digital Cultural Heritage and Regional Development - New challenges, New perspectives.



In the next pages you can also read about the launch of the new Erasmus+ KA2 GLAMers: Enhancing GLAMs through youth engagement during the COVID-19 crisis, coordinated by DHRLab.

Here at UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage and ERA Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage MNEMOSYNE we serve the Digital Cultural Heritage and with this newsletter we intend to bring part of our work closer to you!

Kyriakos Efstathiou

Holder of the ERA Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage





ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites

Since 1982, ICOMOS celebrated the International Day for Monuments and Sites on April 18th, proposing a theme for activities to be organized. In 2021, the event focuses on the theme "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures".

The video event start with prof. Kyriakos Efstathiou, the ERA Chair Holder, who introduces the Mnemosyne project and the videos from the next speakers.

The first speaker is Mark Oldham, archaeologist at the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU) who explains how digital technologies are crucial for the institute and how they can contribute to public engagement.

The second speaker is Emilija Nikolić, research associate at the Institute of Archaeology of Belgrade and at the Viminacium Archaeological Park, in Serbia. She focuses her speech on how Viminacium uses digital technologies both for research and educational purposes.

Samanta Mariotti and Stefano Beltoldi, research fellows at the University of Siena, in Italy, present to us "Past and Play: la Collina Accessibile di Poggio Imperiale", the ongoing project of digitalisation taking place at the Archeodrome of Poggibonsi in Italy. Their work focuses on the development of an immersive serious game and on the creation of virtual tours.

The last speaker is Branislav Stojanović, archaeologist and curator at Muzej Paraćin in Serbia. He presents to us the work done with Augmented Reality as a heritage interpretation tool and a reflection on Archeogaming.

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6j6lNMxAnDQ&t=75s>





ICOM International Museum Day

International Council of Museums (ICOM) organising International Museum Day on May 18th each year or around this date, each year since 1977. The idea is to raise awareness about the fact that “Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples.” All around the world, more and more museums participate in International Museum Day. Last year, more than 37,000 museums took part in the event in about 158 countries.

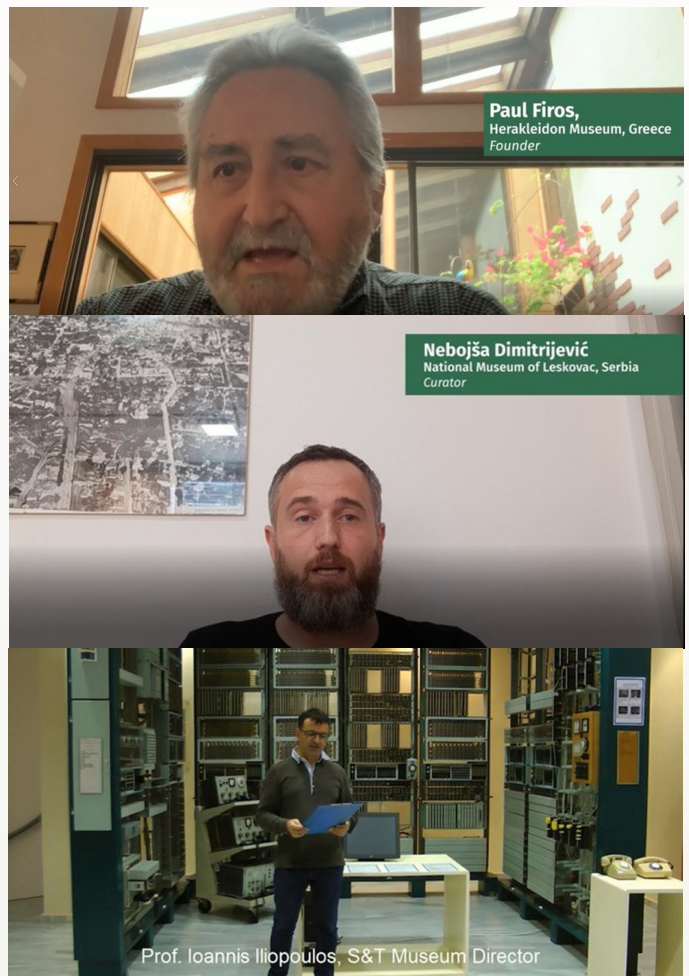
The event of [International Museum Day 2021](#) focuses on the theme “The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine”. The first speaker is Paul Firos founder of [Herakleidon Museum](#) who explains how he envisions the post-Covid era for the museum.

The second speaker is Nebojša Dimitrijević curator from [The National Museum in Leskovac](#), in Serbia. He focuses his speech on how digital technologies affect our lives and how they can be beneficial for museums.

Prof. Ioannis Iliopoulos, director of the museum is the third presenter, showing us the [Museum of Science and Technology of Patras in Greece](#), focusing on how the museum experienced the pandemic and how it envisions the next future.

We thank the participants for their kind contribution and hope that you enjoyed the video, that is available on our YouTube Channel.

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmBuvXdOEJI&t=37s>





Study on Quality in 3D Digitisation of Tangible Cultural Heritage - Midterm

Within the VIGIE 2020/654 Study on Quality in 3D Digitisation of Tangible Cultural Heritage, the Mid-term Workshop was organised by the study team at the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) on the 14th of April 2021 (09:00-17:00 CET time), with 42 invited participants. The aims of the workshop were to discuss and validate the findings of the study's work to date, to explore the potential impact of advances in technology and to resolve outstanding issues by consulting with a wider expert audience, preparatory to the final stages of the work.

Because of the restrictions on travel imposed within the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held online via Zoom, taking advantage of its breakout room facilities. The workshop was structured in three complementary parts.

Following a number of introductory statements from representatives of the European Commission, the Government of Cyprus and international associations (such as ICOMOS, EUROPA NOSTRA, CLARIN ERIC, DARIAH ERIC), Dr Marinos Ioannides introduced the overall mission of the study by its director. Then, the key interim results on complexity and quality parameters were presented by experts in the study team and questioned in separate round-table discussions.

The second part of the workshop consisted of a series of expert presentations providing inputs on benchmark projects in 3D digitisation of tangible cultural heritage and key formats, standards and guidelines, including copyright issues relevant to ongoing and future works.

In the afternoon session, several keynote presentations introduced aspects of future technological advances in 3D digitisation, as a prelude to breakout sessions and feedback to develop specific topics: Artificial Intelligence in 3D Reconstruction; Crowdsourcing and 3D Modelling; and Big Data and Cloud computing for 3D. A final input from the study team addressed the relationship between technologies, equipment and quality in 3D data acquisition.



The expert contributions and discussions have added significant value in achieving greater clarity, definition, and insight on outstanding issues in a wide range of areas related to the study.





Europe Day: IMPACTOUR ReDiscover Europe

Under the auspices of the Portuguese Government, and with full collaboration from the Slovenian Government, H2020 IMPACTOUR Project, where DHRLab is participating in, organised the Online Workshop ReDiscover Europe that took place on 9th May 2021 (10:00-17:00 CET time).

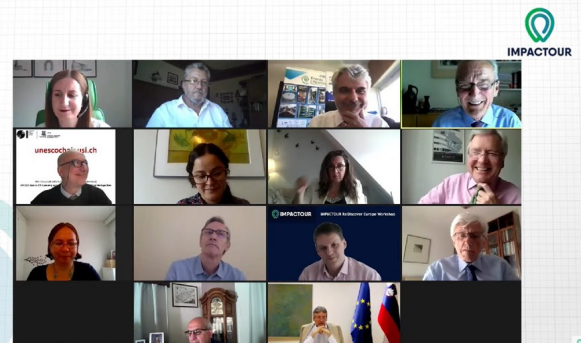
The workshop took place on Europe Day, where on this day in 1950, the Schuman Declaration proposed the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community, the European Union's ancestor, celebrating peace and unity across Europe.

While all the planet is still struggling to overcome the terrible effects of the COVID-19 crisis, Cultural Tourism is playing a huge palliative role by sharing Europe's rich cultural diversity. The ReDiscover Europe Workshop provided a unique opportunity to discuss the role of sustainable Cultural Tourism in today's Europe. Besides important keynote presentations the workshop hold three key panel debates (with catalyst viewpoints from policy makers, scientific researchers, industry and cultural tourism practitioners):

- ⇒ **Theme 1:** Post-COVID cultural tourism – what have we learned, what might we do differently, an opportunity for Big / SMART Data?
- ⇒ **Theme 2:** People – accessibility, inclusion/exclusion, market needs.
- ⇒ **Theme 3:** Technology – digital gateways, mobile interactive content / co-curation, dynamic modelling and tourism management.

The workshop was successful and attracted high level representatives from a large number of organisations, such as Portuguese Government, Slovenian Government, UNESCO, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, COST Association, ICTC-ICOMOS, European Travel Commission, European Tourism Association, EUROPA NOS-TRA and European Heritage Label Network.

Visit the [impactour website](https://www.impactour.eu) for more information.





1st OPHERA WORKSHOP: Digital technologies for knowledge and promotion of cultural heritage during the restoration & reconstruction process

A five-day workshop took place from the 17th to the 21st of May 2021 that attracted more than 250 participants. The 1st OPHERA Workshop was organized and carried out by the Cyprus University of Technology – Digital Heritage Research LAB (DHRLab), the UNESCO Chair on Digital Culture Heritage and ERA Chair Mnemosyne.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- ⇒ Provide participants with a general overview and a clear state-of-the art of the available digital methods, technologies and tools applied to cultural heritage knowledge and communication, particularly to the objects under restoration process in the post-earthquake scenario.
- ⇒ Training in the methods of communication and visualization of complex technical data in order to reach and increase the awareness of a wider audience.

About OPHERA project

The OPHERA project is co-funded by the creative Europe Programme of the European Union. Ophera-OPening cultural HERitage to communities during the central-Italy post-earthquake long-term restoration process: digital technologies and new competencies for cultural professionals.

Through the OPHERA project, the partnership aims to foster the cultural exchange between restoration professionals and a wider audience, sharing at a European level the reconstruction experiences developed in Central – Italy regions. The project envisages the selection of a multidisciplinary team of operators through a public

Find out more about the workshop [here](#).

call for applications. In the first phase the team will be trained by means of three workshops to be held in Cyprus, Portugal and Italy, dedicated to the strategic domains of heritage risk prevention - monitoring methods and to the digital technologies applied to cultural heritage; during the second phase the multidisciplinary team will be involved in the organization of two “open-days” of some key restoration sites located in the most impacted Marche region towns.

Find out more information about Ophera project [here](#).





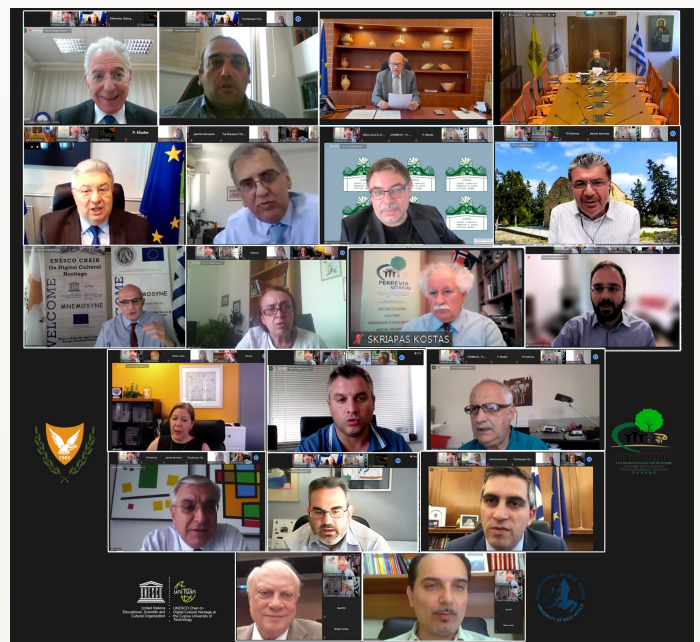
Greece-Cyprus 2021-2027: Bilateral cooperation in the field of Digital Cultural Heritage and Regional Development - New challenges, New perspectives

A very important transnational online Forum, of national importance, was organized on May 26, 2021, an initiative from the Cyprus University of Technology -DHRLab, the University of West Attica and the Culture and Science Network "Perravia", under the auspices of Kyriakos A. Kenevezos, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus in Greece.

The Forum, with a duration of 7 hours, attracted the interest of hundreds of scientists from Greece and Cyprus. The Forum, considered to be a high-level meeting based on the participation of Ministers of the Governments of Greece and Cyprus, other high-ranking government officials, Ambassadors, Rectors, representatives of world scientific bodies and private initiative, such as Adamou Adamos - president of the house of representatives of Cyprus, His Beatitude Ieronymos II - Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, Prodromos Prodromou - Cypriot Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, Yiannis Karousos – Cypriot Minister of Transport, Communications and Works, Christos Dimas – Greek Deputy Minister of Development and Investments, Research, Innovation and Technology.

During the Forum the current issues in the field of Digital Cultural Heritage were discussed, such as cultural diplomacy, culture tourism, new technologies in the digitization of cultural heritage and the climate change in cultural heritage.

The organizers will submit proposals to the relevant authorities of Greece and Cyprus in order digital cultural heritage and Greek culture to have a vital role in the development of both countries.





Launch of the new Erasmus+ KA2 GLAMers: Enhancing GLAMs through youth engagement during the COVID-19 crisis

The online kick-off meeting of the new Erasmus+ KA2 project took place on Friday 26 of March 2021. The project is coordinated by DHRLab aims to boost Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAMs) that were for the majority unprepared regarding the effects of the pandemic, including a sudden loss of income (which definitely impacted the employment rates in the cultural and creative sectors), as well as a severe disruption of their relationship with their audiences. Since the beginning of the pandemic, these effects have managed to further damage this sector which was already struggling with poor community outreach over the past decade. Therefore, the «GLAMers» has the following main objectives,

- ⇒ provide a collection of best practices involving youth engagement as a means of GLAM recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic. This collection will be enriched with an analysis of challenges, opportunities and hidden potential of the value of youth engagement in GLAMs' rebirth;
- ⇒ offer advice and training opportunities to support GLAMs in their digital transformation through the participation of youth. This will allow GLAM institutions to carefully design digitally-enhanced activities, customized for a real audience;
- ⇒ allow GLAMs to implement and then assess the digitally-enhanced activities involving youth;
- ⇒ map social changes in relation to attitudes, stances and behaviours amongst GLAMs and youth (young persons, cultural youth organizations, young artists) in regards to cultural and civic values for better societies.

The GLAMers embraces multiple and diverse stakeholders. For one, this includes Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAMs), and the cultural and creative sector in general. We also aim to in-

Visit the [GLAMers](#) website for more information.



volve youth organisations and young persons. All forms of youth participation are encouraged and embraced, namely:

- ⇒ cultural youth associations;
- ⇒ young artists;
- ⇒ young activist groups for social change;
- ⇒ young individuals, not belonging to a group or a community, wishing to be part of coordinated action towards a reinforced European identity.

This project has been funded by Erasmus+ and the National Agency of the Applicant Organization, namely "Youth Board of Cyprus" with a total budget €221.744 and duration of 24 months. The consortium consists from the Cyprus University of Technology, the Project Applicant, the Citizens In Power, the Web2Learn, the Museum of Arts and Crafts and the Michael Culture Association.





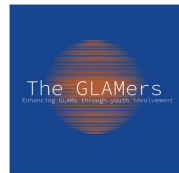
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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UNESCO Chair on
Digital Cultural Heritage at
the Cyprus University of
Technology



STUDY ON QUALITY IN 3D
DIGITISATION OF TANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE



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