

Limassol, 3rd of April 2026

From the Press Office of UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage
Cyprus University of Technology

INVITATION

Building Cultural Bridges, Shaping Shared Futures:
The Power of the Europeana Network Association Community

Monday, 25th May 2026, 14:30-17.30,
Cyprus University of Technology
Papadopoulos Building,
Themidos str. 1, CY 3036-Limassol

On Monday the 25th of May 2026, we have a timely and unique opportunity to strengthen Cyprus' connection to one of Europe's most dynamic and active communities in digital cultural heritage: the [Europeana Network Association \(ENA\)](#). Bringing together more than 6,000 multi- and interdisciplinary professionals - researchers, curators, technologists, educators, policymakers, and creatives - *ENA is united by a shared mission: to expand, enrich, and democratise access to [Europe's digital cultural heritage](#).*

Yet ENA is not simply a network one joins; it is a network that activates its members and one that, in turn, can be shaped by their contributions. Across seven expert communities - from [Copyright, Communications, Impact, Research, Education, Climate Action, and Technology](#) - members engage with pressing, real-world challenges: the responsible use of AI in Heritage, the measurement of cultural impact, the meaningful reuse of certified high quality digital collections, the protection of heritage in times of crisis, and the alignment of digital transformation with societal needs. These are not abstract discussions, but hands-on, professional exchanges that directly inform institutional practice, project development, and policy design.

Digital cultural heritage is no longer a peripheral concern; it is a defining pillar of Europe's knowledge economy, its educational ecosystem, and its [science-](#) and [cultural diplomacy](#). Cyprus has every reason and every capability - to play a leading and active role. Ours has never been merely an island at the crossroads of civilizations. For millennia, Cyprus has stood at the intersection of Asia, Africa, and Europe - at the very heart of one of the most influential cultural spheres in human history. Successive civilizations - from the Pharaoh civilization, to the Persian empire, ancient kingdoms and Hellenistic, Roman influences to Byzantine, Lusignan,

Venetian, and Ottoman periods - have left an extraordinary, layered legacy. This depth and continuity of cultural presence give Cyprus not only a rich past, but a unique authority and responsibility in shaping how heritage is preserved, interpreted, and shared in the digital age. *Cyprus is not simply a bridge; it is a living archive of civilizations.* Today and in the 21st century, that role extends decisively into the digital realm.

Cyprus possesses an exceptional wealth of cultural capital - ranging from world-renowned archaeological sites and historical monuments to archives, libraries, and living traditions - and is supported by a strong ecosystem of institutions ready to engage internationally. By connecting more actively with ENA, Cypriot professionals and stakeholders can:

- expand professional networks across Europe,
- develop partnerships for collaborative EU projects and funding opportunities,
- access training, knowledge exchange, and peer support on a Pan-European scale,
- showcase Cypriot collections and expertise on an international stage and
- actively contribute to shaping Europe's digital cultural heritage agenda.

Our gathering on the 25th of May is not intended as a formal awareness event, but as a catalyst for a real networking, connection and activation. It will take place in the framework of the [Digital Heritage Summit](#), organised by the [UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage / Research Center MNEMOSYNE](#) in cooperation with ENA and Europeana under the auspices of the [Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#), on 25th May 2026, at the Papadopoulos Building of the Cyprus University of Technology.

This event is dedicated to the full spectrum of professionals and knowledge-makers who shape, preserve, and transmit cultural heritage: librarians, museologists, archivists, archaeologists, historians, and educators/teachers/academicians across all levels - elementary, secondary, and tertiary - as well as researchers from all disciplines, with particular emphasis on the Humanities and Social Sciences. **It is an open invitation and free of charge participation** to all those who safeguard memory, generate knowledge, and educate future generations to come together and explore how Cyprus can engage more strategically and collectively with Europe's digital heritage landscape.

Let us use this moment to elevate Cyprus' presence, align our local strengths with European opportunities, and ensure that our voice - rooted in one of the world's richest and most enduring cultural histories - is both present and influential in shaping the future of digital cultural heritage.