

TWIN IT!
3D FOR EUROPE'S CULTURE
PART II

High-level political closing

INVITATION ONLY

12 MAY 2026

BERLAYMONT | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

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Institution: Europeana Foundation.





Programme

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

14:30 - 15:30 CEST

14:00 - 14:30	Arrivals, Registration and Exhibition
14:30 - 14:45	High-level political opening <i>Ms. Henna Virkkunen, European Commission Executive Vice-President for Technological Sovereignty, Security and Democracy</i> <i>Dr. Vasiliki Kassianidou, Deputy Minister of Culture of Cyprus</i>
14:45 - 15:20	Special guests' interventions <i>Addresses by invited Ministers:</i> <i>Ms. Heidy Purga, Minister of Culture of Estonia</i> <i>Dr. Lina Mendoni, Minister of Culture of Greece</i> <i>Mr. Ernest Urtasun-Domènech, Minister of Culture of Spain</i> <i>Ms. Nina Obuljen Koržinek, Minister of Culture and Media of Croatia</i> <i>Ms. Agnese Lāce, Minister of Culture of Latvia</i> <i>Ms. Vaida Aleknavičienė, Minister of Culture of Lithuania</i> <i>Ms. Anastasia Bondar, Deputy Minister of Culture for Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitalisation of Ukraine (video message)</i>
15:20 - 15:30	Twin it! Interactive exploration - Unveiling of the Twin it! Part II collection
15:30	Group picture moment <i>Ms. Henna Virkkunen, European Commission Executive Vice-President</i> <i>Dr. Vasiliki Kassianidou, Deputy Minister of Culture of Cyprus, and invited Ministers</i>
15:40	Twin it! Network Drinks & Exhibition



High-level political opening

(in order of appearance)



Ms. Henna Virkkunen

Executive Vice-President for Technological Sovereignty, Security, and Democracy, European Commission

Ms. Virkkunen was born in Joutsa and holds a Masters Degree in Journalism and Communication from the University of Jyväskylä, where she graduated in 1999 and a Degree in Philosophy and Communication in 2007.

She started her career in local politics as vice-chair of the Central Finland Regional Council in 1999. In 2007, she was elected to the Finnish Parliament and in the subsequent years served as Minister of Education until 2011, Public Administration and Local Government until 2014 and Transport in 2014.

In 2024, she was nominated as Commissioner by the Finnish Government and Ms. Virkkunen was appointed as Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy in the von der Leyen cabinet.



Dr. Vasiliki Kassianidou

Deputy Minister of Culture, Cyprus

Prior to her appointment, Dr Kassianidou was a member of the faculty of the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, which she joined in 1994. In 2013 she was promoted to the rank of Professor in Environmental Archaeology and Archaeometry.

She studied Chemistry and Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College, USA (BA, cum laude) and completed her PhD at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Her research focused on ancient technology, with particular emphasis on the production and trade of Cypriot copper and its environmental impact. She also has an extensive list of publications.

She has been Director of the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus, Dean of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Cyprus, amongst others. In 2022, she was elected Corresponding Member of the Archaeological Institute of America, only the second Cypriot ever to have been given this honour.



Special guests' interventions

(in order of appearance)



Ms. Heidi Purga

Minister of Culture, Estonia

Ms. Purga studied at the Tallinn Pedagogical University in stage directing, graduating in 1996, and obtained a degree from Concordia International University in 2002 in Electronic Media. She is a native speaker of Estonian, and also speaks English and Russian.

Since 1993, Ms. Purga has worked for a series of broadcasters and radios as Editor and Presenter, including the Estonian Public Broadcaster. Between 2004 and 2013 she was Editor-in-Chief of Radio 2 and Head Producer of the Eesti Laul. Since 2017, she has been a Member of the Tallinn City Council. Between 2015 and 2023, she was elected to the Riigikogu, the Estonian Parliament. In 2023, she was appointed Minister of Culture of the Republic of Estonia.



Dr. Lina Mendoni

Minister of Culture, Greece

Dr. Mendoni was born in Athens. She acquired Bachelor's degrees in Classical Philology and History and Archaeology at the University of Athens. In 1988 she was awarded her PhD in Archaeology cum laude by the University of Athens. She also received a scholarship from the British Archaeological School at Athens for a post-doctoral study on ancient Greek onomastics in Oxford. In 1989, she joined the Institute of Greek and Roman Antiquity of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, where she still serves as a Principal Researcher.

She served as a Special Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Planning and Public Works, and the Ministry for the Aegean. From 1999 to 2004, she was Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture, and from November 2009 to January 2015 of the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, Culture and Sports, and Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports successively.



Special guests' interventions

(in order of appearance)



Mr. Ernest Urtasun-Domènech

Minister of Culture, Spain

Mr Urtasun-Domènech was born in Barcelona. He holds a Degree in Economic Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a postgraduate degree in International Relations from the university of Barcelona. Between 2006 and 2010 he was an adviser to the European Parliament. In 2010 he was appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Diplomat and was Diplomatic Adviser to the Secretary General of the Union of the Mediterranean. In 2014, he was elected to the European Parliament where he was a Member of the Committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Fiscal Affairs, and Foreign Affairs while also serving as Vice-President of the Greens/EFA Group. Since 2023, he has been the Spanish Minister of Culture.



Ms Nina Obuljen Koržinek

Minister of Culture and Media, Croatia

*Ms. Koržinek, graduated from the Academy of Music and Faculty of Philosophy and obtained her Ph.D. from the Faculty of Political Sciences. Prior to her appointment as the Minister of Culture in 2016, she was working as a research associate at the Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb. She is publishing books and articles as well as expert studies in Croatian and international journals and teaches at the University of Zagreb. Her consultancy and expert engagements include work for UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Cultural Foundation, UNDP, European Parliament etc. She received the European Cultural Policy Research Award for her research on the impact of the EU enlargement on cultural policies that was published in the book *Why we need European Cultural Policies: impact of EU enlargement on countries in transition*, Amsterdam, 2006. Former Assistant Minister and State Secretary, she was a member of the negotiating team for the Croatian accession to the EU responsible for the fields of culture and education as well as information society and media.*



Special guests' interventions

(in order of appearance)



Ms. Agnese Lāce

Minister of Culture, Latvia

Agnese Lāce is the Minister for Culture of the Republic of Latvia and co-chair of the Latvian political party Progresīvie. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Latvia and a European Master's degree in Sociology, specializing in International Migration and Social Cohesion, earned at the University of Deusto and Osnabrück University. Before entering politics, Agnese worked extensively in the research of migration and integration policy and was actively involved in civil society organizations. She is passionate about inclusive, data-driven policymaking.



Ms. Vaida Aleknavičienė

Minister of Culture, Lithuania

Ms. Aleknavičienė is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Work at the University of Lapland. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Mykolas Romeris University (2022) and a Master's degree in Education from Aleksandras Stulginskis University. She earned her Bachelor's degrees as an English Language Teacher from Šiauliai University and Business Management at the G. Stulpinienė College of Management. Before assuming ministerial office, she served as a Member of the Seimas (2024–2025), where she chaired the Committee on Education and Science and was an active member of the Committee on European Affairs. From 2015 to 2024, she served as Vice-Mayor of Joniškis District Municipality. Alongside her political career, she has been an active educator working as a teacher and project manager at the Agriculture School in Joniškis (2000–2024), a lecturer at Mykolas Romeris University (2023–2024), and earlier as an English language teacher.



Special guests' interventions

(in order of appearance)



Ms. Anastasia Bondar

Deputy Minister of Culture of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitalisation, Ukraine

In 2003, Ms. Bondar obtained a master's degree in the field of international relations in European politics at the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

For over 15 years, she worked for Ukrainian and foreign telecom corporations and investment companies. She was engaged in foreign economic activity, business development support, marketing and operational management. From 2019 to 2021, she worked at Odesa Regional State Administration, holding the position of deputy head of the Odesa Regional State Administration for Digital Development. Since 2021 she has been the Deputy Minister for Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitalization of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine.

An author of a number of scientific publications on the topic of digital transformation in public administration; a certified translator and a teacher of the English language.



Twin it! Interactive exploration - Unveiling of the Twin it! Part II collection



Harry Verwayen

Executive Director
Europeana Foundation

Harry is responsible for making sure that we meet our objectives as an organisation, and do that well. What he likes to do more than anything else though is to design and implement new business models that will change our way of thinking about heritage as an enabler of societal and economic growth. Quite taken lately by the developments of the sharing economy. A visual thinker, he needs a white board as much as a strong coffee. Mediocre football player, reasonable cook, aspiring photographer.



Exhibition



ARTETRA

Artetra is a European platform for creating browser-based immersive collaborative virtual worlds and digital exhibitions that combine 3D objects, photos, text, videos, and sound. As a Europeana Data Delivery Partner, Artetra enables institutions to deliver EDM-compliant datasets programmatically and to reuse cultural heritage content through the Europeana API, supporting FAIR, interoperable, and engaging cultural experiences that can be shared or embedded directly into institutional platforms.



XRculture

*XRculture — eXplore & Reuse 3D cultural heritage within the Data Space
The project is reimagining Europe's cultural legacy through AI, 3D digitisation and Extended Reality. XRculture applies cutting-edge AI techniques such as Gaussian Splatting and NeRF to generate high-quality 3D models of difficult-to-digitise collections, including transparent, reflective and textureless objects like glass, while an open framework for 3D web visualisation enables their reuse. XR scenarios are deployed for heritage at risk, lost heritage, tourism and education.*



Exhibition



W*NDER

University of Glasgow / Wonder

The Wonder platform has been developed by the University of Glasgow in collaboration with Edify, as part of the 'Museums in the Metaverse' Levelling-Up Innovation Accelerator project. Wonder provides Cultural Heritage professionals with a platform on which to create and publish immersive heritage experiences. Building on no-code tools for educators (Edify), Wonder lowers the technical threshold so that subject experts - not technical experts - are able to tell their stories, with their assets, in the highest possible quality.

The R&D project drew significant funding (£2.7m) and industry match (£3.7m) based on two key innovations. The first is a secure digital loaning mechanism that ensures control and provenance remains in the hands of collections themselves. The second is an egalitarian revenue share model that gives collections the opportunity to generate income (or not, if they choose) from the use of their assets on the platform.

3DBigDataSpace

3DBigDataSpace contributes to the implementation of the common European data space for cultural heritage by enabling the large-scale aggregation, standardisation, and reuse of 3D cultural heritage data. Through AI-driven tools and interoperable infrastructures, the project supports cultural institutions in enhancing data quality, accessibility, and cross-sectoral reuse.





Exhibition



3D-4CH

3D-4CH is establishing the European online Competence Centre dedicated to 3D cultural heritage, focusing on preservation, digitisation and knowledge transfer across the EU and Ukraine. Building on 4CH, the common European data space for cultural heritage and 5DCulture, and incorporating insights from XRculture and 3DBigDataSpace, the Centre delivers training, guidelines, standards and best practices for 3D digitisation, supports the publication of high-quality 3D content within the European data space for cultural heritage, and advances R&D in 3D technologies in synergy with ECCCH, E-RIHS and DARIAH. Special attention is given to capacity building for Ukrainian cultural heritage institutions.

EUreka3d-XR

EUreka3D-XR is the continuation project of EUreka3D, funded by the Digital Europe Programme of the European Union, to support Cultural Heritage Institutions facing the challenge of advancing in the digitization effort, especially in 3D digitization, access, storage, sharing, and reuse in XR experiences. It offers solutions, tools, resources capacity building activities and inspirational case studies for 3D cultural heritage in XR, with a focus on enriching and supporting the common European data space for cultural heritage.





Exhibition



Europeana

The Europeana Initiative has more than more than 15 years of experience in empowering the cultural heritage sector in its digital transformation. Funded by the EU, Europeana develops expertise, tools and policies that embrace digital change and encourage partnerships that foster innovation, and work to make it easier for people to use cultural heritage for education, research, creation and recreation. Our efforts contribute to an open, knowledgeable and creative society.

The Europeana Initiative deploys the common European data space for cultural heritage. As a flagship initiative funded by the European Union, the data space enables the sharing and reuse of cultural heritage data across Europe.



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Address

Berlaymont, European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200, 1040 Brussels

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