

Cyprus hosts the leading European event on Digital Cultural Heritage

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Leading experts, researchers, scientists and policymakers from around the world will be in Limassol from 25 to 29 May 2026 to participate in the **Digital Heritage Summit 2026**, which is being held under the auspices of the **Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, the **Deputy Ministry of Culture and Europeana**. The Conference is organized by the **UNESCO Chair for Digital Cultural Heritage at the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)**, in collaboration with **Heritage Malta**.

This special edition of the internationally recognized EuroMed conference series is expected to be a reference point for the dialogue around the future of culture in the digital age, bringing to the fore the most modern technological developments, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Extended Reality (XR), Digital Twins, immersive storytelling and advanced 3D digitization technologies.

The holding of the Conference during the Cyprus Presidency gives particular importance to the role of Cyprus as a hub of European cooperation and strengthens Europe's position in shaping policies and strategies for the digital transformation of the cultural sector. At the same time, the program highlights issues such as the protection of cultural heritage from looting and illicit trafficking, resilience to climate change, open access to knowledge and the ethical use of new technologies.



SAVE THE DATE

📅 25-29 MAY 2026

📍 Cyprus University of Technology,
Tassos Papadopoulos Building,
Limassol, Cyprus



The five-day program includes high-level presentations, expert talks, roundtable discussions and the innovative Hackit!4EU Hackathon, which focuses on the exploitation and reuse of high-quality 3D cultural heritage data.

The Digital Heritage Summit 2026 will be attended by distinguished personalities from European institutions, research centers and international organizations. Among them are Ms. Rehana Schwinninger-Ladak, Deputy Director of the Data Directorate, Dr. **Anne Bajart** Head of the Interactive Technologies, Digital for Culture and Education Unit of the European Commission (DG CONNECT), **Dimitris Skouridis** Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus, **Harry Verwayen**, Director General of the **Europeana Foundation**, **Dr. Ines Vodopivec**, Secretary General of **AI4LAM**, as well as leading experts such as **Xavier Rodier**, **Gabriele Gattiglia**, **Xenophon Zavoulis**, **Thomas R. Kline**, **Mikel Borrás**, **Julia Schnitzer** and **Dominik Lengyel**, who are pioneers in the fields of digital cultural heritage, artificial intelligence, archaeology, law and digital technologies.

The Digital Heritage Summit 2026 will highlight how new technologies are redefining the way we preserve, interpret and reconnect societies with their shared cultural heritage, shaping new perspectives for future generations.

The Conference is held in collaboration with leading European organizations and initiatives, such as Europeana, the European Commission (DG CONNECT),

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AI4LAM, Eureka3D Competence Center, Eureka3D-XR, Time Machine Organisation, HERITALISE, IMPULSE, the pan-European project ECHOES and many others.

Technology at the service of culture – Saint Neophytos tells his story

The summit will highlight the European project **Eureka3D-XR (2025–2026)**, which uses advanced 3D digitization and augmented/virtual reality technologies to showcase Europe's cultural heritage. The project is an innovative initiative of the European Union, with a particularly extensive and comprehensive nature, accompanied by a central week of presentation and dissemination of the results.

The central element of the project is the digital representation of the Cloister of Saint Neophytos in Paphos, as well as the digitization of objects from the museum, archive and library of the Monastery. At the same time, two more pilot applications are being implemented in Spain (Girona) and France (Bibracte). Through high-precision 3D models and XR applications, visitors experience the space in a virtual environment and interact with digital representations, such as that of Saint Neophytos. The monk appears to "emerge" from the wall in full 3D and tells his story, from his origins to his life and experiences, while the possibility of interactive questioning is provided through special devices. The project is being implemented by an international team of scientists and combines digitization, documentation, historical research and artificial intelligence, with the aim of preserving and making cultural heritage globally accessible through innovative, immersive experiences.

In an era where cultural heritage is evolving from the "Digital Twin" to the "Memory Twin", projects like Eureka3D-XR enrich the cultural experience with stories, knowledge and experiential dimension, transforming the past into a living and accessible experience for modern societies.

We are waiting for you at the Enclave of the Monastery of Saint Neophytos on **Sunday, May 24, at 10:00 a.m.**, after the Divine Liturgy, to watch an unprecedented and innovative presentation, during which the Saint appears in a unique, digital experience.



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