



News

Digital Heritage Summit: New technologies at the service of cultural memory

16.06.2026 15:12

SigmaLive



With the participation of leading scientists, researchers, policymakers, representatives of European institutions and leaders of the cultural and technological community from around the world, [the Digital Heritage Summit 2026](#), which took place in Limassol from 25 to 29 May 2026, was completed with great success.

The only leading Pan-European event on digital cultural heritage was held in collaboration with [Heritage Malta](#) and was under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Deputy Ministry of Culture and in collaboration with the Europeana digital library, while it was organized by the UNESCO Chair for Digital Cultural Heritage of the Cyprus University of Technology (TUCT), in collaboration with Heritage Malta.

This year's event was a special edition of the internationally recognized EuroMed 2026 conference, which is considered one of the most important international forums for research, innovation and policy-making in the field of digital cultural heritage.

During the five days of the Summit, innovative applications and strategies were presented that highlight the transformative role of digital technologies in culture, education and society. The focus was on issues such as the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning and Knowledge Graphs, XR technologies and immersive experiences, the transition from "Digital Twins" to "Memory Twins", the reuse of 3D cultural heritage data, the protection of cultural heritage from looting and illegal trafficking, risk management and resilience to climate change, as well as long-term data preservation and open access to knowledge.

The holding of the Summit during the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU gave particular political and strategic importance to the organization, strengthening Cyprus' role as a European hub for cooperation and innovation in the field of cultural heritage and digital technologies.

The program kicked off on May 25 with the [Europeana Network Association](#) event titled "Building Cultural Bridges, Shaping Shared Futures," which focused on collaboration and shaping common strategies among European cultural heritage communities.

The official opening of the Summit took place on 26 May, with high-level greetings from Dr. Lina Kassianidou, Deputy Minister of Culture, Dr. Konstantinos Kleovoulou, Director of Research and Innovation of the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, and Dr. Marinos Ioannidis and Dr. Athos Agapiou of the UNESCO Chair and Research Centre for Digital Cultural Heritage "Mnemosyne". The focus was on the importance of digitising cultural heritage, the use and re-use of digital cultural data, as well as the prospects of persistent virtual worlds and artificial intelligence.

The Hackit4EU Hackathon, which took place on May 27 and 28, attracted particular interest, bringing together researchers, programmers, creators and cultural professionals in an intensive collaborative process of exploiting and reusing high-quality 3D cultural heritage data.

The conclusion of the Summit on May 29 included a keynote address by Eleanor E. Fink on "The Making of Object ID and its Implementation," as well as a roundtable discussion on the role of digitization in addressing the illicit trafficking of cultural goods.

The Digital Heritage Summit 2026 was attended by distinguished figures from the European Commission, international organisations, universities, museums and research centres. Among them were Rehana Schwinninger-Ladak, Deputy Director-General for Data, Interactive Technologies and Digital for Culture and Education at the European Commission, Dr. Anne Bajart, Head of Unit for Interactive Technologies, Digital for Culture and Education at the European Commission and Dimitris Skouridis, Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus.

The presentation of the European project [EUreka3D-XR](#), which utilizes advanced 3D digitization and augmented/virtual reality technologies to highlight Europe's cultural heritage, also had a particular impact.

The centerpiece of the presentation was the digital representation of the Church of Saint Neophytos in Paphos and the interactive experience that allowed visitors to interact with a 3D digital form of Saint Neophytos, which narrates his story and life through XR and artificial intelligence technologies. This innovative application impressively highlighted how new technologies can transform the cultural experience into an experiential, interactive and globally accessible experience, connecting the past with the possibilities of the future.

The Digital Heritage Summit 2026 was held in collaboration with leading European organizations and initiatives, including Europeana, European Commission (DG CONNECT), AI4LAM, EUreka3D Competence Center, EUreka3D-XR, Time Machine Organisation, HERITALISE, STECCI, IMPULSE, ECHOES and many other international partners.

The success of the event confirmed the potential of Cyprus as an international center of dialogue, research and innovation in the field of digital cultural heritage and highlighted the importance of European cooperation in shaping a sustainable, open and technologically advanced future for culture.

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The Digital Heritage Summit 2026 left a strong legacy with the message that technology, when used responsibly and with vision, can preserve collective memory, national identity, enhance access to knowledge and create new ways of connecting societies with their cultural heritage.

Tags: Digital Heritage Summit 2026

Properties of the week



Residential plot near the "Metro" supermarket in Strovolos
€100,000

2 bedroom apartment in Paralimni
€85,000

2 bedroom maisonette in the parish of Agios Theodoros
€175,000

Altamira
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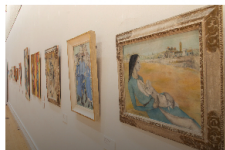
The Supreme Court rejected the appeal filed by actors Stavros Louras and Giorgos Mouaimis against the Cyprus Theatre Organization (THOK), upholding the first-instance decision of the Labor Disputes Court regarding the compensation...



VIDEO: The future of espionage - China unveiled a drone... fly

17.06.2026 10:31

The "tomorrow" of espionage is a reality today... China's National University of Defense Technology has just built a drone the size of a... fly. ...



The exhibition "George Pol. Georgiou: Cyprus Forever" was inaugurated in London

16.06.2026 22:26

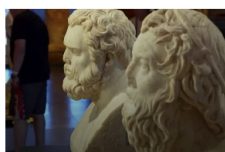
The opening of the exhibition "George Pol. Georgiou: Cyprus Forever" - one of the emblematic actions of the Cultural Programme of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union - took place at the Hellenic Centre in London...



Telegram: Η Ινδία απέκλεισε πάνω από 150 εκ. χρήστες

16.06.2026 18:17

Ο Πάβελ Ντούροφ, ιδρυτής της εφαρμογής ανταλλαγής μηνυμάτων Telegram, δήλωσε σήμερα ότι με την προσωρινή απαγόρευση του Telegram στην Ινδία, η ινδική κυβέρνηση «τιμώρησε» περισσότερους από 150 απλούς χρήστες στη...



Israel: Two rare busts discovered almost intact after 1,700 years

16.06.2026 09:41

Two extremely rare marble busts from the Roman era, approximately 1,700 years old, were unveiled on Monday by the Israel Antiquities Authority, following their discovery in an excavation near the town of Binyamina-Givat Ada in northern Israel...



Starmer: End social media for under-16s - "Back to childhood"

15.06.2026 11:40

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday he would ban under-16s from social media sites and impose restrictions on betting and live-streaming platforms, in a crackdown on big tech companies that Reuters reported goes...



US requests data from OpenAI on ChatGPT users

13.06.2026 06:22

Several US states have launched an investigation into OpenAI and have requested information from the artificial intelligence company. According to the Wall Street Journal, the request concerns data on users of the artificial intelligence app...



From Pokémon Go to the battlefield: The AI that trained and guides drones

12.06.2026 15:42

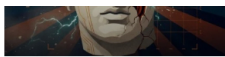
Artificial intelligence trained on Pokémon Go user data could one day help military drones locate their location in war zones, sparking backlash and concerns about the use of civilian data for military applications...



Claude Fable 5: Ξεπερνά GPT-5.5 και Gemini στις αξιολογήσεις

11.06.2026 13:20

Νέο γύρο ανταγωνισμού στην τεχνητή νοημοσύνη πυροδοτεί η κυκλοφορία του Claude Fable 5 από την Anthropic, με τα πρώτα στοιχεία να δείχνουν ότι το μοντέλο ξεπερνά τόσο το GPT-5.5 της OpenAI όσο και το Gemini 3.1 Pro της Google...



Η Ευρώπη απέναντι στην παραπληροφόρηση και η περίπτωση της Κύπρου

10.06.2026 13:55

Το τελευταίο διάστημα επανέρχεται όλο και συχνότερα στη δημόσια συζήτηση το ζήτημα της παραπληροφόρησης, της δημόσιας στοχοποίησης και των ορίων της ψηφιακής επιρροής. Η πρόσφατη παρέμβαση του Κώστα Κλεάνθους για το...



ΕΕ: Προσωρινά μέτρα κατά της Meta για το WhatsApp και τους AI βοηθούς

09.06.2026 21:36

The European Commission announced on Tuesday that it has ordered Meta to restore and maintain access to competing general-purpose artificial intelligence assistants to WhatsApp, pending the conclusion of an investigation into a possible...



Russia: Ministry recommends lifting ban on Roblox game

09.06.2026 19:28

Russia's Digital Development Ministry said on Tuesday it had asked law enforcement agencies to support a proposal to lift the ban imposed on the American online gaming platform Roblox RBLX.N, based on assurances that the company will...



Minors and nude images: Britain's new clash with Big Tech

09.06.2026 12:40

The British government has given tech giants such as Apple and Google until September to incorporate mechanisms that will prevent minors from creating, sending or receiving nude images via mobile phones and tablets...



Digitization of the life & work of the distinguished Cypriot Composer Stelios Pisis

09.06.2026 08:55

The Cyprus University of Technology Library and the Stelios Pisis Music Foundation are organizing an event to present the Digitization of the life and work of the distinguished Cypriot Composer Stelios Pisis...



Eurovision: Viewership drops by 35 million – What is the reason?

06.06.2026 09:57

Eurovision attracted 131 million viewers this year, 35 million fewer than the previous year, after five venues boycotted due to Israel's participation, according to figures presented by the organizers today...

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