



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT)

Data

Data Applications and Creativity

# 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Commission Expert Group on Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana (DCHE)

10-11 May 2017

Euroforum Building, 10 rue Robert Stumper, L-2557 Luxembourg  
Room EUFO 0/001

## Minutes

### 1. Introduction

This was the first meeting of the Commission Expert Group on Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana (DCHE), set up as a formal Commission Expert Group with the Commission Decision C(2017) 1444 of 7.3.2017. Participants were appointed representatives of the members (Member States' competent authorities) and observers (Iceland, Serbia). External experts were invited to give presentations on specific topics.

The meeting was chaired by Javier Hernández-Ros, Acting Director of DG CNECT/ Directorate G.

Webpage for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the group:

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/first-meeting-european-commissions-expert-group-digital-cultural-heritage-and-europeana-dche>

### 2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public. Minutes and materials are made available online.

### 3. List of points discussed

**Day 1: Wednesday, 10 May 2016, 11:00 – 17:00**

The Chair welcomed the participants to the first meeting of the DCHE expert group, both delegates who already participated in the former Member States Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation and new delegates. The group will have several years of work ahead until 2020, to share information, help members in their work at national level and help the Commission to achieve its objectives in this area. Meetings will normally take place twice a year. Agendas will include developments at EU level as well as updates from Member States and specific topics in the area of Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana that the group would like to tackle. The Commission would count on members to propose topics that are of interest at national level. The Commission will also encourage work between meetings.

#### ▪ Adoption of the agenda

The Chair announced the meeting agenda. The agenda was adopted without changes.

## ▪ **Recap of Council conclusions of 31 May 2016 on the role of Europeana**

Presentation available [here](#)

The Commission (DG CNECT/G.2) gave a recap of the Council conclusions on the role of Europeana for the digital access, visibility and use of European cultural heritage, as the starting point for the setup of the DCHE expert group and for further work in relation to Europeana, in particular the recommendations of the Council to Member States, the Commission and the Europeana operator, what has already been done in this regard and what remains to be done.

The Chair added that according to the Treaties, EU competence in the area of culture is limited to support, coordination or complementary actions, whereas the core of the work is done at national level. It is therefore important that group members act as the link between the EU level and the national level, and as ambassadors in their countries for the work at EU level. This can be difficult in cases of MS where culture is decentralised, however, members can exercise coordination and influence in their MS.

It was stressed by the Commission that, as requested in the Council conclusions, it is important that DCHE members establish a relationship and coordination with their Member State representatives in the CEF Committee, to ensure that the CEF Committee members can support the work on Europeana given the high competition for budget among several areas of work. This applies also to the allocation of research budget from H2020 for research in digital technologies and cultural heritage, although this is not a direct responsibility of the DCHE group.

## ▪ **DCHE Expert Group: scope and tasks**

Presentation available [here](#)

The Commission (DG CNECT/G.2) presented the scope and tasks of the DCHE expert group. In particular,

- Tasks that continue the mandate of the Member States' Expert Group (MSEG) on Digitisation and Digital Preservation include:
  - Monitoring of progress regarding the implementation of the [Commission Recommendation \(2011/711/EU\) on digitisation, online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation](#) ("Recommendation");
  - Providing a forum for cooperation between Member States and the Commission;
  - Monitoring developments regarding the economic opportunities arising from re-use of cultural resources.
- New tasks, as envisaged by the Council conclusions on the role of Europeana, include providing support and guidance to the Commission in defining the general objectives, priorities for actions and the envisaged level of funding to be proposed for the Europeana core service platform and generic services under CEF.

Specifically for the new tasks of DCHE regarding support and guidance in relation to Europeana, the Commission clarified that there are two types of contribution by DCHE members:

- (a) Advice and support regarding funding of the Europeana DSI under the CEF Annual Work Programmes: Members are invited to provide advice on what could be the objectives of the Europeana DSI Core Service, or what could be the purpose of Generic Services; and support in defending those proposals when they are discussed at the CEF Committee (in collaboration with the Member State's representative in the CEF Committee).
- (b) Advice, or a formal opinion if required, on Europeana's proposals or strategy documents: For proposals or documents that Europeana may submit to the DCHE expert group, DCHE members would need to liaise with stakeholders at national level in order to express a coordinated opinion of the Member State, if so required.

The Chair gave the floor to the delegates for questions and discussion on the mandate of the DCHE expert group.

NL – suggested that Digital Preservation is still one of the biggest challenges at national level. The group could be a relevant platform, especially since in H2020 there are fewer opportunities to fund research in this area. The Commission confirmed Digital Preservation as one of the main areas in the scope of the DCHE activities as nothing has changed in this respect in relation to the MSEG mandate.

BE – referred to the policy monitoring aspect and suggested that based on progress reports, and on the analysis of the consolidated progress report of the Commission, there can be a lot for the group to work on, such as through working groups and/or national networks.

BE - In Belgium we have worked on building a formal collaboration with our representatives in the CEF Committee. However, Europeana is just one of the topics and we need to ask to get the news. Maybe a role for the secretariat of the DCHE expert group could be to inform the DCHE members of any developments or when we would need to provide input or lobby. The Commission agreed to keep DCHE members informed of key dates regarding the CEF Telecom Work Programmes.

PL – in relation to providing a formal opinion on documents about Europeana, we have a local Europeana working group that can be consulted, but we need more time than 10 calendar days, ideally a month, to prepare a meeting and have the feedback of cultural institutions. The Chair suggested discussing this on the second day of the meeting, when Europeana Foundation representatives will be present.

BE – remarked that there are 3 Member States representatives in the Europeana Foundation Board, each holding the post for 1.5 years. What is the representation mandate of these members – are they representing their Member State or the DCHE group? The Chair suggested raising this question on the second day of the meeting, when Europeana Foundation representatives will be present.

#### ▪ **Evaluation of Europeana: state of play**

Presentation available [here](#)

The Commission (Federico Milani, Deputy Head of Unit DG CNECT/G.2) gave an update on the status of the independent evaluation of Europeana, requested by the Council. The panel of experts as well as the support contract have been selected and the evaluation is about to kick off. Contracts are about to be signed with the following experts: Fellner, Dieter; Kaltenbach, Laure; McGinnis, Jarred; Rypson, Piotr; Tsakou, Gianna. The Commission stressed the importance of the independence which made it challenging to find experts knowledgeable in this topic without a possible conflict of interest. Procedures to ensure compliance with the Better Regulations of the European Commission have also taken time.

DCHE members will have the opportunity to provide input as part of the evaluation process.

#### ▪ **CEF Work Programmes for Europeana DSI**

Presentation available [here](#)

The Commission gave an overview of the processes for the funding of Europeana as a Digital Service Infrastructure under the Connecting Europe Facility in Telecom (CEF Telecom) <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom>

The CEF Telecom Annual Work Programmes, i.e. the financing decisions defining actions, budget and time table for the calls in the following year, are drafted by the Commission. They are discussed with the CEF Telecom Expert Group, which assists the Commission in this process, and presented to the CEF Telecom Committee. Both the CEF Telecom Expert Group and the CEF Telecom Committee have Member States' representatives as members. Subject to a positive opinion by the CEF Committee

<sup>1 2</sup>, the proposed Work Programme is adopted by the Commission. The process lasts approximately one year. An indicative timeline in the case of the CEF Telecom WP 2018 is as follows:

- Orientations prepared by the Commission in March 2017;
- Orientations discussed in CEF Telecom Expert Group (assisting the Commission) in March 2017;
- WP 2018 proposal discussed in CEF Telecom Expert Group in June 2017;
- Presentation of WP 2018 to CEF Telecom Committee in October 2017;
- Formal opinion of Member States (in CEF Telecom Committee) in January 2018;
- Adoption of WP by the Commission in February 2018.

Two types of services can be funded under CEF<sup>3</sup>:

(a) Core Service Platforms, i.e. central hubs of digital service infrastructures aiming to ensure trans-European connectivity, access and interoperability; and

(b) Generic Services, i.e. gateway services linking one or more national infrastructure(s) to core service platform(s).

Europeana's funding under CEF covers the Core Service Platform (since the beginning of CEF, 100% funding) and Generic Services (since 2016, up to 75% funding).

#### ▪ **Processes and ways of working**

- ***Draft Rules of Procedure***

The Commission announced that, following earlier comments of the group members regarding the circulation of documents well in advance, a redrafted copy of the Rules of Procedure will be made available to the DCHE members for comments and adoption on the second day under Miscellaneous.

- ***Discussion on ways of working / Topics of interest***

The Chair invited participants to propose particular topics of interest related to the different areas of the Commission Recommendation (2011/711/EU) on digitisation, online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation, or to Digital Cultural Heritage in general, that could be chosen for discussion and exchange of expertise on, in the framework of the DCHE expert group. He suggested choosing topics that the group can influence. He also invited participants to share their views on best ways to organise the work of the group.

Proposals by the participants included:

NL - Statistics and methodology to obtain them, following the next ENUMERATE Core Survey.

LU - Copyright, i.e. the group could develop certain proposals to inform the national implementations of a new copyright directive, following the current discussions at the Council.

FI - Semantic interoperability, as well as reuse: collecting information to track metadata interoperability, reuse, status of reuse.

PL - Statistics, particularly the methodology to collect statistics is important. In Poland there are major problems in filling the ENUMERATE surveys. PL would be very interested to learn how different Member States are dealing with methodology and is willing to work on this.

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<sup>1</sup> CEF legal base: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1316/oj>

<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32011R0182>

<sup>3</sup> CEF Telecoms Guidelines: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ%3AJOL\\_2014\\_086\\_R\\_0014\\_01&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ%3AJOL_2014_086_R_0014_01&from=EN)

CY - Financing digital cultural heritage activities – through structural funds, but also other initiatives

DE - Supported the proposal of the methodology for statistics, to provide support with the collection of statistics and communication with cultural institutions. Additional suggestion: to select some topics and have some communication from the group (group output), which would give good visibility to the group and strengthen its role.

ES - Interested in clarifying the ENUMERATE methodology too. Also, exchanges with countries that have established national strategies.

BE – Suggested that selected topics could be included as specific questions in the next progress reports, to monitor progress and good practices in Member States and align work.

Moreover, NL suggested that the Commission could set up a Yammer group in order to facilitate collaboration of group members and work between meetings.

The Chair welcomed the participants' proposals and agreed with setting up a dedicated group on Yammer. He invited delegates to discuss further in their countries and come back with additional proposals.

▪ **Recap of Commission Recommendation (2011/711/EU) on Digitisation, Online Accessibility and Digital Preservation & Member States progress reports**

Presentation available [here](#)

The Commission (DG CNECT/G.2) gave a recap of the different areas of the Commission Recommendation 2011/711/EU, which is the main Commission policy document in the area of digitisation, online accessibility and digital presentation. The Commission adopted this Recommendation in order to address different challenges in the field and to assist Member States in tackling a number of them. This Recommendation constitutes a useful framework for action for cultural institutions in Member States and promotes solutions for the digitisation, cross-border accessibility, re-use and long-term preservation of Europe's cultural heritage.

In line with the Recommendation, Member States are asked to inform the Commission, every 2 years, of actions taken for its implementation. The Commission's 2nd consolidated Progress Report covering years 2013-2015 was briefly presented. Participants were reminded that the deadline for submission of the next report is approaching. National reports should reach Commission by 31 October 2017. The relevant Commission template with questions will be sent to Member States in June. New reports should focus on new developments with an overview of the current situation.

The Chair underlined the importance of providing national reports on time and invited the DCHE members to suggest possible topics to be included in the template survey to be sent to Member States in June. Any suggestion for improvements to the previous template would be more than welcome. It was also reminded that the last Commission consolidated report received wide attention and was much appreciated. At the same time, it is evident that some parts of the Commission Recommendation are outdated (e.g. Europeana quantities targets) and there may be a question at some point whether we should revise the recommendation – perhaps this should be looked into more in detail after the Europeana evaluation. In any case, the vast majority of the topics covered by the Recommendation seem to be still relevant and its overall pertinence has been confirmed by the discussion within the previous group (MSEG)

CY – pointed out that more collaboration is needed with UNESCO who is carrying out important work concerning digital cultural heritage. The Copernicus for Cultural Heritage event was given as a good example of successful involvement of UNESCO experts. The Chair agreed and suggested to consider inviting the UNESCO expert(s) for the next DCHE meeting,

RO – pointed out at still existing difficulties with encouraging publishers to make their digitised material available online.

#### ▪ **Planning and monitoring digitisation**

The Commission invited three presentations on good practices in the area of planning and monitoring digitisation (one of the five main areas of the Recommendation):

##### - ***Large scale digitisation in Romania***

Presentation available [here](#)

Dan Matei (RO representative) gave an overview of the "E-Culture" project financed in Romania via the operational programme "Competitiveness" with the main objective to develop the culturalia.ro platform - a shared national catalogue (and to ingest the national heritage legacy databases). The foreseen result is to make at least 550,000 cultural resources freely accessible online, available not only to cultural institutions but also to the general public. Around 250k records will come from unique handwritten metadata records produced in 70s and 80s. Although, 28 cultural institutions will provide content, the National Library is not part of the project. The platform should be fully operational in 2020. It was emphasised that Commission Recommendation 2011/711/EU (particularly the target set up for Romania for the minimum content contributed to Europeana) played an important role as a "political" incentive in safeguarding the necessary funding. It was stressed that project of this magnitude faces a lot of challenges, e.g. content selection dilemma, management difficulties, ethical issues, procedural burdens (e.g. requirement to carry out the feasibility study)

The Chair emphasised the importance of the project's sustainability and the need to reflect already at an early stage on questions such as who is going to be in charge of and responsible for the platform after the funding period.

##### - ***Procedures for using ESIF Funds for digital culture activities – the experience of Poland***

Presentation available [here](#)

Magdalena Piotrowska (Ministry of Development, Poland) delivered a presentation focusing on funding digitisation of cultural material with the help of the European Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020. It was stressed that one of the reasons why it is possible to support digitalisation of cultural resources was the fact that Poland for the first time implemented a separate programme dedicated entirely to the digital development of the country – Digital Poland Operational Programme. This Programme includes specific measure dedicated to digital cultural heritage resources. Allocation guaranteed for this measure is about 100 million euros. The first call for proposals had taken places already and 4 cultural heritage resources projects were selected. Nevertheless, the implementation of the programme and especially the project selection procedure faced certain difficulties, mainly related to poor quality of applications (e.g. complementarity of the content - question whether certain object has been digitised already, technical and IT problems, etc.) or additional administrative requirements that have to be met (e.g. opinion of the Committee of the Council of Ministers for the Digitization). There are additional possibilities to fund projects in the digitisation area at the regional level. 14 out of 16 regions in Poland have plans to have digital projects in their programs. So far 40 projects have been selected.

Scope of the Kronik@ project was briefly presented as well. The project, which is still at early stages, have been started by the Ministry of Digital Affairs in order to allow applicants to focus on digitisations. Kronik@ is an infrastructure project with the aim to build a common, integrated space that will ensure the long-term storage of digital objects. The objective of the project is also to avoid in the future the mistakes that have been made so far in submitted proposals, such as using the outdated IT

solutions, standardisation problems, issues with sustainability of the infrastructure after the funding period.

The Chair pointed out that centres of competence (such as IMPACT) could have a role to play in improving national proposals. Applicants may wish to use knowledge and expertise of these centres to address certain identified weak points in their proposals,

FI – expressed its opinion that Kronik@ project is an interesting joint infrastructure and coordination mechanism for national projects.

BE – asked for the role that is played by the Committee of the Council of Ministers for the Digitisation. It was clarified that this Committee is comprised of representatives of all ministers supervised by the Ministry of Digital Affairs. It gives opinion on proposals but not on the selected projects. It would be interesting for the DCHE to know the processes / parameters that allowed the different points of view to come to a shared approach on how to assess the proposals.

- ***IMPACT centre of competence***

Presentation available [here](#)

Katrien Depuydt (IMPACT Centre Executive Board) started her presentation by introducing IMPACT Centre of Competence, its mission and objectives. The main goal is to make the digitisation of historical printed text better, faster and cheaper. The centre provides tools, services and facilities to further advance the state-of-the-art in the field of document imaging, language technology and the processing of historical text. The centre builds on the achievements and previous work carried out within two EU funded projects: IMPACT ([www.impact-project.eu](http://www.impact-project.eu)) and SUCCEED ([www.succeed-project.eu](http://www.succeed-project.eu)). Clear benefits of joining the Impact Centre of Competence were also mentioned, such as:

- access to collection of resources which can be used to improve and evaluate digitisation technology,
- access to a representative collection of state-of-the-art tools, connection to a unique network of expertise and innovation
- access to digitisation expertise, learning resources, workshops, online training and events.

It was pointed out that the centre is expanding beyond Europe, e.g. to Latin America (Mexico) and is gradually spreading around the world. Therefore, visibility is getting stronger. Members of the group were invited to consider the option of becoming a member – different levels of support is offered by the centre and tailored for different needs. The centre is also actively looking for synergies, shares resources and starting cooperation with other projects, e.g. DARIAH.

▪ **Virtual Multimodal Museum (ViMM) project**

Presentation available [here](#)

Marinos Ioannides (CY representative, ViMM project Coordinator) presented the ViMM project that is participative Coordination and Support Action (CSA) funded under the EU Horizon 2020 programme. The project brings together Europe and the world's leading public and private sector organisations working on Virtual Museums and in the wide sector of Digital Cultural Heritage to support high quality policy development, decision making and the use of technical advances. The work of 7 project partners is organised around 7 interlinked Thematic Areas and activities are spread across 7 working groups. Major results will include the Manifesto on Digital Heritage and Roadmap for Action to be validated at the final ViMM international conference in 2019. The Commission will be asked to take the Manifesto forward and implement its content in view to improving policy for digital cultural heritage in Europe. The presentation finished with a strong call for the DCHE participants to join the community on the ViMM platform [www.vi-mm.eu](http://www.vi-mm.eu) and spread the word.

The Chair agreed on the importance of the project's work while at the same pointing out that the project with its Manifesto shouldn't only look at the Commission but also need to address the community at large, national decision makers and Member States themselves.

**Day 2: Thursday, 11 May 2016, 09:30 – 15:00**

▪ **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 (EYCH2018)**

- ***Presentation by DG EAC***

Presentation available [here](#)

Anne Grady (DG EAC/D.1), representing the Commission's task force for EYCH 2018, presented the concept of the Year and its main objectives. The official launch of EYCH2018 will take place at the "European Culture Forum" in Milan on 07 and 08 December 2017. At EU level, EYCH2018 will focus on ten initiatives based on four main objectives with an aim to leaving a legacy after the Year. The Year will also feature prominently in successful European initiatives dedicated to cultural heritage such as European Heritage Days, the European Heritage Label, European Capitals of Culture and the numerous EU prizes especially the Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards for best practice in heritage, conservation, management, research, education and communication. A special thank you was extended to Europeana for their active participation and support with the EYCH2018 Website Working Group.

- ***Europeana: Planned actions under EYCH2018***

Presentation available [here](#)

Europeana, represented by Jill Cousins, explained the key planned activities to be carried out in relation to EYCH2018. With the ambition of being as relevant to the individual citizen as possible, Europeana is considering two subjects to encourage broad citizen participation in cultural heritage: a mini anniversary tour for the end of WW1 with Europeana 1914-1918 collection days and transcriptions in places of significance in the year 1918, with emphasis on the "Birth of Modern Europe", and Migration – with the migration museums to collect personal family stories and raise awareness personal identity is made up of multiple cultural influences. Final plans are yet to be determined. Suggestions evolve around the questions of why migration to Europe, from Europe or within Europe has happened through stories of people and objects.

Work is currently being done on establishing connections with Member State institutions dealing with or having collections on Migration. A list of partners on the Migration initiative will be shared amongst the DCHE. The DCHE were strongly encouraged to advocate the support of this initiative in their MS.

Under the hashtag #KidsLoveHeritage, Europeana is also considering working with UNESCO, EuropaNostra and WikiLovesMonuments to create collections specifically aimed Educational use of Europeana.

DG CNECT committed the EC's support to this end. DG EAC underlined Europeana's collaborative approach to the Migration initiative, referencing talks with the French Ministry of Culture, Google and the Maltese presidency.

NL - asked into the availability of feedback from EYCH2018 initiatives, to which Anne Grady pointed out that the quality of individual initiatives and events will be evaluated on a MS level, while there will be an overarching Eurobarometer conducted in advance of EYCH2018. The questionnaire for the



Eurobarometer has yet to be finalised. Anne Grady offered to circulate the results of the Eurobarometer in due course.

CY - volunteered to set up the connection between Europeana/DCHE and set up online a shared event calendar.

- **High-level H2020 conference, co-organised by DG CNECT/DG RTD**

DG CNECT briefly presented the concept of the high level conference that will be organised jointly with DG RTD and DG EAC in Brussels in early 2018, under EYCH2018. The conference will showcase a number of key supported projects in the field of Digital Cultural Heritage and will underline the dialogue between pressing societal needs with regard to European cultural heritage and the most promising corresponding innovations in European policies and funds.

The Chair invited DCHE members to be very active in promoting the initiatives of the EYCH2018 in their MS.

▪ **Film Heritage: State of Play**

Presentation available [here](#)

Matteo Zaccheti (DG CNECT/I.3) gave an overview of the EC initiatives on Film Heritage. The 5th Implementation Report of the 2005 Recommendation on "Film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial industries" will analyse the information received through the national reports of MS (22 MS have responded) at the end of 2016. The final report will be available by the end of 2017.

The Commission aims to investigate, identify and exploit all possible synergies between film heritage policy and initiatives with the opportunities offered by the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme.

He also presented the outcomes of a study on the Exploitation of Film Heritage Works in the Digital Era (<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/exploitation-film-heritage-works-digital-era>) done together with the European Audiovisual Observatory were presented. Findings included that European Heritage Films on average was re-released in 2 European countries, while US Heritage Films were re-released in 8 countries on average. This was referred to as a result also from US Heritage Films including blockbusters like Star Wars which are still very active in their development. He clarified that, at a definition level, films are considered Heritage Films, when they reach 10 years after first release date.

FI – raised a discussion around the Supply/Demand ratio of Heritage Films. Matteo Zaccheti acknowledged the Supply far outnumbering the current demand. Jill Cousins, from Europeana, pointed out, that their search data shows a higher demand than supply on Europeana, which she contributed primarily to licensing issues.

LU – raised the question why out of commerce Films are not openly available. Mr Zaccheti offered hope that the film industry in itself is also interested in finding a solution to this issue.

Mr. Zaccheti underlined the work in the context of the European Film Forum, created by the European Commission in 2014 to facilitate a structured dialogue between the Commission, Member States and stakeholders in the European audiovisual sector, and the Creative Europe MEDIA programme, which has an extensive collaboration with the industry through workshops and festivals.

With regards to EYCH2018, an event, to be organised in October 2018 in Lyon, at the Lumière Film Festival, is in the planning, and the work on Film Education was also underlined with the example of work being done under the project CinEd -European Cinema Education for Youth (cined.eu), funded under the Creative Europe MEDIA programme.

## ▪ **Europeana**

Europeana Foundation was invited to give an update on latest developments and planned next steps.

Slides available [here](#)

### - ***Europeana Annual Report 2016***

Jill Cousins, Executive Director of Europeana, introduced the Europeana Annual Report 2016 "Collaborating for Cultural Heritage". She referred in particular to improvements in search and multilinguality as well as to the publication of the Europeana Content Strategy. She then invited questions on the Annual Report 2016 from the members.

FI – raised the issue of the number of visits, which have decreased from previous years, and asked if Europeana have analysed what is happening and whether there is still a real interest in Europeana.

Europeana attributed the issue to Google's indexing approach which sees Europeana as a 'content farm', duplicating material from other 'original' sources (also the case for other equivalents like DPLA) and therefore does not index all of Europeana's material. Since the majority of visits come from search engines, Europeana is working on alternative solutions to improve this, but this is a slow process.

To the question by LU towards group members, whether national aggregators experience similar issues, FI and DE responded that their national aggregators have not seen a similar difference in traffic figures.

The Commission raised the issue of broken links, which puts off a number of users. Europeana has been working towards drastically diminishing broken links. Cultural institutions need to ensure that their links are up to date, especially since the conditions are not yet mature in cultural institutions for PIDs/permanent identifiers.

### - ***Europeana Strategic Update***

Jill Cousins recapped the process that led to the refining of Europeana's Strategy Update, taking the opportunity of the Council conclusions and a resolution by the Europeana Foundation Board to reposition the strategy. A strategy refinement working group was formed within the Board. They presented their work to Commissioner Oettinger who agreed that the Europeana Strategy 2020, which positions Europeana as a multi-sided platform that facilitates interaction between the content and the user, is still largely valid, but a shift in emphasis is needed to make Europeana more effective in its markets. Member States were consulted via a telephone survey - 16 MS responded - overall there was agreement with the directions being taken, except for one MS that did not agree (two differences of opinion). Europeana tried to encompass the different views of Member States, leading to some changes in the final version of the refined strategy. The results of the survey can be made available to anyone interested.

Jill Cousins then presented the three updated priorities: (1) **Making it easy & rewarding for CHIs** to share high quality content; (2) **Scaling with partners** to reach the education, research and creative sectors; and (3) **Engaging people** and involving them more through participation in thematic campaigns, which increases appreciation of shared history and shared culture among European citizens.

FI – referred to the standardised International Rights Statements, stressed the importance of making the rights statements better understandable for Finnish organisations and users, and explained that the translation process into Finnish and Swedish had been time-consuming, since the terms used in the rights statements need to be compatible with the widely used terms in copyright legislation.

Jill Cousins thanked Finland for translations and informed that, following feedback from Germany on the same inconsistencies in the rights statements, an updated version of the rights statements framework is being prepared, which will be proposed for translation.

LU – remarked that there is a need to coordinate work for the translations of the rights statements, since currently the individual translations require too much work for the translation of the entire framework.

NL – remarked that the Europeana Publishing Framework is about the content and noted the absence of a framework for the metadata.

- ***Europeana Business Plan 2017 and update on Q1 KPIs***

Harry Verwayen, Deputy Director of Europeana, presented how the strategy translates into day to day activities under the Business Plan 2017, focusing on 5 markets: Cultural Institutions, European Citizens, as well as Research, Education and Creative Industries. The Business Plan describes how Europeana plans to achieve the Strategy and offer value to each of the five markets. It highlights planned developments, coupled with Performance Indicators that combine quantitative and qualitative measures. He went on to present progress with respect to KPIs in Q1. Most notably, the 5 million digital objects that are suitable for sharing through campaigns or on social media have generated 64% of traffic in Europeana during Q1.

BE – enquired about indicators measuring how active the Europeana Network Association members are and whether members' information is updated (are 'dead' links removed?). Europeana considered around 200 members to be active, mostly around the Members' Council, but plan to launch a survey later in 2017 to collect more data on this.

SE – enquired whether statistics on data quality (i.e. percentage of content in each of the four Tiers of the Europeana Publishing Framework) could be obtained at national level. Europeana responded that this is a possibility that needs to be looked into.

- ***Europeana Hosting Update***

Jill Cousins gave an update on the hosting of Europeana systems and applications, which is separate from the hosting of content. Content is hosted in Germany since 2014 (Hetzner) and previously in the Netherlands (Vancis). As the hosting provider for system and applications (Anynines, Germany) crashed in April 2016, Europeana found a temporary solution in the US (Pivotal – the only Cloud Foundry solution provider they could find). Europeana launched a public tender in the second half of 2016 to replace the hosting provider for its systems and applications. Two offers were submitted, one sent after the deadline and one far exceeding the tender price and with some serious flaws. As a result, and after due process, Europeana decided to declare the tender invalid. Jill Cousins wrote a paper for the Europeana Foundation Board considering the possibility of remaining in the US, to which several MS reacted. Following that, LU found 5 possible suppliers in Luxembourg, all of them however did not use Cloud Foundry. Meanwhile Europeana negotiated with IBM, and found a reasonable solution for Europeana's systems to be hosted in Germany, with backup in the UK. Negotiation is in the final stages and migration could take place over the following couple of months.

RO – expressed doubts about the private cloud/datastore solutions and enquired whether a publicly funded cloud had been considered. Jill Cousins replied that there was collaboration under EuropeanaCloud with CERN, Poznan etc but such a solution has not yet proven viable.

LU – suggested that Europeana should perhaps consider changing to a more flexible solution than Cloud Foundry, given the difficulties to find a suitable provider. Europeana remarked that, to their knowledge, Amazon is also moving in the direction of Cloud Foundry.

AU – enquired about the timetable for the procurement, which according to the Council Conclusions should be completed by October 2017. The Commission explained that some difficulties had been encountered, due to the possible application of the Transfer of Undertakings Directive (2001/23/EC), but the negotiated procedure is now on track and expected to conclude by September / October 2017.

FR – remarked that they were surprised to discover by chance about the paper concerning the hosting of content that Europeana had prepared for the Europeana Board meeting. In line with the Council Conclusions, the role of the DCHE expert group is to be more involved and closely follow developments concerning Europeana. It would be necessary for DCHE to have all the information.

Europeana mentioned that the three MS representatives that participate in the Europeana Board are there for the purpose of sharing information with the DCHE group.

- **CEF WP 2016 Generic Services projects**

Europeana participates as partner in two projects selected for funding under the Generic Services 2016 Call: 'Migration in the Arts and Sciences' and 'The Rise of Literacy'.

- **Member States' financial contributions**

Shadi Ardalan, Member States Liaison Officer at Europeana, thanked Member States for their financial contributions that have helped Europeana improve their cashflow situation. The funding overview circulated before the meeting has been updated: Italy's contribution of €20.000 was received, and there was also an adjustment to the Belgian and the Austrian contributions. The Member States committed to contribute €420,950 in 2016 and €264,500 in 2017. To date, €412,950 of these commitments has been received for 2016 and 2017 putting Europeana in a far better financial position than a year ago.

Financial overview available here (add link)

As Europeana needs to raise 50% co-funding for the two Generic Services projects that Europeana participates in, Shadi Ardalan explained that they will approach the Member States with partners in these two projects and ask if they could share the co-funding amount proportionally.

- **Europeana Pro: Member States' pages**

Shadi Ardalan announced that Europeana has introduced a dedicated [space for Member States on Europeana Pro](#) and a newsletter ('Inside Europeana'), in response to Point 23 of the Council Conclusions which invited Europeana to have "*more systematic contacts with Member States, improve and provide permanent access to country- and institution specific user statistics*". Europeana is working to improve the country reports and statistics on this space. Country reports are currently updated quarterly but can also be updated on request at any time. She invited participants to share their feedback, as this is still work in progress, and suggestions on how country reports can be improved.

FI – stressed it would be important for Europeana to go through the country reports with each Member State individually in order to improve the reports, especially given the multiple languages on Europeana. The Commission suggested that group members could contribute to this process and liaise with cultural institutions in their Member State to tackle content problems that become evident through the country reports.

- **Europeana Content Strategy and Europeana Publishing Framework - setting quality targets**

Harry Verwayen talked about the efforts of Europeana to improve data quality and referred to the recently published Content Strategy and the Europeana Publishing Framework as possible frameworks for setting quality targets at national level. He invited a discussion on whether such a shared framework could be useful to work with and how it could be adapted to each country in such as case.

RO – referred to problems of small cultural institutions in Romania to serve high quality images (large files). Europeana proposed IIF as a mechanism to solve some of those issues, which they could facilitate.

CY – suggested that a set of guidelines for data providers would be useful.

FI – agreed that a shared framework would be useful for Finland. Finland has their own national framework but it would be useful to compare.

LU – pointed out that the name 'Europeana Publishing Framework' suggests the framework is tied to Europeana and enquired whether a different name could facilitate wider adoption at national level.

Europeana - stressed that it would be important to move forward and would count on DCHE members' support with advocating the framework in their countries, translating it and coordinating it.

FR – agreed with the requirements in the Europeana Publishing Framework, but suggested there is a gap between the framework and the available content. Enough time should be allowed to find the best ways for including such a framework in the Ministry's digitisation plan for next year.

DE – explained that given the federal structure in Germany it would not help to have a national framework, instead best practices are what has proven to help best.

The Commission - proposed that Europeana asks DCHE members to provide their MS views (what they would be willing to promote, what barriers or difficulties would need to be overcome) in writing and then move forward accordingly.

- ***Thematic Collections: next steps***

Europeana invited an exchange of views on the document "A proposal to deliver non-curated and multiple thematic collections" (add link) that was distributed to members ahead of the meeting. The paper proposes a change in direction from only human curated to automatically curated thematic collections and encourage Cultural Heritage Institutions to contribute higher quality content and participate in light curation activities.

FI – liked the idea of preparing automatically harvested thematic collections. However she pointed out that since the term 'collections' is now used to describe both the portal as a whole ('Europeana Collections') and the thematic subsets of content ('Thematic Collections'), it causes confusion, especially on the portal menus. Europeana promised that they are going to look at the user experience on the portal.

NL – agreed with FI about the confusion between Collections and Thematic Collections. NL - also enquired how Europeana will do the automatic harvesting of thematic collections and what this means in terms of metadata quality. Europeana explained that they design an elaborate query to harvest material related to a given theme.

The Commission invited the group members to express any other concerns on the proposed change. No other concerns were raised and the group agreed with the concept proposed in the above-mentioned document.

▪ **Miscellaneous**

- ***Adoption of Rules of Procedure***

The group adopted the [DCHE Expert Group Rules-of-procedure](#) by consensus.

- ***Presidency programmes***

Estonia gave an overview of the priorities of the Estonian Presidency (second half of 2017) related to audiovisual, culture and sports. A conference on 'Cultural Heritage 3.0: Audience and access in digital era' will be organised on 12-13 July 2017.

Presentation available [here](#)

- ***AOB***

The Commission has introduced a new tool (AGM) for handling the organisation of Expert Group meetings, including invitations and re-imburement of members. The DCHE Secretariat is at the members' disposal, should they encounter any difficulties when using the new tool.

#### 4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

- DCHE members are expected to play an active role as the liaison between national and EU levels and to act as DCHE ambassadors in their own countries.
- Concerning the new role of DCHE to provide support and guidance to the Commission in relation to Europeana's objectives, priorities for action and funding proposed, as requested in the Council Conclusions, it is important that DCHE members:
  - Establish collaboration with all relevant stakeholders at national level to be able to present a co-ordinated view from their MS as an input for the discussion at the EU level,
  - Establish collaboration with their MS representative in the CEF Telecom Committee, to ensure national support for Europeana when the CEF Annual Work Programmes are discussed (autumn).
- DCHE members will have the opportunity to provide input as part of the independent evaluation of Europeana which is about to kick off.
- National reports for the period 2015-2017 regarding progress with the implementation of the Commission Recommendation 2011/711/EU should be submitted by 31 October 2017. The template for the progress reports will be sent to Member States in June for comments and feedback. Reports should focus on new developments with an overview of the current situation.
- Topics of interest, related to the areas of the Recommendation or other digital cultural heritage areas, can be proposed for discussion in dedicated blocks during meetings, in formal subgroups or in informal working groups, with possible output from the group.
  - Statistics and the methodology to collect them, in the context of ENUMERATE, was one such topic proposed for a working group to be led by the NL representative.
  - DCHE members are encouraged to discuss further in their MS and propose further topics.
- The Commission will set up a Yammer group in order to facilitate collaboration of group members and work between meetings.
- DCHE members are encouraged to be active in promoting the EYCH 2018 initiatives in their MS. A list of partners for Europeana's Migration initiative will be shared amongst the DCHE. DCHE members are strongly encouraged to advocate support for this initiative in their MS.
- Europeana has clarified that the three Member States' representatives in the Europeana Foundation Board have the role of informing their colleagues in other countries of Europeana's updates and Governing Board meetings, documents and decisions; to solicit their views on matters to vote for or decide on; and to bring their views, comments and questions back to Europeana Governing Board. To this end, interaction and exchange is strongly encouraged in the context of the DCHE expert group.
- DCHE members raised no objection to the concept presented by Europeana in the paper "A proposal to deliver non-curated and multiple thematic collections".
- The Rules of Procedure were adopted by consensus. As specified in the Rules of Procedure, all formal communication should go through the DCHE Secretariat. Documents for discussion, opinion or adoption at a meeting should be submitted in compliance with the respective provisions stipulated in the Rules of Procedure.

## **5. Next steps**

The Commission will upload the presentations from the current meeting as soon as possible to the dedicated webpage <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/first-meeting-european-commissions-expert-group-digital-cultural-heritage-and-europeana-dche> and notify the group members.

The minutes will be distributed to the participants for their comments and will then be uploaded on the same webpage.

The Commission will set up a functional mailbox for all official communication related to the DCHE group: [CNECT-DCHE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CNECT-DCHE@ec.europa.eu) alongside a Yammer group to facilitate discussions.

The Commission will send the list of Member States' representatives to the CEF Telecom Expert Group and the CEF Coordination Committee to DCHE members.

## **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the DCHE Expert Group will take place in Luxembourg on Monday 13 - Tuesday 14 November 2017.

The outline of the agenda will be distributed to the group members, no longer than 30 calendar days before the meeting, for input and suggestions. Group members will be invited to propose specific topics/questions to be addressed.



## 7. List of participants

### Members

Austria	Martin Ure	Federal Chancellery of Austria
Belgium	Hans van der Linden	Arts and Heritage Agency at Vlaamse Overheid
Belgium	Chris De Loof	BELSPO - Belgian Science Policy Office
Belgium	Jean-Louis Blanchart	Preservation and exploitation of Cultural Heritage, delegate general
Croatia	Jelena Bilić	Ministry of Culture
Cyprus	Marinos Ioannides	Ministry of Culture
Estonia	Ülle Talihärm	Ministry of Culture
Estonia	Mirjam Rääbis	Ministry of Culture
Finland	Minna Karvonen	Ministry of Education and Culture
Finland	Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen	National Library
France	Marie-Véronique Leroi	Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication
Germany	Gerald Maier	State Archive of Baden-Württemberg
Germany	Monika Hagedorn-Saupe	SPK
Hungary	Máté Tóth	National Széchényi Library
Latvia	Jānis Ziediņš	Culture Information Systems Centre
Lithuania	Laimis Mikelevičius (Mr)	Ministry of Culture
Luxembourg	Marianne Backes	Ministère de la Culture
Luxembourg	Patrick Peiffer	Bibliothèque Nationale du Luxembourg
Netherlands	Marco de Niet	Digitaal Erfgoed Nederland - National knowledge centre
Poland	Agata Krawczyk	Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Portugal	Margarida Lopes	Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal
Romania	Dan Matei	National Institute of Heritage
Slovak Rep.	Ms Jana Kňažková	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Spain	Concha Vilariño Periañez	Ministerio de Educacion, Cultura y Deporte
Sweden	Henrik Summanen	Digisam/Riksantikvarieämbetet
Sweden	Eva Stengård	Ministry of Culture

### Observers

Iceland	Anna Lía Rúnarsdóttir	National Museum of Iceland
Serbia	Tatjana Sevic	Ministry of Culture and Media

### European Commission

DG CNECT / G / G.2	Javier Hernández-Ros, Federico Milani, Gudrun Stock, Katerina Moutogianni, Krzysztof Nichczynski, Christian Nyhus Andreasen
DG EAC / D.1	Anne Grady
DG CNECT / I.2	Matteo Zacchetti

### Invited speakers

Europeana Foundation	Jill Cousins, Harry Verwayen, Shadi Ardalan
IMPACT Centre of competence	Katrien Depuydt
Ministry of Economic Development, Poland	Magdalena Piotrowska