

MS26: Europeana Cloud High Level Principles



MILESTONE



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REVISION HISTORY AND STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Revision History

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Statement of originality:

This milestone contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.

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Introduction

Background

Europeana Cloud is a Best Practice Network funded by the European Union and coordinated by the Europeana Foundation. It is tasked with creating a new digital infrastructure for cultural content that will be used by Europeana and its aggregators. More information on Europeana Cloud and its division across responsibilities and work groups can be found in the Description of Work and on the project website¹.

This Milestone

Work Package five (WP5) has been tasked with researching the legal, strategic and economic Issues of Europeana Cloud and to create an agreement on the operating conditions of Europeana Cloud. To give direction to these issues a set of high level requirements are created to shape the development of all areas of the Europeana Cloud project. Following an initial workshop that was held on March 5th in the Hague, and subsequent Skype meetings, a basic brief for High Level Principles and a mission statement are presented below.

Principles

Process

The principles are created using the outcomes of a workshop on March 5th in The Hague during the kickoff meeting of Europeana Cloud. This produced an initial set of broad principles of Europeana Cloud.

These initial broad principles were discussed per theme (legal, social, strategic, technical) through Skype meetings. After the Skype meetings the principles were further refined and published to the Europeana Cloud Network as a first draft. Several members of the network commented on this draft. This resulted in the accepted High Level Principles:

- Europeana Cloud primarily serves Europe's Cultural Heritage Institutions, enabling them to provide access to their digital objects to their audience;
- Europeana Cloud promotes openness;
- Europeana Cloud delivers a more efficient solution to the current methods of storing, sharing and providing access to digital cultural heritage objects;
- Europeana Cloud operates under a sustainable business model;
- Europeana Cloud provides the infrastructure to access to metadata and content;
- Europeana Cloud is accessible through standardized Data Models;
- Europeana Cloud supports a legal framework to govern access and reuse;

¹ <http://pro.europeana.eu/web/europeana-cloud>

- Europeana Cloud is a governed and led by the community.

To easily communicate this, a mission statement was created that covers these principles.

Europeana Cloud primarily serves Europe's Cultural Heritage Institutions, enabling them to provide access to their digital objects to their audience

Driven by the needs of the cultural heritage industry, Europeana Cloud provides the services to enable the sharing of metadata and content for the purposes of providing access to digital objects. This delivers improved services to providers with low barriers to entry and exit.

Europeana Cloud promotes openness

Openness supports reuse and sharing of cultural heritage objects as well as providing an infrastructure with low barriers for expansion and further development. Europeana Cloud produces open source software, has a preference for open standards, open file formats and promotes open content. Closed standards and closed formats can only be viewed as long as there is software available that can read proprietary file formats proof difficult to access on future operating systems/devices.

Europeana Cloud delivers a more efficient solution to the current methods of storing, sharing and providing access to digital cultural heritage objects

Europeana Cloud delivers efficiencies to cultural heritage providers along the lines of: a reduction of IT costs as compared to classic hosting technologies, avoiding IT infrastructure costs, enabling more time to focus on strategy and innovation, and the pooling of resources. Efficiencies are also be expected in terms of saving time, speed of delivery, better integration across the network to offer services with high availability, reliability, and security and better interoperability, easier management, and greater automation.

Europeana Cloud operates under a sustainable business model

To ensure the long term sustainability of the services provided by Europeana Cloud, Europeana Cloud will operate under a sustainable business model. A variety of options will be discussed in light of EU funding availability and the need to become self sustaining. This may allow for a reduction on the reliance of competitive funding rounds, and will encourage long term investment.

Europeana Cloud provides the infrastructure to access to metadata and content

Europeana Cloud delivers storage and services to provide secure, robust, technology neutral and sustainable access to metadata and content. These services include but are not limited to programmatic read/write access to Europeana Cloud, controlling the access to Europeana Cloud, connecting to other data services and systems and version control of data in Europeana Cloud.

Europeana Cloud is accessible through standardized Data Models

Europeana Cloud believes interoperability is crucial for cooperation and for the use of materials in its service. Europeana Cloud makes all metadata accessible using internationally recognised standard data models. Although standards are important for reuse and interoperability Europeana Cloud understands that source formatting is important. Europeana Cloud does not remove contributed source documents in favor of standardized models.

Europeana Cloud supports a legal framework to govern access and reuse

Europeana Cloud is linked to the Europeana Licensing Framework that enables the access to - and reuse of - metadata and content according to differing provider and user profiles. Each user and providers provides, makes available and reuses metadata and content in different ways with, and for, different purposes. The legal framework ensures that these requirements are met.

Europeana Cloud is a governed and led by the community

Europeana Cloud serves the needs of its community: the providers, members and users of the services provided, making use of and building on the Cultural Commons [principals](#). The community is self-regulating and has responsibility for establishing the boundaries of the community as well as the services provided. These services includes raising awareness, offering and enabling access to resources and tools as well as ensuring Europeana Cloud is a trusted and secure resource and service for the community.

Mission Statement

“Europeana Cloud serves Europe’s Cultural Heritage Institutions by delivering a more efficient solution to the current methods of storing, sharing and providing access to CH objects. It does so by providing an open source system that stores and enables services for accessing structured metadata and content with the intention of sharing and re-using this material to its users and participants. EuropeanaCloud will be available under a sustainable business model and governed by its users.”

Next Steps

These requirements will be revised in the light of what is technically feasible and uses other requirements that come out of a series of workshops that obtains input from other Europeana Network members and large-scale networks such as Clarin and Dariah, that are deploying Cloud strategies. These initial outcomes will be continually matched against technical progress of WP2. Further documentation of this process will occur in month 6, 12, 18 and 30 of Europeana Cloud. MS27 is the earliest milestone document that further describe work on this.