

ECP 2008 DILI 538013 MIMO

MIMO

Newsletter 6

Deliverable number	6.12
Dissemination level	Public
Delivery date	8 July 2011
Status	Final
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eContentplus

This project is funded under the *eContentplus* programme¹,
a multiannual Community programme to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable.

¹ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

MIMO

musical instrument museums online

Newsletter No. 6

Editorial

Welcome to the final newsletter of the MIMO project.

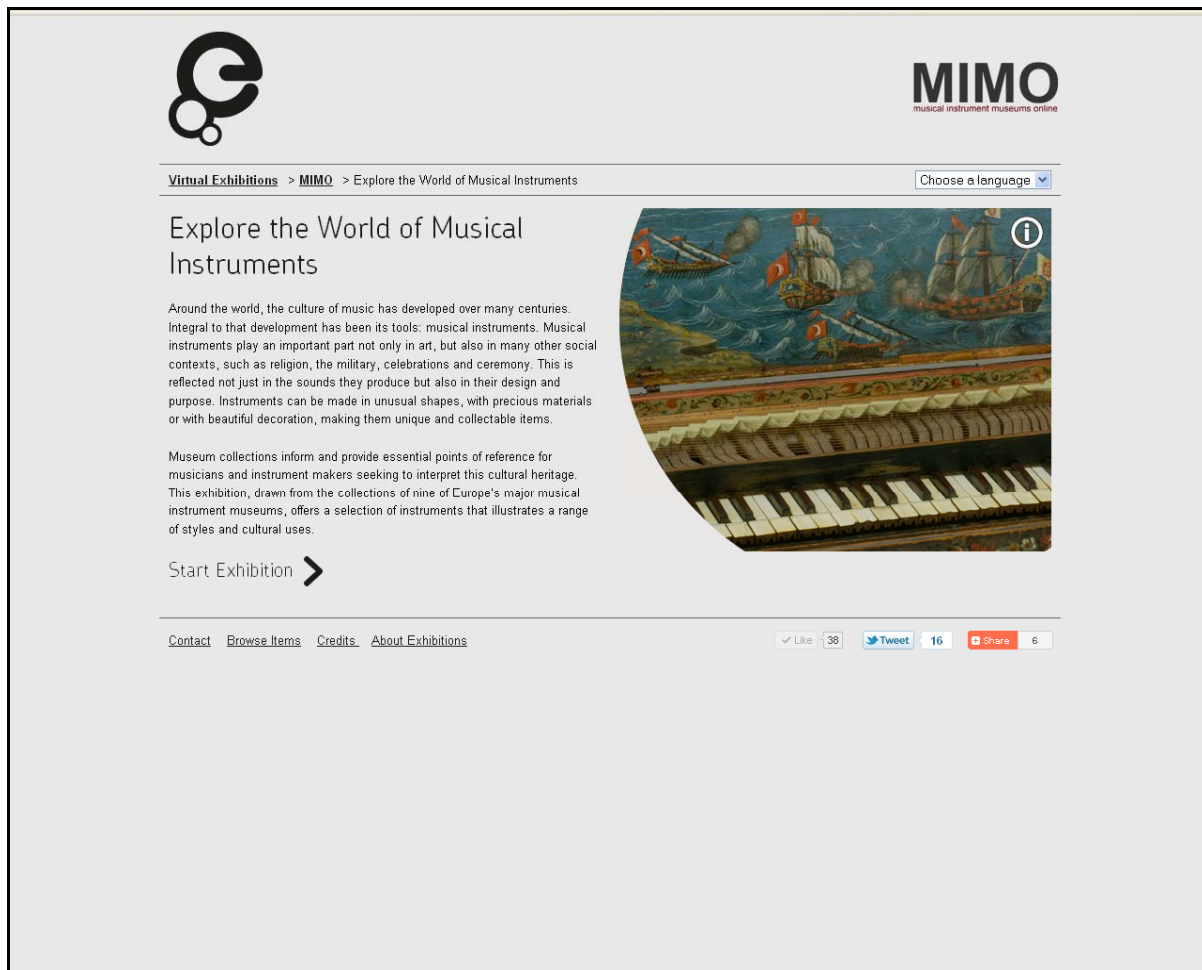
The MIMO project is now nearing its conclusion, with less than two months until it ends on 31st August. Our efforts are now starting to bear fruit, with the first content about to go live via the Europeana website - <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>. We have also just launched an online exhibition and have made our database (MIMO-DB) publicly available. Full details on both follow below. In terms of digitisation, work will continue right up to the final day of the project, as although some partners have already finished photographing their collections, others are still working to reach their intended targets. Nonetheless, we fully expected to reach those targets by the end of the project.



Image courtesy of Galleria dell'Accademia, Firenze

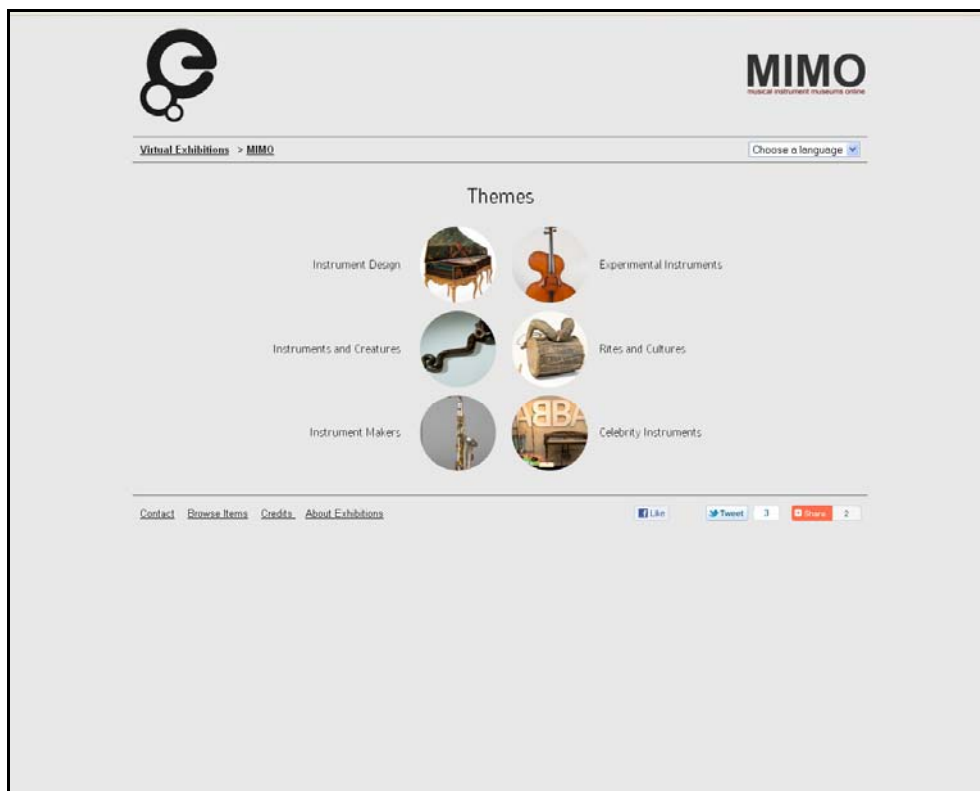
MIMO Virtual Exhibition Goes Live!

Produced in conjunction with **Europeana**, MIMO's virtual exhibition "Explore the World of Musical Instruments" was launched on 27th June.



The screenshot shows the MIMO website interface for the virtual exhibition "Explore the World of Musical Instruments". At the top left is the MIMO logo, a stylized 'G' with a musical note. At the top right is the MIMO text logo with the tagline "musical instrument museums online". Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: "Virtual Exhibitions > MIMO > Explore the World of Musical Instruments". To the right of the breadcrumb is a language selection dropdown menu labeled "Choose a language". The main heading is "Explore the World of Musical Instruments". Below the heading is a paragraph of text: "Around the world, the culture of music has developed over many centuries. Integral to that development has been its tools: musical instruments. Musical instruments play an important part not only in art, but also in many other social contexts, such as religion, the military, celebrations and ceremony. This is reflected not just in the sounds they produce but also in their design and purpose. Instruments can be made in unusual shapes, with precious materials or with beautiful decoration, making them unique and collectable items." Below this is another paragraph: "Museum collections inform and provide essential points of reference for musicians and instrument makers seeking to interpret this cultural heritage. This exhibition, drawn from the collections of nine of Europe's major musical instrument museums, offers a selection of instruments that illustrates a range of styles and cultural uses." To the right of the text is a large, circular image of a grand piano with a colorful, historical-style illustration of a sailing ship on the wall behind it. Below the text and image is a "Start Exhibition" button with a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom of the page is a navigation bar with links: "Contact", "Browse Items", "Credits", and "About Exhibitions". To the right of the navigation bar are social media sharing buttons: "Like" (38), "Tweet" (16), and "Share" (6).

The exhibition focuses on six themes, each offering a selection of instruments, with high quality, zoom-able images, description and some sound clips. It has been produced in the six languages of the MIMO partners.



The content is drawn from the collections of nine of the MIMO partners' museums and the selection of instruments illustrates a range of styles and cultural uses. This includes:

- A beautifully decorated French harpsichord made outside Paris.
- A violin made from sheet aluminium.
- A gigantic octobass, almost 3.5m high
- A flute carved from stone
- Antonio Stradivari cellos.
- Trumpets made by Adolphe Sax.
- A guitar owned by famous jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt.
- A synthesiser owned by Abba.

And many more.

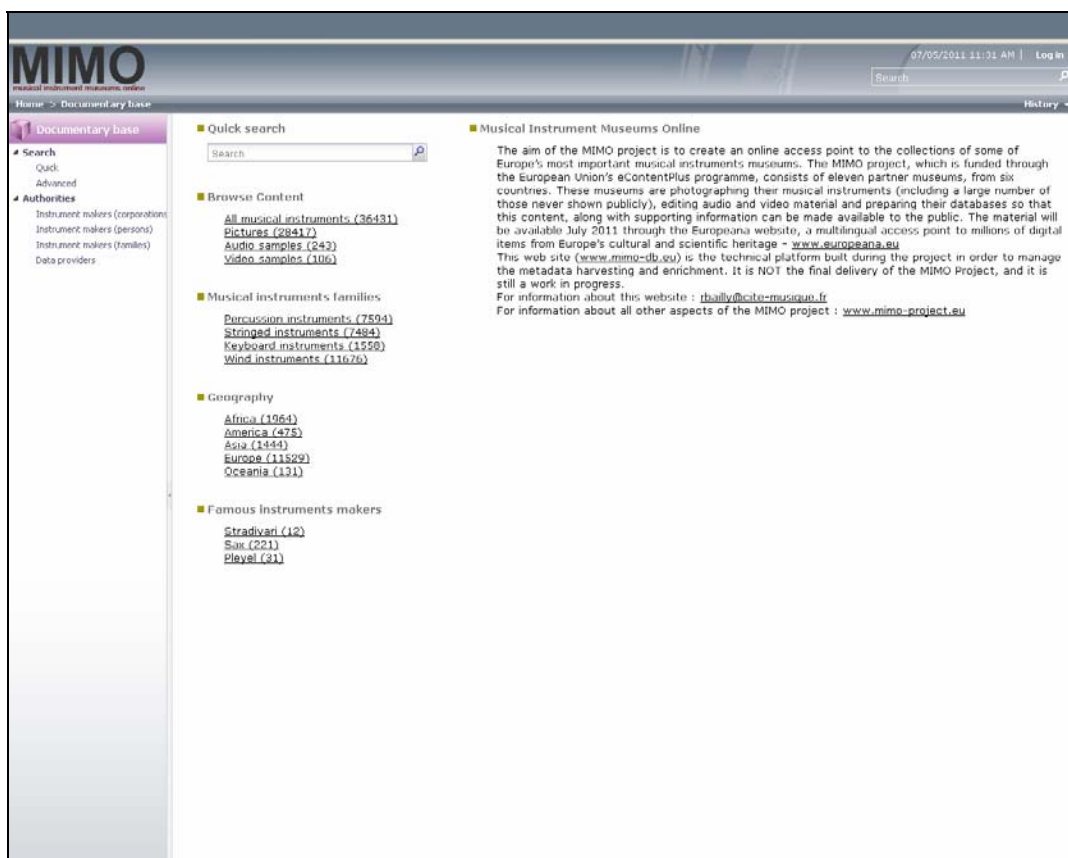
The museums involved in this project are all contributors to the MIMO Project and this gives them a fantastic opportunity to showcase some of the amazing pieces that are in their collections, from the rare, to the beautiful to the weird and wonderful. For the user, we hope that the exhibition serves as an introduction to the fascinating world of musical instruments and one which will perhaps lead them to visit the museums and see the actual instruments.

View the exhibition at <http://exhibitions.europeana.eu/exhibits/show/musical-instruments-en>

MIMO DB Online

MIMO-DB is the technical platform built during the project in order to manage the metadata harvesting and enrichment. It can be seen at - www.mimo-db.eu

MIMO-DB is a powerful tool to explore more than 40,000 records describing the musical instruments. Searches based on instrument names are fully multilingual. When specifying the name of an instrument in one of the six languages of the project (Dutch, English, French, German, Italian and Swedish), the user can retrieve all the records related to this instrument name whatever the language in which the content of each record is written.



Searches can also be based on other criteria such as instrument makers, geographical origin or date of the making, institutions of custody, data providers, or Hornbostel Sachs classification.

One of the great benefits offered by MIMO-DB is that it gives immediate access to all the digital resources (mainly pictures but also audio files and/or video recordings) illustrating an instrument.

MIMO DB is still a work in progress, but we encourage you to use it and give us your feedback.

What next for MIMO?

The project partners will hold their final meeting in Edinburgh on the 26th and 27th July. A key outcome of this meeting will be to finalise arrangements for what happens post project, in particular, establishing a mechanism that will not only enable our content to remain visible but also to ensure that new museums can contribute their material too.

The partners have already signed up to an agreement which ensures that the material produced during the life of the project will remain online for at least another five years but the next challenge is to put mechanisms into place that will allow this to be expanded. We have already begun work on this and aim to conclude this process by the end of the project.

MIMO will be presented at two major conferences over the summer - the IAML Conference in Dublin at the end of July and the CIMCIM Meetings in Paris and Brussels a month later – and these will provide us with the opportunity to publicise what we have achieved over the last two years and how we intend to move forward.

We have already been approached by at least two other museums that wish their content to be included in our database and it is our hope that this number will increase significantly over the coming months.

Much of the work of the project has been invisible to the public as we have developed but over the next few weeks this will change, not only as content goes live on Europeana but also as much of the project documentation, including key works such as the digitisation standard and the multilingual classification material is made publicly available.

For all concerned, work on the project has been a demanding but highly rewarding experience. Although we are not quite finished yet, we fully anticipate that we will achieve our original aims and objectives and provide resources which will be of value to a wide range of users for many years to come.

Thanks for your interest in MIMO.

Watch this space...