

# EUROPEANATECH COMMUNITY WORK PLAN

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# 1. COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS AND IMPACT AREAS

## 1.1 Community aspiration and long-term aims

How will your community contribute to the objectives and vision of the [Europeana Business Strategy 2030](#) and [Impact Model](#)? Short paragraph. Please connect your community aspiration to one or more of the four long-term aims (LT) set out in the Impact model:

- LT.1 Just economic and social growth through cultural data used for personal, professional and/or economic purposes
- LT.2 People are more productive and innovative after engaging with knowledge development and transfer activities
- LT.3 An empowered cultural heritage sector based on the commons principles, data sovereignty and decentralisation
- LT.4 More environmentally aware heritage sector that balances digitisation considerations with environmental concerns

These long-term aims link to the wider vision / triple transformation.

EuropeanaTech will continue to concentrate on LT.3 of the Impact Model, motivating its community towards **making the common European data space for cultural heritage into a shared exchange/commons with increased availability and reuse of high quality data**. It will do this through active investigation on how to democratise data ingestion into the Data Space [From Shelf to DS] and facilitating the integration of new types of data (including objects without individual digital representation) [Datasheets], standards and tools (including AI), and the deepening of use and understanding of knowledge graphs. Thereby EuropeanaTech hopes to assist the data space **towards a higher engagement of existing and new audiences and partners, developing the**

## **reconfigured role and responsibility of the Europeana Initiative as a data space steward.**

To help with the **Sustainability drive**, in line with the European Green Deal and Sustainable practices with and for DCH, EuropeanaTech, while acknowledging the burgeoning demand its community and the cultural heritage sector, adds through the development of AI, 3D and other digital cultural heritage developments, will seek to **answer the call of the Europeana Climate Community on tackling environmental challenges.**

EuropeanaTech will continue its role in technical knowledge exchange within the Europeana Network Association, identifying and serving the needs of a community with very different levels of technical maturity to build capacity and make resources available for professionals, supporting them to learn about, use and contribute to the data space products, including **production of modules for the Europeana Academy training programme and**

**platform.** Each EuropeanaTech Workgroup will add such modules to their workplans.

This aspiration connects EuropeanaTech to LT.3 and LT.4 of the Impact Model working on the democratization of data ingestion, decentralisation of data management, maintenance of data sovereignty and trying to meliorate its technical advancement with an increase of awareness and specific campaign to reduce unnecessary duplication and storage of data.

The current EuropeanaTech Task Forces will concentrate their efforts on implementation and capacity building using their results to improve data interoperability for the data space.

For 2026 the two additional areas of focus and investigation for the Community are **AI and Cybersecurity**. For AI we will **continue the 2025 cross-Community work** (which included the programming and high-level direction of the

[Copenhagen workshop](#)) with **contributions to the proposed White Paper** but we will also take on areas of investigative research as they emerge, possibly **setting up a new Task Force or Working Group** within EuropeanaTech. The area of Cybersecurity will concentrate on using the knowledge being gained through both crisis and policy within the sector to run webinars aimed at informing the wider cultural heritage sector of issues and learnings.

## 1.2 Delivering your community aspiration — connecting to one or more of the impact pathways

How will you deliver the Community aspiration? (max one paragraph) Choose at least one impact pathway (P) to focus on, drawn from the Impact Model:

- P.1 Creativity and engagement with cultural heritage (reuse and engagement of the general public)
- P.2 Knowledge, skills and innovation
- P.3 Network development and collaboration
- P.4 Environmental awareness

Elaborate for each impact pathway how you will create value in this area for your community. You can reference in brief the type of activities you will organise or support, for example. You could create a Change Pathway for your community. For more guidance, see the [Europeana Impact Playbook](#).

- *P.2 Knowledge, skills and innovation*

The Working Groups and Task Forces will concentrate on piloting and implementation. Each Task Force will write its own action plan for 2026. These have synopses below.

- *P.3 Network development and collaboration*

EuropeanaTech will continue its long-standing efforts to coordinate, promote and share knowledge held within the EuropeanaTech community through workshops, webinars and blogs. In addition, for 2026 it will pilot the creation of an annual EuropeanaTech Foresight Report, looking at trends in the sector. EuropeanaTech has an open door

policy for any community members to engage and make use of the various channels that EuropeanaTech offers. We will work to make these resources known to the community and wider world via our blogs, webinars, reports and LinkedIn group. While simultaneously sharing work accomplished by this SG and directly soliciting contributions.

- *P.4 Environmental awareness*

EuropeanaTech will liaise with the Europeana Climate Action Community for potential awareness raising campaigns on the climate and natural resource impact of emerging technologies like AI and 3D rendering as well as e-waste generated through new media engagement activities and digital storage. The Europeana Climate Community foresees two activities that shall be relevant for EuropeanaTech: (1) organise a workshop with other ENA communities to discuss the intersection between their remits and environmental impact; (2) prioritise a thematic focus on the environmental impact of AI deployment in our sector.

## 2. TECHCOMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

In 2026 EuropeanaTech will reach out to prospective new members within the field of AI and other areas relating to Tech. In 2025 we have increased the reach into the Heritage Acoustics field and this will be continued in 2026. Since we will be starting a LinkedIn Group, we will also closely analyse the engagement and what kind of (new) audience we might be reaching.

# 3. GOVERNANCE

## 3.1 SG composition (including any potential changes)

The Europeana Tech SG has the following members:

- Andrija Sagic (Milutin Bojić Library) - Chair
- Jill Cousins (Museum Strategy) - Co-Chair
- Henk Alkemade (Independent)
- Clemens Neudecker (Berlin State Library)
- Georgia Angelaki (National Documentation Centre, Greece)
- Johan Oomen (Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision)
- Ina Blümel (German National Library of Science and Technology)
- Cosmina Berta (German Digital Library)
- Martin Weiss (University Library of Zurich, National Library of Norway)
- Glen Robson (IIF)
- Tiziana Lombardo (Net7 srl)

- Sk Abdul Gafur (International Society of Bengal Studies)
- Sonja Thiel (AI & Museum)
- Juha Henriksson (Music Archive Finland, Time Machine Organisation)
- Antoine Isaac (Europeana Foundation) - Community Manager
- Emma O'Hare (Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision) - Community Manager

## 3.2 Chair and responsibilities

EuropeanaTech has a designated chair and co-chair. The Chair position is voluntary and agreed upon by the entire SG. The Chair is free to step down as they see fit.

- The SG Chairs keeps an oversight over all of the monthly meetings and represents EuropeanaTech when necessary in different Europeana Foundation or ENA related events.
- Sound & Vision handle the lion's share of the admin and logistical work - seeking to ensure any and all activities initiated by the Steering Group can be executed and liaise with different members of the Europeana Foundation.
- As senior member, Antoine Isaac, the other community manager, serves as an overall advisor of the SG due to his long-standing affiliation with many international DCH groups and career at Europeana Foundation
- The remaining SG members all contribute in different ways. This can be initiating webinars, blogs or workshops, networking with members of the EuropeanaTech community, engaging or managing various task forces or WGs or providing different perspectives to community activities.

### 3.3 Intention to meet

- EuropeanaTech meets virtually every four weeks with additional meetings planned as necessary.
- EuropeanaTech SG has no plans for a physical meeting in 2026 of the SG but members will join the Europeana Climate Workshop to discuss how technically AI use might reduce its climate footprint.
- Under the Irish Presidency a workshop is foreseen to discuss the positioning of a public AI for Cultural Heritage with Private Big Tech companies aiming to get more of the values of the White Paper into the use of Europeana data.

### 3.4 Recruitment

We will run an Open Call for new SG members in Q2, with a special request to other SG and MC members to apply so we can improve Cross Community communication and work. EuropeanaTech will apply a new regulation where any SG member should attend at least 5/10 of the SG meetings per year commencing with the Chair of the SG communicating with anyone who hasn't managed to attend at least 5 SG meetings in 2025 to ask what impeded them.

# 4. ACTIVITY PLAN

## 4.1 Outreach and communications

EuropeanaTech will continue its editorial efforts in collaboration with Europeana Foundation's communications team. In 2026, EuropeanaTech will work to diversify the topics presented via these blogs by using the Europeana 2030 plan for inspiration.

We have decided to launch a TechCommunity LinkedIn group in 2026. After 6 months we will review if we will continue with the group. With this development we are following the committees of Impact, Communicators and Education. Diversifying our reach is the goal. We will appoint SG members with the responsibility to post at least twice every six months. Also we will appoint a couple of moderators within the SG to monitor the group's activities. Jill Cousins and Antoine Isaac will be

coordinators of the group. Each member of the SG is expected to contribute at least one post and share the group with their own professional contacts.

The mailing list (ListServ) will remain our main means of communication to the community.

The proposed EuropeanaTech Foresight Report also contributes to our outreach activities. Emma O'Hare will coordinate the efforts, the editorial team will be composed before the end of Q1.

## 4.2 Peer to peer knowledge-sharing activities

- Webinars
- Physical meetings
- Translations

- Events happening next to other conferences/events by other initiatives
- EuropeanaTech will make two open calls for Task Forces in the spring and autumn in an effort to encourage community-led knowledge sharing and small-scale research activities
- EuropeanaTech will set up an AI Cross Community AI4LAM Taskforce covering data management
- EuropeanaTech will encourage and work to source meaningful webinars and blog posts from the community. There will be a particular emphasis on the need for the sector to become more active in their Cybersecurity measures.
- EuropeanaTech will actively share, and garner response for, the coming AI Whitepaper and other results of the Copenhagen AI Workshop with its community
- EuropeanaTech will participate in the Copyright Community's action on conditions for publishing CH data for AI and in the Climate Community's Charter

### 4.3 Task force(s) or working groups

Each Workgroup will submit their 2026 plans to EuropeanaTech by end of Q1, 2026

#### **Heritage Acoustics Task Force**

The Heritage Acoustics Task Force will enter its 2nd year and will begin putting more focus on developing a data standard for heritage acoustics professionals to implement during their field research, based on the OpenAire platform metadata fields. Through practical implementation in the field and further dialogue with practitioners at large and heritage organizations, the Task Force will work to deliver a recommendations paper for the standardization of heritage acoustics metadata. It will use the additional funding allocated by ENA in 2025 to publish in the MDPI journal (deadline deferred to second quarter of 2026).

### **From Shelf to Data Space Working Group**

The Europeana Digitisation Handbook is aimed specifically at smaller institutions. The FSDS WG will keep the Digitisation Handbook up to date while expanding it to better meet the current and future needs of the common European data space for cultural heritage. A key part of the FSDS WG's activities in 2026 will be to make the Handbook easier to use, through producing translations. FSDS WG will also organise a kick-off webinar, and plan other European or local events to promote the use of the Handbook. The Working Group will run capacity building events and create materials (probably including short video's) and will try to create national/regional networks for SMI's to be able to connect and learn from each other (and trained trainers).

### **Data Quality Committee Working Group**

In 2026, the Working Group foresees continuing working on problem patterns to detect quality issues in the metadata gathered for the Europeana platform, assessing and prioritising new problem patterns for implementation. It will extend its work

to the new types of data (datasets) that are being gathered for the common European data space for cultural heritage, aiming to contribute to the establishment of compliance quality criteria for these datasets. It will also explore whether specific action can be pursued considering the quality of (AI) data enrichment. This will be reported to the cross community working group on AI.

### **Europeana/IIIF working group**

The IIIF working group aims to share skills implementing IIIF between aggregators, Europeana contributors and the wider Europeana community. With the imminent release of IIIF version 4 and the support for 3D the group will work to share the new developments in a webinar with the Europeana community and look at other ways to support its dissemination. The group will also look into developing further Europeana Academy courses to build on the two IIIF courses which are already available. The group also plans to share the details on a prototype implementation of the IIIF Discovery API and its use to harvest IIIF content into Europeana.

### **Datasheets for CH datasets working group (in collaboration with the Research community)**

The working group plans to work on the following items:

- official launch of v2 of the template and follow-up, possibly including a (funded) call for creating datasheets
- support the launch of a datasheet edition tool
- collaboration across groups working on dataset descriptions
- writing paper of progress since the version 1, and guidance to datasheet creation

## **4.4 Other activities**

### **Cybersecurity**

The Europeana tech group will aim to share experience on Cybersecurity after recent incidents that have affected cultural heritage institutions including the British Library, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, and even the Internet Archive as well as cyberattacks via the widely used Gallery Systems Software. We will organise webinars to share knowledge and expertise on how cultural

heritage institutions are preparing and strengthening their cyber security & defence infrastructure; and explore how the data space is implementing cybersecurity best practices. On this occasion, we may also explore how AI is reshaping the cybersecurity landscape.

### **AI**

The SG will contribute to the proposed Whitepaper on AI as an immediate follow-up to the Copenhagen workshop and will look at the setting up of specific task forces or a working group where the expertise of the Community would be valuable to the data space. Relevant areas of AI will also be included in the EuropeanaTech Foresight Report and may lead to proposals for specific Task Forces. These include possible climate charters, Creative Commons' Signals proposal, small language models, bias, openness of data publication in AI contexts, knowledge graphs.

We will also seek to better cooperate with the AI4LAM Community following the joining of Europeana Foundation at the end of 2025.

## **Europeana Tech AI Cross Community Taskforce**

Proposed Remit:

Working with AI4LAM and inviting SG members from other Europeana Communities and the Europeana Development Team to investigate where our data is being used and how to make it more compatible and traceable. This will include 3 of the 'Potential Avenues for Future Work' requested in the Alignment Assembly Final Report:

1. Monitor the use of the data space as a way to access heritage datasets for AI training.
2. Investigate sustainable approaches to funding and maintaining open infrastructures as AI-driven data scraping increases their technical and operational demands.
3. Building capacity, developing AI literacy in the sector such as what skills are essential for heritage professionals to confidently understand and assess, and use or reject AI tools? And what workforce transitions should we prepare the community for?

The goal is to create a set of recommendations on best practice for use of Small Language Models, the maintenance of open AI structures and the development of AI Literacy. We will await the result of the AI Alignment White paper that is currently being written, in order to shape the task force accordingly.

# 5. MONITORING ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS

EuropeanaTech plans to measure the following:

- Number of mailing list subscribers
- Engagement on mailing list i.e. responses / discussion.
- Number of webinars and other events (co-)organised by EuropeanaTech
- Number of EuropeanaTech blogs
- Number of views of EuropeanaTech blogs
- Number of members on LinkedIn

# 6. BUDGET

## 6.1 Budget request

We are requesting a Community budget of €4000 to enable us to attend relevant activities in person, €2500 of this is for travel to Cross-Community activities, such as copyright and climate for the actions required by the AI workpaper. The Datasheet Task Force will launch a call for creating datasheets at a cost of €1000 and the remaining €500 will cover the costs of Listserv. The delayed academic publication on the topic of heritage acoustics requires the retention of the €1500 allocated in 2025.

## 6.2 Budget breakdown

- €2,500 - Travel costs SG member for AI related Cross-Community activities and/or other relevant Task Force meetings
- €1,000 - Datasheet Task Force (call for creating datasheets)\*
- €420 - Listserv mailing list costs

### ***Carried from 2025:***

- €1500 - Heritage Acoustics Task Force (publication in academic journal)

\*Possible unspent budget can be used for a second call before the end of the year



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