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*Europe's rich cultural heritage will enter a new digital dimension with the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage. This European effort will facilitate cooperation between researchers, curators and museum professionals in order to safeguard our cultural heritage, enable easy access to cultural content and allow future generations to enjoy it for years to come. It will also offer new opportunities to smaller museums and cultural institutions to advance digitisation and work together on joint projects in secure and highly professional working space.*

**Mariya Gabriel** *Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*

# EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE CLOUD FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

## A forward-looking initiative to develop and protect Europe's cultural heritage through cutting edge digitisation techniques

The European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage will be a **one-of-a-kind framework** that will enable unparalleled **transdisciplinary** and **large-scale collaboration** between cultural heritage professionals on shared topics. It will provide **cutting-edge tools** for digitising artefacts, studying artworks, and documenting data, all of which will improve **preservation**, **conservation** and **restoration** procedures. Finally, it will open up new prospects for our museums, including regional and smaller ones for better access to Europe's rich cultural content.  The European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage will:

- Build a digital infrastructure that will enable inclusive cooperation across the cultural, artistic, and technological sectors by allowing partners to communicate and collaborate in a safe, secure, and trustworthy manner.

- Become a long-term infrastructure for research projects having open access to share datasets and data files with collaborative workspaces and workgroups.

- Store data under European jurisdiction with highly sophisticated encryption and signature facilities.

## Why?

In Europe, **some 30 to 50 percent of prominent cultural collections are digitised**. For **high quality three-dimensional representation** as a basis for scientific collaboration, the figures are much lower. The **standards** and **methodologies** mainly used are **not uniform**, **traceable**, or **safe**. Digitisation procedures are often controlled **by third-party companies** not subject to European law. This leads to a significant risk of **losing ownership of Europe's digital tangible and intangible cultural treasures**.

Following pressing requests from the cultural sector, **this initiative will help** to better preserve **European unique artefacts**, **cultural landscapes**, **historical sites** and **buildings in the digital age**.

## For whom?

The European Cloud for Cultural Heritage is for museum professionals such as **cultural heritage scholars**, **curators**, **archivists** and **conservators** from all over Europe. It will **facilitate access to advanced technologies** and **remove barriers** for smaller and remote cultural institutions. The Cloud will act as a lever for small and remote museums to tap into EU funding for going digital.

## How?

The Cloud for Cultural Heritage will bring together well developed, but often isolated solutions into a **genuine network**. It will link **new technologies** and **tools** to existing data spaces at the EU and Member States' levels. To this **new and cutting edge services and tools** will be added, based on the latest technological findings and **new research**.

## When?

The work has just started and this is only the launch of a co-creation process. Following an ex-ante impact assessment by eight prominent experts, the **European Commission** aims at launching several **calls under Horizon Europe** for 2023 and 2024, with a total envisaged **budget** of **€ 110 million**. To make the cloud a **lasting construction**, the Commission and the Members States have now embarked on establishing a long term governance model **combining existing** national and European structures **with new high end technologies and research**.