

Interim stakeholder update (Newsletter issue 1)

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for registering as a stakeholder on the [EuropeanaLocal website](#). EuropeanaLocal is a 3 year Best Practice Network project, funded under the eContentplus programme of the European Commission, which started on 1 June 2008. Its main purpose is to mobilise and assist the huge number of museums, archives and audio-visual archives **at local and regional level** so that they can make the enormous amount of digital content that they hold available through the Europeana service of the European Digital Library.

EuropeanaLocal is setting out first of all to exemplify how this can be done by working with a single co-ordinator of local and regional digital content in each EU Member State. The amount of content digitised by the content providers co-ordinated in this way amounts to a staggering 28 million items in various types and formats including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers. We plan that by the end of the project around 10 million of these will be visible through the [Europeana](#) portal.

However, we aim to go beyond the delivery of even this large subset, by establishing with our close colleagues in Europeana a widely understood process and infrastructure which will enable any local or regionally-based digital content provider to contribute their content to Europeana or for that matter, any other portal service provider. The stream of work necessary to carry this out, involving normalisation of existing metadata schemas in use with the Europeana Semantic Elements (ESE), installation of repositories, harvesting by Europeana, together with the staff training and support necessary to achieve this is already well underway in the EuropeanaLocal partner regions.

We are keenly aware, at the same time, that there are national initiatives designed to aggregate metadata for digital content underway at various stages of progress in a substantial number of EU countries. We very much want to support these and where possible to stimulate the spread of similar initiatives, promoting especially the use of Europeana-compliant standards. To this end, we plan during the third year of the project (2010/11) to support a series of meetings, one in each Member State, which will be designed to enable discussion, to build consensus and support progress from whatever the current position may be on national aggregation issues, especially those which involve local and regionally-sourced content. Europeana will work best if it is able to harvest a manageable number of metadata aggregations. For this reason, EuropeanaLocal stands squarely behind national and major thematic aggregation initiatives such as those being established by other projects in the expanding Europeana 'family'. See the [Europeana Group](#) website for a complete and up-to-date listing.

We will keep you up to date with progress on this major initiative through further issues of this news bulletin. In the meantime, we encourage you to visit the EuropeanaLocal website where you will find information on who our local and regional partners are, all our activities and the suite of technical reports and guidance that the project is developing for use by those interested. Please don't hesitate to contact us, either using the form on the website or directly.

With Kind Regards

Rob Davies
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EuropeanaLocal