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Issue 3  
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### Welcome to the 3rd issue of the EuropeanaLocal Newsletter

EuropeanaLocal aims to make digital content from regional and local museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual institutions interoperable and accessible through Europeana and other service providers.

EuropeanaLocal will ensure that the approaches, standards and tools developed by Europeana are adopted widely across the cultural heritage sector, thereby supporting the interoperability of content within Europeana beyond that which is held by purely national level institutions

[Read more about EuropeanaLocal](#)

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### Content

EuropeanaLocal is beginning to have quite an impact on the Europeana portal. As I write some 3,328,156 of the 13,706,126 records in the Europeana Portal come from EuropeanaLocal partners. That's very nearly a quarter. The following countries now have content live: Spain, Norway, UK, Poland, Greece, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Slovenia, France, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Austria, Portugal, Latvia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ireland and Finland. Read more about the UK and Lithuania below...

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### Veria Central Public Library wins prestigious Access to Learning Award

We are thrilled to be able to congratulate our Greek partners at [Veria Central Public Library](#) – a contributor to [Europeana.eu](#) – who have received a [\\$1 million](#) award for their creative use of information and technology services

The 2010 Access to Learning Award was presented by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and will be used to help the Veria Library expand its network, upgrade its IT infrastructure and increase its reach through websites and social networking.

The Veria Library was the first in Greece to provide free access to computers and, in 1997, to have its own website. It also helped over 60 Greek public libraries develop their own websites.

"It's a testament to Veria's ingenuity that such a small library in the mountainous region of Northern Greece is paving the way for its users and for others who can and have learned from its innovative use of technology and exciting programs," said Deborah Jacobs, director of the Global Libraries initiative for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

[See works from the Veria Central Public Library on Europeana](#) and watch a [slideshow](#) about the Library and its services.

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## First Content into Europeana from UK Partner



Europeana has successfully ingested the first set of content via UK national aggregation Culture Grid. This is managed by the EuropeanaLocal partner Collections Trust. For the UK the process was relatively simple because the Culture Grid has already has an OAI-PMH feed in place. The first work that needed to be carried out was the mapping of the metadata in the Culture Grid to the Europeana Semantic Elements (ESE). Secondly, was to enable the export of data from the Grid in ESE. With these in place it was possible to provide Europeana with OAI-relevant URLs for the separate collections in the Grid. This allowed Europeana to harvest content directly without human intervention at UK end.

Organisations with content in Europeana via Culture Grid at the moment (or soon) are:

- Ashmolean Museum Oxford;
- Beamish Treasures (Co Durham);
- Bedes World (Co Durham);
- Bowes Museum (Co Durham);
- Durham County Council;
- English Heritage (Viewfinder);
- Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge);
- iSee Gateshead;
- Kirklees Images (Huddersfield);
- Lambeth Landmark (London);
- Leodis (Leeds);
- Picture the Past (East Midlands);
- Portable Antiquities Scheme (based at the British Museum);
- Tyne and Wear Imagine (Newcastle);
- Visual Arts Data Service (based in Farnham, Surrey);
- Wiltshire Heritage Museum (Devizes).

It is estimated that at least half a million pieces of cultural content will be available on Europeana from Culture Grid in time for the Rhine release.

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## National Meetings

The planned series of National Meetings is progressing well. Meetings have been held, with considerable impact, in the following countries: Sweden and Belgium in December 2009; Bulgaria and Czech Republic in March 2010; Portugal in May; Romania in June; Finland, Ireland, and Slovenia in September; and Germany,

Latvia, Malta, Norway, Estonia, Poland and Greece in October 2010.

Forthcoming meetings include: Spain on 17 November and Austria on 19/20 November 2010.

Reports from all of these will appear on the EuropeanaLocal website shortly.

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## Lithuania's Heritage In The Spotlight

Content provided by DIZI, our partner in Lithuania, recently featured in Europeana's [eNewsletter](#) (the September 2010 edition):

From [historic photographs of the capital Vilnius](#), to [17th century maps](#), [early literary works](#) and traditional [folk music](#), many of Lithuania's traditions and achievements are represented on Europeana - even more so with the recent addition of thousands of pictures and posters.

Among the 5,700 objects contributed by the regional Sela museum in Birzai, the collection of 19th and 20th century photographs is particularly interesting to browse through.

Hundreds of black and white images offer a window into the past. There are [family portraits](#),



Family Photo  
Courtesy of DIZI, Lithuania

The [Smardone spa resort](#) in 1937 - still a popular tourist destination - and favourite winter activities, such as [ice sailing](#) and [skating on the Aglona river](#).

A 17th century engraving of [Radvila castle and Birzai](#), created by famous cartographer Tomas Makovskis, is another historically significant object from the archives of the Sela museum.

"Some of the streets shown on the map still exist. Others have disappeared. However, the accuracy of map was proven by recent archeological excavations," says Juozas Markauskas, head of the digitisation department at [DIZI Heritage](#) - the organisation helping Lithuania's cultural institutions to digitise their collections.



Opera Poster  
Courtesy of DIZI, Lithuania

Over 2,000 posters from the Lithuanian Theatre, Music and Cinema Museum have also been added to Europeana. The posters, printed in Polish and Russian, reflect key aspects of Lithuania's history, including a time when Lithuania was under the control of the Russian Empire and there was a ban on all Lithuanian publications printed in the Latin alphabet.

"The content of the 19th century posters also discloses the broad variety of multicultural links existing at the time in the European area," says Mr. Markauskas.

The posters advertise the many performances on offer to the citizens of Vilnius, including works by playwrights Shakespeare and Molière, German writer Goethe, French

writer Dumas and Italian composers Rossini and Verdi.

Discover more about [Lithuania's heritage](#) on Europeana, or see the collection of photographs and posters from [DIZI Heritage](#).

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## News from Europeana

### A richer data model for Europeana

The Europeana Data Model (EDM) – a new way of structuring data that will bring the benefits of Semantic Web technology to Europeana.eu – has been published.

The release of the EDM indicates a qualitative change in the way Europeana will deal with metadata gathered from content providers. It will open up the possibility for browsing Europeana in new and revealing ways which are not possible with the current Europeana Semantic Elements data model.

For example, the EDM will allow a digital object from one provider to be shown alongside a relevant article about the object or a thesaurus offered by other institutions, offering more context and information for users.

Once Europeana starts receiving content formatted using the EDM next year, it will also enable the use of linked data, which allows connections to be made between search terms. With linked data, a search for the "Virgin Mary" could lead to results not just for that single term, but also to objects labelled as "Mary, Mother Of Christ", "the Blessed Virgin" or "Heilige Maria".

Developed by members of [Europeana v1.0](#), [EuropeanaConnect](#) and experts from academic and cultural circles, the EDM has been validated by technical specialists at libraries, museums, archives and audio-visual collections. This group will continue to make refinements to the EDM over the coming months, as testing is carried out between now and January 2011. The EDM is backwardly compatible with ESE, and will start to be used by data providers during 2011.

The EDM Primer and the [Definition of the EDM Elements](#) are in the [Technical Documents](#) section of the v1.0 website.

### Europeana and Creative Commons Launch New Public Domain Mark

Creative Commons has [launched](#) a new Public Domain Mark and Europeana is the first major adopter of the tool, which enables works free of known copyright restrictions to be labeled in a way that clearly communicates that status to the public.

The new mark was launched at the Europeana Open Culture 2010 conference in Amsterdam, in October. [Presentations](#) from the conference are available and you may also like to watch a [video](#) which it features some of the conference speakers: Liam Wyatt (Wikipedia), James Crawford (Google Books) and Nathan Yergler (Creative Commons). If you have a spare 30 minutes, it is well worth it.

Using the mark, public domain works can be easily discovered over the Internet, making them more readily accessible to the public. The mark also makes it clear to teachers and students, artists and scientists, that they are free to re-use material.

On the Europeana portal, the Public Domain Mark will become the standard symbol for works free of known copyright. It will play an important infrastructural role in the EU's efforts to ensure that all works shared online are marked with rights' information.

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