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education

European
Schoolnet

EUROPEANA EDUCATION

An initiative to integrate cultural heritage into classrooms

2018-2019

Europeana Education
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cultural heritage into classrooms

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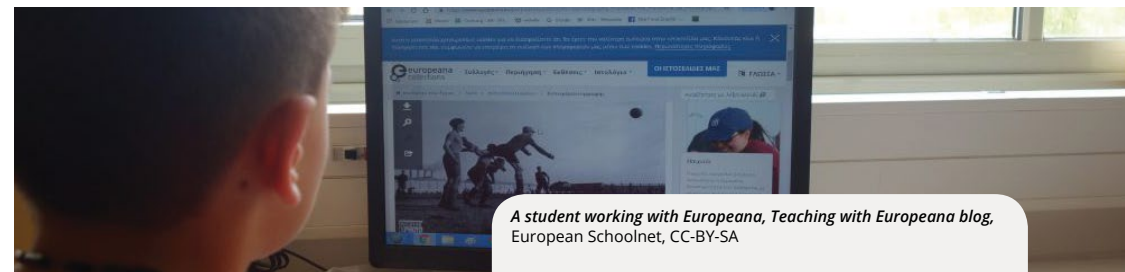**cultural heritage into classrooms**

Executive summary

The integration of digital cultural heritage in the classroom is increasingly important as the 21st century brings further opportunities for digital teaching and learning. While the national curriculum can differ from country to country within the European Union, the demand to understand our common European history, cultural heritage and challenges for the future stays all-encompassing. Digital cultural heritage can be used not only to educate about Arts, History or Literature, but it also gives an excellent basis for teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). For example, students can study original drawings of Leonardo da Vinci to understand the development of engineering techniques. Cultural heritage helps to enhance students' soft skills and supports them throughout their learning process.

To integrate cultural heritage into the classroom, the Europeana Foundation (EF) has been working with European Schoolnet (EUN) for the last five years on creating Learning Scenarios (a teacher's detailed description of the learning unit that guides class learning), testing them and training teachers on how to integrate them in their teaching.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, over 2,118 teachers from 45 countries, teaching mainly in primary and secondary schools, have been following trainings and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). They also have been involved in creating Learning Scenarios and using them in classes, impacting more than 38,000 students.

The teachers participating in the project are organized in two groups (Ambassadors and User Group), they meet at face to face trainings in Brussels, prepare webinars, videos in different languages, create online training materials and regularly share experiences on the *Teaching with Europeana* blog.

During the 2019–2020 academic year, the community is expected to grow by 1,000 teachers and will provide them with additional training opportunities. The *Europeana in your classroom: building 21st century competences with digital cultural heritage* MOOC will be offered in five languages with French and Italian added to the initial English, Spanish and Portuguese courses, bringing Europeana to even more pupils. More ready-to-use learning resources will be available to interested teachers.

A student working with Europeana, Teaching with Europeana blog,
European Schoolnet, CC-BY-SA

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The crucial role of cultural heritage in education

The role of cultural heritage in education is recognized in several policy documents, among them the Convention of the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention) of the Council of Europe (2005). In its Article 13, the document states that countries should take measures in order to 'facilitate the inclusion of the cultural heritage dimension at all levels of education, not necessarily as a subject of study in its own right, but as a fertile source for studies in other subjects'. This means that cultural heritage is relevant for many subjects and consequently should be considered when training teachers in those disciplines.

The relevance of cultural heritage in education was also stressed during the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, an initiative of the European Parliament. One of the specific objectives was to raise awareness of the importance of Europe's cultural heritage through education and lifelong learning.

In parallel, 21st-century technology is already present in classrooms and the nature of teaching and learning is undeniably changing. As the importance of digital learning grows, it brings opportunities to apply Europe's digital cultural heritage and, therefore, provides actors of educational systems with new methods and material. Having access to extended collections of resources, educators can enrich any curriculum with multiple insights such as cultural, economic, historical and political.

Discover why teachers are enriching their topics with cultural heritage

In der Schule, Museum Schloss Moritzburg Zeitz - Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

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About Europeana

Europeana is Europe's platform for digital cultural heritage. It currently provides free access to ca. 60 million cultural records coming from thousands of museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual collections across Europe. Learners of all ages can find images/text/audio/video/3D content on anything from art and science, in over 37 languages. A big part of its collections - over 20 million items- is openly licensed and can be freely reused in education.

Europeana was launched by the President of the European Commission in November 2008 and its mission is to transform the world with culture. Europeana aims to make our shared heritage openly accessible online to help shape innovative and inspiring classrooms with digital culture. In line with the recommendations of the European Commission to create the European Education Area, we are working on three key aspects: 1) preserving cultural heritage and promoting a sense of a European identity and culture, 2) giving more support to teachers, and 3) driving innovation in education in the digital era.

'*Cultural heritage provides multiple opportunities for social and economic development. By integrating digital culture in education, we equip teachers and students, not only with the necessary digital skills for employability and citizenship but also with a resource that strengthen European common values and intercultural understanding'.*
Harry Verwayen, Executive Director at Europeana.

About European Schoolnet

European Schoolnet (EUN) is a network of 34 Ministries of Education whose mission is to support schools, teachers and stakeholders in Europe in the transformation of education processes. Since its founding in 1997, European Schoolnet has used its links with education Ministries to help schools become effective in the pedagogical use of technology, equipping both teachers and pupils with the necessary skills to achieve in the digital society.

European Schoolnet is positioned as an Ideas Lab that is able to help its Ministries develop policies to support the educational reform process at European level, based on evidence and facts. The objectives of EUN are to 1) provide services, content and tools based on ICT to members and partner networks, 2) foster and support collaboration and cooperation among schools in Europe, 3) support professional development of teachers, teacher trainers, school leaders and support staff, 4) disseminate inspiring practices and investigate new models for schooling and learning, 5) offer pedagogical and information services with European added value to schools in Europe, 6) contribute to the development of technology enhanced learning in schools.

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Mission and achivements

The Europeana Education initiative aims to mainstream the use of digital culture in the classrooms, across curricula and at a transnational level. European Schoolnet's has been a key partner in making that happen expanding the project through four main activities.

1. A network of Europeana Teacher Ambassadors

European Schoolnet, with its supporting Education Ministries, has created the Europeana Teacher Ambassador network, composed of 13 Europeana Ambassadors from Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Turkey, and one of them representing the European Schools[1].

Their core task is to develop and test pedagogical scenarios, state-of-the-art examples of the integration of digital cultural heritage in the classroom. The materials prepared by teachers explore topics such as virtual reality, migration, propaganda, European identity and critical thinking, all using Europeana content. Simultaneously to being innovative and diverse in topic and execution, these Learning Scenarios aim to connect formal education with informal education, while taking advantage of a digitalised learning environment. Thus, pupils are being prepared for the challenges of the present and the future.

The scenarios are available under Creative Commons license in the Future Classroom Lab (FCL)[2] repository and on the *Teaching with Europeana* blog.

Furthermore, from January until June 2019, each Ambassador carries out webinars on the national level. The recordings are now available YouTube[3].

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1. Available at: https://www.eursc.eu/en
2. Available at: http://fcl.eun.org/directory
3. Accessible via: http://bit.ly/33OSY7p

Europeana ambassadors and user group teachers at the SPW29,
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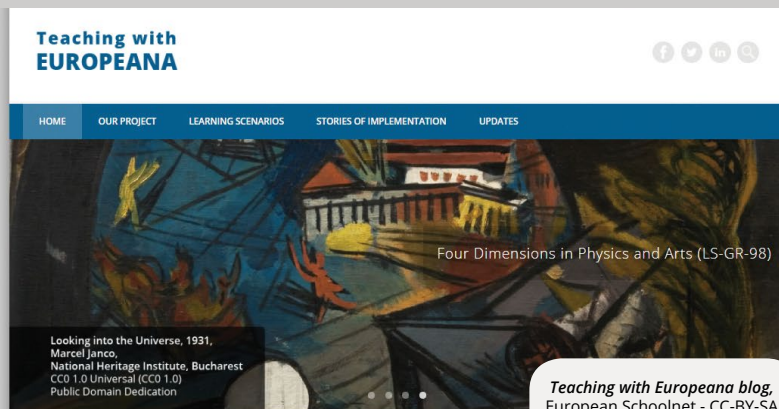
2. The Europeana Education User Group

The Europeana Education User Group consist of 130 dedicated teachers, coordinated by the Europeana Ambassadors. They contribute to the animation of the *Teaching with Europeana* blog by creating and testing Learning Scenarios, using Europeana resources. They also provide comments and give advice to their peers. The User Group also shares regular feedback to improve the project and help disseminate the learning materials.

3. The Teaching with Europeana blog

The learning resources created by the User Group give the basis of the *Teaching with Europeana* blog. Over 200 learning scenarios and Stories of Implementation are available on the blog and cover a variety of topics: Languages, History, Geography, Physics, Biology, Social Sciences, Mathematics, and so on. The blog is an initiative to encourage teachers to share their experiences with using Europeana resources in their classroom. The blog is a growing platform, it's updated every week with new Learning Scenarios and Stories of Implementations and the content is easily searchable by subject and education level. Ultimately, the blog is a meeting point for European teachers searching for resources and advice.

Discover why teachers like using the *Teaching with Europeana* blog

Teaching with
EUROPEANA

HOME   OUR PROJECT   LEARNING SCENARIOS   STORIES OF IMPLEMENTATION   UPDATES

Four Dimensions in Physics and Arts (LS-GR-98)

Looking into the Universe, 1931,
Marcel Janco,
National Heritage Institute, Bucharest
CC0 1.0 Universal (CC0 1.0)
Public Domain Dedication

Teaching with Europeana blog,
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4. The Europeana Education MOOCs
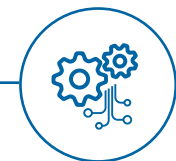
English MOOC

The *Europeana in your classroom: building 21st-century competences with digital cultural heritage* Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is a training tool created by teachers to help other educators to integrate digital culture in any kind of discipline. The MOOC ran for the first time in April 2018. It was updated in the 2018-2019 academic year, based on extensive evaluation and feedback received from the course participants. Launched on 14 January 2019 and finished in March 2019, the MOOC rerun was very well received among teachers in Europe.

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Europeana in your classroom:
building 21st-century competences
with digital cultural heritage

Massive Open Online Course
#EuropeanaMOOC

Study for the Francesco Sforza
equestrian monument,
Leonardo da Vinci
Royal Library, Windsor
Public Domain

Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

1,696
participants

37%
completion rate*

50
learning scenarios

98% of the participants rated the overall value of the course as **"Good" or "Very good"**
95% of the participants **would recommend the course** to a colleague or a friend.
93% of the participants felt more confident with **using digital cultural heritage**

*The course completion rate is calculated by diving the total number of participants that completed the course, and were thus awarded a certificate for course completion, by the total number of participants who started the MOOC. The course completion rate is better than the average 10% completitition rate of other MOOCs.

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Translated MOOCs

The Europeana MOOC had also been translated to Portuguese and Spanish. The translated courses started on 18 March 2019 and were running until the beginning of May. These were the first translated MOOCs offered in the EUN Academy that were open to anybody. It was also the first time that the MOOCs resulted with the creation of learning resources in national languages.

Spanish MOOC

128
participants

27%
completion rate*

11
learning scenarios

100% of the participants rated the overall value of the course as **"Good" or "Very good".**
88% of the participants would **recommend the course to a colleague or a friend.**
100% of them now **know how copyright works** and how to use digital cultural heritage.

Portuguese MOOC

150
participants

26%
completion rate*

20
learning scenarios

100% of the participants rated the overall value of the course as **"Good" or "Very good".**
94% of the participants would **recommend the course to a colleague or a friend.**
83% of them now **know how copyright works** and how to use digital cultural heritage.

What's next?

Digital cultural heritage is key for learners of the present to understand their past and prepare for their future. Innovative and high-quality learning resources are only part of this journey. European Schoolnet believes that a vital part of students' development lies in the capacity of their teachers to support, assist and encourage students to undertake a nourishing learning process.

One of European Schoolnet's ongoing challenges is to support the emergence of reflective teachers working in collaboration with their colleagues. The teachers involved in the Europeana Education initiative aim to make this collaboration successful for educators of all subjects, who are interested in digital cultural heritage.

This community of teachers is looking towards an exciting new year! The *Teaching with Europeana* blog will be open to even more interested teachers to share their experiences. The *Europeana in your classroom: building 21st century competences with digital cultural heritage* online course will be translated to French and Italian, bringing Europeana to even more pupils. During the second year of the project, another 150 learning scenarios are expected to result from the rerun of the Europeana MOOCs. In addition, another at least 60 learning scenarios and Stories of Implementation will be published and made available to assure more access to ready-to-use learning resources to interested teachers.

With more than 38,000 students already reached, the Europeana Education initiative will continue to extend the community of teachers using digital cultural heritage in their classroom in the 2019-2020 academic year!

Would you like to know more about the project?

Discover what students
think about Europeana

Join the Europeana Education Facebook and LinkedIn Group,
Visit the Europeana Pro website and the *Teaching with Europeana blog!*

Are you looking for a potential collaboration? Get in touch with us!

At European Schoolnet:
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At Europeana Foundation:
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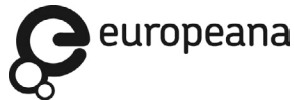f +32 (0)2 790 75 85
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