

Children of the Sea, Jozef  
Israëls, 1872  
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam,  
public domain



europæana  
education

# EUROPEANA DSI-2 PILOT

Results and recommendations for embedding  
Europe's digital cultural heritage in education



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[Europeana](#) is Europe's digital platform for cultural heritage, providing free online access to over 53 million digitised items drawn from Europe's museums, archives, libraries and galleries.



# The Europeana platform

Europeana's mission is to build on Europe's rich heritage and make it easier for people to use, whether for work, for learning or just for fun. Europeana collections feature a huge diversity of content in many different languages, themes and media, including newspapers, 3D images, photographs, art works, maps, texts, and more.

## Europeana Education

Europeana Education is an initiative to embed Europe's digital cultural heritage in education. Its digitized collection of cultural heritage - from 43 countries and searchable in 23 languages - can provide multiple perspectives on historical, political, economic, cultural, and human developments across Europe and beyond.

Teachers wishing to incorporate Europeana in their lessons can read the [guide to using Europeana in education](#), which presents tips on how to find the best content for the classroom and information on [copyright and crediting](#). Teachers can also browse other [resources](#) before [searching the platform](#) for what they need.

There are also numerous websites and applications that present Europeana content in an educational and creative way. Teachers wishing to bring cultural heritage in their lessons can:

- explore history teaching resources on [Historiana](#);
- search learning resources on Europe's science and technology history on [Inventing Europe](#);
- recreate famous art works in their classroom with [Van Go Yourself](#);
- [create](#) new versions of Europe's most famous art works using their own photos as inspiration;
- help children learn about art in a fun way by using portraits from Europeana on [Art Stories FACES](#);
- get involved the [Europeana Transcribathon](#) for learning.

## Validation pilot

As part of the Europeana DSI-2 project, European Schoolnet carried out a validation pilot involving 20 teachers (one primary and one secondary teacher per country) from ten different European countries (Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, Austria, Ireland, Estonia, Italy, Finland, France and Hungary).

The goal of the pilot was to learn how to mainstream the use of Europeana collections amongst educators and to provide policy makers and teachers with insights on 'HOW' Europeana resources can support innovative pedagogical practice. The project evaluation is based on feedback from teachers of the two pilot phases, obtained via two online surveys.

From November 2016 to June 2017, the 20 pilot teachers developed and tested pedagogical scenarios and learning activities that incorporate Europeana content. During two workshops in the Future Classroom Lab in Brussels, teachers learned how to search the Europeana platform. Two pilot phases followed each training, during which teachers developed their pedagogical scenario and learning activities further in their own classrooms, and engaged their colleagues and school staff in using Europeana material.

The scenarios and learning activities have been made available under Creative Commons licenses and have been integrated in the Future Classroom Lab Directory of professional development resources for teachers.





## Pilot teachers' background

Teachers who participated in the pilot have between 5-20 years of experience and were already familiar with integrating ICT in their teaching. However, only 4 teachers had used the Europeana website prior to the pilot. During the pilot, teachers used Europeana resources and tools in a variety of different subjects such as arts, history, mathematics, languages and in multiple education levels involving learners in primary education from 8 years to upper secondary education.

## Teaching Practices

Teachers applied a variety of pedagogical practices throughout the pilot period, particularly emphasising student centred approaches. All teachers mentioned after phase 2 of the pilot that they let students work in groups. Almost all teachers let them make a product or create content and let students work in projects.

16 of the 20 teachers declared that there was a positive change in their pedagogical approach after having participated in the pilot. Some teachers consider that they have progressed in designing more personalized student activities and giving more responsibility to students for their learning.

*"I used the Europeana Exhibition Project to connect students' prior knowledge, life experience and personal life with our learning goal (for example interviews with family members, friends)." Pilot teacher from Hungary*

## Developing students' competences

Almost all teachers reported after the second pilot phase that their students had developed their digital competences, collaboration, communication and creativity skills. Interest and engagement, as well as critical thinking skills were mentioned by around two-thirds of the teachers. These were also the skills that most of the teachers aimed to develop in the beginning of the project.

## Appreciation of Europeana content and tools

*"As a teacher's life is quite busy I like the ready curated Exhibitions and even the small posts on Facebook or the Europeana blog. These are materials, which only need to be adapted and linked to very up-to date problems and the learning scenario is ready." Pilot teacher from Hungary*

All teachers integrated the rich variety of free to reuse resources that the Europeana platform provides in their pilot learning scenarios. Teachers appreciated in particular the fact that the website has quality material, which is organized, curated (e.g. exhibitions) and ready to be used or re-used for education.

Europeana's 'Collections (art, music or fashion)' are a particularly popular feature for the teachers. All pilot teachers used these and found it useful for their teaching. 'Pinterest' and 'Europeana search by colour, people or time periods' were also popular features that almost all (18) pilot teachers used.

# Recommendations:

After phase 2 of the project on a scale from 1-10 (10 highest score), teachers would recommend the Europeana platform to other teachers (8.94 points) and to students (8.21 points). The project was already shared by pilot teachers with a variety of stakeholders, e.g. headmasters, ICT coordinators, other teachers, policy makers, and parents, who all responded positively to the project.

Based on the positive experience from the pilot teachers, we highlight below a selection of three recommendations relevant to multiple educational stakeholders, that should be considered in the future for further uptake by teachers of the Europeana platform. The integral list of recommendations can be seen in Deliverable D3.4 of the Europeana DSI-2 project.

1. Making teachers more aware of the availability of Europeana curated resources and tools is key and the Europeana 2017 Business Plan already outlines a number of ways in order to achieve this, including by working to develop a Europeana Education community and by establishing a network of teacher ambassadors. Working with its supporting Ministries of Education, European Schoolnet has already successfully put in place a network of Future Classroom Ambassadors in 15 countries and large networks of teacher ambassadors in the Scientix project and as part of the European Commission's eTwinning initiative. European Schoolnet could leverage this model to assist Europeana to establish a network of European ambassadors and a pan-European teacher community.
2. Europeana could work with European Schoolnet and with policy makers in education ministries in order to expose more Europeana resources via the EUN [Learning Resource Exchange](#) infrastructure and via educational content portals such as those maintained by Ministries of Education, national ICT agencies and [EdReNe](#) members (Educational Resource Network). This could promote its use by educators and could support a more widespread digital culture at schools.
3. Europeana should provide teachers with free access to online training opportunities in how to utilise Europeana resources and tools. In this context, European Schoolnet has already agreed to develop a five-module MOOC as part of a new DSI-3 project that will start in September 2017. Europeana could also explore whether online professional development could be carried out within eTwinning online Learning Events and Courses.

## About the Europeana DSI-2 project

As a Digital Service Infrastructure (DSI), Europeana DSI-2 aims to connect the online collections of Europe's cultural heritage institutions.

The core objectives of the Europeana DSI-2 are to create value for partners, improve data quality, open the data, and strengthen the Europeana ecosystem.

In line with the objectives of EU's Digital Agenda of improving the digital availability and online accessibility of Europe's cultural memory, Europeana DSI-2 is ensuring that Europe's businesses and citizens can reap the full benefits of the technological revolution in digital services in culture.

Europeana Foundation (EF), Netherlands, has coordinated the Europeana DSI-2 project in a consortium of 34 partners who contributed to its realization. As part of this consortium, European Schoolnet, Belgium coordinated the validation. The DSI-2 project took place between 1 July 2016 - 31 August 2017.

Join the Europeana Education [LinkedIn group](#) to learn from best practice and to stay up to date with new developments and opportunities. Email [Europeana](#) and show us how you are using Europeana Education!

<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/en>

<http://pro.europeana.eu/use-our-data/education>

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