



BUDGET 2026

ACTION PROPOSED

The General Assembly of the Europeana Network Association (ENA) approves the 2026 operation budget of the Europeana Network Association. This document, prepared by Chris de Loof, Treasurer of the Europeana Network Association, jointly with the Association's Management Board and with the Europeana Foundation's finance team, provides an update on the finances of the Association. The information contained in this document is based on the financial administration maintained by the Europeana Foundation on behalf of the Association. All structural funding for the Europeana Network Association is provided by the Europeana Foundation from the project 'Common European data space for cultural heritage, and additional budgets for ENA project participation.

As this contract ends by August 2026, and by the time this budget for 2026 needs to be approved, the new tender is not published, and we have only secured funding for the first eight months into 2026. We do know that the total budget for the entire data space contract (including all partners) will remain at €7,500,000, similar to the last contract, therefore we take the assumption that the budget for the ENA can remain the same.

Similar to 2025, the ENA is involved in two European funded projects: ECHOES & 3D-CH. This provides us with a small travel budget. For the 3D-4CH project it requires 50% co-funding.

PROPOSAL

ENA draft budget 2026

The proposal for the 2026 budget (see table 1) is based on the Foundation's contribution to the activities of the Association amounting to a total of €94,130 which includes a forecasted underspend of €40,130 from 2025, a travel budget of 4,500 for the ECHOES project, and a travel budget for the 3D-4CH project. The structural annual budget for the ENA remains at €49,500 per year, in line with previous years.

Although we would like to see a structural increase, in relation to the increase of the size of the Network, the overall budgets (including the Common European data space for cultural heritage) are under pressure due to a substantial increase in personnel costs (CLA related increases) within a short period of time.

Table 1: Draft Budget 2026

Budget category	Budget 2026	From 2025	Total budget 2026	Forecast 2025
- Operating costs ENA	2,000	4,000	6,000	500
- Governance MB/MC	14,500	5,500	20,000	19,000
- Communities	21,000	7,000	28,000	21,500
- Grants for Europeana annual conference	0	0	0	10,597
- Country groups	7,500	0	7,500	0
- Projects related travel	4,500	0	4,500	1,500
* ECHOES	4,000		4,000	
* 3D-4CH	1,000		1,000	
* Co-funding 3D-4CH	-500	0	-500	
- ENA workshop AI		0	0	15,000
- In reserve	0	23,630	23,630	0
Total	54,000	40,130	94,130	68,097

Explanation on the budget categories for 2026

Operating costs

The operating costs consist of administrative working of the ENA (eg. statutes, legal, prints, publicity, software, licences, marketing costs and the cost of a strategic seminar of the Board).

Governance MB/MC

Compared to 2025, the budget for governance MB/MC (which includes meetings and travel) has increased to €20,000. This is based on the forecasted costs of 2025.

Communities

The budget for the seven communities remains at the same level compared to 2025 (€28,000) and is €4,000 per year per community (see table 2). Based on the annual work plans of the communities, the ENA MB might decide to grant a higher budget for 2026.

Grants for the Europeana Annual Conference

We foresee no Europeana Conference in 2026.

Table 2: Draft budget 2026 - Communities

Community	Budget 2026	From 2025	Total budget 2026
- Europeana Tech	3,000	1,000	4,000
- Europeana Research	3,000	1,000	4,000
- Europeana Education	3,000	1,000	4,000
- Europeana Copyright	3,000	1,000	4,000
- Europeana Impact	3,000	1,000	4,000
- Europeana Communicators	3,000	1,000	4,000
- Europeana Climate Actions	3,000	1,000	4,000
	21,000	7,000	28,000

Country groups

The pilot for the country groups has been evaluated in 2025. Based on this evaluation, the ENA decided to continue supporting this initiative. The country group's initiative will take a start in 2026 following new terms of references. We foresee a budget of €7,500 for operational activities of country groups.

Reserves

The reserves are kept for new initiatives, risk mitigation, starting taskforces, justified extra budget claims coming from the ENA Communities based on the yearly community plans.

Using the ENA underspend from previous year

It has been agreed with the Europeana Foundation that any underspend of the ENA budget after the end of a calendar year, can be fully used for the year after, or to be held in reserve.



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