europeana education

European Schoolnet

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FIVE YEARS PROMOTING INNOVATIVE LEARNING WITH DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

2015 - 2020

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About Europeana

Europeana is Europe's platform for digital cultural heritage, empowering cultural heritage institutions to share their collections with the world. Through the Europeana collections website[1], millions of cultural heritage items from around 4,000 institutions across Europe are available online. We work to share and promote this heritage so that it can be used and enjoyed by people across the world. Our work contributes to an open, knowledgeable and creative society.

Learners of all ages can find images, text, audio, video and 3D content on anything from art to science, in over 37 languages. A big part of the 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. Its mission from 2020 onwards is to empower the cultural heritage sector in its digital transformation.

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, EUN 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.

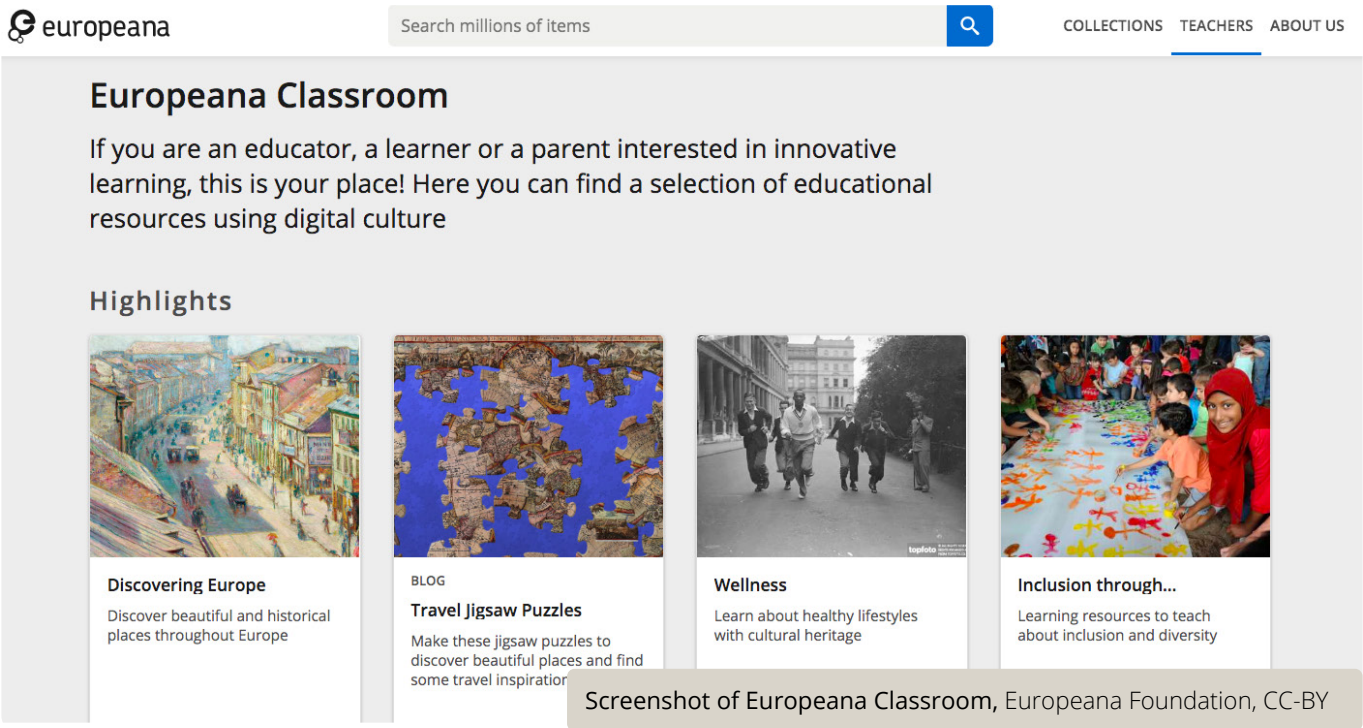
EUN is positioned as an Ideas Lab that is able to help its Ministries develop policies to support the educational reform process at the European level, based on evidence and facts. The objectives of EUN are to 1) provide services, content and tools based on ICT to members and partner networks, 2) foster and support collaboration and cooperation among schools in Europe, 3) support the 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.

[1] Available at: www.europeana.eu

Five years promoting innovative learning with digital cultural heritage

In May 2015, Europeana became one of the European Commission's Digital Service Infrastructures (DSI). Its mission is to empower cultural heritage institutions in their digital transformation. In doing so, it ensures that Europe's educational stakeholders benefit from the technological revolution in digital services for culture.

During the past five years, Europeana and EUN have been working together on strengthening the connection between cultural heritage and educational sectors. Europeana by bringing together professionals dealing with digital culture and providing educational stakeholders with training tools and guidelines, available on the Europeana Classroom[2], a new section for educators created for the revamped Europeana.eu. EUN by providing teachers training, creating, and maintaining the *Teaching with Europeana* blog[3] and by promoting the use of digital culture in education thanks to the support of its network of Education Ministries.



Screenshot of Europeana Classroom, Europeana Foundation, CC-BY

[2] Available at: www.europeana.eu/europeana-classroom

[3] Available at: https://teachwitheuropeana.eun.org/

Ensuring online accessibility of Europe's cultural memory

January 2015 - June 2016

From its creation, the Europeana Digital Service Infrastructure has been focusing on one crucial necessity: the improvement of the digital availability and online accessibility of Europe's cultural memory. The first phase of the education project was articulated around connecting the online collections of Europe's cultural heritage institutions, using an innovative aggregation infrastructure, known as Europeana[4].

During this stage of the Europeana project, EUN played a strategic role. First, by identifying subsets of Europeana data that aligned with the publication policy of its Learning Resource Exchange (LRE) service for schools. Then by mapping and enriching data provided by the Europeana application programming interface (API) and working on the automation of these processes.

Promoting the use of Europeana in education

July 2016 - August 2017

Following the first promising phase, the Europeana Education next project objectives were to provide a better experience for all user groups (art lovers, creatives, researchers and educators).

With this renewed partnership, EUN was involved in the development and increase of the reuse of Europeana content in education. To achieve this goal, EUN carried out a validation pilot project involving teachers from 10 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy and Portugal). The aim was to find out how to mainstream the use of Europeana resources among educators and to provide policymakers and educators with insights on how to best use these new creative resources.

To provide teachers with a better overview of the possibilities offered by the use of Europeana, EUN invited 20 teachers, covering a wide range of subjects to develop and test pedagogical scenarios and learning activities that incorporated Europeana content[5].

[4] Available at: www.europeana.eu

[5] More information can be found here: http://fcl.eun.org/europeana-dsi2

Pilot project workshop, 2016. European Schoolnet. Belgium. CC-BY

Creating the Europeana Teacher Community

September 2017 - August 2018

As a continuation of the previous two Europeana projects, the next educational endeavour was focusing on facilitating engagement for users, on improving data and content quality and on fostering the reuse of digital cultural heritage.

Acting as a vector between Europeana and educators, EUN's task was to continue the work started in the validation pilot of reaching educators and promoting the use of Europeana content.

EUN successfully organised and coordinated a Developer Group of 18 teachers from six target countries (Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain). With support and coordination from EUN, in three face-to-face workshops held at EUN's Future Classroom Lab, the teachers created 18 learning scenarios and 18 datasets, based on Europeana items, and they tested them in their classroom with their students.

In the second phase of their work, the Developer Group created professional development materials for teachers to feature them in the *Europeana in your classroom: building 21st century competences with digital cultural heritage* (Europeana in your Classroom) Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). As EUN emphasizes the possibility to share knowledge among teachers, the professional development materials of the MOOC focused on practical applications of Europeana content and advice on how to use different educational methodologies. The course reached approximately 11,880 students in formal education[6].

Additionally, EUN selected and coordinated 60 Europeana Education User Group teachers, from different countries and age level, whose task was to test and evaluate the learning resources created by the Developer Group. With this, the Europeana Teacher Community was born.

Developer Group, 2018. European Schoolnet. Belgium. CC-BY

[6] The MOOC outreach is calculated by multiplying the number of teachers who started the first module of the course (990) with an average of 12 students.

Building capacity

September 2018 - August 2020

With more than 2,000 teachers involved in our MOOCs, designing learning material, and 38,000 students reached for the 2018-2019 academic year, in 2019 and 2020 the Europeana Education initiative has continued to extend the community of teachers and worked on increasing the reuse of digital cultural heritage across curricula and at a transnational level. The last two years have been the most ambitious and fruitful years of EUN and Europeana collaboration' working on strengthening the community, sharing best practices and offering training.

Strengthening the Europeana Teacher Community

During the fourth project period, one of the EUN's main missions was to contribute to the upholding and growth of the Europeana Teachers Community.

Working with its supporting Education Ministries, EUN has created the Europeana Teacher Ambassador network, which consists of 13 Ambassadors from Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Turkey. One of them represents the European Schools[7].

For two years, the core task of the Europeana Ambassadors was to test the integration of digital cultural heritage in the class, by developing pedagogical scenarios and testing them with their students. By covering different school levels, subjects, and educational methods, these learning scenarios aim to connect formal education and informal education while taking advantage of a digitalised learning environment. This way, pupils are being prepared for the challenges of the present and the future.

[7] Available at: https://www.eursc.eu/en

Europeana session, Workshop October 2017. European Schoolnet. Belgium. CC-BY

Also part of the Europeana teachers community, the Ambassadors have been coordinating the Europeana User Group, which consists of 130 dedicated teachers. Their role was to populate the *Teaching with Europeana* blog by creating and testing learning scenarios, using Europeana resources.

The User Group has had an essential role in animating the Europeana Teachers Community by providing comments and giving advice to their peers, but also by sharing feedback to improve the project and help disseminate the learning materials.

The pedagogical scenarios created in the framework of the project are available under the Creative Commons license in the Future Classroom Lab (FCL) repository and on the T*eaching with Europeana* blog.

Ambassadors and User Group, Workshop June 2019. European Schoolnet. Belgium. CC-BY

Sharing best practices on the *Teaching with Europeana* blog

Launched in March 2019, the *Teaching with Europeana* blog[8] gathers the learning resources created by the Europeana Ambassadors and the User Group teachers.

[8] Available at: https://teachwitheuropeana.eun.org/

In May 2020, more than 300 learning scenarios and 100 stories of implementation were accessible on the blog. The available learning resources cover a variety of topics (Art, History, Language subjects, Music, Philosophy, STEAM, etc.), school levels (Pre-Primary, Primary, Lower Secondary, Upper Secondary, Vocational Educational Training, Adult Education), educational methods (Project-Based Learning, Inquiry-Based Learning, Content and Language Integrated Learning, etc.) and languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian).

With an average of 11,000 page views per month[9] and more than 2,900 comments, the blog has successfully fulfilled its purpose of enabling dialogue, encouraging the exchange among the community about their experience with Europeana throughout the project.

> *"Interesting Scenario Vittoria! I am a vocational education teacher in the field of Business Administration. In these days of confinement, we are dealing with entrepreneurial skills at our online lessons. I would like my students being aware of the importance of migration linked to the labour world. In this way, you made me reflect on how to connect migration and entrepreneurial personality, so I've decided to work with a story map tool to build a story from those coming from Europeana. Congratulations and many thanks for sharing it!"* *Rafael Climent*[10]

> *"I think it is a great idea and with many possibilities to bring students from classes more about technologies to get more interests in culture and Europeana resources. I am exploring the CoSpaces and Merge Cube, and it seems a great resource, so I hope soon to have the opportunity to present this proposal to my classes of IT. Congrats and thanks."* *Elisabete Pires*[11]

During the second year of the fourth project, and to ensure a sustainable community, Europeana and EUN decided to open the blog to those teachers who are not part of the User Group by offering the possibility to publish stories of implementation and learning scenarios created by the MOOCs participants. This resulted in an additional 141 learning materials available on the blog.

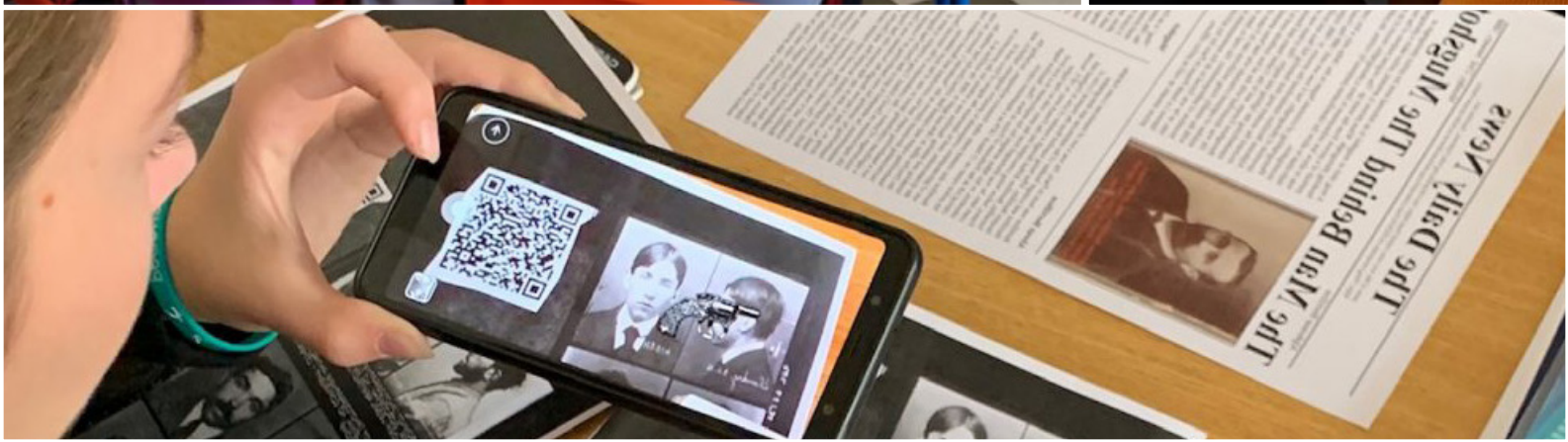
[9] Data collected via Google Analytics for the following period: 1st of March 2019 to the 1st of May 2020

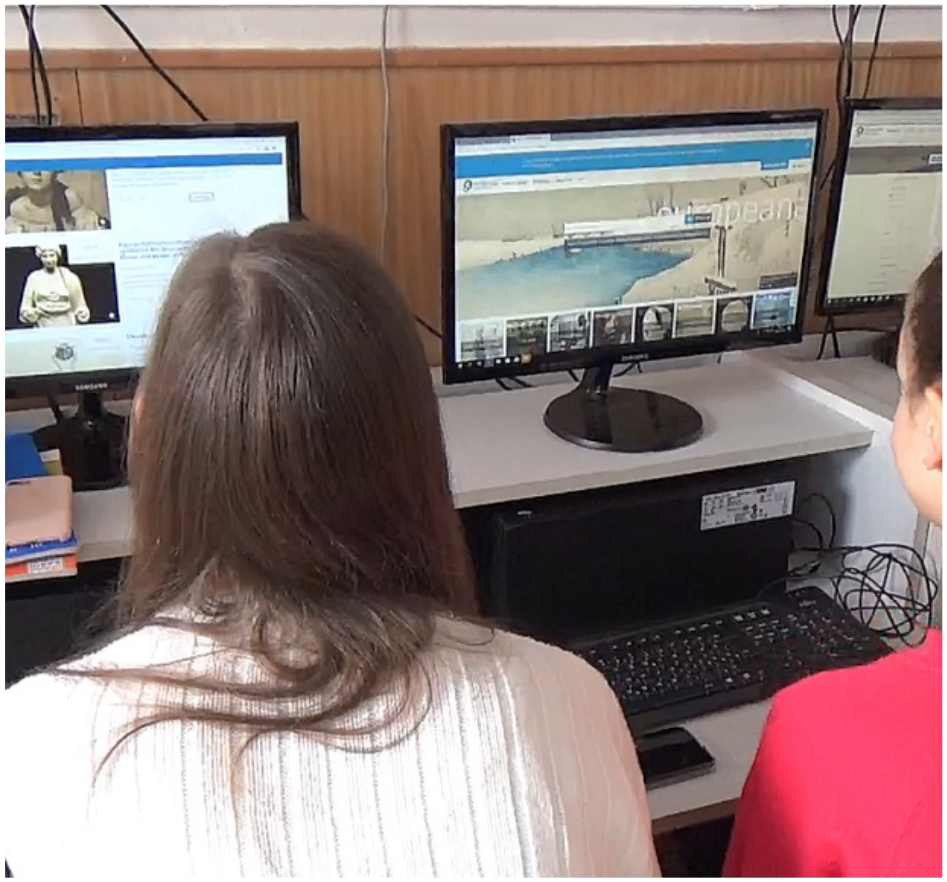
[10] Comment collected on the Teaching with Europeana blog, available following this link: https://teachwitheuropeana.eun.org/learning-scenarios/migration-an-old-new-normal-story-ls-it-291/

[11] Comment collected on the Teaching with Europeana blog, available following this link: https://teachwitheuropeana.eun.org/learning-scenarios/a-symbolic-ar-tist-ls-es-278/

PORTRAITS

HISTORY OF MDINA
- It was ounded around the 8th century BC by Phoenician settlers
- During Roman times, it was larger than it is today
- The fortified city got its current name during the Arab occupation of Malta, denoting it as "walled city"


The Daily News
The Man Behind The Mugshot



Pictures provided by Europeana User Group teachers, collected on the Teaching with Europeana blog. European Schoolnet. CC-BY

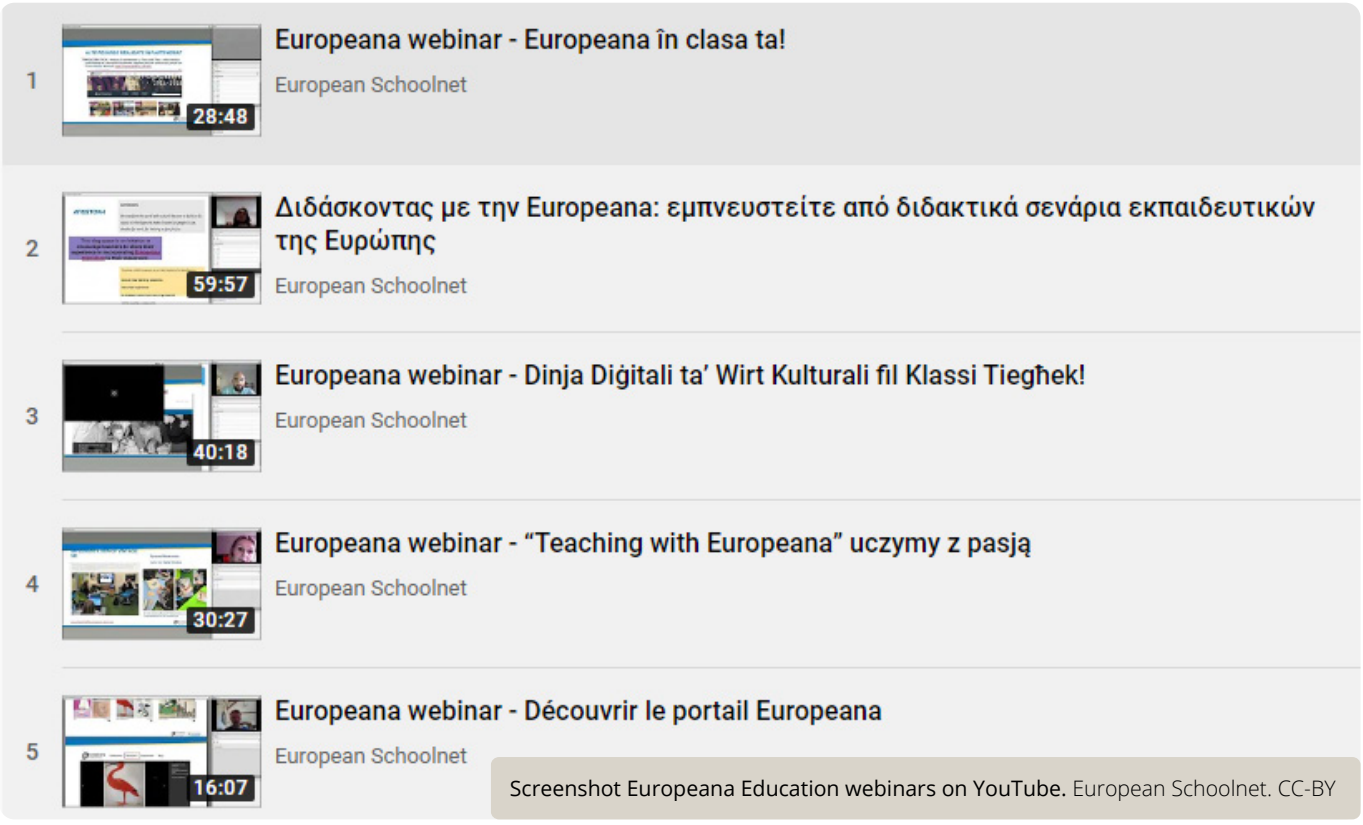
Training opportunities

Through live events

As part of the project and with a view of making Europeana accessible to more people, the 13 Europeana Ambassadors organised webinars on the national level, explaining how teachers and students can benefit from using digital cultural heritage in their classroom.

Carried out from September 2018 to July 2019, these 23 webinars have been recorded and made available for any interested teacher. Altogether, these live events attracted more than 500 participants and collected 1,150 views on YouTube[12].

Already on the EUN's YouTube channel, the webinars[13] are accessible through the new Europeana Classroom, a space for educators, learners and parents interested in innovative learning and educational resources using digital culture.



Screenshot Europeana Education webinars on YouTube. European Schoolnet. CC-BY

[12] Data retrieved in May 2020

[13] Find the webinars on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtA54levDap1wksYqKPpo1-kXGV_s1RUu and on Europeana.eu: www.europeana.eu/europeana-classroom

Educational videos

Over the first year of the fourth project, EUN created four dissemination videos to popularise the running activities at that moment and encourage the use of digital cultural heritage into classrooms.

The first video, published in December 2018, explains the purpose of the collaboration between Europeana and EUN, but also how teachers can benefit from grounding their topic (including STEM) in cultural heritage.

Published in May 2019, the second video introduces the *Teaching with Europeana* blog. It explains how teachers can use the blog to integrate digital cultural resources in their classrooms.

The third video presents the benefits of using digital culture from the students' perspectives. In 14 testimonials, pupils share their experiences and explain what they think about Europeana, how they have used it in class and why it is important for their learning.

Available since September 2019, the fourth video summarizes the project results for the first year (2018-2019): the blog, the results of the three reruns of the Europeana MOOC (English, Spanish and Portuguese), and the activities of the Europeana Teachers Community.

In addition to these videos, during the second year, aware of the higher demand for concise educational material, Europeana and EUN have decided to produce a series of short educational videos[14] in which the Europeana Ambassadors introduced different educational methods or tools and explained how to connect them to Europeana content. In these videos, viewers can learn how to use digital cultural resources with Project-Based Learning (PBL), Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL), Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), STEAM, User Generated Content (UGC) and more.

[14] Find the videos on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtA54IevDap0kZvNvTPp087gGfV3riJ8C and on Europeana.eu: www.europeana.eu/europeana-classroom

Published and disseminated from December 2019 to June 2020, altogether, these videos have already been viewed more than 1.900 times[15]. Just like the webinars, the series of educational videos is available on YouTube and on Europeana Classroom.

Europeana in your classroom massive online open courses (MOOC)[16]

English MOOC

The *Europeana in your classroom* MOOC ran for the first time in April 2018. The course was updated and reran two times (2019 and 2020), based on extensive evaluation and feedback received from course participants. The MOOC was designed to encourage the creation of learning scenarios and the promotion of the use of Europeana resources in classes, regardless of the subjects.

The second rerun of *Europeana in your classroom* MOOC was launched on 13 January 2020 and finished in March 2020. The course ran for 5 weeks, with a module opening every week. The MOOC was well received among teachers in Europe. The evaluation results of the course are as follow[17]:

863
participants

37%
completion rate*

50
learning scenarios

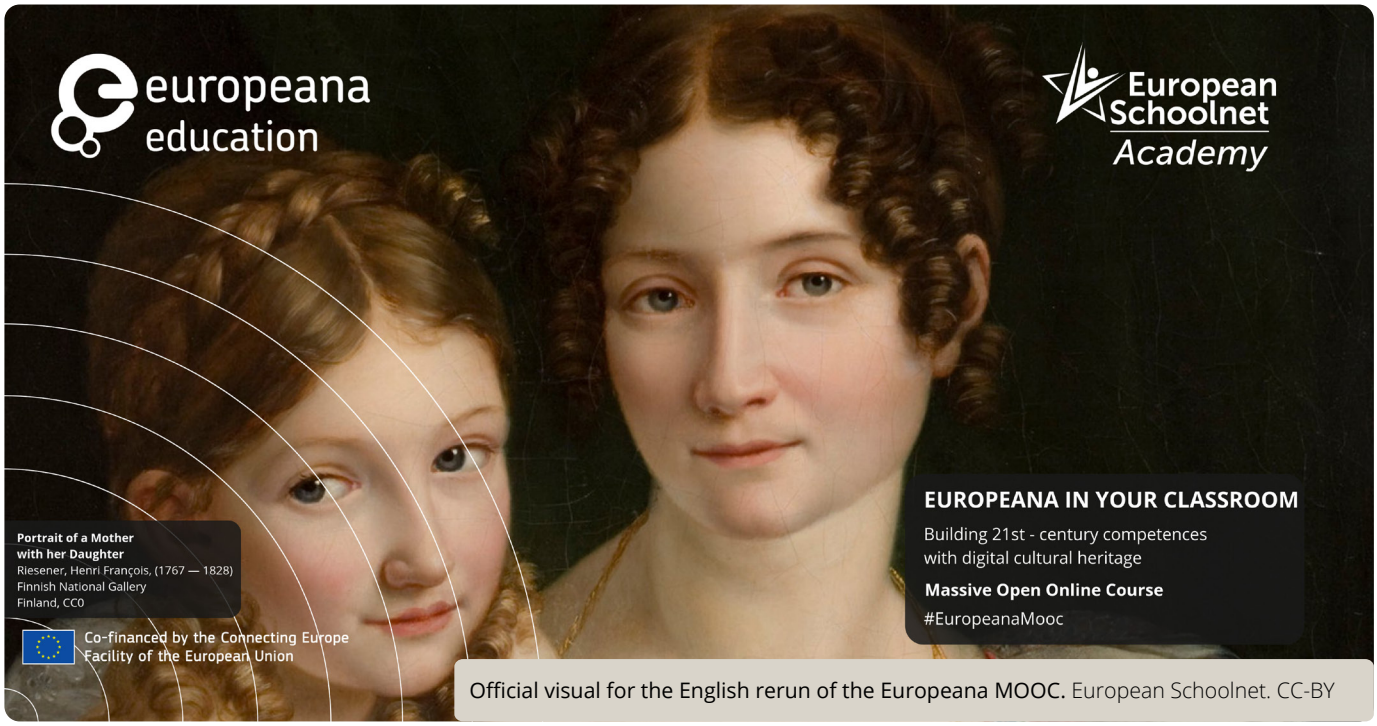
98% of the participants rated the overall value of the course as **"Good" or "Very good"**
97% of the participants **would recommend the course** to a colleague or a friend.
87% of the participants felt more confident with **using digital cultural heritage**

[15] Data retrieved in May 2020

[16] All Europeana MOOCs were running on the European Schoolnet Academy: https://www.europeanschoolnetacademy.eu/

[17] Based on registration and participation data. The pre-course survey had 611 responses and the post-course survey had 121 responses.

**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% completition rate of other MOOCs.*



Official visual for the English rerun of the Europeana MOOC. European Schoolnet. CC-BY

National versions

To reach more teachers in the different European countries, the *Europeana in your classroom (Rerun)* MOOC was translated to Portuguese and Spanish in 2019, and to French and Italian in 2020. Additionally, the translated Spanish and Portuguese editions have been rerunning in 2020.

In 2020, all translated courses started on the 16th of March and were running until the end of April. These were the first translated MOOCs offered in the EUN Academy. The evaluation results of the courses are as follows:

Tableau 1: Statistics national versions of the *Europena in your classroom* MOOC 2020

Metrics	PT MOOC rerun	ES MOOC rerun	FR MOOC	IT MOOC
Registrations	543	306	208	979
Participants[18]	276	158	89	446
Engagement rate	51%	52%	43%	46%
Completion rate	40%	37%	26%	32%
% of participants rating the course as "Good" or "Very good"	98%	100%	90%	100%
% of participants who would recommend the course to a colleague or a friend	100%	96%	80%	94%

MOOCs outreach

By diversifying its offer and translating the original *Europeana in your classroom* MOOC to 4 additional languages, in 2020, Europeana and EUN provided training to more than 1,800 teachers and 21,600 students.

Over the past two years, with all the activities related to training, dissemination, and design of learning scenarios, we estimate we have indirectly impacted more than 49,000 students in formal education.

[18] Participants who started following at least one course module

Tackling the new challenges in education

At the dawn of what could be a durable transition to online teaching, digital cultural heritage is more than ever an essential tool to explore and support innovative and high-quality ways of teaching and learning. EUN believes that not only educators and learners need reliable tools and materials to work with, but they also need support in adapting their teaching methodologies to tomorrow's challenges.

Over the past five years, the members of the Europeana Teacher Community have grown to become pioneers in terms of integrating digital cultural items in their lessons. From remote teaching to classroom implementations, the *Teaching with Europeana* blog is a remarkable witness of their creativity, adaptability, and solidarity.

Proven to be a sustainable community, the Europeana Education initiative hand in hand with EUN, aims to reach more teachers across Europe and other educators to provide quality learning, based on citizenship, collaboration and critical thinking for our students and future citizens. We have a sound plan to make this happen involving museum educators and other GLAM professionals, to strengthen the links between formal and informal education.

Would you like to know more about these plans and get involved? Join the Europeana Education Facebook[19] and LinkedIn[20] groups, visit the Europeana Pro website[21] and the *Teaching with Europeana* blog[22]!

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

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[19] Europeana Education on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/EuropeanaEducation

[20] Europeana Education on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13518332/

[21] Available at: https://pro.europeana.eu/

[22] Available at: https://teachwitheuropeana.eun.org/

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