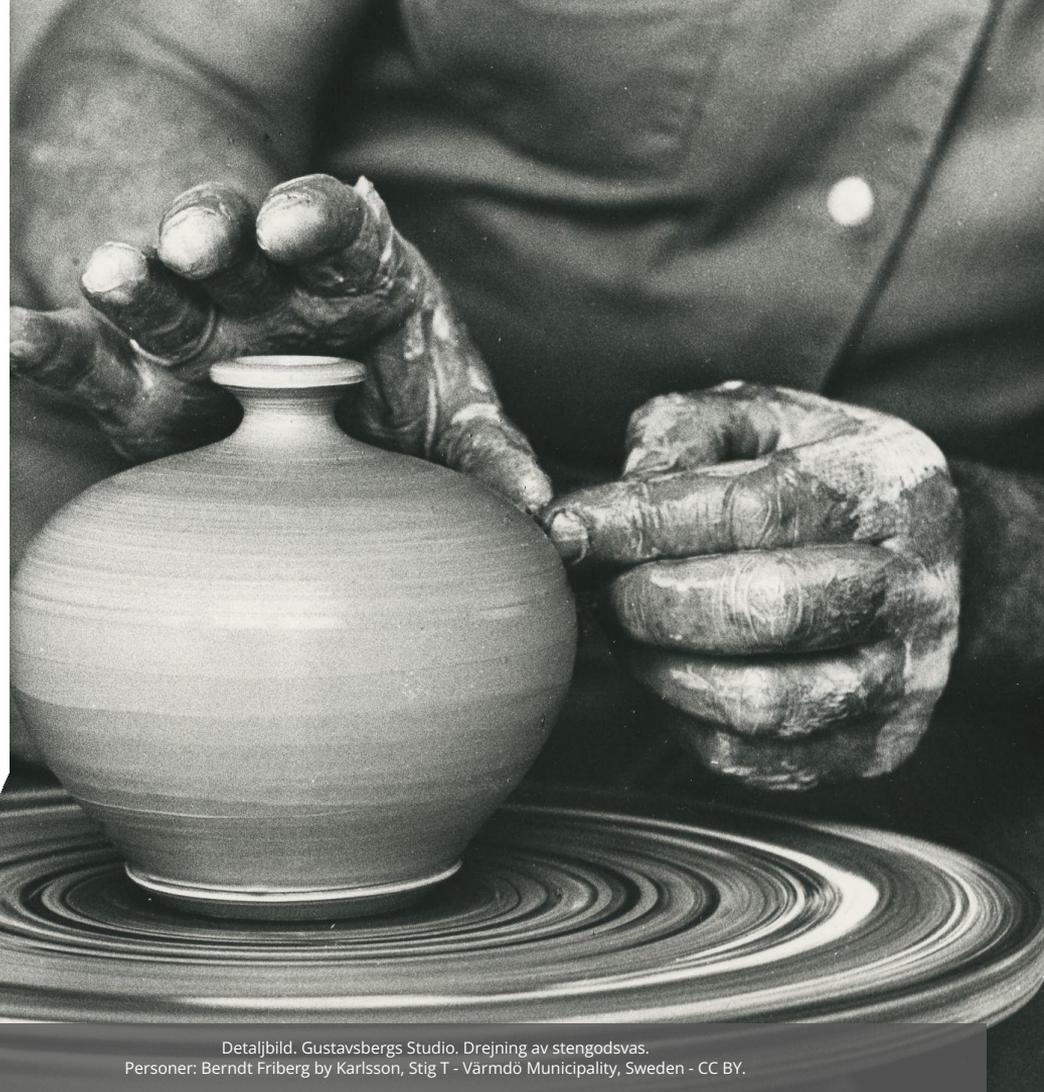


The common European data space for cultural heritage

3D and XR

Albert Verhaar
Girona, 29 January 2026





EUROPEAN DATA SPACE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

European Union &
Member States



Europeana

60 staff

6,000 members

3,200+ museums,
libraries & archives

44 accredited
aggregators

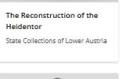
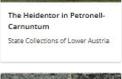
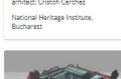
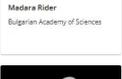
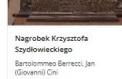
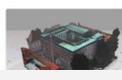
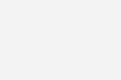
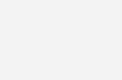
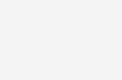
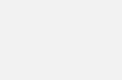
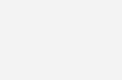
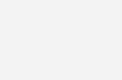
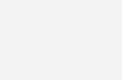
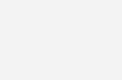
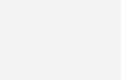
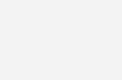
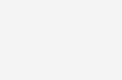
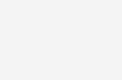
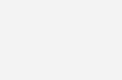
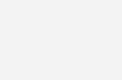
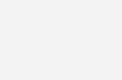
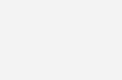
18 consortium partners



A grayscale photograph of two women sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop. The woman on the left is pointing at the screen, and the woman on the right is looking at it. The background shows bookshelves and a whiteboard. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark gray filter. Two large yellow chevrons, one pointing right and one pointing left, are positioned on either side of the text.

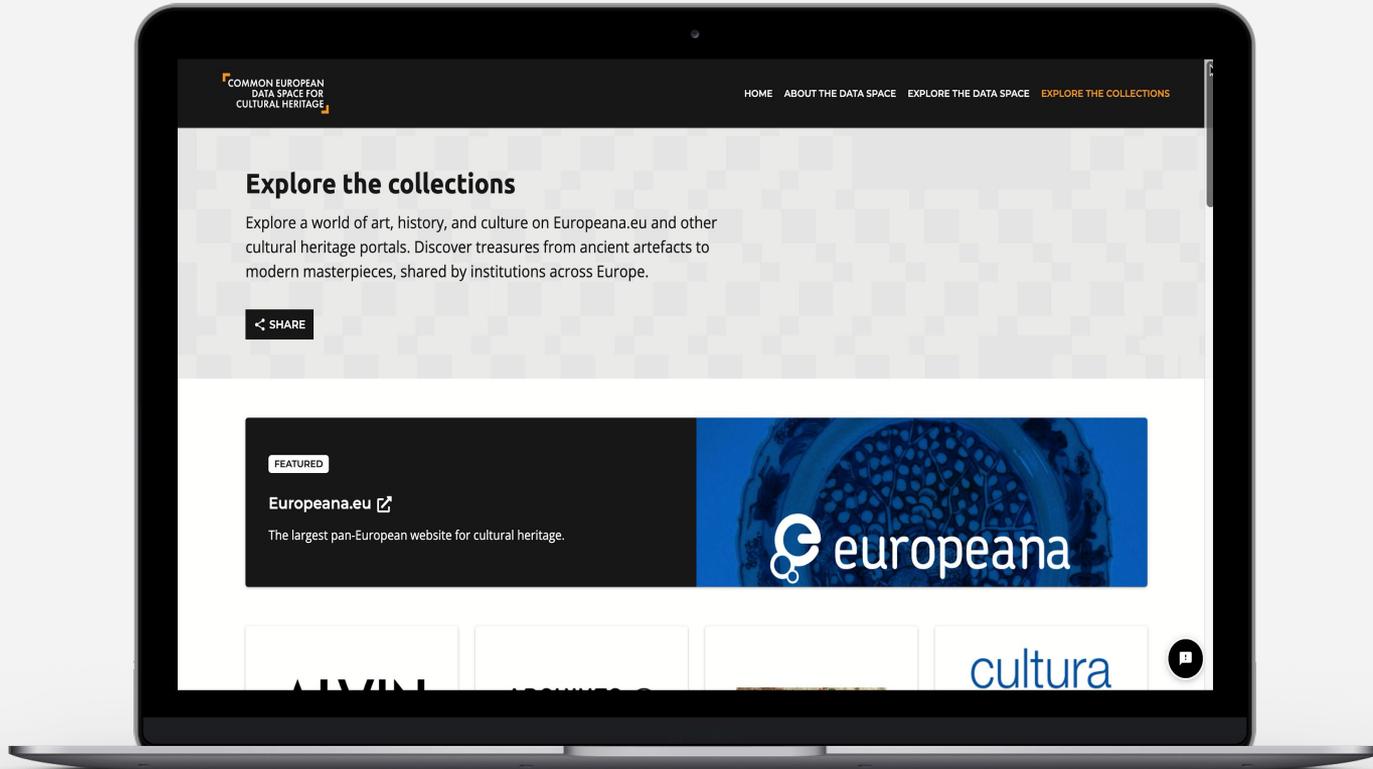
*We democratise access
to cultural heritage
data*

The data space is THE central place for data

 <p>The Reconstruction of the Heidentor State Collections of Lower Austria</p>	 <p>The Heidentor in Petronell-Carnuntum State Collections of Lower Austria</p>	 <p>Holo-type van Iguanodon bernissartensis Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences</p>	 <p>Maria Lactans M. Leuven</p>	 <p>Minovici Villa architect: Cristof Ciocbeș National Heritage Institute, Bucharest</p>	 <p>The Chindia Tower National Heritage Institute, Bucharest</p>	 <p>Wheel: 5200 years Muzeu în galeași meșta Lujșjana Museum and Galleries of Lujșjana</p>	 <p>Zakate house, Gjirokastra, Albania Rimzi Mazarati Polis University</p>	
 <p>Binnekist van anonieme dame Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels</p>	 <p>Madara Rider Bulgarian Academy of Sciences</p>	 <p>Monjan, Castle Rosa 3D Croatian Conservation Institute Croatian Conservation Institute</p>	 <p>Castle of Paphos in 3D HBIM Digital Heritage Research Lab Cyprus University of Technology UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage</p>	 <p>Resting Hercules Glicone MANI - Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli</p>	 <p>Brivbas pieminkalis National Heritage Board of Latvia</p>	 <p>Kolegiata pw. Św. Marcina Biskupa w Opatowie National Institute of Cultural Heritage</p>	 <p>Nagrobek Krzysztofa Szydłowieckiego Bartolomiej Berzecki, Jan Głowacki, Cia National Institute of Cultural Heritage</p>	 <p>National Palace of Mafra Luís Miguel do Carmo Marques and Victor Manuel da Mota Ferreira (CAUD-FAUL) Museums and Monuments of Portugal</p>
 <p>Khirkotia Youni The Cyprus Institute, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France), Department of Antiquities of Cyprus STARC - The Cyprus Institute</p>	 <p>Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen, Mermaid, 1920 National Gallery of Denmark</p>	 <p>Tartu Old Observatory Municipalitaaseme Consortium of Estonian Libraries Network</p>	 <p>Citadella, Gozo Heritage Malta</p>	 <p>Scheggglobe Anschütz Central Museum Linzsch</p>	 <p>Rotunda of St. Margaret of Ansoch The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic</p>	 <p>Wheel: 5200 years Muzeu în galeași meșta Lujșjana Museum and Galleries of Lujșjana</p>	 <p>Zakate house, Gjirokastra, Albania</p>	
 <p>The Green Synagogue of Erfurt (1884-1938), digital 3D reconstruction Topf & Sons Place of Remembrance 3D</p>	 <p>Synagogue on Michelsberg Agentur Virtuel-Raum, Natalie Sommer, Tom Gwerner (RT)</p>	 <p>North Cross Ahenny, Co. Tipperary The Discovery Programme; Conn, A.; Shaw, R. The Discovery Programme</p>	 <p>3D model of the Venus of Brassempouy National Archeology Museum</p>	 <p>Cittadella, Gozo Heritage Malta</p>	 <p>Minovici Villa architect: Cristof Ciocbeș National Heritage Institute, Bucharest</p>	 <p>GP 253 Lăbroa Scora Hammers I The Gotland Museum</p>	 <p>National Palace of Mafra Luís Miguel do Carmo Marques and Victor Manuel da Mota Ferreira (CAUD-FAUL) Museums and Monuments of Portugal</p>	
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The data space is THE central place for data





Why 3D digitisation of cultural heritage matters

The European Commission emphasises that “3D matters” in cultural heritage because three-dimensional digitisation and technologies offer unique and strategic benefits for preserving, accessing, understanding and using Europe’s cultural heritage in the 21st century — far beyond what traditional 2D digitisation can achieve. This priority is reflected in EU policy frameworks, especially in the Commission’s Recommendation on a common European data space for cultural heritage and initiatives like “Twin it! 3D for Europe’s culture.”





Why 3D digitisation of cultural heritage matters

- ❑ **Preservation:** Conservation and restoration
- ❑ **Access:** Virtual access
- ❑ **Research:** Analysis and restoration
- ❑ **Education & tourism:** Immersive learning experiences, interactive study and virtual tours
- ❑ **Disaster recovery:** Accurate reconstruction





What is digitisation with intent? Why is it important?

"Digitisation with intent" or "purpose-driven digitisation" means that the decision to create a 3D model of a cultural heritage asset is based on **a clearly defined goal for how that model will be used and by whom.**

This approach is crucial for maximising the **value, impact, and sustainability of 3D digitisation efforts.**





TWIN IT!

3D FOR EUROPE'S CULTURE

PART II

Twin It! logo. A composition of Windmolen van Elene by FrDr. CC BY-SA 4.0 and Elene windmill by visualdimension, CC BY-NC-ND. Creator: Ana Moreno Date: 2023 Institution: Europeana Foundation.



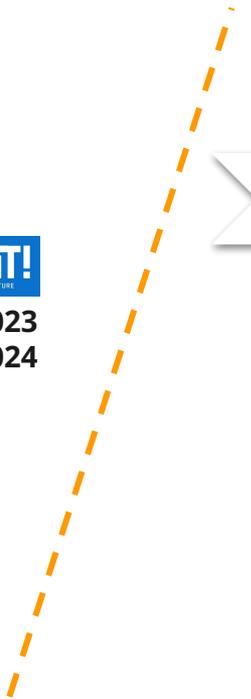
Funded by
the European Union



Twin it! Part II



June 2023
June 2024



June 2025 - June 2026





Twin it! Part II invites Member States

To submit one high-quality
3D digitised asset to the
data space, with **clear
reuse intent**, and
**enriched with additional
data**



Professionals, communities,
and general public
engagement



XR applications as a reuse case for 3D



Girona walls: virtual visualization



Scientifically accurate

Based on archival records

AI-assisted 3D modelling

VR tour + walking tour in Girona city



XR experiences as learning opportunities for the CH sector



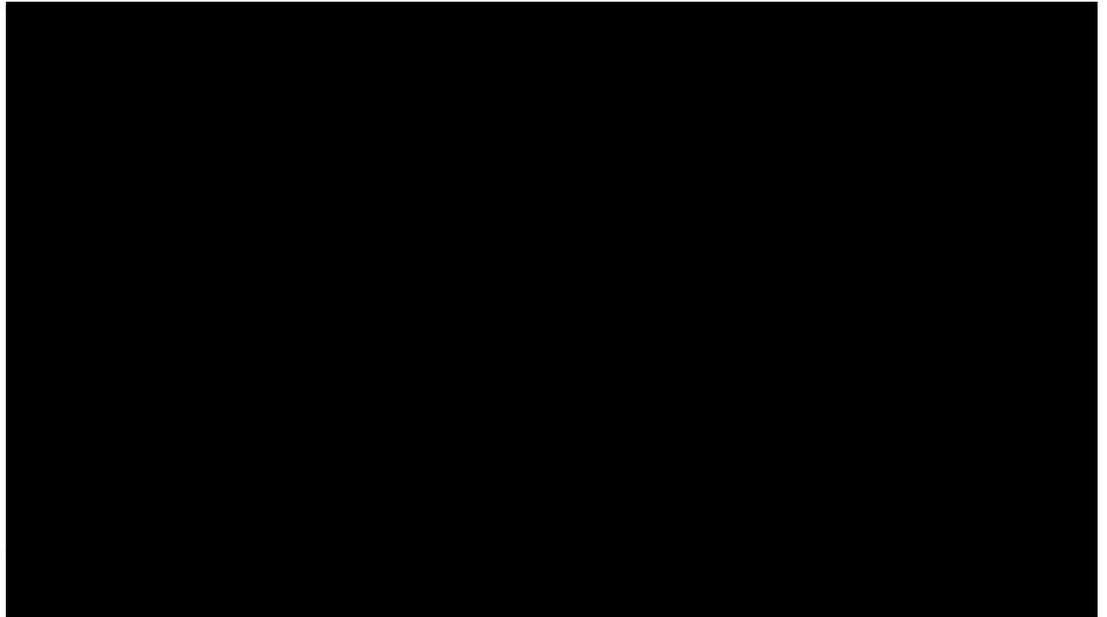
Cyprus: meeting Saint Neophytos

MR experience on location

VR experience also available

Visitors meet the avatar of the Saint who tells his story

(click to continue)



XR for younger audiences - connect them with culture

XR (extended reality—VR, AR, and mixed reality) is especially compelling within culture for younger audiences because it aligns closely with how they already experience identity, creativity, and social connection

- It matches how young people already live digitally
- XR turns culture into something you participate in
- It supports identity exploration
- It combines gaming, art, music, and social life
- It enables co-creation, not just consumption
- It makes culture feel futuristic and playful

XR carries the cultural “cool factor.”





THANK YOU

Gracias

Merci

Grazie

Σας ευχαριστώ

Albert Verhaar