europeana
network association

ANNUAL
REPORT 2023

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FOREWORD

In 2023, the Europeana Network Association (ENA) has continued to build on the progress and strategic development which began in the previous year and is increasingly seeing rapid change. The size of the network has grown to over 4,300 individuals and we aim to reach 5,000 by this time next year. New members joining are increasingly diverse by nationality, sectors of interest and personal motivation. The seven ENA Communities are roaring along and producing high quality results with genuine potential for wide impact.

Within the framework of the common European data space (DS) for cultural heritage, the concept of a Europeana Initiative which actively embodies cooperation between its three 'pillars' (ENA, the Europeana Foundation (EF) and the Europeana Aggregators' Forum (EAF)) has become a reality. This is in terms of regular cross-initiative meetings and bilateral discussions, but is also seen in the

response required from the Management Board, Members Council, Working Groups, Task Forces and Communities to the delivery of the DS Implementation Plan and envisioning its future path. The Membership WG has been dissolved but new working groups are emerging according to data space- and network-related needs. This process remains ongoing and we still have much to learn.

Thanks go to all the ENA members who are active participants – in some cases leaders - in key actions across the Initiative, including work on multilingual translations, storytelling, supporting the digital cultural heritage of Ukraine, capacity building, data governance, visioning the data space, country groups and decentralisation. Sofie Taes, our Vice-Chair, now represents ENA in the Commission Expert Group on the common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage (CEDCHE) and is able to speak on behalf of the network.

To strengthen the performance and relevance of ENA as a legal entity consisting of volunteers, most of whom also have other work to do, we have been actively exploring the possibility of raising additional funding for ENA, including through paid participation in EU projects, either alongside the EF or independently. There has been significant progress in this direction on which I will report to the AGM.

The Members Council (MC) is being refreshed this year, as a number of current Councillors reach the end of their term. In the process of setting up the election, we have tried to give a clearer idea to candidates of what is expected of them, in order to fulfil their important and at times demanding role in support of ENA members and the objectives of the Europeana Initiative. Consideration is underway within the Governance Working Group to guide us all on what the options are for improving the shape, size and remit of Members Council.

Energising the active engagement of a higher proportion of our members, improving the 'customer journey' and creating satisfying experiences with a clearer personal impact, remain high priorities, not yet achieved. Here there is scope not only for cross-border ('horizontal') activities but also for deepening involvement and take-up of results at ('vertical') Country Level. Towards this end, we now have – as part of the data space Implementation Plan Roadmap - the formation of pilot 'Country Groups' in two or three countries which - once they are evaluated - we hope can form a basis for growth to other countries. The Country Groups will bring together ENA members from cultural heritage institutions and reuse communities (education, research, creative etc.) with national aggregators to pursue understanding, use cases and advocacy for the data space, promote the take up of Europeana's products and initiatives and connect to relevant new audiences in their country.
We still need the tools to better analyse the expertise and interests that exist within the

membership, together with a greater ability to support communication between members, with the Management Board and Members Council, and across the Initiative. These remain recognised as outstanding requirements and are part of the DS Implementation Plan for the remainder of the contract.

Reflecting all this, an update of the ENA Strategy has also been undertaken for presentation to this year's AGM. Together with Members Board colleagues, I look forward to discussing and defining all this in more depth with network members in the coming period.

Rob Davies
Chair of the Europeana Network Association

1. ENA COMMUNITIES

The [ENA communities](#) have been an integral part of the ENA since 2018. They gather international networks of professionals interested in cultivating and sharing knowledge, expertise and best practices around seven specific topics of common interest. We can now look back proudly on the ways in which the communities have driven a wide range of activities according to their specific professional affiliation under the combined leadership of the community Chairs, Steering Groups and Managers.
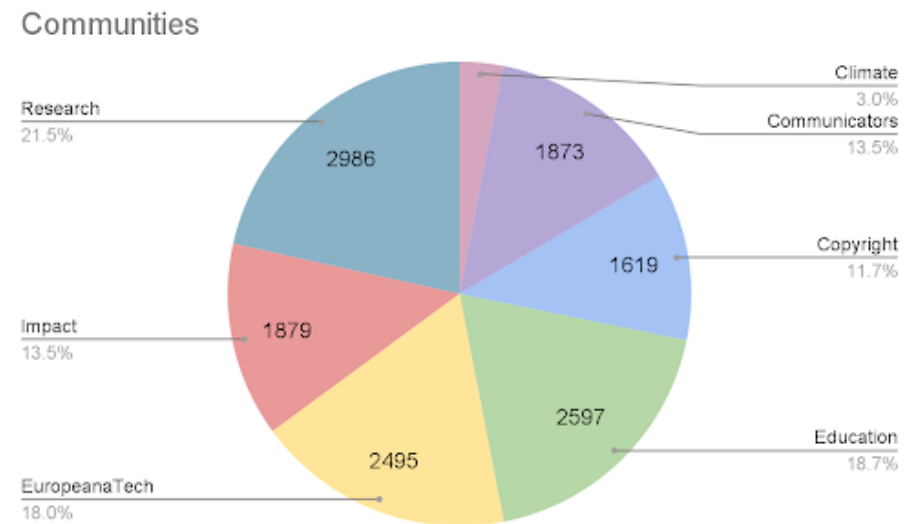
Based on statistics from October 2023, the pie chart shows the membership per community.

Europeana Communicators

The [Europeana Communicators community](#) aims to strengthen the digital cultural heritage sector by promoting digital cultural heritage in action and supporting each other to be the best communications professionals we can be.
In 2023, the Communicators community undertook activities to build the skills of professionals in storytelling, with two Steering Group Members acting as mentors on the [Digital Storytelling Festival](#)'s first ever creative residency, and the translation of the seven tips for digital storytelling into 14 languages. The community continues to run a successful newsletter, meet regularly and collaborate with colleagues across the Initiative.

Europeana Copyright

The [Europeana Copyright community](#) cultivates, curates and shares knowledge around the topic of copyright in the cultural heritage sector and runs dedicated communications channels to help professionals access tools, resources and news, as well as to discuss best practices.

This year the Copyright community has continued to build capacity harnessing the potential of ENA members through various activities and resources. For example, it has:

- continued inviting community members to have regular exchanges around relevant topics through [copyright and policy office hours;](#)
- published [news posts](#) on a regular basis to keep the sector up to date on relevant policy and practical developments in the area of copyright and open access
- continued to maintain and improve resources such as the [copyright management guidelines](#), the out of commerce works [FAQs](#) and [implementation overview](#), and to bring attention

to useful resources such as [copyrightuser.eu](#) developed by other organisations;

- participated in events to promote its efforts, namely at the EuropeanaTech conference with participation in a panel on copyright and AI, and an invite-only event on out of commerce works for the CEDCHE;
- ensured the participation of the ENA in the work conducted in the area of the Europeana Licensing Framework and data governance by participating in the [data governance stakeholder working group](#), providing feedback to, among other areas, the enrichments policy;
- done the groundwork for new activities to be developed in the coming months, for example through the creation of the [Article 14 task force](#), the collection of information to contribute to a contract bank, and preparing a post clarifying the concept of 'openness' from a copyright perspective.

Europeana Education

The [Europeana Education community](#) brings together professionals dealing with digital culture and learning in cultural heritage institutions, educational organisations, schools, NGOs, ministries, local government, and the private sector, to embed digital cultural heritage and foster innovation in both formal and informal education.

In 2023, the Education community ran a webinar series in line with the European Year of Skills, We started in January and February with The [Strengthen your Erasmus+' Days'](#) (two days event led by an expert team of EGInA), aimed to bring together creative minds and innovative ideas to develop a project with digital cultural heritage. This was followed up in April with the Digital Learning and Education in Museums: [How innovative approaches contribute to the future of digital engagement webinar](#) - in collaboration with NEMO and ALL DIGITAL-.

Thanks to the community efforts and the collaboration of EGInA the [Low-Code Fest 2](#) was once again organised in 2023. It ran from July with a series of three webinars offered by Jolan Wuyts on Europeana APIs' use for education, and ended up with the two-day Fest in September with three finalist teams, from Gijón, la Coruña and Jaén. The winners from Gijón, who created a very engaging app, had their [attendance at the Europeana Tech](#) conference covered in October, thanks to the ENA budget allocated to the community.

The community was also busy for a few months with a 'mapping exercise' around existing European projects working on a digital skills framework for non-formal educators, that we expect to be published on Pro before the end of the year. Also before the end of 2023, we aim to have a draft of a survey to better understand the needs of our community and some concrete plans to collaborate with Anne Frank House - as committed in our [Work Plan for 2023](#) - on some educational events or programmes.

Europeana Impact

The [Europeana Impact community](#) aims to collaborate on maximising the impact of cultural heritage and impact professionals' work in the sector and beyond, shaping and developing impact practice and exploring strategies to better understand and liaise with stakeholders, funders and audiences.

In 2023, the work of the [Impact Lite Task Force](#) was completed. Based on the outcomes of this the community delivered the Europeana Impact Playbook as an updated, interactive, [online resource](#).

A new communications strategy has been developed: in addition to the newsletter, Listserv and the LinkedIn group, a series of Impact Cafes has successfully been introduced as a new element for communication within and beyond the wider community: Impact Café #1 on 7 June, #2 on 27 September. Cafés #3 (8 November, #4 (22 November), #5 (29 November) and #6 (6 December) will be dedicated to support the introduction of the online resource of the Impact Playbook. The series of cafés will continue next year.

Europeana Research

The [Europeana Research community](#) is for professionals interested in cultural heritage, both as a subject and a source for research, who view digital collections and tools as a means to foster innovation. It advocates for open science, mostly in the humanities sector.

In 2023 the Research Community experimented with a new format by inviting Mia Ridge, British Library, to give a lecture and run a workshop on [Planning Crowdsourcing Projects in Cultural Heritage](#). The new format consists of a lecture open to everyone and a workshop with a number of places available for community members working on the proposed topic and willing to share their experience during the event and afterwards.

When it comes to events, the community focused on the use of AI in the cultural heritage sector, by organising the cross-sectoral round table on [AI tools](#) [in perspective](#), and by supporting an half a day seminar on [Practical applications of AI solutions in libraries](#), organised by the National and University Library of Slovenia and the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) - Information Technology Section.

The community representatives also took part in the DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) Annual Event, which significantly was dedicated to [Cultural Heritage Data as Humanities Research Data](#) in the first year of the data space for cultural heritage's existence, to which DARIAH contributes as a consortium member. Representatives from the community also participated in the [Collections as Data Futures summit](#) that led to an updated version of the [Collections as Data Statement](#), a source of inspiration for all the professionals who work to facilitate computational approaches to digital collections.

Finally, the community co-hosted a working group on [Datasheets for Digital Cultural Heritage](#) that achieved its first objective by publishing a [scholarly journal article](#) on the topic and a [template for datasheets](#).

EuropeanaTech

The [EuropeanaTech community](#) is a community of experts, developers and researchers who ensure the Europeana Initiative leads the way on technological innovation for cultural heritage.

In 2023, EuropeanaTech was primarily focused on the EuropeanaTech 2023 conference. Multiple members of the EuropeanaTech Steering Group contributed to the organisation of the event in different ways either serving as programme committee members, reviewers of the submitted proposals, chairing different sessions, presenting various sessions and more.

Alongside these activities, EuropeanaTech made important progress with several Task Forces including From Shelf to Europeana and the Linked Data. From Shelf to Europeana held a momentous panel and presentation of the Task Force's progress at EuropeanaTech 2023. In addition to task forces, EuropeanaTech remained active in collaboration with the Aggregators' Forum on the IIIF Working Group - continuing the strategising of activities and ensuring the relationship with this long-standing partner remains strong.

EuropeanaTech also remained active in furthering the community's activity in the rising field of heritage acoustics with news posts and webinars on the topics. EuropeanaTech also restructured its outreach and editorial plan, in collaboration with the Europeana Foundation communications team, to strive to generate consistent editorial outputs and webinars into 2024.

The EuropeanaTech Steering Group also worked with the Research Community in an inter-community working group on 'Datasheets for cultural heritage datasets' and submitted a proposal to NWO, the Dutch Research Council, for the funding of a software tool to support creation and maintenance of datasheets.The Group is also writing a paper on their work, to be published in an academic journal.

Climate Action

The [Europeana Climate Action community](#) gathers cultural heritage professionals who aim to drive cooperative and sustainable action to address the climate emergency and environmental impact of their activities. The community builds on the work of the Climate Action Group.

In 2023, the community implemented the [Community Work Plan 2022-2023](#), with the following focus areas and activities:

Design and publish a Digital Information Management Survey
In July 2023, the Environmental Sustainability Task Force launched a [survey](#) which aims to find out how professionals working in digital preservation or management of digital content are working, what challenges they face, and how the Climate Action community can support them. The survey was open until 13 October 2023, and gathered 105 contributions from 30 countries. The Task Force will now proceed to analyse the data and synthesise findings in a report.

Contribute to climate awareness and action to the Data Space and through cross-community collaboration
During EuropeanaTech (11 October 2023), the community raised awareness on the need for digital sobriety / climate action across the data space through an intervention on the environmental impact of AI and 3D technology delivered by members of the Community Steering Group Susan Hazan (Chair) and Nelson Brito.
Outreach to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge and good practice

In March 2023, the community joined the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

Throughout 2023, the community also partnered with Ki Culture to launch the [Europeana-Ki Culture workshops Series](#), consisting of three workshops:

- [Workshop I](#) on foundational knowledge on sustainability and how to apply critical thinking to one's daily work took place on 24 April with 29 participants.
- [Workshop II](#) on the climate crisis and the nuances of actions happening took place on 25 May with 22 participants.
- [Workshop III](#) on sustainable strategies for digital management and digital use took place on 8 June with 22 participants.

More detailed information about each community's activities can be found on [Europeana Pro](#).

ENA Task Forces in 2023

Members of the ENA communities participate in community-related Task Forces, Working Groups, events and meetings. Task Forces tackle specific subjects of interest related to the Europeana strategy. Task Forces run for a limited period and result in the delivery of recommendations on their subject, which can be found on the respective [Europeana Pro pages](#).

This year, we further strengthened the connections between the ENA, the Europeana Foundation, and the Europeana Aggregators' Forum by supporting Europeana Initiative-wide Task Forces. Their recommendations will be used to identify tangible steps to improve the process for their dissemination, and ultimately use of their results within the Initiative and beyond. The table below lists all of those that were active in 2023, either solely within the ENA or also in collaboration with the Forum and the Foundation:

Status November 2023
- [SOLID](#) - Completed
- [Linked Data](#) - Ongoing
- [Workflow From Shelf to Europeana](#) - Ongoing
- [Environmental sustainability practice](#) - Ongoing
- [Article 14](#) - Ongoing
- [Impact Lite Training and Community Building](#) - Ongoing
- [Audiovisual Playout in Europeana](#) - Ongoing

2. ENA GOVERNANCE

ENA Members Council

The Members Council is the body of 36 formally-elected representatives of the ENA. During 2023 three Council meetings will have been conducted, one hybrid (June) and two entirely online (March, November). The minutes of all Council meetings are available on Europeana Pro.

A decision was taken to cease circulation of the Friday Update, a weekly news bulletin created by Members Board for the Members Council, owing to the work involved in putting together something which evidence suggested had limited readership and interest to its recipients. The Members Board is now exploring other, more time-effective ways of communicating effectively with both Members Council and the wider membership and an announcement on this will be made at the next meeting.

In this year's Members Council elections, 53 candidates came forward to compete for nine available seats. Their profiles span a variety of sectors (including academia, education, research and the creative industries), organisations and professions. ENA Members will be able to vote for them between 29 November and 6 December 2023, and the results will be announced by mid December.

ENA Management Board

The Management Board is responsible for the management of ENA, overseeing its activities and acting as a legally responsible decision-making executive. It prepares the Members Council meetings, oversees the activities of and budgets for the ENA communities, delivers the formal ENA reports, and reviews the membership applications each month. In line with its new strategy, in 2023 the Board has contributed extensively to activities at the level of the Europeana Initiative in terms of visioning, governance and implementation planning, and by participating in regular Cross-Initiative meetings.

In 2023 the Board met twice in person, virtually 10 times and was engaged in regular communication over email and Basecamp. The minutes of the Board meetings are available on [Europeana Pro](#).

The Board is elected by the Members Council. In 2023, it consisted of [Rob Davies](#) (Chair), [Sofie Taes](#) (Vice-Chair), [Milena Dobreva](#) (Treasurer), [Marianna Marcucci](#), [Fred Saunderson](#) and [Dafydd Tudur](#). ENA is also represented on the Europeana Foundation [Supervisory Board](#) by [Marco de Niet](#), and on the [Advisory Board](#) by [Georgia Angelaki](#). This enables the connection between the ENA and the Foundation to be fostered, strengthens networking potential, and extends the knowledge and strategic thinking of the Foundation. Dafydd, Fred and Milena, will step down at the end of December 2023, therefore there will be three open seats on the Board in January 2024, when the next Board elections will be held.

ENA Secretariat

The ENA Secretariat is supported by [Zuzana Malicherova](#) and the Europeana Foundation's Community and Partner Engagement Team. The Secretariat has provided day to day support to both the Members Council and the Management Board as well the Communities, Task Forces and Working Groups.

ENA Budget 2023

* Covering the period of January - September 2023

Budget for the ENA from September 2022 until August 2023 was provided by the Europeana Foundation under the European Commission's common European data space for cultural heritage project. The operational budget for 2023 was approved by the ENA General Assembly in November 2022 and consists of the following categories of expenses: ENA operating costs; governance; Communities, and training and capacity building activities; grants for the Europeana annual conference; and a reserve budget that now has has been dedicated to the work on Country Groups.

ENA budget 2023

Budget category	Budget 2023	From 2022	Total budget 2023	Actual costs up to September 2023			
				Actual costs	In %	Under-spend	Forecast
- Operating costs ENA	1,000	0	1,000	1,738	173.82%	-738	2,500
- Governance MB/MC	14,600	3,400	18,000	4,599	31.50%	13,401	15,000
- Communities	18,200	9,800	28,000	8,650	30.89%	19,350	15,000
- Task forces	0	0	0	0			
- Training activities & capacity building	3,200	3,385	6,585	0	0.00%	6,585	0
- Grants for Europeana annual conference	12,500	0	12,500	0	0.00%	12,500	12,500
- In reserve	0	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%	15,000	0
Total	**49,500**	**31,585**	**81,085**	**14,988**	**30.28%**	**66,097**	**45,000**

Underspend based on current forecast: 36,085

Up to the end of September 2023, the ENA spent 30% of the total budget. Most of the cost categories are underspent. Based on the current overall forecast we expect that the underspend at the end of 2023 will be around €36,000. The amount that has been kept in reserve is dedicated to support the new Country Groups that effectively will start in 2024.

Community budgets in 2023

In November 2022, the work plans of the communities were formally approved by the Members Council. They include the community budget and activities that every community aimed to deliver by the end of 2023. Up to September 2023 almost 31% had been spent on the overall budget for the communities. Knowing that the communities spent a part of the budget for the EuropeanaTech conference in October in The Hague, more costs and expenditure are foreseen, at present estimated as €15,000 at the end of the year, but subject to variations from individual communities. The communities have diversified their activities and some have benefitted from commissioning external experts to contribute their work. Overall, however, travel support for meetings has remained a priority within the communities.

Overview budget vs expenses per community

Community	Budget 2023	From 2022	Total budget 2023	Actual costs	In %	Spent in 2022
- Europeana Tech	2,600	1,400	4,000	478	11.96%	88
- Europeana Research	2,600	1,400	4,000	515	12.87%	1,308
- Europeana Education	2,600	1,400	4,000	3,515	87.87%	8,132
- Europeana Copyright	2,600	1,400	4,000	559	13.97%	3,298
- Europeana Impact	2,600	1,400	4,000	515	12.87%	0
- Europeana Communicators	2,600	1,400	4,000	2,288	57.20%	284
- Europeana Climate Actions	2,600	1,400	4,000	781	19.52%	2,469
	18,200	9,800	28,000	8,650	30.89%	15,579

3. ENA COMMUNICATIONS

Europeana Pro

The [Europeana Pro website](#) is instrumental in information exchange and dissemination efforts for the entire Europeana Initiative. ENA members can find all the information about the ENA, its governance and activities [on the website](#). Throughout the year, [Europeana Pro news](#) highlighted various ENA activities, including those related to the communities and Task Forces. A regular dedicated series called '[Professionals in Focus](#)' has also continued to introduce current Members Councillors.

ENA newsletters and social media outreach

Throughout 2023, we continued to send a monthly Network newsletter to subscribed ENA members (currently 3309 subscribers), informing them about the latest developments within the professional community. A different Councillor has taken a turn each month as Editor-in-Chief. Specific campaigns were also regularly sent out through the same channel.

The Europeana [LinkedIn Group](#) (7,278 members) has continued to act as another way for ENA members and others to interact with each other and with the Foundation. The group is open to anyone interested in Europeana and the digitisation of cultural heritage across Europe.

The hashtag [#EuropeanaCommunities](#) is used to bring activities linked to ENA communities and other Europeana-related networks together.

We'd love to hear from you

- If you have any questions, concerns, remarks or new ideas for us, send us an email at network@europeana.eu
- Do you have an idea for a new Task Force? Fill in this form.
- Follow us on X (formally known as Twitter) @EuropeanaEu and use our hashtag #EuropeanaCommunities
- Join us on LinkedIn
- Follow us on LinkedIn
- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Instagram

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