



## Europeana Foundation Governing Board Meeting

23 November 2017  
16h30 – 18h00 CET  
Teleconference

### **The construct of the Advisory Board**

*Action Proposed: For information, discussion and agreement on next steps*

#### **Circulation:**

Europeana Foundation Governing Board Members & Observers

#### **Classification:**

Public



# Advisory Committee under DSI Procurement

Official recommendation to the European Commission from the Europeana Foundation Board.

**Taskforce Members:** Martijn Pronk, Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, Paul Keller, Uldis Zarins, Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, Jill Cousins

Revised version consequent on the Board input of 28th September 2017. The Taskforce recommends that the Europeana Foundation Board propose the following construct for the Advisory Committee:

## Preamble

The Advisory Committee should assure the agreed direction of Europeana, influence the position of digital cultural heritage within Europe, assist the Commission in providing continuity and take into accounts the needs of all stakeholders. To do this the Advisory Committee should have political weight and influence. The Europeana Foundation Governing Board also considers that the Advisory Committee would benefit from a level of independence from the Commission, Member States and the Service Provider and therefore has the following recommendation for its make up and remit.

## Europeana DSI Advisory Committee

### *Definitions*

- Service Provider: organisation who has been selected to provide the Europeana Service



## Opinion of the Europeana Foundation Governing Board

- Europeana Strategy: published strategy, agreed by Commission, Member States, Europeana Governing Board and Cultural Heritage Institutions.
- Europeana: the service based on the digital service infrastructure, covering both professional and user services.
- Digital Service Infrastructure (DSI): Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) term referring to the platforms such as Europeana
- Europeana Network Association: the association of the Europeana Network, independent from the Europeana Foundation
- Europeana Foundation: a legal entity under Dutch law, owner of current assets, the body that set up and ran the Europeana DSI, responsible for the employment of staff as the current Service Provider.

### *Purpose of Advisory Committee*

- To advise Member States, Commission and the Service Provider on the implementation of overall strategy of Europeana, as the digital service infrastructure for cultural heritage in Europe, and the execution of the service in accordance with the contract. Taking into account the overall needs and aspirations of digital cultural heritage.
- Strategy is created jointly by stakeholders: the Europeana Network Association, the Service Provider, Member States and the European Commission.

### *Responsibilities of Advisory Committee*

- To contribute to the priorities and approve strategy as proposed by the Service Provider and the Europeana Network Association, and advise the Commission on the alignment of this strategy with Procurement demands
- To advise the Commission on the execution of Europeana strategy, as delivered by the Service Provider, with particular emphasis on how to open up the strategic markets and platform performance.
- To act as an independent, but sector representative review body, between the Commission as “owners” of the Europeana DSI, the Service Provider, the Europeana Network Association and Member States, represented by the DCHE.

## Opinion of the Europeana Foundation Governing Board

- To act as an independent review body between the Commission, the Member States (via the CEF Telecom Committee) and the Service Provider to align Generic Service Projects contribution to the DSI and published strategy.
- To ensure continuity in the case of change of service provider.

### *Relationship of Advisory Committee with/to existing entities*

- **European Commission - DG CNECT & INEA<sup>1</sup>** Advisory Committee should be independent from DG CONNECT and INEA as the bodies directly responsible for procurement.
- **Member States via the DCHE** - Advisory Committee should have a formal relationship with the DCHE to be able to receive needs and to report their recommendations in relation to the Europeana Strategic or Business Plan. Taking into account that the DCHE is tasked by the European Commission to provide Commission with guidance on the mission, governance, priorities, strategy and funding of European.
- **Europeana Network Association** is responsible for creation of future strategy, gaining consensus among stakeholders. The Europeana Network Association, would work closely with the Europeana Service Provider.
- **Europeana Foundation (represented by its Governing Board) or other Service Provider** has responsibility for creating overall strategy and the yearly business plans, as well as delivery of the digital service infrastructure. As the receiver of funds it does not have an executing place on the Advisory Committee but attends all meetings to inform and discuss.

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<sup>1</sup> The Advisory Committee should have a level of independence from the EC, able to take on the wishes of the MS and evidence from the sector. MS were looking for a funding solution when agreeing to procurement as a financing mechanism of Europeana, not the placing of all decisions in the hands of the EC. The work of Europeana Foundation has been to democratise the governance of Europeana, this should be retained and improved under any advisory committee.

## Opinion of the Europeana Foundation Governing Board

### *Number of members*

- Seven is recommended to be representative of the needs of Cultural Heritage Institutions and those of the political stakeholders.
- With attendees/observers from the service provider to inform and discuss e.g. the Chair and Executive Director of Europeana Foundation. This is seen as a practical step to be able to speedily align Advisory Board advice with the needs of Europeana and its audiences.

### *Duration of time on Advisory Board*

Three years renewable once.

### *Advisory Board Meeting Frequency*

Two as physical meetings per annum

### *Shape & Composition*

Number of Voting members = 7

Chair - from a European political or public service circles

5 high-level representatives from cultural heritage organisations/stakeholders

1 Executive from another DSI Platform or equivalent

Observers:

- + Executive Director and Chair of the Board of the Service Provider
- + Chair of Europeana Network Association
- + DG CNECT observers
- + MS observers, possibly nominated by the DCHE

Chair and Rapporteur:

- Chair to be appointed by the Commission
- Rapporteur to be a member of the Commission

Profiles

**Chair:** An active or retired high level politician or public person with experience in EU policy making, who is able to represent the advisory board towards Commission and Member states. Ideally with experience both cultural heritage and or digital policy making.

**Cultural heritage Representatives:** high level Director and above of major institutions such as the British Library, the Louvre, the BundesArchiv, Luce Cinecittà; respected in their fields; able to influence politicians and their own sector; spread across library, archive, audio visual



## **Opinion of the Europeana Foundation Governing Board**

collections and museums; good geographical spread.

**Platform Expert:** Executive from another DSI, or equivalent platform such as the Open Data Institute.

### **Additional recommendation:**

From the Commission's viewpoint it could be useful to have a Committee of experts that is truly independent and therefore in a better position to influence Member States. Europeana Foundation Board therefore recommends that the Commission and Commission services do not sit on the advisory Committee itself, as outlined in the DSI3 Procurement Tender, but are observers able to advise and comment to aid understanding and direction.