



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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FOREWORD

In 2025, the Europeana Network Association (ENA) embarked on a strategic journey to “create a digital ecosystem, where our shared cultural wealth doesn't just exist but thrives and evolves,” as articulated by Sofie Teas, Chair of the ENA Management Board (MB), in the 2025 Activity Plan.

Our vision was bold: Let's Make 2025 Our Most Impactful Year Yet!

We launched into an ambitious and intensely dynamic period, marked by energetic, positive transformations and a renewed drive for progress.

Closing 2024 with elections and starting January 2025 with a newly elected group of ENA Members Councillors (MC) and a refreshed MB marked a pivotal first step in our strategic journey for 2025. A total of 36 new Councillors joined, forming one of the most engaged Councils to date. The newly

elected MC appointed six members to form the ENA MB, tasked with guiding the development of ENA's strategic vision.

Throughout 2025, the ENA MB worked in close collaboration with the Europeana Initiative (EI) and the Europeana Aggregators Forum (EAF). We contributed significantly to Cross-Initiative Strategy meetings, participated in established working groups - such as the Innovative Operating Models Working Group or Supporting the digital cultural heritage of Ukraine Working Group - and helped launch new initiatives. Together, these efforts drove meaningful change and helped shape ENA's evolving role within the data space ecosystem.

Our newly elected MC and MB members stepped up with enthusiasm, contributing to working groups, driving ENA activities, proposing meaningful changes, and actively participating in both online

and in-person meetings. Most importantly, they focused their energy on strengthening

and expanding our network. Thanks to our incredible dedication - and in close collaboration with the EI and the EAF - our ENA network gained 800 new members in one year (5800 members as of October 2025), marking a truly remarkable achievement.

In 2025, we held two in-person meetings of the MC – one in Ljubljana and another in The Hague, creating valuable opportunities for collaboration and exchange. Meetings brought together a broader group of stakeholders, including ENA Community Chairs, Co-chairs, and Managers, and representatives from the EI and EAF, who joined us to share strategic insights, co-create solutions, and strengthen cross-sector connections. The meetings fostered dynamic dialogue and reinforced ENA's commitment to inclusive, participatory governance.

As part of our 2025 focus on strengthening governance and collaboration among members, we began developing a set of additional ENA

administrative documents. These were designed to support further work of Country Groups, facilitate more effective ENA involvement in project proposals, and establish clear guidelines for cooperation among MC members, including the adoption of updated reimbursement rules. This momentum empowered us to advance ENA's key strategic priorities for 2025: contributing meaningfully to the implementation of the data space, energising and expanding our networked organisation, and strengthening ENA's pathway towards sustainable funding and governance. These priorities remained at the forefront of ENA's activities throughout the year, as you will discover in this report.

In addition, the ENA established the first cross-community Task Force dedicated to implementing an Artificial Intelligence-focused event. This initiative was closely aligned with the Alignment Assembly on "Culture for AI", launched by the common European data space for cultural heritage, the Europeana Foundation, and the Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision. Key elements of the initiative were showcased at the Europeana 2025

conference, while the full cross-community event took place in late October 2025 in Copenhagen, in cooperation with the AI4LAM and the Statens Museum for Kunst under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

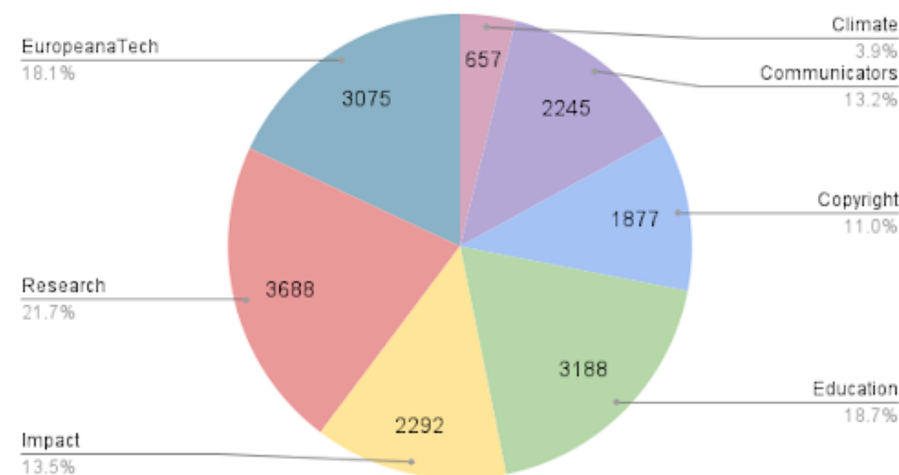
Warm regards,

Members of the ENA Management Board

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. In 2025, we 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.

Communities



Based on statistics from October 2025, 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 2025, the community:

- Hosted and organised a local meet-up in Athens in May, and an ENA networking meeting at Digital Heritage 2025 in Siena, in September.
- Organised a three part webinar series (aligning with the Digital Storytelling Festival and Europeana 2025) which explored the intersection of tourism, cultural heritage and digital storytelling.
- SG Members led mentorship strands at the Digital Storytelling Festival, supporting engagement, creativity and reuse of cultural heritage.
- Collaborated with organizations in Brazil for a webinar in 2025 and some more structured activities in 2026.

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.

The community has continued to organise 'office hours' meetings to bring together collective knowledge in the community. It has maintained relationships with stakeholders, in particular the EUIPO. It has successfully joined celebrations for the Public Domain by co-organizing Public Domain Data 2025 (along with Creative Commons, Meemo and Communia), and publishing an updated Public Domain Charter, with additional translations.

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 formal, non-formal and informal education.

In 2025, the community engaged in the following activities:

- A Webinar on *Cultural heritage and digital citizenship education* (part of All Digital Weeks 2025), with speakers from Europeana, Wikimedia Nederland, Bronnen in de Klas, and the Anne Frank House.
- A Capacity building and mentorship on *'Digital Creativity Lab'* guiding student and teacher teams in design thinking and digital tools for heritage projects.
- CREA Cultura - participation with the *Using Images for Impact* Design Lab workshop for students.
- A Community workshop on *'Educators in the data space: a bottom-up approach session'* to explore educators' roles to co-create recommendations for the European data space for cultural heritage.
- A Webinar on a *'Living Lab methodology'* to explore immersive tech and AI in education projects.

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.

The community continued to promote and support the use of the Impact Playbook through events. This year that included holding online surgeries and a live event at the Europeana Conference in Poland. The Steering Group is undergoing a transition with a number of long. Future activities are being developed including supporting the development of a learning resource for the Europeana Academy and giving a platform to a more diverse range of impact perspectives from across the sector.

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 2025, the community engaged in the following activities:

- A strong focus (and a lot of work) on the WG on Datasheets for Digital Cultural Heritage, publishing a new template, working on a DCAT transformation, and presenting the work during various webinars, workshops, and conferences.
- Organizing so-called 'book cafés'.
- Community-led effort on datasheets together with the Tech community.

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 2025, the community engaged in the following activities:

- Facilitation of the cross-community AI workshop in Copenhagen.
- From Shelf to Data Space working group has started and has divided into five subgroups that address the following themes:
 - #1 Analysis of the current version of the Handbook
 - #2 FSDS WG's relationship to other initiatives
 - #3 Planning the FSDS WG's kick-off webinar
 - #4 What collective working platform will we use to develop the Handbook
 - #5 Explore opportunities for COST Action funding
- The Data Quality Committee contributed to refining problem patterns ("Proofing and possible calibrating of 8 problem patterns implemented in Metis Sandbox and assessment of other prioritised patterns for future implementation").
- The working group on Datasheets for cultural heritage organised workshops with the community, refined its template and is involved in efforts feeding into development for gathering dataset descriptions for the data space.
- Heritage Acoustics Task Force set up and held an in-person workshop in summer 2025.

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. It builds on and advances the core messages of the [Climate Action Manifesto](#).

In 2025, the community engaged in the following activities:

- Community reactivation: resuming its member engagement activities, in particular by reactivating the community mailing list, sending three updates on climate-related news/initiatives, and creating the first discussion circle of the year in May, entitled “Meet the Climate Action Community.”
- Finalization of the report Regenerative Digital Transformation: Sustainable Pathways for Cultural Heritage: The report was completed with the help of an external consultant in July 2025 and has been widely disseminated, including a presentation at the Europeana2025 conference.
- Creative Climate Action Award discussion: organizing a creative writing award in collaboration with the Europeana Foundation to raise awareness of climate activism. The Creative Climate Award will be published at the end of December, and participants can submit their creations until early January.

ENA Task Forces and Working Groups in 2025

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, while Working Groups are set up to address ongoing activities and issues of continuing relevance within the ENA and the Europeana Initiative. They can be found on their respective [Europeana Pro page](#).

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 and Working Groups. 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 2025, either solely within the ENA or also in collaboration

with the Forum and the Foundation:

Task Forces (status October 2025)

- [Impact Lite Training and Community Building](#) - Ongoing
- [Workflow From Shelf to Europeana](#) - Ongoing
- [Environmental sustainability practice](#) - Ongoing
- [Article 14 Task Force](#) - Ongoing
- [Heritage Acoustics Task Force](#) - Ongoing

Working Groups (status October 2025)

- [Data Quality Committee](#) - Ongoing
- [Governance Working Group](#) - Ongoing
- [Capacity Building Working Group](#) - Ongoing
- [Datasheets for digital cultural heritage Working Group](#) - Ongoing
- [IIIF & Europeana Working Group](#) - Ongoing
- [Supporting the digital cultural heritage of Ukraine Working Group](#) - Ongoing
- [Innovative Operating Models WG](#) - Ongoing
- [From shelf to Europeana WG](#) - Ongoing

In 2025, ENA continued playing a role in running the Europeana Initiative [Country Groups pilot project](#), which brings together ENA members, aggregator representatives and others, including those who wish to reuse materials from Europeana.eu. The Country Groups aim to improve national cooperation throughout the data space in EU member states. At the moment the governance and management structure is being developed to be able to coordinate the current and upcoming initiatives.

2. ENA GOVERNANCE

ENA Members Council

The [Members Council](#) is the body of 36 formally-elected representatives of the ENA. During 2025 three Council meetings will have been conducted, two hybrid (March and July) and one online (November). This year we did not hold the elections.

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 2024 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 2025 the Board met three times in person (in March, June, and July) and nine times virtually and was engaged in regular communication over email and Basecamp, with extra meetings in smaller groups on particular subjects, like MC meeting organization. Besides the regular work of ENA MB,

ENA Secretariat

members of the MB were actively engaged in working groups, task forces, and have been representing ENA in monthly strategic cross-initiative leadership meetings conducted with the Europeana Foundation and Aggregators' Forum representatives, to further strengthen the role of ENA in the data space ecosystem.

The Board is elected by the Members Council. In 2025, it consisted of [Sofie Taes](#) (Chair), [Ines Vodopivec](#) (Vice-Chair) [Chris de Loof](#) (Treasurer) [Marianna Marcucci](#), [Juha Henriksson](#) and [Ewa Goodman](#). 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.

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 2025

** Covering the period of January - September 2025*

The budget 2025 for the ENA was provided by the Europeana Foundation under the European Commission's common European data space for cultural heritage project. The operational budget for 2025 was approved by the ENA General Assembly in November 2024 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; budget for Country Groups, and a reserve budget.

Up to the end of September 2025, the ENA spent 42% of the total budget. All of the cost categories are currently underspent.

Table 1: Overview of expenses until September 2025

Budget category	Budget 2025	Reallo- cation	From 2024	Total budget 2025	Actual costs	In %	Under- spend	Forecast 2025
- Operating costs ENA	2,000	0	0	2,000	348	17.38%	1,652	500
- Governance MB/MC	14,000	6,000	0	20,000	16,981	84.90%	3,019	19,000
- Communities	21,000	1,500	7,000	29,500	16,586	56.22%	12,914	21,500
- Grants for Europeana annual conference	12,500	0	0	12,500	10,548	84.38%	1,952	10,597
- Country groups	0	0	20,000	20,000	0	0.00%	20,000	0
- Projects related travel (ECHOES)	4,000	0	0	4,000	740	18.50%	3,260	1,500
- ENA workshop AI	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0.00%	15,000	15,000
- In reserve	0	-22,500	27,727	5,227	0	0.00%	5,227	0
Total	53,500	0	54,727	108,227	45,203	41.77%	63,024	68,097
Underspend based on preliminary numbers								40,130

Country groups

In 2024 the ENA launched a pilot initiative for establishing local country groups. Three countries (Slovenia, Bulgaria and Italy) joined the initiative and reported back the success and minor issues of the initiative. We have foreseen a budget to continue the initiative, however the ENA decided to go through an evaluation process in 2025. The evaluation process took some time and resulted in new terms of references in the second half of 2025. No cost will be made for the country groups in 2025 and the budget will be oriented to activities in 2026.

Spending of the reserves of 2025

Based on the community work plans the ENA allocated €1,500 extra to the communities. During the year we noticed the importance of artificial intelligence for our community following the AI Alignment Strategy and have decided to bring together different experts from the communities during a workshop organised under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The event cost is budgeted at €15,000. We organised 2 physical meetings of the ENA MC. We noticed a great enthusiasm with our MC members to participate actively during physical meetings (Ljubljana and The Hague). To cover the expenses we had to raise the budget for ENA MB/MC from the initial €14,000 to €20,000.

Community budgets in 2025

In November 2024, the work plans of the communities were formally approved by the MC. They include the community budget and activities that every community aimed to deliver by the end of 2024. All seven communities have the same annual budget of €4,000.

Until September 2025 56.2% had been spent on the overall budget for the communities. We expect more costs by the end of the year, but subject to variations from individual communities, however for the end of the year we forecast a substantial underspend. 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.

Table 2: Overview of expenses until September on Communities

Forecast 2025

Based on the costs until September, we currently forecast the total costs around €68,000 for 2025, which means an underspend of €40,000. The underspend will be transferred to the budget of 2026.

Community	Budget 2025	Reallo- cation	From 2024	Total budget 2025	Actual costs	In %	Spent in 2024	Forecast 2025
- Europeana Tech	3,000	0	1,000	4,000	3,341	83.5%	658	3,600
- Europeana Research	3,000	1,000	1,000	5,000	1,258	25.2%	3,396	3,500
- Europeana Education	3,000	0	1,000	4,000	5,235	130.9%	2,214	5,500
- Europeana Copyright	3,000	500	1,000	4,500	2,134	47.4%	2,493	2,400
- Europeana Impact	3,000	0	1,000	4,000	849	21.2%	939	1,200
- Europeana Communicators	3,000	0	1,000	4,000	981	24.5%	658	2,000
- Europeana Climate Actions	3,000	0	1,000	4,000	2,789	69.7%	658	3,300
	21,000	1,500	7,000	29,500	16,586	56.2%	11,016	21,500

ENA as a participant in EU funded projects

In close collaboration with the Europeana Foundation, the ENA became in 2024 partner of the ECHOES project (under the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage) - funded under the Horizon Europe programme, and in 2025 the ENA became partner in the competence centre 3D-4CH (Online competence centre in 3D for Cultural Heritage) - funded under the Digital Europe Programme.

ECHOES

The new [ECHOES project](#) started in June 2024. This project will establish the core infrastructure and governance model of the European Collaborative Cloud for cultural heritage. The ENA is an affiliated partner in the consortium. Especially the connection between the ENA communities and the to-be-formed communities within the project is interesting for both parties. The ENA has a separate travel budget of €20,000 for this project that runs for five years (until May 2029).

3D-4CH

At the time of preparing the ENA budget 2025 it was not known yet that this project was granted, therefore it is not shown in the ENA's budget 2025. The [3D-4CH project](#) started in February 2025, and will run until January 2028. The has a separate travel budget of €9,500 to participate in several in person meetings to contribute to the capacity building and dissemination of the project.

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 2025, we continued to send a monthly Network newsletter to subscribed ENA members (currently 4519 subscribers), informing them about the latest developments within the professional community. Specific campaigns were also regularly sent out through the same channel.

The Europeana [LinkedIn Group](#) (7492 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 [@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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