

Citizen Heritage

Development and testing of participatory approaches on the field

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Multiplier Event KU Leuven - May 19, 2023

citizen Heritage



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Photo courtesy GENCAT Generalitat de Catalunya

Citizen participation is at the basis of citizen science in all domains, and cultural heritage domain is particularly suitable for stimulating citizen participation.

In fact, cultural heritage is not only a statement of the past and the call its preservation, but it is a living factor that supports processes of **community building, knowledge exchange, mutual understanding and social development.**

Our objectives

- to set up, organize and monitor a series of participatory activities and CS workshops (8 in total) that will involve researchers and professionals from the HEIs and CHIs in the consortium and their related networks, students and citizens
- to produce and test innovative approaches for CS in the cultural heritage field, especially those supported by digital technologies that have a great potential for more active engagement of local communities in heritage and culture
- final objective would be to produce a final sets of guidelines and best practices for the effective replicability of the applied approaches.

The recipe

- HE and CH project partners are organising and running a defined series of Citizen Science workshops
- Each event is hosted and organised in collaboration between at least one HE and one CH partner
- This aims to test different kinds of participatory approaches in citizen science projects applied to cultural heritage
- A pre and post event survey is distributed to all participants to get feedback and assess the impact of the activities

We tested on the field multiple kind of citizen science formats:

crowdsourcing campaigns to improve metadata of Cultural Heritage collections in Europeana

GLAM-Wiki events (edit-a-thons, pattern-a-thons) to add/enrich voices on Wikipedia

collection days to engage local communities and Cultural Heritage Institutions

hackathons to co-develop applications for citizen science in the CH sector



Photo courtesy Promoter s.r.l.

HISTORY IN PICTURES

FROM BULGARIA

26-27/04/2021

In this event, students of digital humanities from the **University of Sofia** worked on metadata improvement, by annotating and enriching the beautiful digitized collection of early Bulgarian photography published by **NALIS Foundation** in Europeana.

Result of the action is over 5.000 new metadata added to nearly 700 heritage photographs.



Ekaterina Karavelova with her eldest daughter Viola. Image in PD, NALIS Foundation. Ekaterina Karavelova (1860-1947) is the founder of the Bulgarian Women's Union, chairwoman of the Bulgarian section of the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, founder of the Committee for the Protection of Jews, wife of Petko Karavelov.

FACTS AND FICTION: HUNGARY IN BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

15/10/2021

In this event, students of digital humanities and film history at Media and Communication department of **Pázmány Péter Catholic University** worked on metadata improvement, by annotating the collections of OSZK the **National Széchényi Library** that are published in Europeana, comprising early photography and film stills.

The result is over 500 new tags added to over 100 heritage photographs.



Standfotó a Nyugati övezet című filmből - Film still of Nyugati övezet feature film by Csépany Sándor - National Széchényi Library (OSZK) Budapest, Europe - CC BY-NC-ND.

PATTERN-A-THON AT MOMU IN ANTWERP

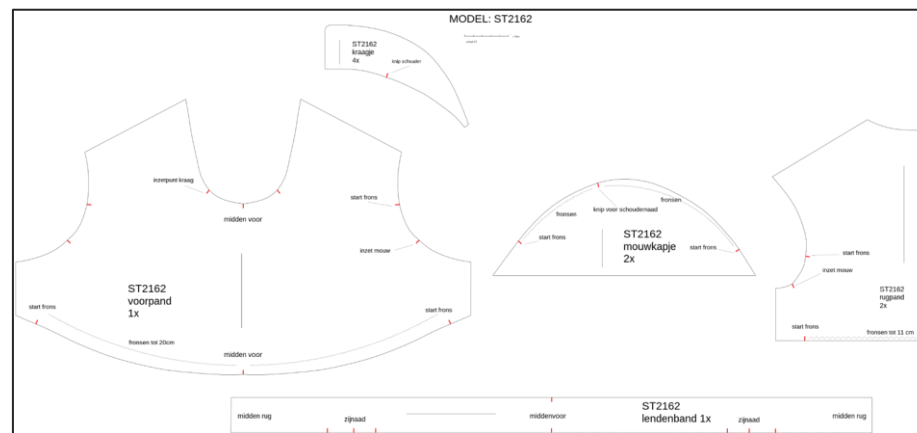
27/11/2021

The event, organized in collaboration with **MoMU**, the fashion museum in Antwerp, under the supervision of **KU Leuven**, piloted a new type of Edit-a-thon based on MoMu's rich Study Collection, available for direct consultation in MoMu's Library, engaging students, designers and researchers in enriching Wikipedia through the creation of patterns of fashion objects.

More than 30 patterns have been produced, digitised and uploaded to Wikimedia during this event.



Photo by EFHA - CC BY-SA



ICT AT THE SERVICE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE

May 2021

This was an online challenge for under- and postgraduate computer science students at the **National Technical University of Athens**, with the aim of implementing added-value features to improve crowdsourcing platforms, such as e.g. gamification elements, interlinking with automatic outputs extracted via a machine learning algorithm, etc.



COLLECTION DAY FOR FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS IN PISA

28/06/2022

On the occasion of the first CitizenHeritage Multiplier Event held in Pisa, a digitization and collection desk was organized, inviting participants to share heritage photos from their family albums, which were digitized on the spot by a professional photographer, and then aggregated by **Photoconsortium** and published in Europeana, the European digital library. An evaluation survey was submitted to the participants to understand their thoughts about sharing personal heritage in the context of an open science approach.



img. Promoter Digital Gallery

ENRICHING TEXTILE HERITAGE

17/03/2023

In this event, organised in collaboration with the Italian Wikimedia Chapter and the Crafted project, we engaged the students of the Department of Design of the **University of Florence** in adding new voices in Wikipedia about textile heritage, using the collections and the expertise of the **Museo del Tessuto di Prato**. This edit-a-thon contributed about 30 new voices about textile heritage on Wikipedia.



Upcoming CS events in 2023

FOOD AND CULTURE / Rotterdam

In this Food and Culture workshop students from **Erasmus University Rotterdam** get to cook, eat, and discuss the role of food in shaping and expressing identity – also talking about the environmental effect of the food chain. The event takes place at the Erasmus Food Lab, an organization aiming to promote and raise awareness about sustainable and healthy food. It is an experimental playground for research, teaching and marketing related to plant-based foods.

FAIR PRINCIPLES FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE / Leuven

In this workshop, coordinated by **KU Leuven**, we will introduce participants in the FAIR principles for Citizen Science and the elements that need to be in place to make sure citizen contributions are integrated according to scientific best practices as well as ethical standards. The workshop will focus on sharing experiences and a discussion about what are realistically achievable approaches to improve crowdsourcing activities in the heritage sector in this regard. How and when can citizens intervene contributively in the heritage guardianship process? How can these contributions be recognized and valorised? Participants will work together in groups on specific themes such as recognition, authorship, co-curation.



Photo courtesy Promoter s.r.l.

- Engagement and participation **endorse citizen science, gathering together citizens**, research, higher education and cultural heritage institutions.
- These series of events demonstrates the **variety of actions that can enable citizen engagement** with cultural heritage.
- Citizens are happy to participate, if they are enabled to.

Next steps

- Under the coordination of KU Leuven, we are preparing a self-assessment survey for institutions interested in organising CS events
- Based on the replies to the survey, respondents will get suggested reading materials, resources and best practices on the topics they need to deepen
- We will also produce a short guide on the main steps and activities to undertake in order to organise a successful CS event

Many thanks for your attention!

Citizen Heritage

Citizen Science Practices in Cultural Heritage:
towards a Sustainable Model in Higher Education

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