The European Mediterranean International Conference on Digital Heritage

The 20th Anniversary Year of EuroMed (2006-2026)

2nd-5th November 2026, Online

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS EuroMed2026

Conference Announcement

Digital Cultural Heritage – Advancing the Future of the Past

The UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage is pleased to formally announce that the EuroMed2026 11th biennial International Conference on Digital Heritage will be held **virtually online** between the **2nd-5th November 2026**.

This key conference on Cultural Heritage celebrates twentieth anniversary this year (2006-2026) and has chosen the theme ***Advancing the Future of the Past*** for this very special scientific conference.

EuroMed2026 brings together researchers, policymakers, professionals and practitioners from multiple domains to discuss the challenges and successes facing cultural heritage today. EuroMed2026 focuses on interdisciplinary research within Cultural Heritage and how research from other disciplines may benefit the Cultural Heritage domain.

The conference provides a unique forum to explore and discuss new research, innovative technological advances, and novel sustainable approaches to how we document, preserve, valorise, and use cultural heritage resources through digital technologies.

Call for Abstracts

The field of Digital Cultural Heritage is undergoing a transformative evolution, driven by advances in data acquisition, knowledge representation, immersive technologies, and digital intelligence. These developments are reshaping how cultural assets are documented, preserved, interpreted, protected, and communicated to society.

This Call for Abstracts invites high-quality contributions that address critical challenges and emerging opportunities across the full lifecycle of cultural heritage - from acquisition and knowledge modelling to immersive dissemination and protection against illicit activities.

Abstracts Submission

EuroMed2026 accepts the submission of abstracts for review. Submissions should reflect the conference theme and topics and be prepared in line with the publication guidelines from the conference website. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit papers to be presented during the conference as 15-minute online presentation and will be published in a high-quality Springer-Nature proceedings volume.

Submissions are made via the EuroMed2026 website's Paper Submission page.

Please see the EuroMed2026 website for details on submission deadlines.

Thematic Areas

Topic 1: High-Quality Holistic Data Acquisition in Cultural Heritage

High-quality data acquisition constitutes the foundation of all digital cultural heritage processes. This topic focuses on comprehensive and integrated approaches for capturing cultural assets, ensuring accuracy, completeness, and long-term usability.

Indicative subtopics include:

- Advanced 3D digitisation (laser scanning, photogrammetry, UAV-based methods),
- Multi-sensor data fusion and hybrid acquisition pipelines,
- High-resolution, hyperspectral, and multi-modal imaging,
- Real-time and in-situ data acquisition technologies,
- Data quality assessment, uncertainty modelling, and validation,
- Standardisation and interoperability,
- Paradata – Quality Certificates of results and metadata frameworks,
- AI-assisted and automated acquisition workflows,
- Capturing intangible heritage and contextual knowledge,
- Non-Destructive Technologies, Materials and Production/Construction Technologies' and
- Ethical considerations and authenticity in data capture.

Topic 2: Knowledge Management Systems and Knowledge Graphs in Digital Cultural Heritage

The increasing complexity and volume of cultural heritage data demand advanced knowledge management approaches. This topic explores intelligent systems that enable structured representation, semantic enrichment, and meaningful exploitation of cultural heritage information.

Indicative subtopics include:

- Knowledge Graphs for cultural heritage representation and integration,
- Ontologies, semantic web technologies, and linked open data,
- Interoperable knowledge management systems and platforms,
- Integration of heterogeneous and multi-source datasets,
- AI and machine learning for knowledge extraction and reasoning,
- Semantic annotation, enrichment, and metadata harmonisation,
- Heritage Building Information Modelling (HBIM) and Holistic HBIM (HHBIM)
- Digital Twins and Memory Twins driven by knowledge systems,
- Data provenance, trust, and explainability,
- User-centric knowledge access, visualisation, and storytelling and
- Knowledge Long Term Preservation (including Paradata, metadata and Data).

Topic 3: Persistent Virtual Words, VR, MR and XR Applications in Digital Cultural Heritage

(Transferring the Message to a Multidisciplinary User Community) Immersive technologies are redefining how cultural heritage is experienced, understood, and communicated. This topic focuses on advanced VR, XR and persistent virtual world applications that bridge research, education, and public engagement: How can persons learn from the Past?

Indicative subtopics include:

- Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Reality applications for heritage interpretation,
- Persistent virtual world environments for cultural heritage exploration and interaction,
- Human-centred design and user experience (UX),

- Storytelling, serious games, and edutainment approaches,
- Multi-user collaboration in virtual heritage spaces,
- Accessibility and inclusive design for diverse audiences,
- Integration of Digital-Twins and/or Memory-Twins into immersive environments,
- Evaluation of user engagement, learning, and societal impact,
- Multimedia Encyclopaedias and
- Ethical and cultural implications of immersive technologies.

Topic 4: Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Heritage and the Role of Digital Technologies

The illicit trafficking of cultural heritage remains a major global challenge. Digital technologies offer powerful tools to document, trace, protect, and support the recovery of cultural assets. This topic focuses on how Digital Cultural Heritage can actively contribute to combating illicit activities.

Indicative subtopics include:

- Smart Digital documentation and inventory systems for cultural assets,
- Provenance tracking and blockchain-based solutions,
- AI-driven detection of illicit trafficking and forgery,
- Image recognition and object identification systems,
- Interoperable databases and international data sharing,
- Risk assessment and early warning systems,
- Legal, ethical, and policy frameworks,
- Collaboration with law enforcement and international organisations and
- Case studies and best practices in combating illicit trafficking.

We look forward to seeing you online at EuroMed2026