ECHOES Second Policy Event

Towards a distributed, multi-level, collaborative governance for the Cultural Heritage Cloud

5 February 2026

Maison Irène et Frédéric Joliot-Curie, Rue du Trône 100, Brussels

Following ECHOES' first Policy Event, this second occurrence will gather European, national and regional representatives, policymakers and cultural heritage experts around our theme: Towards a distributed, multi-level, collaborative governance for the Cultural Heritage Cloud. This Event is the opportunity for ECHOES to reaffirm its commitment to **bring together the Cultural Heritage communities** around this leading-edge platform, as well as to present its strategy for the **Cloud's legal entity** and **governance model**.

Registration

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09:30

Welcome coffee

10:00

Welcome address:

- Fabrice BOUDJAABA
  (Director CNRS Humanities & Social sciences)
- Joanna DRAKE (EC - Deputy Director General 'Planet People and Science for Policy', DG-RTD - On video)
- Katja REPPEL (EC - Head of Unit Democracy, Equality & Culture, DG-RTD)
- Dr. Christian EHLER (Member of European Parliament)
- Anne BESNIER (Committee of Regions)

11:30

ECHOES General presentation (Xavier RODIER - CNRS, Dimitris KOTZINOS - CYU) **and Presentation of Sustainability stakes and strategy for the Cultural Heritage Cloud** (Philippe VENDRIX, CNRS)

12:10

Keynote speech:

European Partnership Resilient Cultural Heritage – Alexandre CAUSSÉ and MariaChiara ESPOSITO

12:30 Lunch break



Session 1

13:30

Multi-level governance and subsidiarity: which legal competence?

The round- table will address the articulation of responsibilities and roles of the different levels of governance involved in the digital cultural heritage (CH) landscape, and how they can contribute to the interplay between emerging needs of institutions and practitioners with the evolving opportunities offered by the Cloud at European level. A few key challenges will be discussed ranging from the added value that each level can bring in terms of governance to the success of the Cloud, to the mutual cooperation that diverse initiatives can provide at local/regional, national and European level. Ways to facilitate such multi-level cooperation will also be discussed, including examples of projects and practices that have either paved the way to the European Cloud as a necessary umbrella infrastructure or have shown the importance of a broader space for a bottom-up participatory and fruitful interaction of CH related knowledge produced at many levels**.**

Chair: Mariachiara ESPOSITO (FSP)

Panel:

- Pascal LIEVAUX (Partnership Resilient Cultural Heritage, JPI CH)
- Anne BESNIER (CoR and Centre Val de Loire region)
- Rickard BUCKSCH (DG-RTD)
- Manuel GOMEZ HERRERO (DG-EAC)
- Katerina MOUTOGIANNI (DG CNECT)

Coffee break 14:45

Session 2

15:15

Enabling cooperation in and around the Cloud ecosystem

This roundtable brings together six major European cultural heritage initiatives to examine the role that the Cultural Heritage Cloud can play as a space for cooperation and creation of shared value. The objective is not to add another layer to an already complex ecosystem, but to understand how the Cloud can become a catalyst for complementarities, facilitate interoperability between communities with diverse practices, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our heritage infrastructures. Drawing on concrete experiences and strategic choices already made, we will explore three essential dimensions: mapping of the ecosystem and its commitments, standardization and subsidiarity issues, and finally economic models and European cultural sovereignty.

Chair: Philippe VENDRIX (CNRS)

Panel:

- Vania VIRGILI (E-RIHS ERIC)
- Agiatis BENARDOU (DARIAH ERIC)
- Juliette RAOUL-DUVAL (ICOM Europe)
- Vincent VANDEGHINSTE (CLARIN ERIC)
- Harry VERWAYEN (Europeana, Data Space for Cultural Heritage)
- Franco NICCOLUCCI (ARIADNE RI)

Conclusion 16:30

Palais du Coudenberg visit 17:00