

The ECHOES Consultation

Mapping communities, practices and needs in Digital Cultural Heritage

Supporting the design of the Cultural Heritage Cloud (2025–2029)

THE ECHOES CONSULTATION

The Cultural Heritage Cloud initiative is supported by the European Commission (2025 – 2029) to create a shared digital infrastructure to unify Europe's fragmented heritage sector.

To ensure this infrastructure meets the real-world requirements of those who will use it, ECHOES launched a comprehensive community consultation, which aims to:

- **Map the communities of cultural heritage** to support the project's community-building efforts
- **Identify their digital practices and needs** to inform the Cloud's infrastructure design, capacity building and future project actions

The consultation consists of a questionnaire (February – July 2025), and follow-up workshops, focus groups and interviews.

This factsheet presents the main insights resulted from the questionnaire.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was addressed to individuals and institutions working in any kind of capacity with or on cultural heritage (i.e. research, management, preservation, IT development, etc.) and it is composed of seven main sections.

- The first two focus on the professional profiles and activities of respondents
- The following four touch upon their current digital practices and needs
- The final section enables the respondents to register their interest in the project by getting engaged in further activities or following our news



2065
PEOPLE ENGAGED

65
COUNTRIES
(31 IN EUROPE)



464
INSTITUTIONAL
ANSWERS

806
COMPLETE SURVEYS



1303 EXPLOITABLE
ANSWERS

KEY INSIGHTS

The highlights presented in this factsheet are selected examples drawn from the consultation results and are intended to illustrate the breadth and diversity of information that can be explored in greater detail through the Visual Dashboard.



Funded by
the European Union

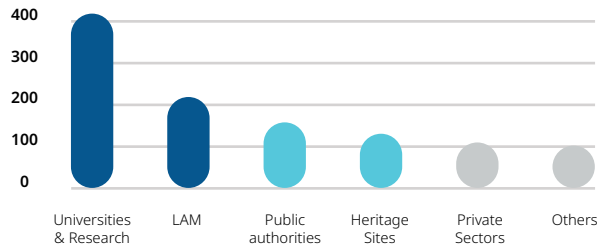


UK Research
and Innovation

COMMUNITIES AND EXPERTISE

Discover who took part in the consultation, including respondents' professional profiles, organisational contexts, and fields of expertise shaping today's cultural heritage community.

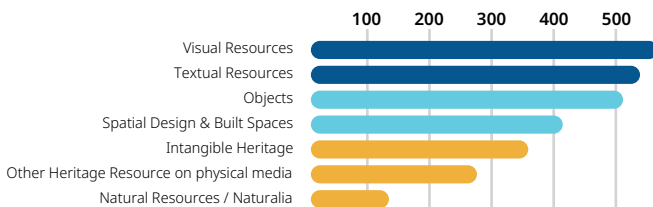
Respondents' institution type



HERITAGE ASSETS AND RESOURCES

Learn more about the types of heritage addressed, the resources and media used, and the geographical scope of heritage work.

Types of heritage respondents work with



DATA MANAGEMENT AND LITERACY

Discover how data management is reflected in everyday practices, including knowledge of data management plans and approaches to structuring and modelling data.

Data management practices



Percentage of respondents using a data management plan

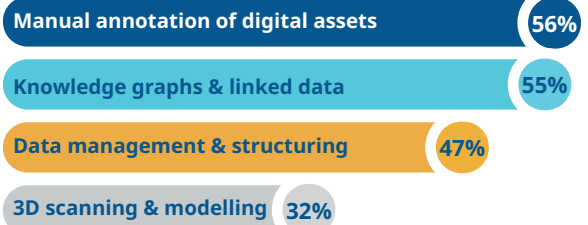


Percentage of data bases based on an ontological model

DIGITAL PRACTICES AND TOOLS

Explore how digital tools and technologies are used or sought across cultural heritage practices, from annotation and automation to 3D, GIS, and immersive tools.

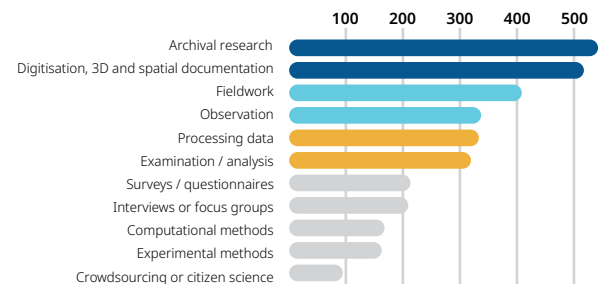
Most requested tools



DATA PRODUCTION AND SHARING

Find out how data are created, reused, and shared, including approaches to documentation, storage, access, and key challenges.

How are respondents producing data



Explore & get involved

Visual dashboard

Explore respondents' profiles, domains of expertise and practices.



What's next

Deliverable D4.1

Report on identification of communities and their needs (available on Zenodo from June 2026)

