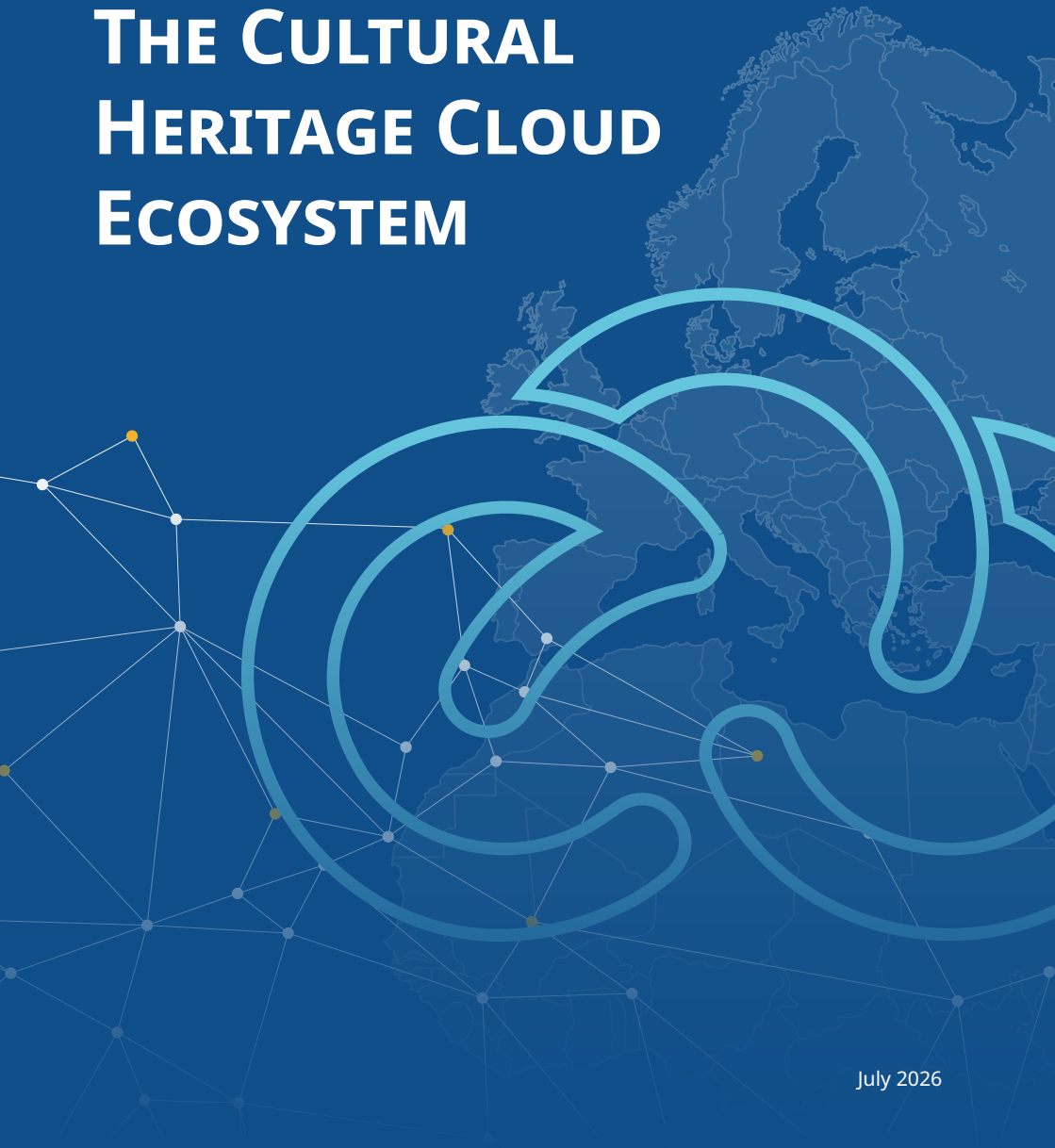
echoes
European Cloud
for Heritage OpEn Science

The Cultural Heritage Cloud Ecosystem



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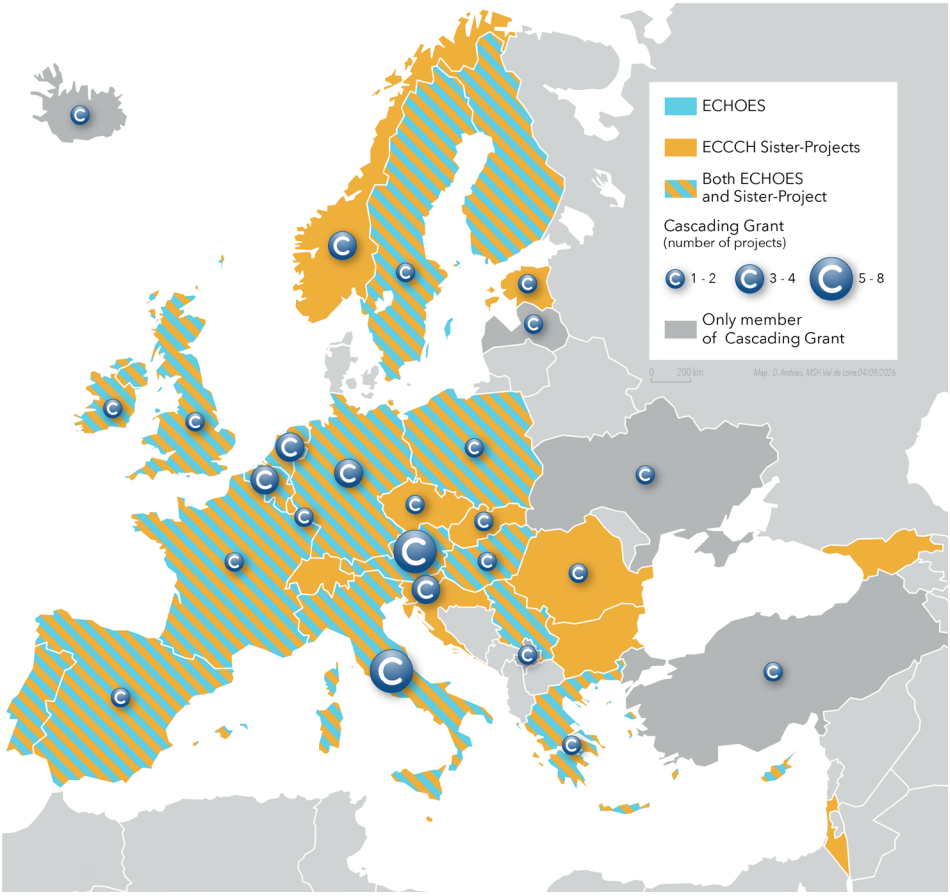

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ECHOES and the Cultural Heritage Cloud ecosystem

The Cultural Heritage Cloud, or European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH), is a European initiative that is transforming the way we work with and around cultural heritage digital resources.

More than just a platform, the Cloud is a federated digital infrastructure connecting institutions, datasets, tools and expertise across Europe.

INSTITUTIONS
Museums, libraries, archives and heritage organisations.

DATASETS
Digital collections and cultural heritage data across Europe.

TOOLS
Digital tools and services for processing, analysis and reuse.

EXPERTISE
Knowledge, skills and professional communities.

WORK ON SHARED RESOURCES. KEEP CONTROL OF YOUR DATA.

The Cloud enables cultural heritage professionals, researchers and organisations to collaborate in new ways while maintaining control over their own data.

ECHOES
plays a central role in this vision

Through a **Single Entry Point**, the Cloud provides seamless access to a variety of digital resources and supports their creation and reuse.

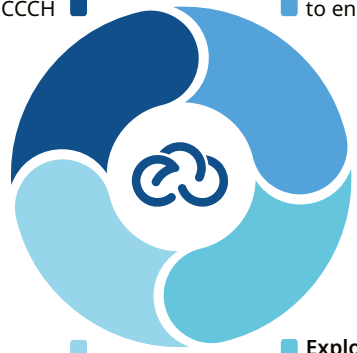
At its core, it enables the continuous enrichment, validation and reuse of cultural heritage knowledge across disciplines and borders.

This collaborative process leads to the creation of **Heritage Digital Twins**,

which are the building blocks of a Cultural Heritage Digital Commons.

Create
the Heritage Digital Twin
Initiate a digital twin
and ingest data into ECCCH

Enrich
the Heritage Digital Twin
Use Data Space resources
to enrich the HDT



Use
ECCCH Applications
Use ECCCH vertical applications
to update and refine the HDT

Explore
EOSC Services
Use EOSC and ERICs'
tools and services to enrich the HDT

ECHOES
Laying the foundations
of the Cloud

- Architecture
- Governance
- Standards & Policies

SISTER PROJECTS
Contributing to the
ECCCH ecosystem

- Tools
- Services
- Real-world use cases

Today, the Cloud brings together:

22 projects

322 partner organisations

36 different countries

150+ sub-projects

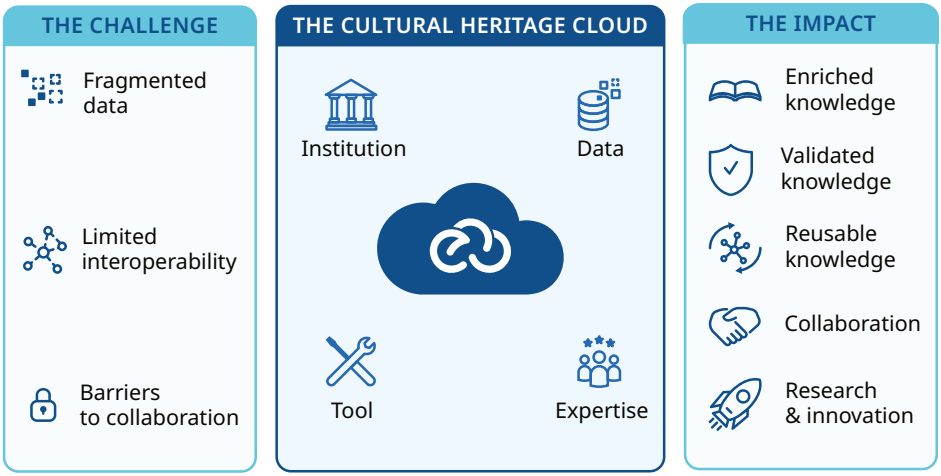
€110 million in investment

Explore the projects contributing to the Cultural Heritage Cloud

echoes-eccch.eu/community/

Why it matters

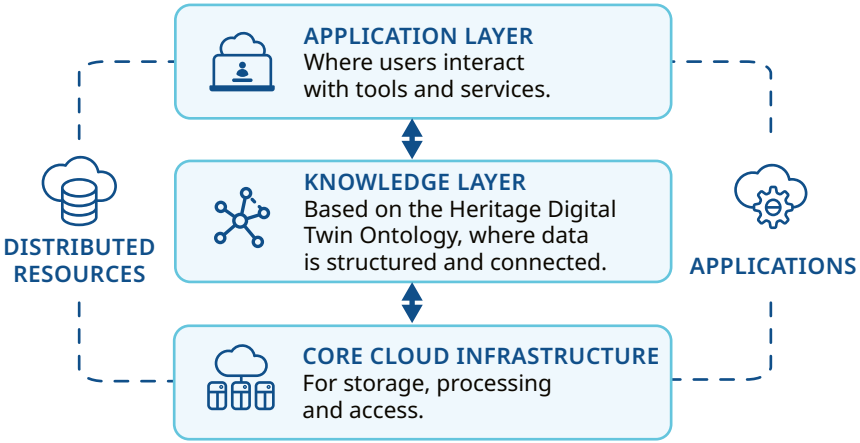
The Cultural Heritage Cloud addresses long-standing challenges such as fragmented data, limited interoperability and barriers to collaboration. By connecting people, data, tools and expertise, it creates a **shared environment** where knowledge can be continuously enriched, validated and reused. This enables cultural heritage professionals to collaborate more effectively, develop new research and innovation, and unlock the full potential of Europe's digital cultural heritage.



From architecture to tools and use cases

The Cultural Heritage Cloud is built as a federated infrastructure, combining shared core services with distributed resources and applications.

Its architecture is organised in layers:



ON TOP OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE,

ECHOES and its **sister projects** are developing a **new generation of tools** and applications supporting a wide range of cultural heritage workflows, from research and conservation to documentation and dissemination.

Explore the full Cultural Heritage Cloud Tools Catalogue at:

echoes-eccch.eu/eccch-tools/

THESE INCLUDE:

- Data Acquisition & Digitisation
- Data Management & Interoperability
- AI / Machine-Learning & Analytics
- Visualisation & Immersive Interaction
- Conservation & Monitoring Workflows
- Experience Design & Storytelling
- Infrastructure & Cloud Services

WHAT IS THE ADDED VALUE FOR USERS

Professionals can access data, tools, services and workflows in one shared environment, making it easier to reuse resources, collaborate across disciplines and integrate digital tools into everyday heritage practice.

Designed with and for the community

The Cultural Heritage Cloud is **built around the needs of its users**.

Through a large-scale consultation, ECHOES engaged **stakeholders** from across the cultural heritage ecosystem, including:

- Cultural heritage institutions and heritage organisations
- Researchers and academics
- Research Infrastructures
- Digital and technical professionals
- Policy makers and public authorities

These stakeholders are not treated as passive users, but as **active contributors** shaping the Cloud.

THE CONSULTATION

2,065
individuals engaged

464
institutional responses

indicating a strong interest in the initiative across communities and geographical borders.

KEY NEEDS IDENTIFIED INCLUDE:

- Accessible and user-friendly digital tools and services
- Interoperable, FAIR and trusted data environments
- Integrated workflows and collaborative research environments
- Reliable, sustainable and secure digital infrastructures
- Capacity building and user support

To address these diverse needs, the Cloud fosters a **federation of communities** of practice connected through shared data, tools and collaborative workflows.

Find out more about the consultation results at:
echoes-eccch.eu/echoes-consultation/

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLOUD

The Cultural Heritage Cloud is shaped through **continuous dialogue** with its communities, ensuring that its services, tools and priorities evolve in response to real needs and emerging practices.

Funding opportunities

The Cultural Heritage Cloud is not only a technological initiative, it is also an opportunity for organisations to **actively contribute and benefit.**

Through the **cascading grants programme**, ECHOES and sister projects provide funding to:

- Integrate datasets into the Cloud
- Test solutions through pilot projects
- Develop new tools and services
- Experiment with innovative use cases
- Support community engagement and collaboration

PARTICIPATION GOES BEYOND THE FUNDED ACTIVITIES

as organisations can also:

- Contribute data and applications
- Join pilot activities
- Collaborate with other projects and communities

These funding schemes are designed to **open the ecosystem**, enabling organisations of different types and sizes (including cultural heritage institutions, SMEs and smaller institutions) to participate in the development, expansion and validation of the Cloud and its associated tools and services.

DISCOVER MORE

about funding opportunities and upcoming calls at:

ECHOES GRANTS

echoes-eccch.eu/cascading-grants/

SISTER PROJECTS GRANTS

echoes-eccch.eu/project-grants/

BEYOND FUNDING

The cascading grants programme is designed to accelerate the development, validation and adoption of the Cultural Heritage Cloud, while encouraging new organisations to contribute to its long-term sustainability.

Building skills for the digital transition

A key objective of the Cultural Heritage Cloud is to support the cultural heritage sector in **developing the skills** needed to work in a digital, knowledge-driven environment.

Training is an **integral part of the Cloud**, enabling professionals and developers to fully benefit from its services and tools.

Within ECHOES, capacity building activities include:

- Structured training resources and **learning pathways**
- Integration of training into **real workflows and tools**
- Support for **different levels of expertise**, from basic to advanced

This includes the development of a comprehensive curriculum, designed to:

- Develop the **digital skills** needed to work with data, tools and services in the Cultural Heritage Cloud
- Support the adoption of new **digital practices** across the cultural heritage sector
- **Facilitate onboarding to the Cloud** and its collaborative environment

LEARN MORE

about ECHOES curriculum and capacity building resources at:

echoes-eccch.eu/capacity-building/

IMPACT ON PROFESSIONALS

Training enables cultural heritage professionals to:

- Confidently adopt **digital methods** and workflows
- Make effective use of **data, tools and services** across the Cultural Heritage Cloud
- **Collaborate** across disciplines and communities of practice
- Drive **innovation and digital transformation** within their organisations

Join the Cultural Heritage Cloud

The Cultural Heritage Cloud is evolving rapidly, and staying connected is key to making the most of its opportunities.

You can **follow and engage** with the Cultural Heritage Cloud ecosystem through:

The project website, a central hub for news, results and resources

The newsletter providing regular updates and opportunities

Social media channels sharing insights, events and community stories

The project has already built a **strong communication system**, reaching a wide range of stakeholders and supporting active engagement across Europe.

GET INVOLVED

EXPLORE
Explore the Cultural Heritage Cloud tools and services catalogue.

PARTICIPATE
Participate in workshops, webinars and consultation activities.

APPLY
Apply for cascading grants and training opportunities.

CONTRIBUTE
Contribute data, tools, services and use cases to the Cultural Heritage Cloud ecosystem.

CONNECT
Join a vibrant community and collaborate across Europe.

The Cultural Heritage Cloud offers a **progressive integration pathway** for datasets, tools, services and workflows, allowing contributors to join the ecosystem at different levels according to their needs and technical readiness.

> The Cultural Heritage Cloud is not just a platform, it is a **collaborative European ecosystem** that will continue to grow through the active participation of its communities, helping shape the future of digital cultural heritage.

Access Cultural Heritage Cloud Resources

Explore Cultural Heritage Cloud publications, datasets, software and technical resources through the project's open repositories.

All resources are made available to support openness, reuse and collaboration across the Cultural Heritage Cloud ecosystem.

zenodo

Publications, reports and deliverables

Access publicly available deliverables, reports and scientific publications produced by ECHOES and its sister projects.

PUBLICATIONS

DELIVERABLES

EXPLORE THE ECHOES ZENODO COMMUNITY

zenodo.org/communities/echoes-eccch

GitHub

Software, code and technical resources

Discover source code, technical documentation, tools and reusable software components developed within ECHOES and its sister projects.

SOURCE CODE

DOCUMENTATION

TOOLS

SOFTWARE COMPONENTS

EXPLORE THE ECHOES GITHUB ORGANISATION

github.com/ECHOES-ECCCH

JOIN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE CLOUD

echoes-eccch.eu

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