



# European Digital Treasures:

## Management of Centenary Archives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### Key facts

European archives are fundamental primary sources for discovering and reinforcing shared European culture and history. The project **European Digital Treasures** aims at bringing joint European heritage, and especially its digital versions, major visibility, outreach and use. European Digital Treasures addresses the challenges of the **digital society**, related to the management and transmission of **European historical and documentary heritage**.

### Project consortium

The project consortium is comprised of **7 partners from 7 countries** uniting a multi-stakeholder team. Each partner has specific qualifications that together form an effective consortium.

- **Spanish State Archives** (project lead)
- **Cork Institute of Technology** (Ireland)
- **ICARUS** – International Centre for Archival Research (Austria)
- **National Archives of Hungary**
- **National Archives of Malta**
- **National Archives of Norway**
- **National Archives of Portugal**

### Mission: Unlock the past to build capacities

- **Develop new business models for European archives** in the 21<sup>st</sup> century seeking to unlock the profitability and economic sustainability of digitised cultural heritage
- Amplify the visibility of national archives in the public underlining the importance of **protecting European heritage**
- **Reach out to new audiences** (Generation Z and Silver Generation) encouraging the use of digital products that unlock the hidden treasures of joint heritage kept in archives
- **Support transnational mobility** of managers, historians, experts, graphical and industrial designers as well as archivists to activate cross-sectoral opportunities.

**Join us in unlocking the treasures kept in archives across Europe.**

*It is time to tap into the enormous potential digital collections have for changing the way that information is used, and for developing new ways of preserving, collecting, organizing, propagating and accessing knowledge.*



## Activities:

### Innovation to release the potential of archival (digital) treasures

#### Roaming transmedia exhibitions

Three roaming exhibitions (Spain, Portugal, Norway, Austria, Malta and Hungary) will invite the public to discover archival (digital) treasures and educate on the importance of archives for cultural heritage. **120 key documents** - treasures - tied into transmedia interactive products (video games and apps) will tell the stories of a shared past to the public across the population stratum.

#### Each roaming exhibition will focus on a specific European topic:

1. The **construction of Europe, from Charlemagne to the EU Treaties** – Over 1000 years of European construction
2. **Exiles, Migratory flows and Solidarity**
3. **European Discoveries: From the New World to New Technologies**

#### Artistic residencies – new business models

Based on the **key documents** of the roaming exhibitions, graphic and industrial designers will create innovative merchandising products that explore new fields of business models for archives to increase income and visibility opportunities.

11 graphic and industrial designers from the participating countries will take part in the **artistic residency in Madrid**.

#### European youth archives

Complementing the storytelling of the roaming transmedia exhibitions, European Digital Treasures will develop an edutainment App connecting the exhibitions to social networks, the self-evident playgrounds and communication platforms of **“Generation Z”**. By integrating the archival world into the natural digital habitat of younger generations, access to archives will be eased and interest in discovering cultural heritage sparked.

In the end, **100 of the most “liked”** digital documents selected by the “Generation Z” will be collected in the online exhibition **“European youths archives”**

#### Archival literacy online course

With the support of the Department of Technology Enhanced Learning at the Cork Institute of Technology, the project will **develop an online training course** on archival literacy oriented towards teachers introducing **younger generations** to the potential of archives and facilitate knowledge transfer in line with the progression of digital technology.