

HERITWIN kicks off in Brussels: A decisive step towards the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage

Brussels, September 2026 – The HERITWIN project successfully held its kick-off meeting on the 7th and 8th of September in Brussels. This meeting marks the official start of an ambitious 30-month initiative dedicated to strengthening Europe's cultural resilience through the validation and deployment of the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH).

HERITWIN is not merely a demonstration project; it is a strategic testbed designed to transform the ECCCH infrastructure into practical, auditable workflows for heritage institutions. By implementing semantic digital twins, Extended Reality (XR) technologies, and preparedness modelling tools, the project aims to ensure preventative conservation and public engagement within an interoperable European environment.

Five pilots for a common challenge

The core of the project is grounded in the validation of the ECCCH through five large-scale pilots, situated in diverse geographical and cultural contexts across Europe:

- **Sweden:** Reconstruction of the 1930 Stockholm Exhibition.
- **Norway:** Preparedness modelling for the Telemark Canal.
- **Spain:** Platform validation for the Camino de Santiago.
- **United Kingdom (Northern Ireland):** Community digitisation and co-creation at the Knockmany Passage Tomb.
- **Greece:** Archaeological documentation and XR exploration in Aphytos.

These operational environments will allow the consortium comprised of 17 partners with expertise in heritage, technology, industry, and standards to test data interoperability, federated space governance, and compliance with key regulations such as the GDPR and the AI Act.

"The objective of HERITWIN is to make the European cultural heritage cloud measurable in practice," the project coordination team notes. "We are transforming fragmented assets into actionable digital twins that will serve as a foundation for the cultural institutions of the future."

Towards sustainable digital heritage

HERITWIN will contribute directly to European and international standards, offering replicable resources, adoption playbooks, and open-source tools that facilitate the digital transition of the cultural sector. This interdisciplinary approach combines ICT



engineering with Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), ensuring that technology not only preserves the past but also makes it accessible and inclusive for future generations.

Press Contact:

scozzo@anysolution.eu

Website: <https://heritwin-eccch.eu/>