



Panel Debate on Culture and AI in the data space
under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU
in cooperation with SMK
28 October, 2025, Copenhagen

Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend our high-level policy panel debate on Culture and AI, taking place in the Auditorium at SMK, Tuesday 28 October 15:00 – 17:00. Admission is free.

The panel debate marks the conclusion of a two-day expert workshop, and will gather a panel of experts and decision makers to reflect on how we in the cultural heritage sector can harness the potentials of AI while safeguarding the values and principles we are founded on as trustworthy knowledge institutions.

Date, location and format

- **Date:** 28 October afternoon (15:00 - 17:00)
- **Location:** SMK Auditorium
- **Admission:** Free of charge
- **Event language:** English

Draft programme

Master of Ceremony: Ines Vodopivec, AI4LAM

<i>Introduction and setting the scene</i>	
15:00 - 15:10	Opening and welcome remarks by Camilla Jalving, Head of Collections & Research, SMK
<i>Reporting back from the Cross-community workshop</i>	
15:10 - 15:25	Alignment Assembly and Cross-community workshop takeaways: major policy implications by Harry Verwayen, Europeana Foundation
<i>Keynote "Beyond AI & Copyright: the role of cultural heritage data in the age of generative AI"</i>	
15:25 - 15:50	Keynote by Paul Keller, Director of Policy at Open Future: thoughts on AI and Openness in the heritage sector
<i>Roundtable "AI and Openness: opportunities and challenges for cultural heritage"</i>	
15:50 - 16:30	Round table bringing together data space partners, policy makers and sector leaders; discussion inspired by keynote and Alignment Assembly Moderated by Ines Vodopivec <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camilla Jalving, Head of Collections & Research, SMK• Ole Kaag Mølgaard, Head of Secretariat, National Encyclopedia Lex.DK• Brigitte Vezina, Director of policy and open culture, Creative Commons (tbc)• Sebastiaan Masterovic, Open Data Specialist, Eleuther (tbc)• Danish Ministry of Culture (tbc)
<i>Reaction</i>	
16:30 - 16:40	European Commission
<i>Concluding remarks, next steps</i>	
16:40 - 17:00	What's in store when it comes to AI in the data space and beyond by Harry Verwayen, General Director of the Europeana Foundation and Ines Vodopivec, Secretary General AI4LAM Moderated by Jill Cousins, Europeana Network Association Tech Community SG member

Background

As part of the development of the common European data space for cultural heritage, the Europeana Foundation and the Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision launched an [“Alignment Assembly on Culture for AI”](#) in May 2025. This participatory process gathered insights from over 400 professionals across the digital cultural heritage community. Its results - [captured in a dedicated paper](#) - will be used to shape a common vision for the use of AI in the data space and our sector, inform decision-making and promote the responsible development and use of Artificial Intelligence in cultural heritage.

The Alignment Assembly on Culture for AI is both a consultation and a collective intelligence initiative. Its goals are to identify points of consensus, friction and uncertainty within the cultural heritage sector regarding AI; facilitate meaningful dialogue around emerging dilemmas; and support the development of a shared vision for the use of AI in the data space and the digital cultural heritage sector. This work contributes to a broader effort to establish the data space as a hub for experimentation, a forum for critical discussion and a leader in the ethical and responsible adoption of AI.

The European Commission’s 2021 [Recommendation](#) on a common European data space for cultural heritage encourages the use of AI to improve digitisation and preservation processes, raise content quality and foster upskilling in the sector, positioning the data space as an active driver of AI adoption. A core mission of the data space is to democratise access to cultural heritage data; making it findable, openly available, trusted and easy for anyone to use — and AI can play a key role in accelerating this mission.

The data space strategy 2030 —currently being finalised by the European Commission and the Member States within CEDCHE— also recognises AI as a cross-cutting priority. It highlights not only the potential of AI to advance cultural heritage, but also the unique value of cultural heritage data in shaping the future of AI. The strategy explicitly mandates the data space to “lead the adoption of common approaches, standards and frameworks for emerging technologies” and to “accelerate the uptake of emerging technologies such as AI in a responsible manner.”

To advance these efforts, the Europeana Foundation and the Europeana Network Association, in collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision, AI4LAM and SMK, are convening a **two-part event in Copenhagen under the Danish**

Presidency of the Council of the EU. The programme includes a professional workshop on 27 October, followed by a high-level policy webinar on AI in the data space.

This two-part event will feature:

- **A cross-community workshop on 27- 28 October (closed event):**
 - Format: day-and-a-half workshop hosted at SMK.
 - Organisers: Europeana Foundation and the Europeana Network Association, in collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision, AI4LAM and SMK
 - With a professional focus, this part of the event will bring together members of the Europeana Network Association for dialogue and the exchange of best practices, building on the initial stage of the Alignment Assembly.
 - Participants: 30 representatives from across the Europeana Network Association communities, selected through a call for proposals.
 - Focus areas: Key themes emerging from the Alignment Assembly, including:
 - Positioning heritage data as responsible AI training material; reconciling the principle of open access with the need to control who uses our data and for what purpose
 - Using AI in a way that is climate responsible
 - Preventing biases and being more inclusive when AI is used with heritage data; use of heritage data in AI applications: reinforce systemic biases and injustices, or can it help dismantle them?

- **A high-level Policy Webinar on Culture and AI in the data space on 28 October:**
 - Format: 2-hour event hosted at SMK Auditorium. It will consist of a streamed roundtable with panel discussions, keynote interventions, and in-person external audience.
 - Organisers: Europeana Initiative and the SMK
 - With a policy focus, this session will translate key insights from the professional workshop into a forward-looking discussion on cultural heritage and AI. It will highlight outcomes of the Alignment assembly and

their policy implications, and reflect the Danish Presidency's emphasis on culture and the intersection of copyright and AI.

- Participants: Policymakers, including CEDCHE members, sector leaders and experts.
- Focus areas: Harnessing the potential of AI for cultural heritage and conversely, the contribution of cultural heritage data to the European AI economy; Openness of cultural heritage data; policy pathways and the necessary investments in skills, infrastructure and supporting measures.

By showcasing how advanced technologies like artificial intelligence can enhance the competitiveness of the cultural sector, Denmark reaffirms its role as a cultural and digital leader. This event provides a unique platform to advance national priorities, tackle shared challenges, and collectively shape how AI can drive the growth and scaling of the common European data space for cultural heritage —a space co-owned by Denmark and all EU Member States.

Expected audience

The online and onsite audience will include representatives from the Danish Ministry of Culture; Ministries of Culture from other EU Member States and CEDCHE members; Danish and European cultural heritage institutions contributing to Europeana and the data space, as well as other institutions recognised for excellence in the use of AI; Data space stakeholders; Policy-makers at national and European levels; High-level representatives of the Europeana Initiative; Experts, innovators and AI developers.

Expected results

This high-level policy webinar, hosted by SMK in partnership with the Europeana Initiative, will provide a unique platform to:

- Showcase Denmark's leadership, contributions and commitment to the ethical and responsible adoption of AI in the data space and the broader heritage sector.
- Strengthen alignment between the priorities of the Danish Presidency and the uptake of AI in the data space and the heritage sector
- Foster dialogue and collaboration among Danish and EU-level stakeholders on key issues at the intersection of cultural heritage, AI and openness.

- Contribute meaningfully to European policy conversations under the Danish Presidency, and position cultural heritage institutions as proactive, values-driven voices in the global AI debate.
- Develop actionable recommendations to inform future European policy discussions, both under the Danish Presidency and beyond.
- Spotlight Denmark's commitment to the adoption of AI in the heritage sector, in line with the 2021 Recommendation.