

# ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

## **ECHOES consortium selected to create the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage**

Press Release

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In June 2022, the European Commission announced its commitment to supporting the creation of a collaborative cloud for cultural heritage. The collaborative cloud will develop a digital infrastructure aimed specifically at heritage professionals, scientists and researchers to access advanced digitisation tools and services for the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage. This initiative aims to strengthen connections between heritage institutions and heritage professionals, enhancing the understanding, documentation, preservation, and promotion of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage across Europe.

Funded under the Horizon Europe program, the *European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage* has been allocated a budget of €110 million until 2025, marking the largest investment ever made in Europe for a cultural heritage initiative. Two calls for proposals were launched in 2023, with additional calls planned for 2024 and 2025.

The European Cloud for Heritage OpEn Science (ECHOES) project, led by the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), won the [Horizon Europe 2023 call](#) to develop the core infrastructure and governance model of the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage. ECHOES has been awarded €25 million for five years of work (2024 – 2029).

For the ECHOES project, CNRS, together with CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy) and FSP (Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine), has formed a consortium of 51 European partners. These partners include research organisations, networks representing cultural heritage communities (museums, libraries, archives, restoration, etc.), universities, and private sector entities. As a pilot project, ECHOES aims to create the infrastructure and legal entity for the cloud in collaboration with and for the cultural heritage communities, while promoting a holistic approach to digital transformation and encouraging the co-creation of knowledge.

The ECHOES project will foster the emergence of Digital Commons through this digital environment, allowing collective enrichment and analysis of cultural heritage objects, facts, or phenomena. Actors - both human and artificial intelligence (AI) - will be able to develop their interpretations and thus contribute to the construction of knowledge. Thanks to a transparent governance approach and the application of open science principles, ECHOES will also incorporate other European and national projects into the cloud.

As a partner, ICOMOS will contribute to 7 Work Packages related to communication, community building, capacity building and training, cloud environment and digital commons knowledge base, vertical applications and cloud assessment framework.

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**The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** is a non-governmental, not for profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. With over 11,000 members, 110+ National Committees, 31 International Scientific Committees and several Working Groups, ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world. As an official Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. [www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org)