Oggetto: Newsletter Charme #3
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Data: 30/09/2026, 13:25
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CHARME NEWSLETTER #3

The CHARME journey continues

We are pleased to share a new edition of the CHARME Newsletter

The joint learning pathway on Cultural Heritage Digitisation is steadily progressing among both EU partners and regional stakeholders. Are you interested in learning more about our latest progress and key updates? We invite you to read further.

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Interregional meeting in Turku (FI), September 2026

Advancing our shared learning on cultural heritage digitisation, with a focus on AI - Sharing progress towards improved regional policy instruments





From September 15 to 17, the Municipality of Turku (Finland) hosted the fifth CHARME in-person interregional meeting, welcoming delegations from all partner cities, their stakeholders and the advisory partner.
Across the three days, the programme combined further opportunities for shared learning on cultural heritage digitisation with practical work towards the project's policy objectives. Participants explored Turku's cultural heritage and selected good practices through study visits, while thematic and interactive sessions included a workshop on policy instruments, a seminar on digital cultural heritage and AI, and a session dedicated to advancing the shared guidelines on digitisation.
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Good practices spotlight



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The Palace of Poitiers

The renovation of the Palace of Poitiers brings together archaeological research, digital innovation and heritage mediation. Since 2020, annual excavations and preventive archaeology have generated essential data for restoring the medieval monument, while feeding into a 3D model developed by CESCM to trace the building's evolution. Alongside this scientific work, new digital tools — including an interactive game, immersive maps and a 360° tour of future interiors — offer visitors engaging ways to explore the Palace before its reopening.



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Turku 1827 3D Model

The 1827 fire in Turku destroyed most of the city and its historical archives, leaving only limited traces of the medieval urban structure. Research based on fire insurance documents enabled the reconstruction of more than 240 plots, later transformed into a full 3D model between 2019 and 2023. The project involved university researchers and the Turku City Museum, generating additional outputs such as a mobile app, educational videos, immersive 360 experiences and an open-source library.

Strengthening Local Engagement

Stakeholder Meeting in Pavia



From EU learning to regional policy

Workshop in Pavia (IT)

CHARME has entered a key phase of implementation: turning the learning developed among the European partners into concrete contributions to regional public policies. As part of this process, on 9 July 2026, the Municipality of Pavia (Italy), together with the University of Pavia, the advisory partner, held a dedicated **working day on the role of digitisation and innovation in enhancing cultural heritage**. The event brought together Regione Lombardia, as the Associated Policy Authority, and 12 local stakeholders representing public bodies, third-sector organisations and cultural and creative industries.

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Featured on the Interreg Policy Learning Platform | Story



Reimagining Heritage with Digitalisation: The Pavia Experience

Pavia is exploring how digital innovation can enhance the conservation and interpretation of its rich cultural heritage, using tools such as 3D surveys, digital modelling and virtual experiences. Through the CHARME project, the city has strengthened its confidence and capacity to integrate digitalisation into heritage management, improving knowledge, planning and accessibility. These tools help reveal historical layers, support better decision-making and open heritage to wider audiences, including young people and visitors with diverse needs.

Digitalisation is also fostering new forms of collaboration between municipal departments, universities and local associations.

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From Learning to Sharing: #SaveUkrainianHeritage

Within the CHARME partnership, Lviv Municipal Company "Lviv Bureau of European Integration", Ukraine, participates as a Discovery Partner.

Under the Interreg Europe programme, the involvement as a Discovery Partner is intended to get acquainted with the interregional exchange of experience process. A Discovery Partner does not address any policy instrument. The objective of its involvement is to increase its capacity on the issue addressed by the project but also on the management of interregional cooperation projects.

Within the CHARME project, Lviv Bureau of European Integration is participating in the activities of the learning process, attending all interregional meetings. It has taken a proactive approach, enriching the interregional exchange by bringing valuable experience from its territory, thus offering an additional perspective to the partnership. **In this issue, we are pleased to highlight Lviv's contribution by presenting a good practice shared by the Ukrainian partner to the wider CHARME community.**

#SaveUkrainianHeritage by Lviv Bureau of European Integration

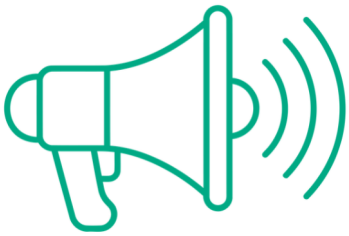
The #SaveUkrainianHeritage project, developed by the Lviv-based company Skeiron, was created in response to the urgent need to protect Ukraine's cultural heritage from destruction caused by the war.

The initiative uses digital technologies, including laser scanning and photogrammetry, to create detailed 3D models of cultural heritage sites. These digital records help preserve the memory and appearance of monuments and can provide valuable materials for research, documentation and future restoration.

One of the project's key cases is the Mariupol Drama Theater. In September 2022, after receiving photographs of the destroyed theater from Ukrainian photographer Oleksiy

Generalov, Skeiron launched a campaign to collect additional photographs and videos of the building. Thousands of images from different sources were used to create a detailed 3D model of the theater and its surroundings.
Since January 2023, Skeiron has collaborated with SpatialTech.info, combining expertise in photogrammetry with research and analysis of damage to cultural heritage sites. This cooperation contributed to the creation of a comprehensive digital reconstruction of the theater.
Another outcome of the initiative is the Depth Map 3D Tour of the Mariupol Drama Theater, which allows users to explore the site virtually and learn more about its architecture and history.
Through #SaveUkrainianHeritage, Skeiron demonstrates how digital technologies can contribute to documenting cultural heritage affected by war and keeping it accessible for research, education and future generations.

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The Importance of Stakeholder Engagement in the CHARME Project: Insights from Iași

By Prof. Laurențiu Rădvan, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, Romania

The Digital Cultural Heritage Activities acRoss Multiple European regions (CHARME) project is based on the idea of collaboration between institutions, specialists, and cultural heritage users to ensure the promotion of cultural heritage in line with the latest digital trends. The digitization of cultural heritage does not involve just transforming documents, objects, or monuments into digital information, but it also entails developing new ways to research, manage, interpret, and promote cultural heritage. In this process, I believe that stakeholder involvement plays an important role, as they can help connect European projects with the concrete needs and realities of the communities and institutions involved, drawing on their experience. Stakeholders can contribute to the project in practical ways by understanding and explaining the local context, offering a new perspective to the institutions that develop or implement public policies. Involvement in such a project represents an opportunity to learn about solutions developed in other European regions and to evaluate the extent to which these can be adapted to their own context. Stakeholders can share their own observations, highlight needs or challenges, and contribute to improving the tools and recommendations developed within the project. During the meetings in Coimbra, Iași or Turku, the program featured presentations of contributions from other stakeholders, alongside those of participants, useful in creating shared guidelines, demonstrating that their perspective is an integral part of the project's development process.
From my perspective as a stakeholder, one of the main lessons I've learned from participating in this program's meetings is that the exchange of experiences cannot be understood just as the transfer of models from one country to another. This is because the digital solutions identified are influenced by many specific factors, including the administrative local situation, technical infrastructure, data availability, and the characteristics of local heritage. What can be transferred more easily is the principle, method, or organizational approach to collaboration. That is why I

believe that dialogue among stakeholders is important, as it allows us to identify which elements can be adopted and which need to be adapted.

Whats' coming next?

The final semester of the CHARME core phase is approaching, with a focus on consolidating the learning developed through the exchange of experience and applying it to the revision of partners' policy instruments. The coming months will be dedicated to finalising the improvements to the policy instruments, while discussing, exchanging and evaluating the different revision processes and their first results. In March 2027, Pavia will host the final interregional meeting of the core phase, bringing together CHARME partners, stakeholders and the authorities responsible for the policy instruments to take stock of progress, share the first results of the revision processes and look ahead to the follow-up phase.

Get involved: learn more and join the CHARME community

Discover CHARME through insights from partners and stakeholders here

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