



**Finnish Heritage Agency**



A photograph showing two women in a laboratory or archival setting. The woman on the left, wearing a patterned vest and a yellow scarf, is looking down at a photograph on a table. The woman on the right, wearing glasses and a dark jacket, is holding up a large, tilted photograph. On the table, several other historical photographs are laid out. The background shows white cabinets and a wooden locker unit.

# CULTURELABS AND INTERPRETING CULTURAL HERITAGE



Finnish Heritage Agency

Suvi Sillanpää 5.6.2019  
Photoconsortium seminar



## PARTNERS



**Sheffield  
Hallam  
University**

**Singular Logic**  
*Innovation at your doorstep*



 **Museovirasto  
Finnish Heritage Agency**



**fondazione  
sistema toscana**

 **COOSS**  
*Ricerca e formazione*

**Platoniq**



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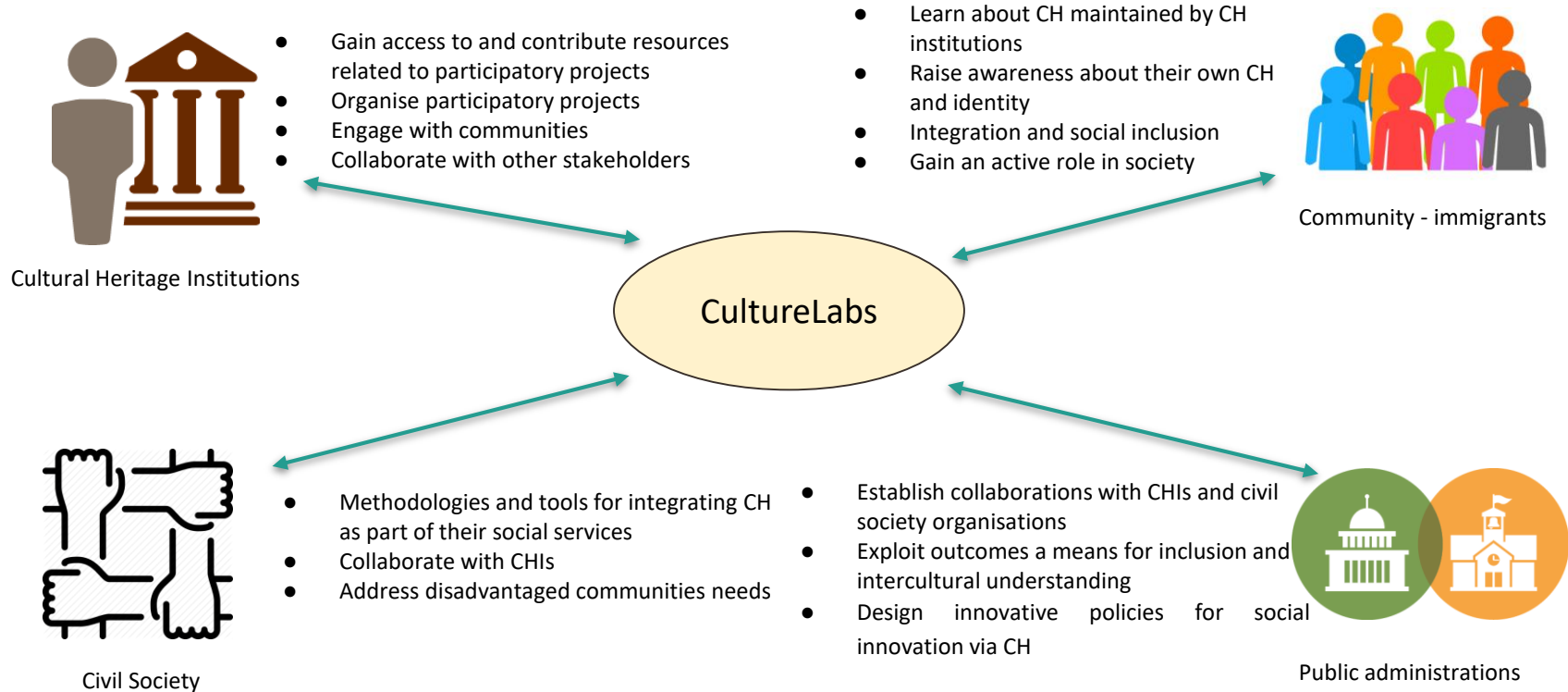
# CultureLabs Consortium

2018-2021

- Greece (Institute of Communication and Computer Systems of the National Technical University of Athens, Singular Logic)
- Italy (COOSS Marche ONLUS scpa, Fondazione Sistema Toscana)
- Spain (Platoniq)
- UK (People's History Museum, Sheffield Hallam University)
- Germany (European Forum for Migration Studies)
- Finland (Finnish Heritage Agency: Picture Collections / Development of Museum Sector)

- **Migrant communities**
- **Participatory approaches and methods, co-creation**
- **Digital tools and participation**
- **Collaboration across sectors and fields**

# Target groups of CultureLabs



- **Material to help plan and implement participatory activities**
- **Tools (digital and co-creation)**
- **Collaboration**
- **Sharing experiences**

# RECIPE

Each step is associated with relevant resources-ingredients 

## **Creation and exhibition of embroidery handcrafts**

- Research on traditional embroidery methods (links to relevant material)
- Contact skilled immigrants from different countries (information about immigrants organisations which can be contacted)
- Workshop on embroidery methods taught by migrant women (link to workshop material)
- Collect handcrafts from immigrants (information about gathered material, collection methods)
- Digitise and share embroidery patterns for facilitating reuse (information about digitisation methods, digitised material)
- Social media presence to promote the exhibition (strategy description)
- Old and new handicrafts exhibition (information about the exhibition, feedback from visitors)



# How?

- **Needs analysis of institutions and migrant communities**
- **Four pilots in three countries: Finland, Italy, UK**

# CULTURAL HERITAGE AND INTERPRETATIONS

- Cultural heritage as a culturally defined (European) concept
- Perceptions related to the cultural heritage institutions (open for interpretations?)



**“The intangible cultural heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills –as well as instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith –that communities [...] recognise as part of their cultural heritage.**

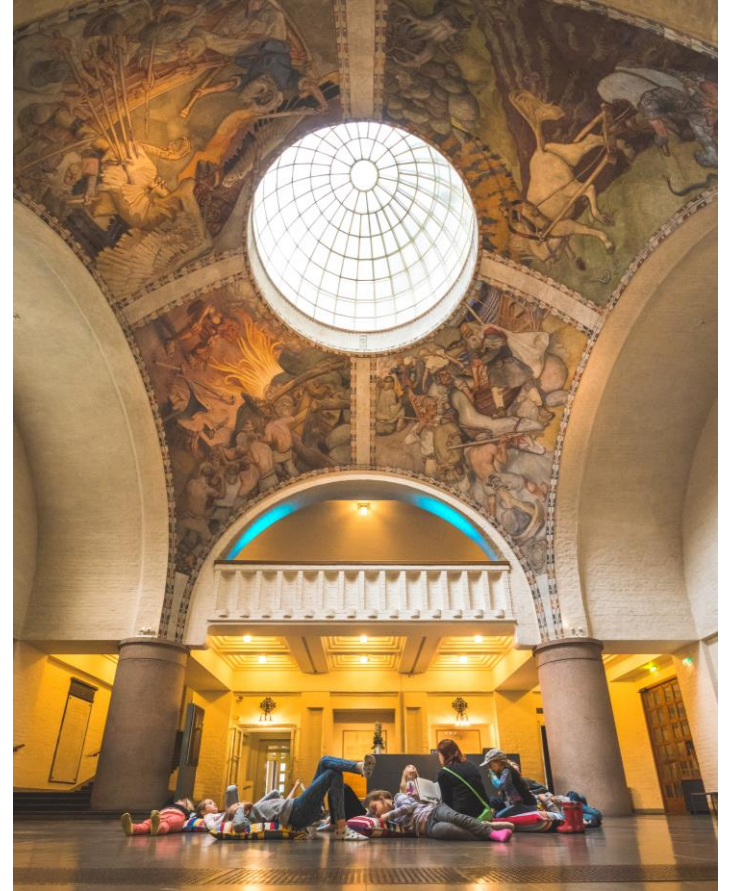
**This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups [...] and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.”**

**(UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage)**



# LEARNINGS

- Representation (who is represented in the institutions, how and by whom)
- Participation in the planning and setting the objectives, decision making (genuine collaboration)
- Opportunities for self-expression, finding information, learning new skills, creating awareness



# PILOT: ZOOM IN ON HERITAGE

- The pilot invites participants to use the Picture Collections of the Finnish Heritage Agency and to document and photograph how they experience living cultural heritage.
- Working on the existing collections, existing old photographs of the participants or producing new photographic material.



# PILOT: ZOOM IN ON HERITAGE

- Participants: women, Somali community, Russian speaking minority
- Collaboration with other organisations
- Methodology: trust, empathy, listening and storytelling
- Functions of the photographs / spaces for diverse interpretations through dialogue and storytelling



# INTERPRETING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

- What is interesting or important?
- Perspectives on the content
  - Information
  - Cultural / social
  - Individual
- Cultural meanings of photographs
- What should be photographed?
- Power balance and interpretation



**We / them dualism**

**Communities / individuals**

**Remember to listen**







INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

[www.culture-labs.eu](http://www.culture-labs.eu)

[www.facebook.com/CultureLabsRecipes/](https://www.facebook.com/CultureLabsRecipes/)



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