CULTURELABS AND INTERPRETING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Suvi Sillanpää 5.6.2019
Photoconsortium seminar
CULTURELABS project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 770158. The sole responsibility for the content of this material lies with the CULTURELABS project.
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)
Key Themes

• Migrant communities

• Participatory approaches and methods, co-creation

• Digital tools and participation

• Collaboration across sectors and fields
Target groups of CultureLabs

- **Cultural Heritage Institutions**
  - Gain access to and contribute resources related to participatory projects
  - Organise participatory projects
  - Engage with communities
  - Collaborate with other stakeholders

- **Community - immigrants**
  - Learn about CH maintained by CH institutions
  - Raise awareness about their own CH and identity
  - Integration and social inclusion
  - Gain an active role in society

- **Civil Society**
  - Methodologies and tools for integrating CH as part of their social services
  - Collaborate with CHIs
  - Address disadvantaged communities needs

- **Public administrations**
  - Establish collaborations with CHIs and civil society organisations
  - Exploit outcomes a means for inclusion and intercultural understanding
  - Design innovative policies for social innovation via CH
• Material to help plan and implement participatory activities

• Tools (digital and co-creation)

• Collaboration

• Sharing experiences
RECIP E

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
www.facebook.com/CultureLabsRecipes/