

Custodialism and Intervention in the Creation: A Paradigm Shift in the Management of Historical Audio-Visual Archives in the European Union?

Photography and archives: discovery,
technology and innovation

Juan Alonso

29 May 2025



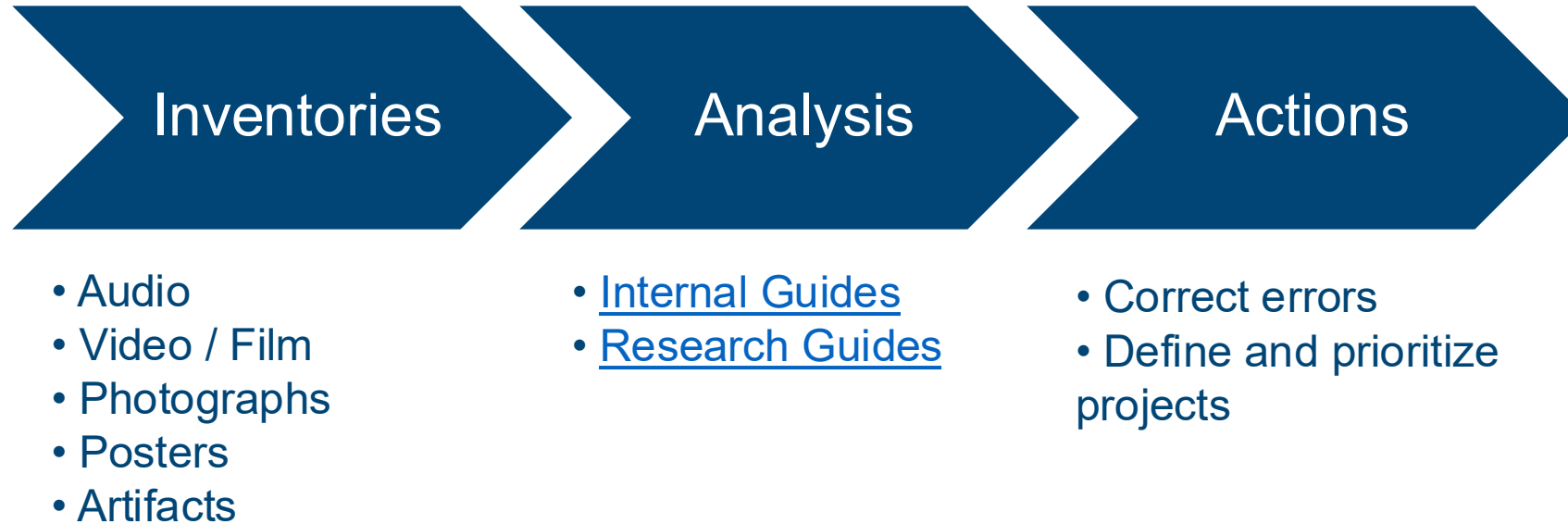
www.eui.eu



Audio-visual material



Inventories and guides



Inventories and guides

NUMBER OF DOSSIER	QUANTITY	SIZE	TONE	SUPPORT	COPYRIGHT NOTES	STATE OF CONSERVATION	PRESERVATION	ID NUMBER	DATE [photos]
ACA-32	12	13x18	Monochrome	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	2	20x25	Monochrome	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	11	7x9	Monochrome	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	2	10x15	Monochrome	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	21	13x18	Color	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	13	10x15	Color	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	7	18x24	Color	Positive on paper	4 Torrini Fotogiornalismo	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	1	18x24	Monochrome	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	11	9x13	Color	Positive on paper	Unknown author	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006
ACA-32	4	15x20	Color	Positive on paper	3 Torrini Fotogiornalismo	Very good	Photographs are stored in good conditions	ID photo	1964-2006

Inventories and guides

CLASSIFICATION OF ARCHIVAL FONDS

FONDS FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

BAC - CEE/CEEA Commissions - Fonds BAC	1957-1972	195 photographs
BEI - Banque Européenne d'Investissement	1970-1971	257 photographs
CECA - CEAB - Haute Autorité Communauté européenne du charbon et de l'acier	1953-1963	886 photographs
CEDEFOP - European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training	1984-1995	932 photographs
CIJUE - Cour de justice de l'Union européenne	1952-2000	120 photographs
FDE - Femmes d'Europe	1989	8 photographs

FONDS FROM CORPORATE BODIES

ADLE - Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe	1965-2011	5.887 photographs
AEDE - Association européenne des enseignants (AEDE)	1952-1996	135 photographs
CCRE - Conseil des Communes et des Régions d'Europe	1953-1994	908 photographs
CENYC - Council of European National Youth Committees	1977-1985	36 photographs
CIFE - Centre International de Formation Européenne	1967	6 photographs
CRNO - Conférence des régions de l'Europe du Nord-Ouest (CRENO)	[2007]	10 photographs
EABH - European Association for Banking and Financial History	1990-2013	1.162 photographs
ELDO - European Organisation for the Development and Construction of Space Vehicle Launchers	1964-1972	263 photographs
EFTA - European Free Trade Association	1951-2007	8.889 photographs 7 cartoons
ESA - European Space Agency	1977-1992	335 photographs
ESC - European Space Conference	1972	6 photographs
ESRO - European Space Research Organisation	1969-1975	159 photographs
EUROSDR - European Spatial Data Research	1992-2000	9 photographs
EUI - European University Institute	1950-2006	8.230 photographs 70 photo albums
JEF - Jeunesse Européenne Fédéraliste	1976-1999	403 photographs
LECE - Ligue Européenne de Coopération Economique	1956-2008	355 photographs 1 photo album
ME - Mouvement Européen	1950-2002	4.833 photographs 3 photo albums
MFE - Movimento Federalista Europeo	1953-1980	100 photographs
OFME - Organisation Française du Mouvement européen	1977-2002	739 photographs
UACES - University Association for Contemporary European Studies	1967-2009	6 photographs
UEF - L'Union européenne des fédéralistes	1957-1969	40 photographs

DESCRIPTION OF ARCHIVAL FONDS

FONDS FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

CODE	BAC
NAME OF THE FOND	CEE/CEEA Commissions - Fonds BAC
INITIAL DATE	1955
FINAL DATE	1972
GENERAL ABSTRACT	Photographic documentation about the CEE development aid to help the production of the Alaotra rice in Madagascar (construction of a hydroelectric, works on roads, among others) and agricultural development projects in Mali. Technical photos related with research in the iron and steel industry. Conference of Stresa for the elaboration of a common agricultural policy (CAP) in July 1958.
STATE OF CONSERVATION	The set presents occasional affectations: the paper of the album sheets is acidified and the photos are stuck inside the textual reports.
EXTENT AND MEDIUM	195 positives on paper
QUANTITY OF DOSSIERS	6
LIST OF DOSSIERS	BAC-04/1971_0081 BAC-025/1980_0797 BAC-025/1980-773 BAC-025/1980_0799 BAC-025/1980-783 BAC-026/1966_0042
COPYRIGHT NOTES	Unknown authorship for several photos. Other contributors: Communauté économique européenne (CEE) and Publifoto.



Construction of a hydroelectric in Madagascar
Positive. 7x11 cm. 1966.
Unknown author/ HAEU, BAC-25 / 1980-773

Research guide: Photographs

Photographs

What do I need to know before I start?

This guide is an approximation of the photographic collection stored at the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU). Currently this collection is composed of more than 70,000 photographs, mainly positives on paper from the 50s to the 90s, located in 90 different fonds.

These images trace the establishment of European institutions by documenting conferences, meetings, institutional visits around the world, key personalities, as well as a plethora of educational and scientific projects throughout Europe. For instance, international cooperation projects financed by the European Communities are well documented in photo collections within the archival fonds of the European Commission and of the other EU Institutions. Campaigns and events of pro-European movements are illustrated in the fonds of the European Movement, the Union des fédéralistes européens (UEF) and that of Claus Schöndube. The papers of Klaus Meyer contain photographs of projects in various African countries financed by the European Economic Community in the framework of the Lomé II convention (1978 - 1982) and of the Community's Euro-Arab dialogue (1975), while the fonds of the European Space Agency and of the European Free Trade Association include various audio-visual materials keeping track of its programmes and activities. These visual records are crucial to recounting the history of the European integration process and to offer additional insights into the personal and professional activities of key actors in contemporary European history.

The guide provides information about the exact number of images in each fond, the dossiers where they are located, the dates on which the images were taken and a brief abstract about the content of the images.

This guide will be updated as new image transfers are processed. This version was updated in June 2023.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Related specifically to posters material the fonds available at the HAEU are:

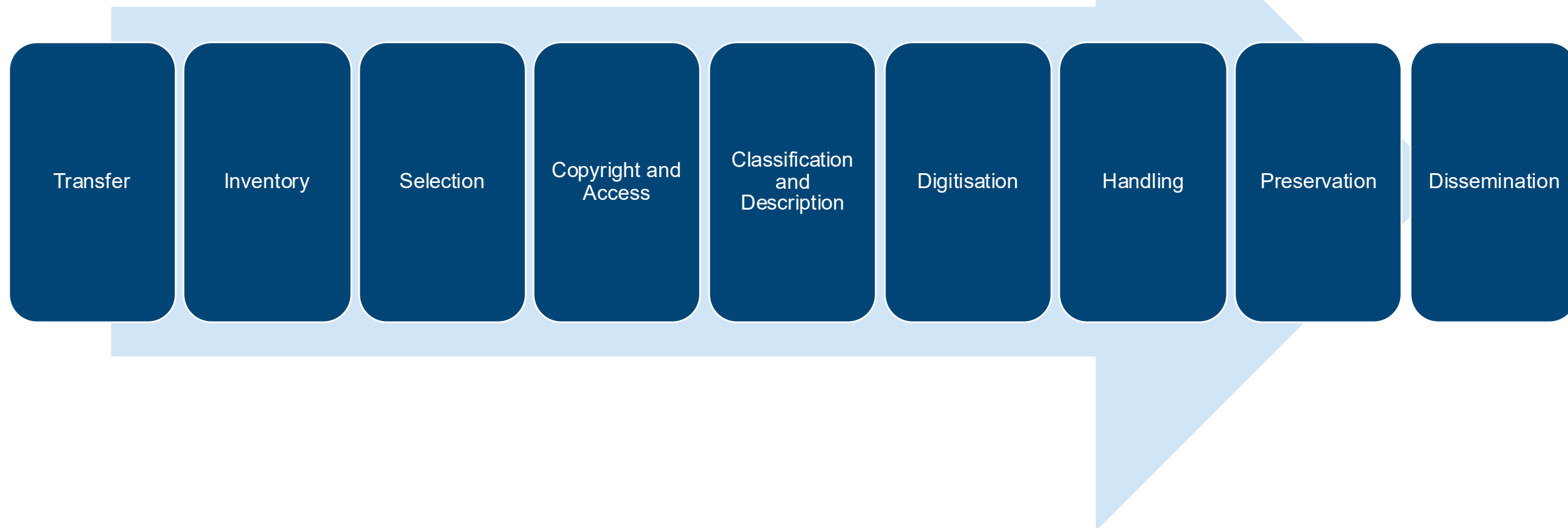
1) EU institutions

[Centre européen pour le développement de la formation professionnelle](#)

[European Investment Bank](#)

The fonds of the [European Investment Bank](#) includes 255 positives on paper produced between 1959 and 1971. The [photographs](#) illustrate several projects funded by the European Investment Bank in [Belgium](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#) and [Luxembourg](#). It is a fantastic visual testimony of the industrial development that took place in parts of Europe during the 60's. These industrial scenes are not only interesting for their informative content but also for the careful aesthetic: renowned photographers specializing in industrial photography, such as the then-veteran French photographer Henri Baranger, are among the creators behind the camera. The fonds also includes two panoramic images of the [quartier Kirchberg](#) and one picture of the [Boulevard Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) in Luxembourg related with the studies for the construction of the new EIB headquarters.

Workflow



Guidelines on AV Archiving



HAEU Guidelines: Audio-Visual Archives Management

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1. ABOUT THESE GUIDELINES

1.1. Purpose

This document provides guidelines on audio-visual archiving at the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU). It contains instructions on how to receive transfers, create inventories, make selections, deal with copyright, describe the material, upload items to the database and disseminate audio-visual records.

In this guide, the term audio-visual records includes films, still photographs, filmstrips, audio and video recordings, posters, maps, drawings and other graphic works.

1.2. Scope

This document is intended for HAEU archivists who deal with the management of audio-visual records.

2. PROCEDURES

2.1. Accession Register



HAEU Guidelines: Audio-Visual Archives Management

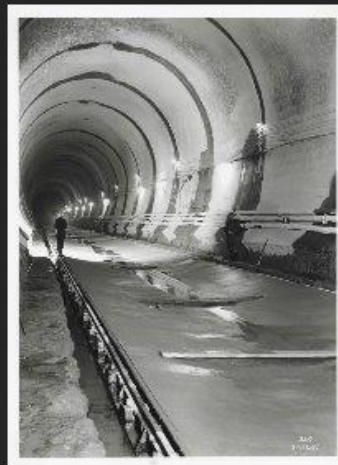
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★★★★★
BEI-2143_08.jpg




★★★★★
BEI-2143_09.jpg



★★★★★
BEI-2143_13.jpg



★★★★★
 BEI-2143_14.jpg



Search the Database

Q France

Star france ns

Da France

Hide options

From Start Year To End Year +

Available Electronic Resources

Show options

Description Levels

Show options

Access Levels

Show options

References

Hide options

BEI

Enter file number

Enter original record

Languages

Show options

Materials

Hide options

☐ Audio tape

☐ CD-Rom

☐ Diploma

☐ Electronic File

☐ Film

☐ Floppy disk

☐ Maps/charts/plain

☐ Microfiche

☐ Paper file

☒ Photographs

☐ Poster

☐ Reel of microfilm

☐ Slides

☐ Video tape

Search the Database




[Start a new Search](#)
[Advanced Search](#)

1

Display

items, from 1 to 5 of 5 results

sorted by:

Holdings



Photographies du projet Aquitainechimie

9 photographies du prêt pour la construction d'une usine pétrochimique dans le Sud de la France, Pyrénées département (aujourd'hui Pyrénées Atlantiques Sud-Ouest de la France). BEI-2144 BEI.06.A-02.02-2144

Description Level: Dossier

Dates: 1959 to 1971

Reference Code: BEI-2144



Photographies du projet Oraison

19 photographies du prêt pour la construction d'une centrale hydroélectrique dans le Sud de la France, région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Premier projet financé en France. BEI-2143 BEI.06.A-02.01-2143

Description Level: Dossier

Dates: 1958 to 1973

Reference Code: BEI-2143



Photographies du projet Electricité rurale de Bretagne

5 photographies du prêt à l'Electricité de France pour l'extension et le renforcement des réseaux ruraux de distribution d'électricité en Bretagne. BEI-2149 BEI.06.A-02.07-2149

Description Level: Dossier

Dates: 1959 to 1962

Reference Code: BEI-2149



Photographies du projet Landes de Gascogne

22 photographies du prêt au défrichement et la mise en valeur des Landes et création d'exploitations agricoles dans la zone forestière du Sud-Ouest de la France. BEI-2148 BEI.06.A-02.06-2148

Description Level: Dossier

Dates: 1960 to 1981

Reference Code: BEI-2148



Photographies du projet Bas-Rhône-Languedoc

8 photographies du prêt pour les ouvrages nécessaires à la mise en valeur par irrigation de territoires situés dans trois départements du Midi de la France, le Gard, l'Hérault et l'Aude. BEI-2146 BEI.06.A-02.04-2146

Description Level: Dossier

Dates: 1959 to 1980

Reference Code: BEI-2146

2009	instruction du projet Oraison: phase d'approbation du projet et sa présentation au CA de
2010	Le contrat de prêt.
2011	Contrôle ou monitoring: phase de réalisation du projet Oraison, du versement et du
2012	Les versements et la comptabilité ou la contribution de la Direction des finances au projet.
2143	Photographies du projet Oraison

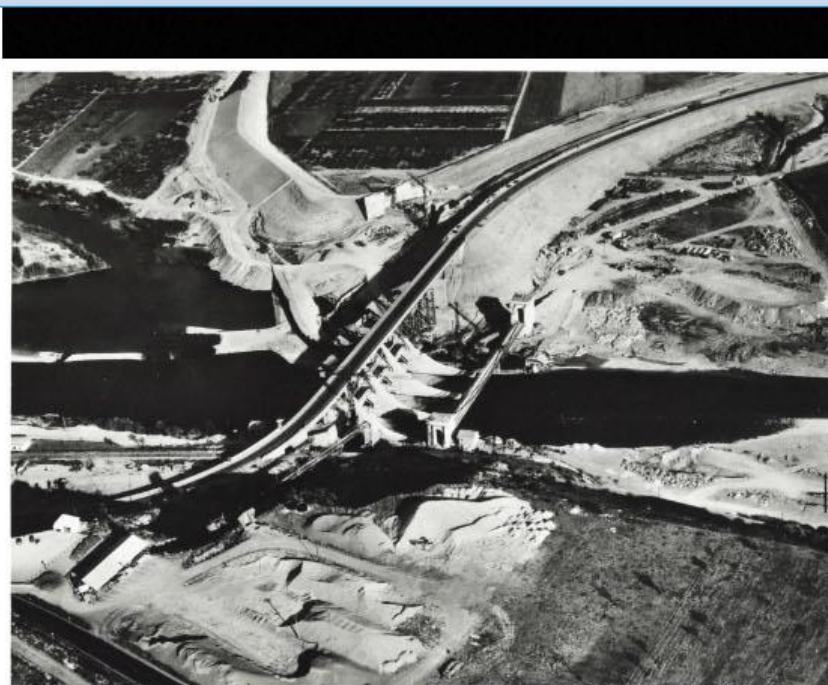
+	Le projet Aquitaine
+	Le projet Progil Bayer Ugine
+	Le projet Bas-Rhône Languedoc
+	Le projet SNCF Modane-Chambéry
+	Le projet Landes de Gascogne
+	Le projet Electricité rurale de Bretagne
+	Le projet SNCF-Bretagne

+	Les projets financés en Italie
+	Les projets financés au Luxembourg
+	Les projets financés en République Fédérale Allemande



BEI-2143 Photographies du projet Oraison

Documents from 28 November 1958 to 06 September 1973



Reference Code

BEI-2143-I.1

Title

EIB project Oraison

Description

Loan to Électricité de France (EDF) for the construction of a hydroelectric power plant in the south of the country, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. First project funded by the Bank in France.

Dates

28 November 1958 /
06 September 1973

Place

France

Author

[H. Baranger & Cie]

Historical Archives of the European Union

Audio-visual Collections

Search



Advanced Search

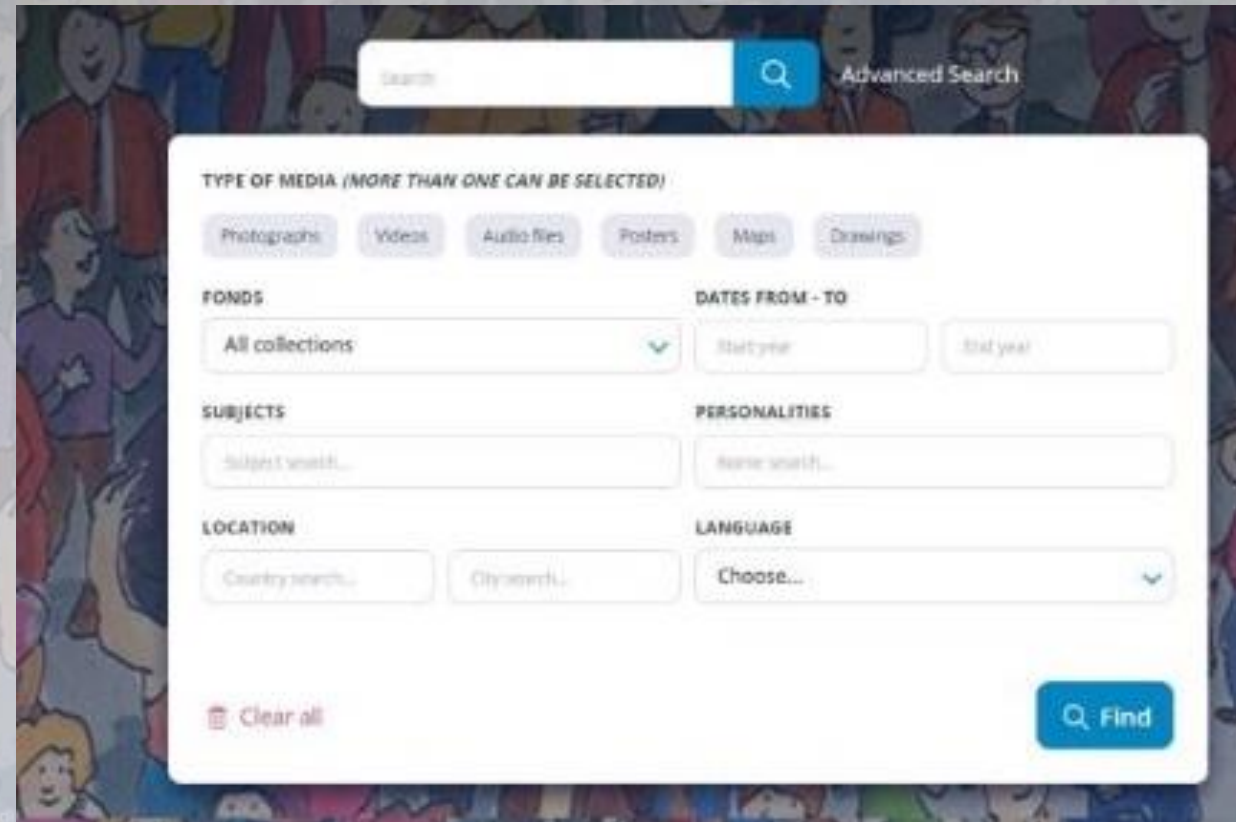
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[Terms and conditions](#)

[Data protection](#)


[Accessibility](#)

https://archives.eui.eu/en/audio_visual



Search  Advanced Search

TYPE OF MEDIA (MORE THAN ONE CAN BE SELECTED)


FONDS 



DATES FROM - TO

SUBJECTS

PERSONALITIES

LOCATION

LANGUAGE 

 Clear all  Find

https://archives.eui.eu/en/audio_visual

Historical Archives of the European Union

Audio-visual Collections

Search  Advanced Search

 Filters 286 items found in this collection

All collections  Views 25   

John Pinder's Papers  1958 - 2000 



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



1958
The Hallstein Commission



Historical Archives of the European Union

Audio-visual Collections

Search  Advanced Search

 Filters 286 items found in this collection

All collections  Views 25   

John Pinder's Papers  1958 - 2000 



Fonds: Nicola Di Girolamo's collection
Date: November 1979
Heads of states and government of the nine during the Dublin European Council
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua ut enim ad minim... [Read more]
Location: Paris
Author: Jean-Michel Folan



Fonds: Nicola Di Girolamo's collection
Date: November 1979
Heads of states and government of the nine during the Dublin European Council
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua ut enim ad minim... [Read more]
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Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua ut enim ad minim... [Read more]
Location: Paris
Author: Jean-Michel Folan



Council of Ministers

On 24 and 25 July 1952, the Foreign Ministers of the six countries of the Schuman Plan community met at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris for a two-day conference. The main agenda of the meeting was the decision on the definitive location of the Schuman Plan institutions and the appointment of the members of the High Authority (the administrative and executive arm of the Community) and the Court of Justice.



Content Area	Ford	EC - Audiovisual Service
	Dossier Code	W-P-0100000
	Reference Code	5-01007200-5
	Author	Photographer Christian Lambouze
	Contributor	Consent: Jean-Louis Béranger
Content Area	Title	Council of Ministers
	Description	On 24 and 25 July 1952, the Foreign Ministers of the six countries of the Schuman Plan community met at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris for a two-day conference. The main agenda of the meeting was the decision on the definitive location of the Schuman Plan institutions and the appointment of the members of the High Authority (the administrative and executive arm of the Community) and the Court of Justice. Paris - Quai d'Orsay, Paris - Ministry for Foreign Affairs
	Location	
	Date	24/07/1952
	Subjects	European Community, ministers
	Personalities	Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet
Physical Description	Type	Video
	Support	Digital
	Format	MP4
	Tone	Colour
	Duration	4:45 min
Notes	Notes	This photo of Robert Schuman, standing in the centre, was taken on 20 June 1952, at the opening of the intergovernmental negotiations for the implementation of the Schuman Plan. It is generally used to illustrate the decision of 9 May 1952 on the photograph was taken at the original press conference.
Access and Use	Language	English
	Copyright and Permissions	© European Commission, 1970

Historical Archives of the European Union

Online Exhibitions

Browse 416 works of art and 16 Exhibitions



The Art of Integration
40 Posters Promoting Europe

English



LGBTQ+ At Work
Archives and Commitments of the European Parliament

English



Ireland In Europe
50 Years of EU Membership

English



50 Years of European Workers' Struggle
The ETUC Audio-visual Collection

English



ESA Giotto Mission
Giotto Children's Drawings Competition

English



Environing Modernization
Exploring the photographic collection of the European Investment Bank

https://archives.eui.eu/en/audio_visual/exhibitions

The art of integration

40 posters promoting Europe

Foreword

In 2024, the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU) celebrates the 40th anniversary since the institutions of the European Union (then known as the European Communities) established their archives at the European University Institute in Florence. It is an occasion to look back at what the Archives has achieved over these four decades, during which it has grown vastly not only in terms of its collections, but also in the interest and attention it garners from researchers and citizens: the HAEU has become the central site for consulting primary sources on the history of the European Union and European integration.

As part of the Archives' celebration, this online exhibition is an abridged version of the recently published anniversary volume *The art of integration: 40 posters promoting Europe*. Colourful, playful and at times deeply symbolic, the featured posters are drawn from the unique Nicola Di Girolamo poster collection deposited at the HAEU. Nicola Di Girolamo, a European Commission official from 1962 to 2005, had the visionary foresight to collect hundreds of manifestos, appreciating the rich visual memory of European integration they could transmit to future generations. They illustrate the treaties, policies, events and values the European institutions sought to promote across member states and beyond. Many of them are notable for their outstanding visual and artistic value.

The Nicola Di Girolamo collection has become an important visual holding for the Historical Archives of the European Union. Since the collection was deposited in 2018, the Archives has selected from it for numerous exhibitions and events. The posters have been displayed during the annual Open Days, and often figure into visits to the Archives by schools, universities, clubs and associations. With this publication and exhibition, *The art of integration: 40 posters promoting Europe*, the Archives is thus pleased and proud to invite readers on a fascinating voyage into the visual history of a united Europe.

21 October 2024

Dieter Schlenker


Director
Historical Archives of the European Union
European University Institute



Communicating united Europe

In the terrible aftermath of the second world war, the idea to unite the peoples of Europe and render further conflict impossible quickly gained ground. Early proponents of European integration such as Alcide De Gasperi, Robert Schuman, Alcide Spadolini, Jean Monnet, Konrad Adenauer, and others delivered impassioned messages for a peaceful, united Europe. Their innovative, deeply pro-European ideas resounded with the war-ravaged citizens' yearning for peace and unity, which eventually paved the way for the birth of the European Union.





What was happening in the historical and contemporary audio-visual archives of European agencies and institutions?

Audio-visual Management in EU Institutions / Agencies

IIAG Audio-visual Archives
Survey (2017)

Missions to Brussels and
Luxembourg

Participation in the DMO
Working Group of the
European Agencies

Advisors on requests about
AV records from European
Institutions and Agencies

Conclusions

CONCLUSIONS

- Audio-visual material is managed by communication departments that **lack specialized knowledge and staff**.
- Large institutions apply **library-based criteria that overlook key information (context)**.
- **Agencies with fewer resources** have limited records management, often handled by a single professional responsible for the entire agency's documentation.
- In some cases, **historical collections and daily production are not properly managed**, putting the audio-visual heritage at risk.

Consequences

CONSEQUENCES

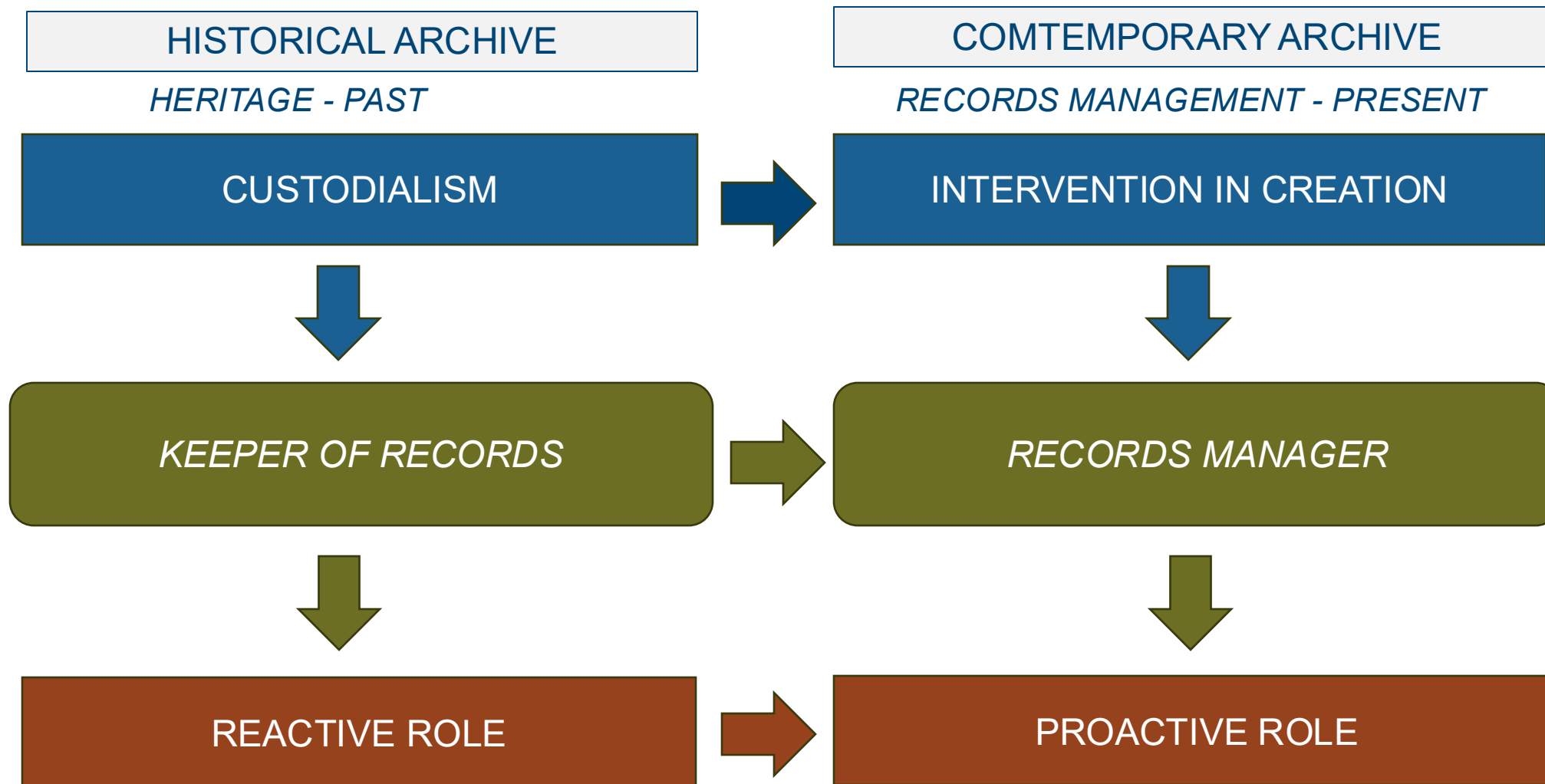
- In some cases, **poor quality in the transfer** of audio-visual documentation: lack of inventories, missing copyright or descriptive information, duplicates and multiple versions, signs of degradation, compressed formats, and loss of information.

- **Greater investment of time** (and therefore money) needed to identify rights holders, make selections and assessments, and obtain descriptive information.

- **Loss of information**: inability to retrieve key data needed to describe and manage some documents, such as authorship, date, location, people, or event.

- **Decontextualization of audio-visual documents** when grouped by format.

EU Agencies DMO Audio-Visual Working Group

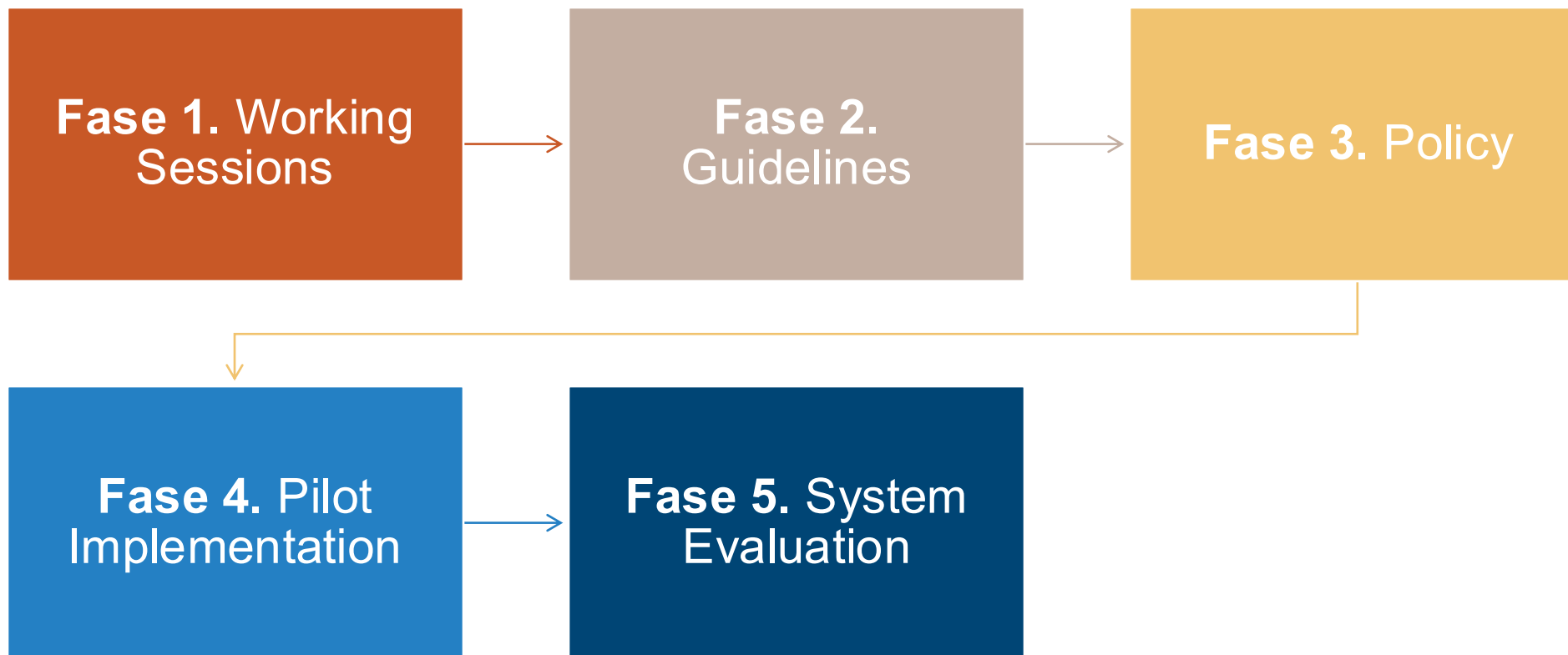


Mission Statement

The Working Group aims to address **needs** that arise in the **management of audio-visual records** at the **EU Agencies**.

- To **assist and support** the EU Agencies in the management of audio-visual documentation.
- To draw up **policies and recommendations** for working with audio-visual material.
- To provide tools to improve **workflows** for description, conservation, digitisation, dissemination, digital preservation, copyright evaluation, and other tasks related to audio-visual management.
- To facilitate **training activities**.
- To create a **virtual space** for expressing doubts, promoting communication and updating knowledge.
- Participants.

Methodology



Calendar

2023

Fase 1 + 2. Working Sessions + Guidelines

- **February** – Kick-off meeting
- **March** – Metadata for audiovisual materials
- **April** – Digitisation and preservation
- **May** – Selection and evaluation of audiovisual material
- **September** – Digital formats
- **November** - Software for audio-visual management

2024

- **April** – Rights management in audio-visual archives
- **Noviembre** – Archive Structure

Fase 3. Policy

- **December** – Presentation + Open discussion
- **December** – Final version

2025

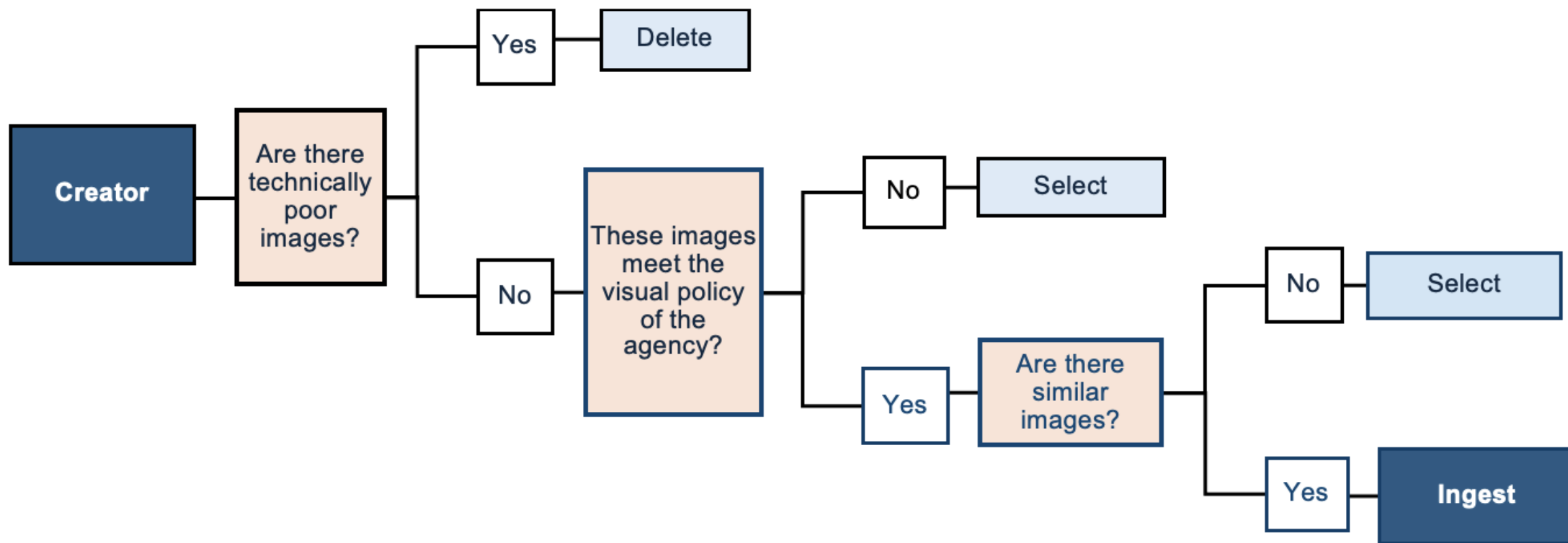
Phase 4. Pilot Implementation

Phase 5. System Evaluation

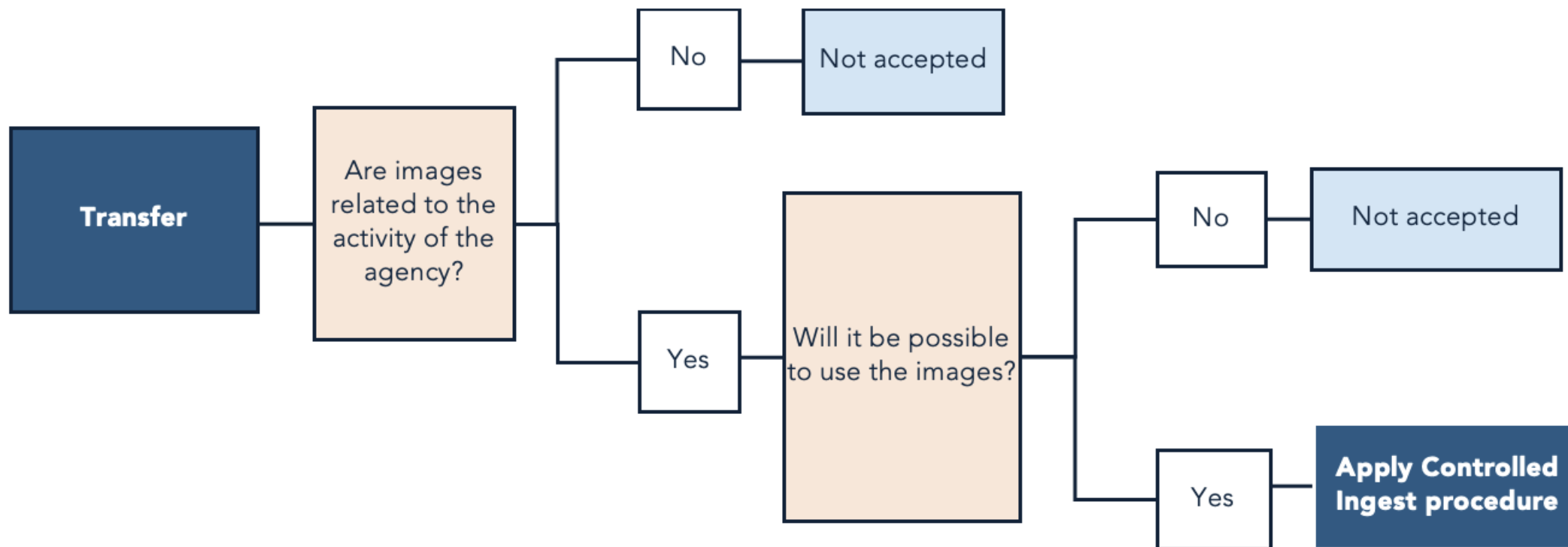
Calendar

	2023											2024							2025	
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	April	May	June	July	October	November	December		
Kick-off Meeting																				
Phase 1. Working Sessions																				
Metadata																				
Digitisation																				
Selection																				
Digital Formats																				
Software																				
Rights																				
File Structure																				
Phase 2. Guidelines	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	April	May	June	July	October	November	December		
Metadata																				
Digitisation																				
Selection																				
Digital Formats																				
Software																				
Rights																				
File Structure																				
Phase 3. Policy																				
Presentation + Discussion																				
Final Version																				
Phase 4. Pilot Implementation																				
Phase 5. System Evaluation																				

- Proposed Diagram of the Controlled Ingestion Procedure

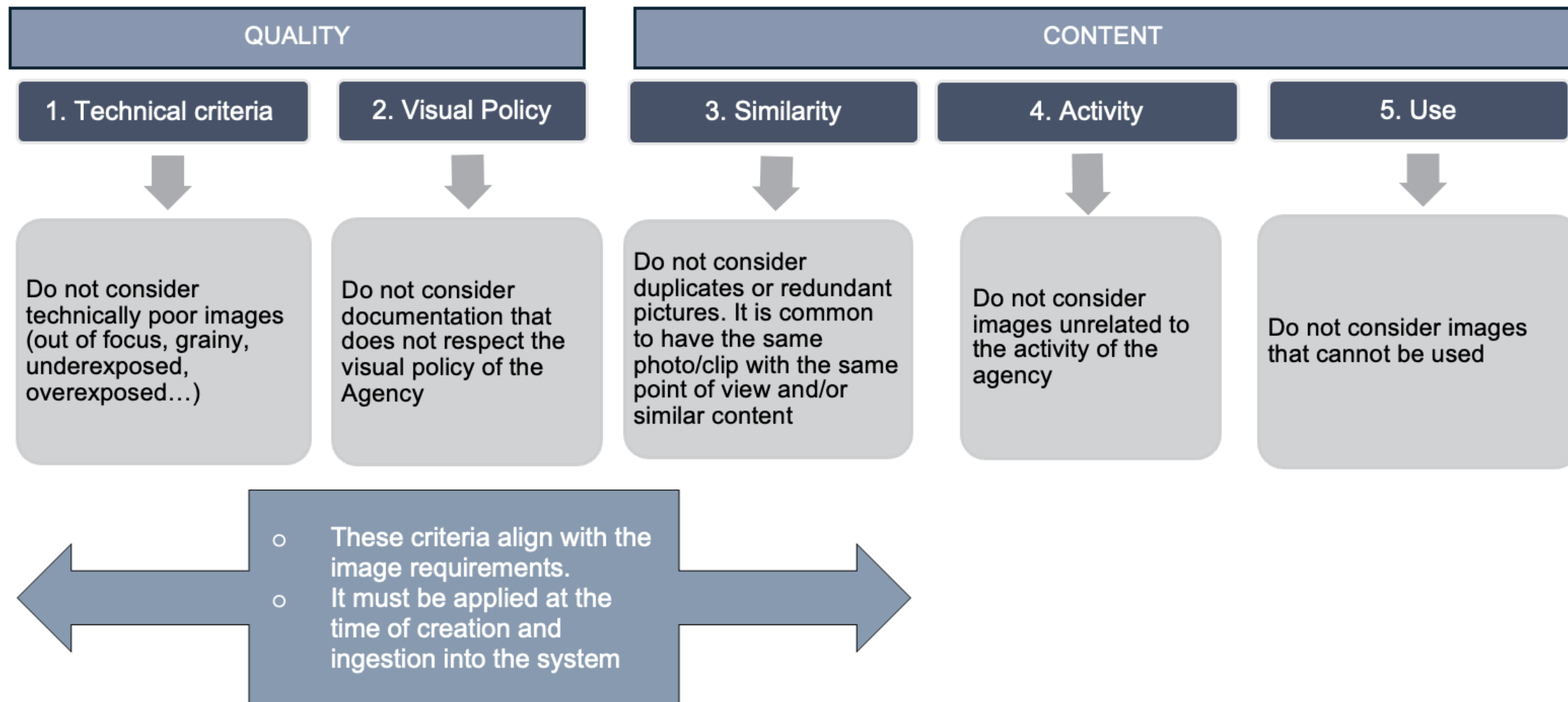


- Proposed Diagram of the Uncontrolled Ingestion Procedure



EU Agencies DMO Audio-Visual WG - Selection

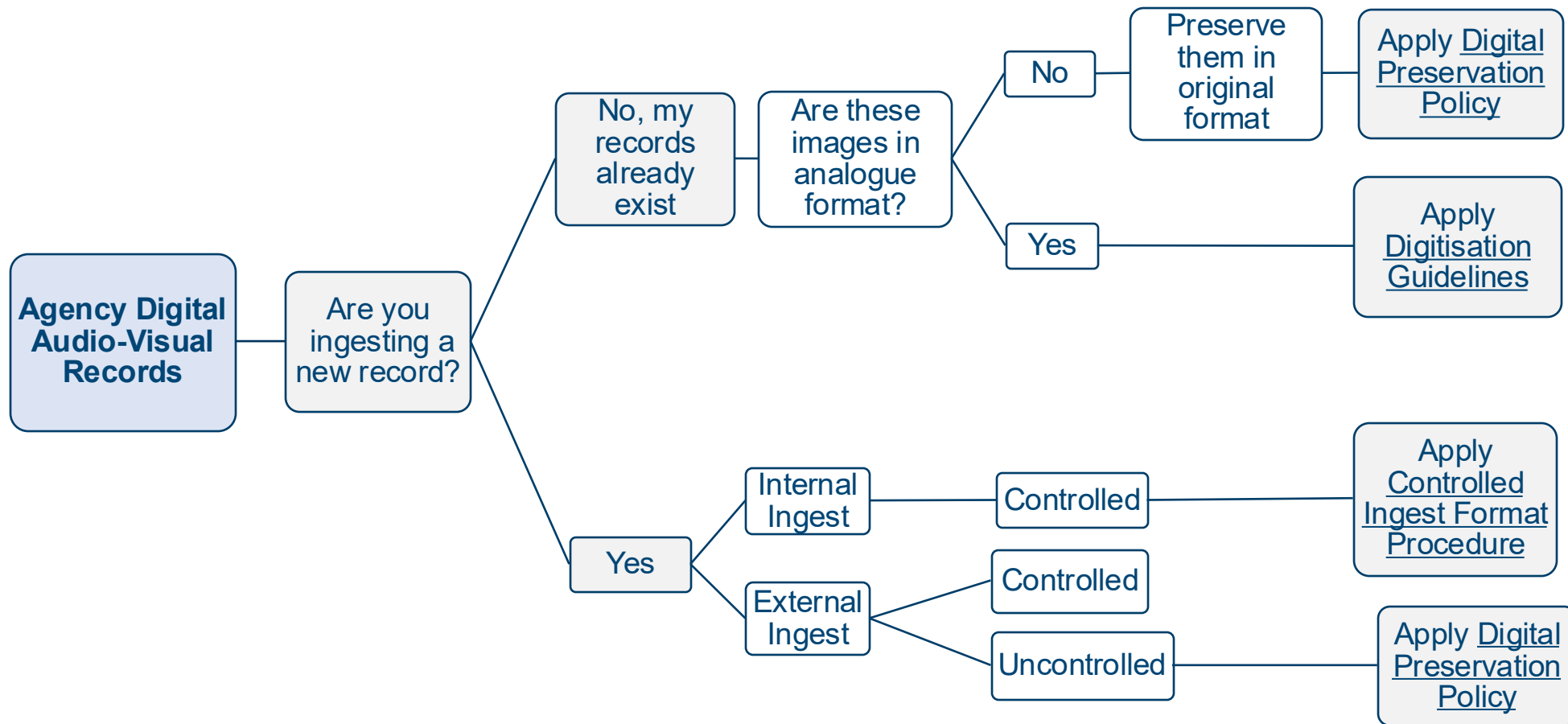
- Table of General Criteria for the Selection of Audiovisual Material



EU Agencies DMO Audio-Visual WG - Digitisation

			Collection / Series – Requirement Score			
	Criteria	Weight	A	B	C	D
1	Conservation urgency	15%	2 (= 6%)	5 (= 15%)	4 (= 12%)	3 (= 9%)
2	Importance of content	30%	1 (= 6%)	4 (= 24%)	3 (= 18%)	3 (= 18%)
3	Usage request	10%	1 (=2 %)	4 (= 8%)	3 (= 6%)	5 (= 10%)
4	Fragility of support	20%	3 (= 12%)	3 (= 12%)	3 (= 20%)	2 (= 8%)
5	Rights for future reuse	10%	1 (=2 %)	5 (= 10%)	5 (= 10%)	2 (= 4%)
6	Internal digitisation capacity	5%	1 (= 1%)	3 (= 3%)	2 (= 2%)	5 (= 5%)
7	Available budget	10%	4 (= 8%)	5 (= 10%)	3 (= 6%)	2 (= 4%)
			37	82	74	58

- Proposal for a General Ingestion Protocol - Formats



Thank you for your attention!

Juan.Alonso@eui.eu