European national museums: Identity politics, the uses of the past and the European citizen

Fact Sheet

Project Information

EUNAMUS

Grant agreement ID: 244305

Status
Closed project

Start date
1 February 2010

End date
31 January 2013

Funded under
FP7-SSH

Overall budget
€ 3 313 720

EU contribution
€ 2 641 363

Coordinated by
LINKOPINGS UNIVERSITET

Sweden

Objective

National museums are authoritative spaces for display and negotiation of community and citizenship. Through collecting and creating repositories of scientific, historic and aesthetic objects choices are made that protect and narrate ideas of virtues, unicity and place in the wider world. Explicitly and implicitly territorial identities are negotiated and related both to ideas in the tradition of universalistic enlightenment and through its selection and narration presenting formative ideas of who belongs to what political and cultural entity, why and with what consequences. This is done by negotiating different claims on what citizenship means, the relationship with competing political projects on sub-national and supra-national levels, and by calling on universalistic values and virtues as basis of claimed unicity and value of community, belonging and pride. EuNaMus explore the creation and power of the heritage of European national museums to the world, Europe and its states as an unsurpassable institution in contemporary society. In order to shape cultural policy
tor an expanding European Union the understanding of one of its most enduring institutions for creating and contesting political identities is necessary. The focus is on understanding the conditions for using the past in negotiations that recreate citizenship, and on the understanding of layers of territorial belonging beyond the actual nation-state. The research is pursued through multi-disciplinary collaboration between eight leading institutions and a series of work packages studying institutional path dependencies, the handling of conflicts, modes of representation, cultural policy and visitors experiences in national museums. Understanding the cultural force of national museums will provide citizens, professionals and policy makers with reflexive tools to better communicate and create a common understanding of diversity and community in developing cultural underpinning for democratic governance.

Field of science
/social sciences/sociology/governance

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal
FP7-SSH-2009-A

Funding Scheme
CP-FP - Small or medium-scale focused research project

Coordinator

LINKOPINGS UNIVERSITET

Address
Campus Valla
581 83 Linkoping
Sweden

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU contribution
€ 962 460

Website

Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Peter åbrodd (Mr.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants (7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LE1 7RH Leicester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Adams (Ms.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PANEPISTIMIO AIGAIOU</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lofos Panepistimiou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81100 Mytilini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Bounia (Dr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITE PARIS I PANTHEON-SORBONNE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place Du Pantheon 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75231 Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominique Poulot (Prof.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TARTU ULIKool</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Contact</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
**EU contribution**

€ 68 859

**Address**
Ulikooli 18
51005 Tartu

**Activity type**
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website [Contact the organisation](#)

**Administrative Contact**
Kristin Kuutma (Prof.)

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**UNIVERSITETET I OSLO**

Norway

**EU contribution**
€ 169 240

**Address**
Problemveien 5-7
0313 Oslo

**Activity type**
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website [Contact the organisation](#)

**Administrative Contact**
Ragnhild Rebne (Ms.)

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**ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA**

Italy

**EU contribution**
€ 190 515

**Address**
Via Zamboni 33
40126 Bologna

**Activity type**
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website [Contact the organisation](#)

**Administrative Contact**
Diego Torresan (Dr.)

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**KOZEP-EUROPAI EGYETEM**

Hungary

**EU contribution**
€ 155 424

**Address**
Nador Utca 9
1051 Budapest

**Activity type**
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website [Contact the organisation](#)
Administrative Contact
Zsuzsanna Gabor (Ms.)

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