



JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN DARIAH-EU AND H2020 ViMM

DATE: 12TH OF JUNE 2019

DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) is a pan-European infrastructure for arts and humanities scholars working with computational methods. DARIAH aims to meet needs of experienced digital researchers, scholars seeking to apply digital methods for the first time or citizens interested in modern Arts and Humanities research.

DARIAH was included in the first Roadmap of the European Forum for Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) in 2006 and has been established as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) since 2014. In early 2017, DARIAH commenced the process of agreeing a long-term strategic vision by developing a Strategic Action Plan. In early 2019, another Strategic Action Plan, until 2022, presented 16 key actions for a stronger DARIAH, where vision and mission of DARIAH have been presented. The DARIAH Strategy builds upon the ERIC's unique position within the European and international humanities and arts research ecosystem to deliver technical knowledge and services tuned to researcher needs, creating a more fluid overall system of exchange and innovation, working toward the DARIAH vision that the Arts and Humanities be firmly anchored at the centre of a technologically evolving knowledge society.

The strategy stands upon the four pillars of: building the Marketplace as a humanist-friendly component of the European Open Science Cloud; approaching training and education strategically and in a coordinated fashion; deepening its connection to communities and ensuring they are with DARIAH; and strengthening DARIAH's voice in policy and advocacy. Delivery upon these areas will be monitored through a series of quantitative and qualitative success measures tied into the areas in which DARIAH's impact, manifested in improved organisational efficiency, research excellence, network development and innovation, can be evidenced.

ViMM is a Coordination and Support Action, funded under the European Union (EU) Horizon2020 programme from 2016-19 in order to define and support high quality policies strategic decision making the utilisation of breakthrough technological developments and to nurture an evidence-

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based view of growth and development impacted by Digital Cultural Heritage (DCH) and virtual museums (VM) in particular. All the results of ViMM are visible on its platform www.vi-mm.eu.

The ViMM Manifesto is directed towards strategic decision makers, funding bodies, institutions, practitioners and industries in the Cultural Heritage (CH) sector, who share a common interest in the digital future and who need to act in concert. It should be read as the first stage in a process of stimulating policy, investment and action by all of these parties in order to secure the most fruitful and rewarding future possible for DCH. By defining and creating widespread awareness, understandings and support, based on common principles and evidence in relation to the development and goals of DCH, ViMM seeks to pave the way for rapid growth in implementation, accessibility and use across Europe. Whilst some of the content of the Manifesto has a more permanent relevance, ViMM is looking in particular to the period 2021-25.

The Manifesto links together ten key areas in which there is a clear need for further activity to secure the benefits of DCH. These involve: (1) positioning the DCH sector; (2) improving audience participation; (3) harnessing technologies; (4) incentivising funding; (5) opening up; (6) giving the whole picture; (7) powering contextualisation; (8) frameworks and standards; (9) driving organisational change; and (10) developing the human resource.

Items 6, 7 and 10 from the Manifesto, in particular, indicate important commonality and complementarity between the goals of DARIAH and ViMM.

Furthermore, deriving from its Manifesto, the ViMM Roadmap and Action Plan focuses on 4 main aspects for future action at European and international levels:

I. Research and innovation under Horizon Europe

ViMM has proposed and submitted to the European Commission several call topics for research and innovation actions under the forthcoming Horizon Europe framework programme. A number of these drafts require the formation of collaborative heritage partnerships, involving CHI, Social Sciences and Humanities researchers, industry and professional communities to achieve project goals. DARIAH also seeks to support and promote the work of researchers in the cultural heritage fields and beyond through advocacy for and preparation of such funding calls, and would therefore support ViMM's efforts to this end in this phase and the next.

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II. Support for Competence

Shared knowledge hubs can address sector-wide issues, enable cross-institutional and interdisciplinary synergies and open opportunities for growing together in an efficient and sustainable way. This can empower smaller actors to become more competent thus increasing overall competitiveness and productivity in a sector. The DCH sector is in need of such infrastructures which are currently only partially achieved. It is understood that the European Commission will issue a call for a Competence Centre in DCH during 2019 as a final action in this area under Horizon 2020. DARIAH's established track record of building national nodes, transnational Working Groups and regional hubs will be of great value in the further process ViMM foresees.

III. Human Resources, education and training

CHI that are ready to take on innovation challenges will be able to create a stronger socioeconomic impact across the sector. A consolidated and high impact initiative in education and training for DCH specifically is therefore needed to underpin the success of developments by ensuring the availability of sufficient capacity of skilled human resources at all levels of activity. In moving toward an overall framework for DCH education and training in Europe, the programmes of DG EAC (Erasmus+, Creative Europe) should provide an essential basis. The place of human resources is increasingly recognised as a success factor for research infrastructures as well, and has therefore been established as one of the four pillars of DARIAH's Strategy Plan, which we deliver through numerous events, platforms and policy work. Through cooperation, ViMM and DARIAH can both benefit in developing capacity in this area.

IV. Policy and international cooperation

Synergies between EU policies and the strategies for DCH of key international organisations working in CH should be developed through closer collaboration and coordination by all institutional actors regarding their programming policies in order to develop a stronger sector, coordination and the promotion of funding for DCH and committing to mutually reinforcing planned activities in areas of major need. EU and international agencies should work in alliance to create favourable policies and conditions for the global exploitation of the vast economic, social and environmental potential of DCH. This is also an area of future synergies with ViMM, as informing policy development and its uptake by research communities is one of DARIAH's four strategic pillars.

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In the light of the above, ViMM and DARIAH confirm the value of working together, in concert with other stakeholders in Cultural Heritage to identify and pursue strategies and actions which will maximise the mutual benefits to their communities, at this time of growing opportunity and potential for Cultural Heritage. DARIAH has a strong focus and different skills manifested through Working Groups, members and projects in Cultural Heritage and Digital Humanities. DARIAH's expertise and strategy aligns with aspects of the ViMM initiative and it will be mutually beneficial to collaborate further in key areas such as policy, research and innovation, education and training, and competence support, as outlined in the ViMM Roadmap and Action Plan.

SIGNED

FOR DARIAH



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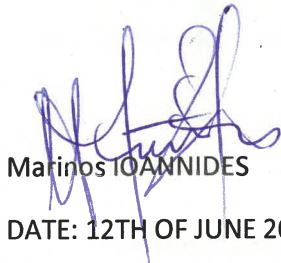
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