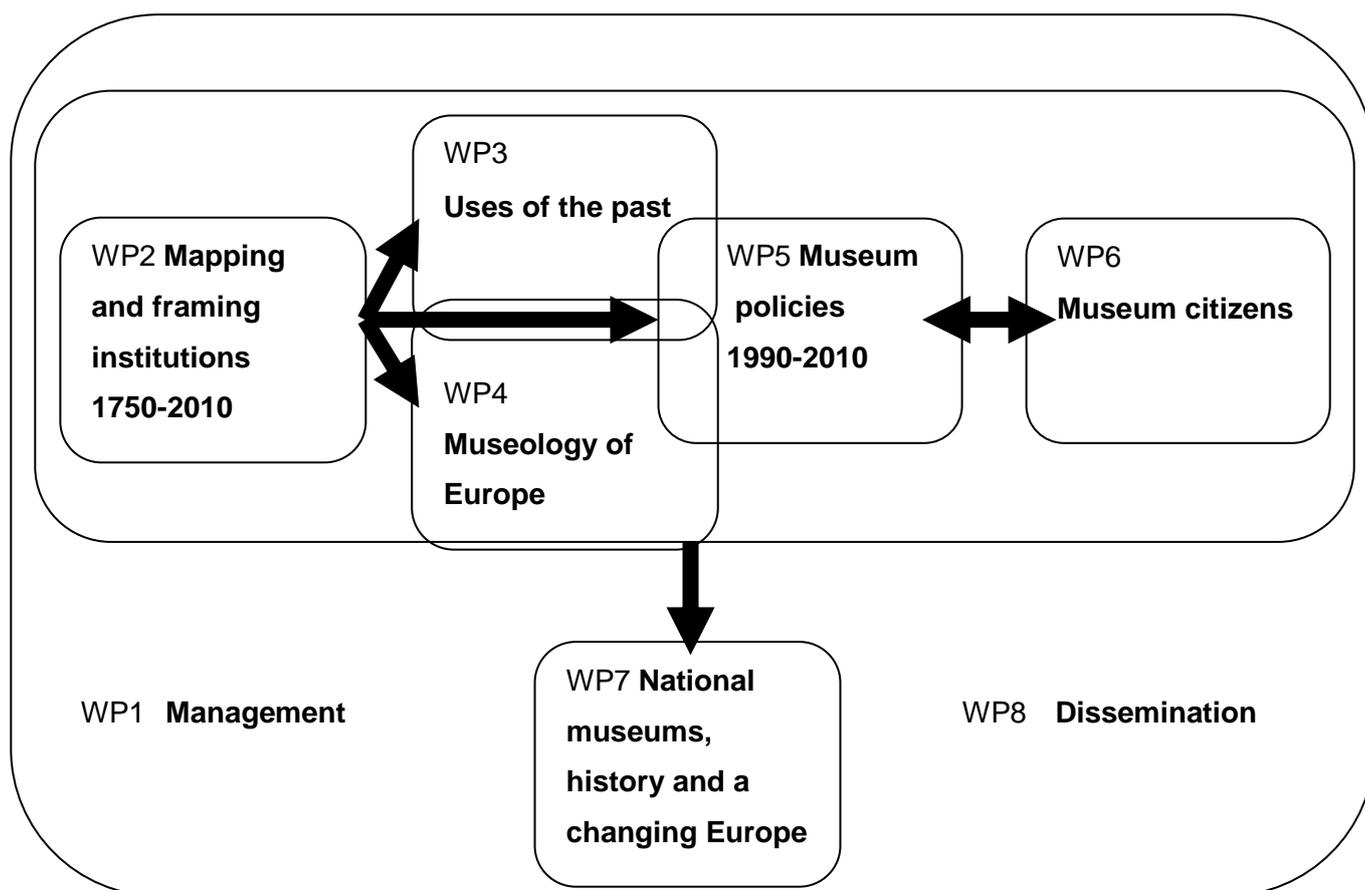


European National museums: Identity politics, the uses of the past and the European citizen

Work plan, methodology and the structure of the project's components

Eunamus thematic areas of research (Work packages or WPs) combine a range of methodologies to provide a comprehensive coverage of Europe's national museums. Eunamus is strengthened by its interdisciplinarity and a comparative analytical aspect is important to the project throughout. In addition, there is methodological logic of building the project's knowledge of national museum and its possibilities from its roots upwards from the institution's historical development rather than from a contemporary ideal or imposed policy directive.

Eunamus work packages and their interaction:



Mapping and framing institutions 1750-2010: national museums interacting with nation-making

Coordinated by Professor Peter Aronsson, Linköping University

April 2010-April 2011

WP2 is comprehensive in its coverage of Europe. A strong interpretive framework will define and map the national museum as a European construct. The methodology is principally analytical comparative history. The case studies seek to capture national museums in their complexity and particularity as central agents in the uses of past to negotiate citizenship in relation to knowledge regimes and nation making. This work package makes it possible for Eunamus to argue from the strength of knowing rather than idealising the institution.

Uses of the Past: Narrating the Nation and Negotiating Conflicts

Coordinated by Professor Dominique Poulot, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

July 2010-Jan 2012

WP3 deals with tension zones and parts of Europe which show historical diversity and change. Nations in East Central Europe are used to study homogenization and post-communist change, for example, and in Western Europe there are cases which reflect different approaches to multiculturalism and cultural diversity. To the north and south commemorative traditions will be explored too. Specific cases are developed to consider issues of repatriation, minority cultures, territorial definition, war and conflict, and so on, and where narrative manipulates and defines contested or shared authenticities using the past as an active agent. WP3 has an element of historical contextualisation in order to understand narrative development but will also make use of theories of uses of the past. It is also engaged in dealing with contemporary practice; studies of organisations and disciplinarity when mobilised in conflicts and negotiation.



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The museology of Europe: the language of art, the local nation and the virtual Europe

July 2010-March 2012

Coordinated by Professor Simon Knell, Leicester University

WP4 selects case studies which reflect geographical, disciplinary and demographic diversity – they will be peppered across Europe and even reach beyond the Eastern boundaries of Europe to understand how Europe distinguishes itself in its material culture. The research here explores nations with a distributed sense of nationhood, such as Italy and Norway, as well as new social 'nations' developing online. The focus is on hidden, embedded, embodied and implicit means in material culture rather than on the intentionalities of modern narratives. WP4 is anthropological and sociological in its outlook. It utilises techniques from material culture studies to reveal the role of objects in the making of the nation and Europe.

Museum policies 1990-2010: negotiating political and professional utopia

Feb 2011-July 2012

Coordinated by Professor Arne Bugge Amundsen, University of Oslo

WP5 has identified nations across Europe which to provide diverse contexts for the study of policy development and social contexts. It will focus particularly on those nations developing policy for their national museums in relation to contemporary challenges, such as migration and ethnic diversity. WP5 has a short temporal dimension in order to capture the processes of policy development, particular around the end of the Cold War and the enlargement of the EU. It will respond to the social implications of expansion and redefinition, both in old and new European nations. It will also reach out to consider the impact of global issues of asylum and mass migration and, mindful of issues of ethnicity and gender, map a European response which has found a place of national museums. WP5 draws upon methodologies associated with contemporary history and organisational and strategic management. These methodologies come from education and communication studies.



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Museum citizens: experience and identity of audiences

Jan 2011-July 2012

Coordinated by Assistant professor Alexandra Bounia, University of the Aegean, WP6 reflects upon earlier case studies, with an attempt to catch audience responses to issues and contexts studied from other angles in other WPs. WP6 utilises visitor studies techniques developed for use in studying the social impact and learning outputs of museums. Here the case studies consider how the histories of these organisations, their current uses of the past, the implicit language of objects and the intentionalities of policy makers actually play out in the real world. WP6 will thus provide important information on how national museums can contribute to social cohesion and cooperation, and indeed, asks how they fit into the modern cultural landscape as institutions shaping society.

National museums, history and a changing Europe

July 2012-Jan 2013

Coordinated by Professor Simon Knell, Leicester University

WP7 will bring research together and seek comparators far beyond Europe to reveal the possibilities for national museums to act as agents of social change in their complex uses of the past.

Management and dissemination

Eunamus is coordinated from Linköping University, and WP1 for management and WP8 for dissemination will run parallel to all the WPs. WP8 will develop dialogues with museum professionals, cultural policy makers and civil society stake-holders. Dissemination is not simply a means to spread the word, it is vital dialogue to create the secure methodology and interpretation, to develop outcomes which will have real impact.



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Project Information

Acronym: **Eunamus**

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

Duration: **Feb 1 2010 – Jan 31 2013**

Coordinator: **Professor Peter Aronsson**

Coordinating organisation: **Linköping University, Sweden**

Project no: **EU FP7 Grant Agreement No 244305**

Research area: **SSH-2009-5.2.2. Interrelation between collective representations and uses of history and cultural evolution in an enlarged Europe**

Contract Type: **Small or medium-scale focused research project**

Project Funding: **2.64 million euro**

Partners

The Department of Culture Studies (Tema Q), Linköping University, SE

School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, GB

Department of Cultural Technology and Communication, University of the Aegean, GR

The Department of Art History and Archaeology, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, FR

The Research Centre of Culture and communication, University of Tartu, EE

The Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo, NO

The Department for Historical Disciplines, University of Bologna, IT

Department of History, Central European University (Közép-Európai Egyetem), HU



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