



EUROPEANA E SPACE

Athens 20th January 2016



Short Description

Objective of the project is the development of a holistic approach for educating people (grown ups and kids) on Monuments that are listed at UNESCO world heritage list, in Cyprus.

Target age/users of the platform are primary, secondary, tertiary educational levels, and also the support of vocational training (for archaeologists, preservation, protection of monuments and sites), and the tourist industry (for example guides).

It was very important to develop a platform **compatible to all smart devices** (android, iPhone, iPad, windows tablets etc), so it was decided to use a responsive web site, with the capability to run on desktop and portable devices.

The design of the platform is based on an **Educational Theme (Word Press) with css reconfiguration**. The decision for an Educational Theme was taken in order **to use an environment familiar to most of the visitors (both students and teachers)**. We know that they use similar educational platforms at the internet (Udemy, Coursera, Udacity etc) and the design is familiar to them. **This way we cover the UX Design requirement.**

The challenge is to use the Europeana Data (mostly pictures and the 3D objects) in a way that **the information on the platform will be comprehensible by the users**. Most of the data have little metadata information and they lack history and cultural value description (semantics). Even when we have these information, we need to adjust the data to make the information useful for educators and people that are not familiar with cultural heritage.

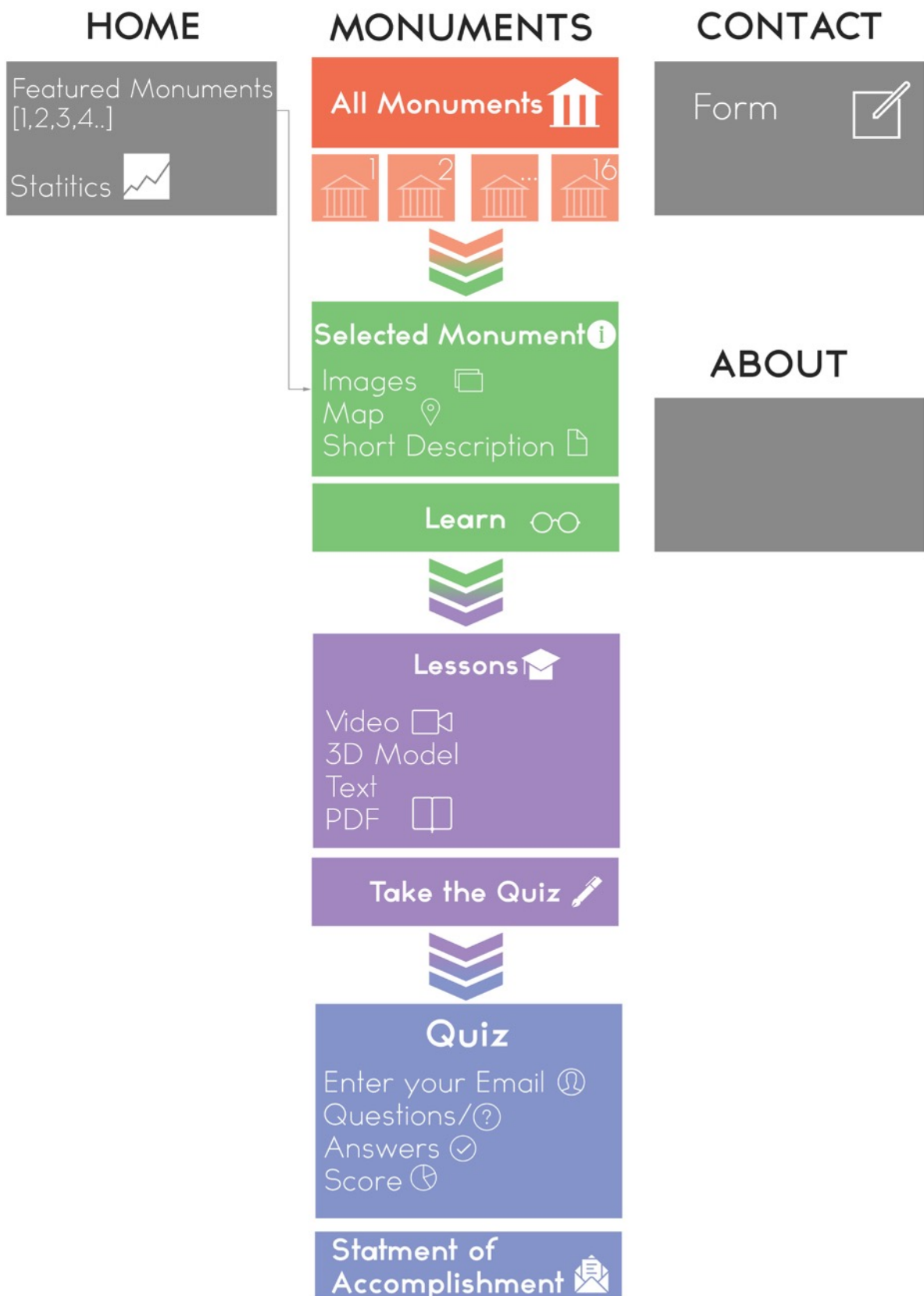
As you can see at the demonstrator, **every monument is a different “Course”**. Every course has a number of **lessons**, just like in any online education portal. The information about the monument is divided to this separate lessons, as follows:

1. Lesson about the **History** of the Monument. (text)
2. Lesson about the **Local History**: Short reference on the local history through the literature study. (text)
3. **Video**: Short dramatized video, which presents on a descriptive and communicative dimension the key elements that anyone should know about the monument (in an understandable form, suitably subtitled for both adults and children).
4. **Glossary**: important words that are used at the text (text)
5. **The 3D object** (downloadable in a pdf file)
6. **Comprehension questions**: Free text
7. **Quiz**: A short quiz (usually 10 Questions) about the Monument. You need to score 7/10 in order to pass.
8. **References**: Resources and links for further studying.

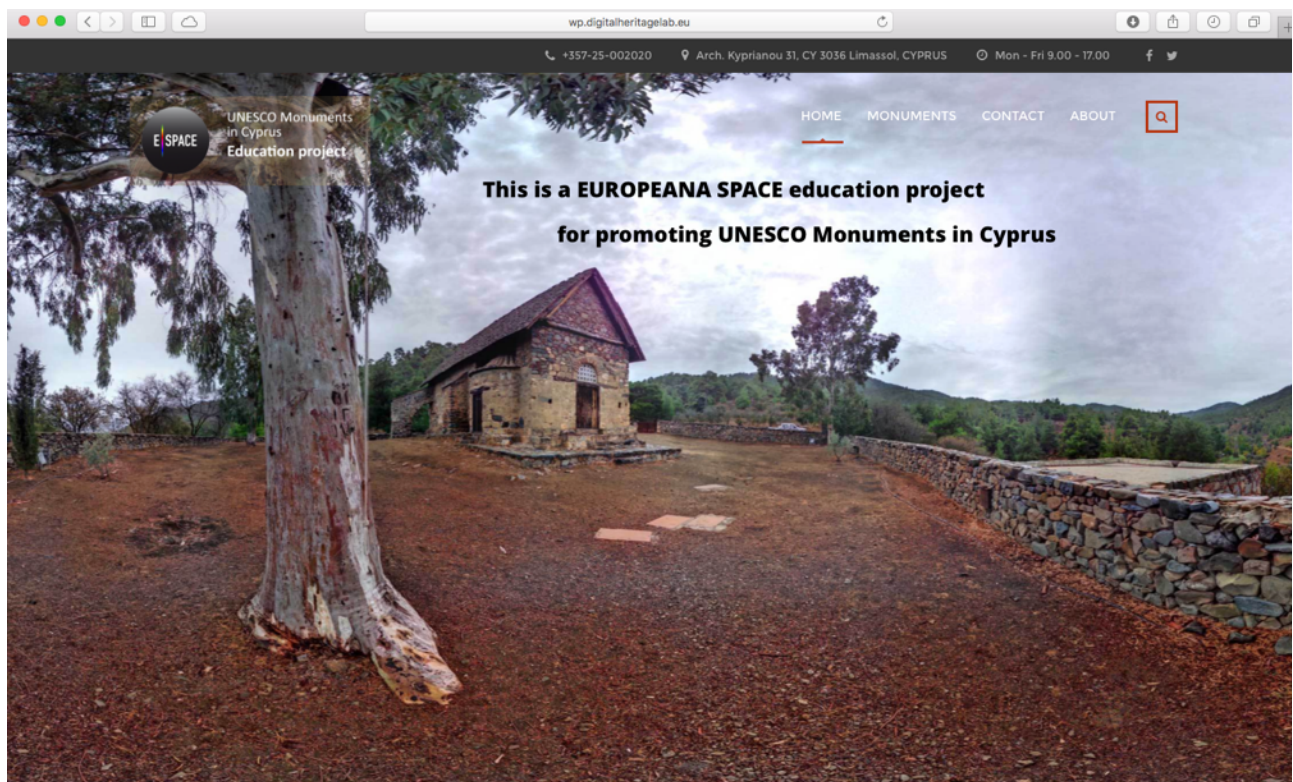
In every Lesson, there is a **time** estimation, to help educators and users to manage **their own time and pace** when studying about the monument.

At the end, there is a **“Review”** section. Every visitor can write a review and choose 1 - 5 stars for the course. **This way, courses with better score will be proposed at the Home Page.**

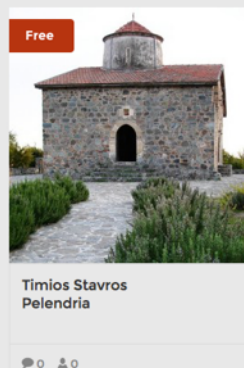
Site Map:



Example of usage:



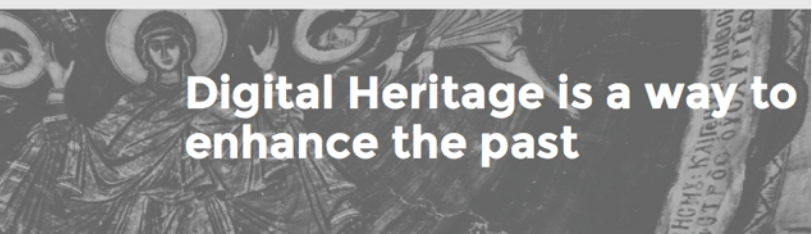
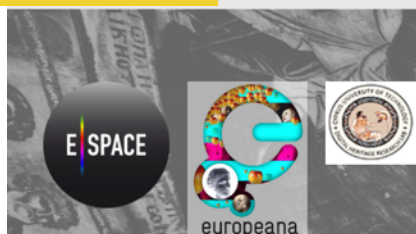
Featured Monuments



Courses with high score on reviews are proposed on Home Page

Click on a Course

LINK to Partners



745

REGISTERED



128

COMPLETED COURSE



16

MONUMENTS

Number of users/visitors/courses

Panagia Asinou

Reviews from users
(1-5 stars)

Quick View on
important information

Teacher Category: CHURCHES

★★★★★



Slide show of pictures

Duration: 60 minutes

Lectures: 3 lectures

Video: 1 video

Activities, Exercise and Quiz



Timios Stavros
Pelendria

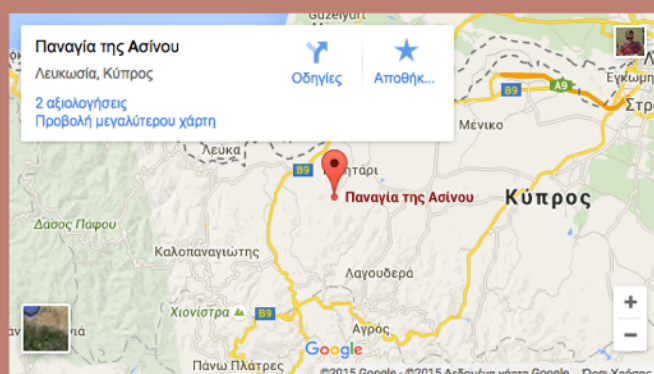
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Proposed Courses
to click

The church of Panagia Forviotissa is mainly known as the Virgin of Asinou. It is located in the northern foothills of the Troodos Mountains and is built three kilometers south of the village Nikitari. Since 1985 this church has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Monument.

Important information
to learn about this
Monument ('quote')

Location:



Geolocation on
Google Maps
(embedded)

Lessons

Time estimation for every lesson

1	Lesson 1: Panagia Assinou in History ▾ LECTURE	10 minutes
2	Local History ▾ LECTURE	3 minutes
3	Video ▾ VIDEO	5 minutes
4	Glossary ▾ LECTURE	5 minutes
5	PDF with 3D model ▾ ACTIVITY	20 minutes
6	Comprehension questions ▾ EXERCISE	6 minutes
7	Quiz ▾ QUIZ	10 minutes
8	References ▾	2 minutes

1

Lesson 1: Panagia Assinou in History ▴ LECTURE 10 minutes

The church of Panagia Forviotissa is mainly known as the Virgin of Asinou. It is located in the northern **foothills** of the Troodos Mountains and is built three kilometers south of the village Nikitari. Since 1985 this church has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Monument.

The church is what has remained from the Catholic Monastery of Forbians. Above the southern entrance of the church there is an inscription of 1105/6, which refers to the **getter** and founder of the monastery, the **Magister** Nikiforos Ischyrios (later known as monk Nikolaos). The foundation of the monastery dates back to 1099 and the monastery continued to function during the **Tourkokratia** (Ottoman occupation). It was abandoned in the late 18th century.

During the period of **Latinokratia** (Latin Domination) there was not much information saved regarding the Virgin of Asinou monastery. What we know about come from inscriptions on the frescoes of the church and from different notes in Parisian Code 1590. From the code we learn that Ischyrios died in the monastery he founded (on November 16, 1115) while there are also other references (**abbots** and monks death dates the monastery between the 12th and 15th century).

The church consists of two parts: the nave- mainly vaulted- church and the **narthex**, which was added during the second half of the 12th century. The side walls of the vestibule lead to the apse. The church was already covered in the 12th century with a second wooden roof with flat hooked tiles. Today there are no traces of the remaining monastic buildings.

The frescoes of the church were created in different periods. The most important ones were painted in the early years (1105 – 1106) and express the new trends of painting of the period of Komninon. The frescoes, which are one of the most important sets of Byzantine art of the period, seem to have been influenced by the art of "Polis" (Constantinople). The artist who created them came probably from Constantinople. The frescoes of the Ascension in the eastern part of the arch, the Communion of the Apostles and the Fathers of the Church in the semicircular wall of the apse, the Annunciation and the **Communion** of Saint Mary the Egyptian in the north and south of arch, all of them belong in the first time phase of the frescoes.

In the 14th century the church suffered a major disaster. The following restoration raised the apse and the decoration of the narthex (according to an inscription in 1332/1333) and the central part of the church. The paintings include the great synthesis of the Second Coming which expands on the domes, the northern apse and uppers of the west wall, and at a lower point they show standing saints, Christ and the Virgin Mary.















The artist who painted these paintings used **dull colors**, in which the coffee color dominates. A typical sample of these frescoes is the three Apostles depicted on a throne. The narthex was decorated with frescoes soon after its construction in the second half of the 12th century and redecorated in 1332/3 with strong **Frankish** influences. The representation of a large number of donors is also in the iconography of the narthex. Some later frescoes saved in the Virgin of Asinou date back in the 17th century.

2

Local history


The effect of the capital, Constantinople, is strong through architecture and aesthetic development of the monument. These effects were amplified by the decision of the emperor Alexios Komninos (1081-1118) to make Cyprus the largest military base of the southeastern Mediterranean Sea- due to the geopolitical conditions of the time. The fresco of the Virgin with Franks donors adorns the dome of the southern arch of the narthex, where the woman-donor wears a long black veil- that has to do with a subsequent period of interest. This particular type of clothing was introduced in Cyprus by Western European origin refugees from Syria after the fall of Accra in 1291.

Lessons

- 1  **Lesson 1: Panagia Assinou in History** ▾ **LECTURE**  10 minutes
- 2  **Local History** ▾ **LECTURE**  3 minutes
- 3  **Video** ▾ **VIDEO** **Preview**  5 minutes
- 4  **Glossary** ▾ **LECTURE**  5 minutes
- 5  **PDF with 3D model** ▾ **ACTIVITY**  20 minutes
- 6  **Comprehension questions** ▾ **EXERCISE**  6 minutes
- 7  **Quiz** ▾ **QUIZ**  10 minutes

4

Glossary ▾ LECTURE

 5 minutes

Glossary

abbot: the leader of the monks in a monastery.

Communion: the Christian rite involving the eating of bread and drinking of wine, reenacting the Last Supper.

foothill: the foot of the mountain.

Frankish: Western European, belonging to Catholic doctrine.

getter: the founder of the church, monastery or institution, which ensures the necessary means of maintenance.

Latinokratia (Latin Domination): the domination of the Latins (Western Europeans) over the Greeks (others) in areas with Greek populations.

Magister: supreme military and political authority in Byzantine times.

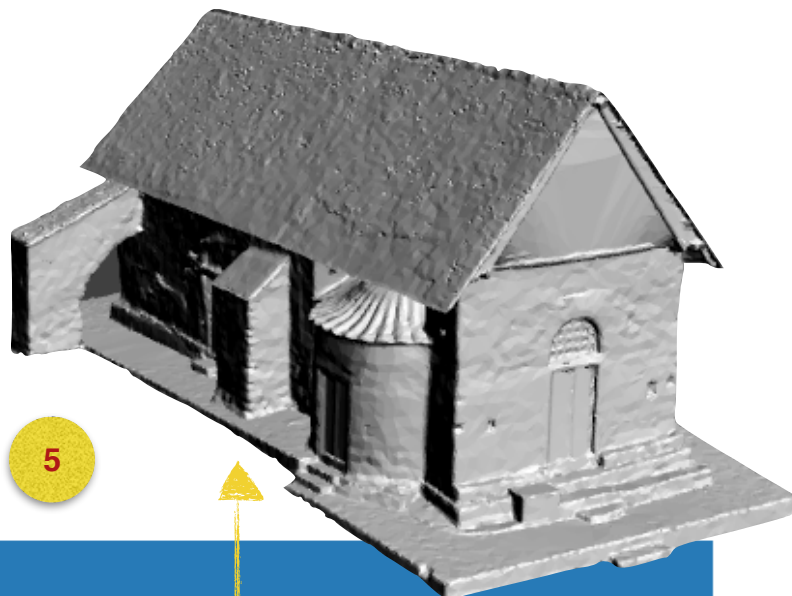
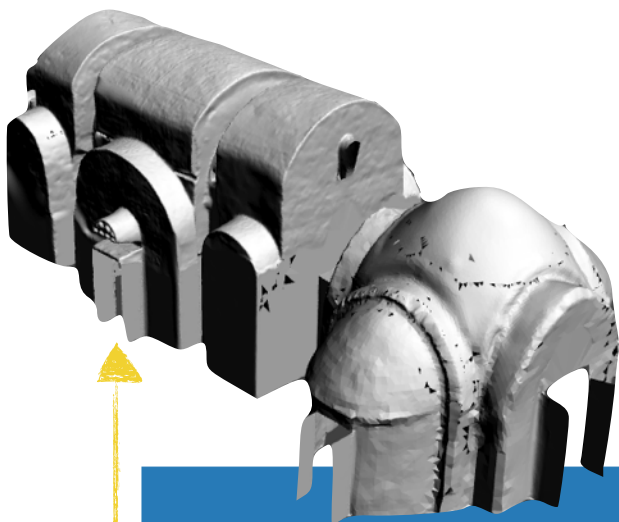
narthex: a specific space, usually Gallery, which occupied the entrance of the church, where catechumens stood in the early Christian times.

residential dull: that does not shine, has no glitter.

Tourkokratia (Ottoman occupation): the period of Greek domination by the Ottomans after the revolution in 1821 - general, the domination of Ottomans.

3





5

Lessons

- 1 Lesson 1: Panagia Assinou in History ▾ **LECTURE** 10 minutes
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- 7 Quiz ▾ **QUIZ** 10 minutes
- 8 References ▾ 2 minutes

Question #1: The foundation of the monastery dates back to ...

- ☐ 1199
- ☐ 1099
- ☐ 1299

6

Question #2: The church of Panagia Asinou ...

- ☐ Is part of the saved building of the Catholic Monastery of Forbians.
- ☐ Is what has remained from the Catholic Monastery
- ☐ Has no relationship with the Catholic Monastery.

Question #3: The inscription above the south entrance of the church mentioned...

- ☐ The names of the donors.
- ☐ The founder of the monastery, the Master Nikiforos Ischyrios.
- ☐ The painter who created the frescoes.

Question #4: Regarding the monastery of the Virgin of Asinou during the Latin period there is saved information in ...

- ☐ The church inscriptions and notes in the Parisian Code 1590.
- ☐ Recorded oral testimonies.
- ☐ The memoirs of Nikiforos Ischyrios.

Question #5: The great synthesis of the Second Coming was created...

- ☐ In the 12th century.
- ☐ In the 14th century.
- ☐ In the 13th century.

6 Comprehension questions ▴ **EXERCISE**

7

6 minutes

Comprehension questions:

1. What kind of information from the text do the Western influences of the monument indicate?
2. What is the specificity and the value of the church frescoes?

8 References ▴

2 minutes

Resources/References:

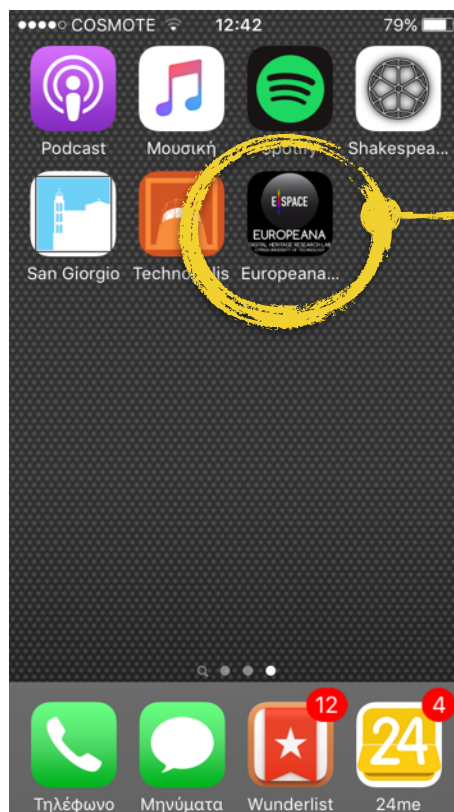
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Results:

Today is obvious that we have a lot of digital data (specially from crowdsourcing platforms like Europeana) with **controversial** information. If any student, educator or simple user needs to learn or study the history of a monument, usually she/he ends up (through google search) to **huge number of information, text, picture** (with no obvious connection or order) and **without** the **semantics** or the **meta data** that they need to study the Monument.

In order to achieve rigid results, **we combined the Europeana and Open Source Data on the internet, with an educational tool.** The model construction is based on the **cross cultural approach** which responds to the multicultural features of present era but at the same time to the **contemporary pedagogical** and **methodological** directions.

The result is an online learning **user friendly experience**, where visitors (educators, students and simple users) have the opportunity to read, watch, interact (3D model) and test their **knowledge for the cultural heritage**. The information is **adjusted** for their needs and if they finish with success the Course, **they can use the references to deepen their knowledge**.



iPhone, iPad, Android
Application Icon
(Link)