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Basic information:

Project type: Collaborative project (Small- and medium scale focused research project)

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

Proposal No: 244305

Start – end date: 1 Feb 2010 – 31 Jan 2013

EU contribution: € 2,641,363

Target audiences and outcomes:

Our findings will be of interest to international academics in the fields of history, museum studies and cultural policy, museum professionals and cultural policy makers at European, national and regional levels. Eunamus will produce reports, conference proceedings, articles, books, and texts aimed at wider audiences than the academic community. We are keen to collaborate with projects and individual researchers with related research interests, and to talk to journalists and citizen organisations. We are particularly keen to promote dialogues with cultural policy makers and museum professionals.

Eunamus organises a number of conferences across Europe and regularly initiates online discussions on topical museum issues on our blog.

www.eunamus.eu

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EUROPEAN NATIONAL MUSEUMS:

*Identity politics,
the uses of the past
and the European citizen*



eunamus



Eunamus is a research project funded under the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission. It aims at creating a strong platform for comparative museum studies and at producing vital knowledge for cultural policy makers, museum professionals and citizens. Today, national museums are prisms of cultural change, complexity and acts of homogenisation. As recent examples show, in a rapidly transforming Eastern Europe, and former imperial nation-states such as France, national museums interact with processes of political and societal change. Existing national museums are constantly in the making and new ones are planned.



Rational of the project:
The promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, culture's contribution to economic growth and international relations are key objectives in the European Agenda for Culture. Eunamus is designed to form a conclusive account of the roles of national museums in a Europe that constantly negotiates its borders and internal complexion and adopts ideas, traditions and communities from around the world. In doing so, Eunamus will look for new and subtle ways to understand and inspire contemporary Europeans' relationship with history and material culture.

Research questions:
What are the institutional trajectories and contemporary forces that shape national museum representations and negotiations? What views of identity, citizenship and knowledge do they produce? What is the balance between change and continuity or between European, national and regional communities, between claims of universality and virtues of unity, or between civic enhancement, public education and city branding?



Areas of research:
Mapping and framing institutions 1750-2010: national museums interacting with nation-making provides the intellectual foundations for the project by comparing initiatives, structures and changes in establishing national exhibitions as part of nation making in Europe.
Uses of the past: narrating the nation and negotiating conflict studies the overt construction of historical narratives and examines conflict, tension, and homogenisation in the museum production of nation and Europe.

Museum policies 1990-2010: negotiating political and professional utopia seeks to understand how national museums have been involved in the development and implementation of government policy.

Museum citizens: audience identities and experiences explores how national museums are seen and negotiated from the citizen's perspective.

National museums, history and a changing Europe draws together research to deliver a comprehensive statement on the future role of national museums in the European Union.

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