



Tensions of Europe Newsletter:

Special issue: Inventing Europe Digital Museum in university teaching

January 2016

We are pleased to share with you an issue dedicated to the use of the Inventing Europe Digital Museum in university teaching. Education is one of the pillars of the Tensions of Europe network, and Inventing Europe turns out to be an innovative and creative teaching tool. Inventing Europe reaches out to students who are becoming increasingly digitally savvy. Inventing Europe also offers teachers tools that can be implemented in their courses. Please take the time to read what Inventing Europe has to offer for your teaching. This newsletter shares with you details on the recent teacher survey, promising new Inventing Europe features. Also join us in our exciting challenge. Your participation will provide direction to future developments.

Please feel free to contact project manager Suzanne Lommers with your questions at inventingeurope@tue.nl. Of course you are welcome to join the Inventing Europe (teaching) community.

Suzanne Lommers, guest editor

Inventing Europe: a growing community

Inventing Europe explores Europe's transnational history through the lens of scientific and technological objects. The museum connects the history that is being published in the six-volume Making Europe book series, with the cultural heritage objects of over thirteen European science and technology museums. Amongst our partners are the Science Museum London, the Norwegian Technical Museum, and the Deutsches Museum. The Europeana Foundation, an [internet](#) portal that acts as an interface to millions of digitized objects, is involved and makes it possible to use the digital cultural heritage collections of thousands of museums, libraries and archives from across Europe.

Since the Inventing Europe website went live in 2012 about 15.000 students from 13 European universities in 11 countries have worked with the website in one of their courses. These activities have led to an [Education page](#) and an active teacher community, which is growing modestly.

Using Europe's digital cultural heritage collections in the classroom

In April 2015 [Inventing Europe](#) embarked on a collaborative project with the [Europeana Foundation](#), called CEF. The aim of the CEF project is to further the use of digital cultural heritage as a primary source for university teaching and scientific research. This allows teachers and researchers to make

the best possible use of the enormous amount of cultural heritage collections that are becoming easily available via Europeana for our use.

Within the CEF project we have examined the way in which the vastly growing digital cultural heritage materials available through Europeana have been used in university teaching since 2012. We explored with the teachers how this use could be improved to the benefit of teaching different disciplines at different universities in different European countries. Currently, we are in the midst of implementing their recommendations. Results are launched in phases. Today we share with you our first results. The final result will be implemented fully at the start of April.

A study into the re-use of digital cultural heritage materials in university education

As part of the CEF project we have performed an extensive survey amongst our teachers about the re-use of Europe's digital cultural heritage materials in university teaching. Find out about the latest stats, use of Inventing Europe and recommendations for improved implementation of Europe's digital cultural heritage in our latest [report](#).

Amazing prizes to win:

Find out about our improved “What’s like this?” section and exciting challenge!

We are excited to launch the extended “What’s like this?” section that you find below the stories in the tours on our website. With a few clicks researchers, teachers, and students can explore thousands of digital cultural heritage collections...simply, quickly, effectively, and in new contexts on the web.

Check out “What’s like this?” for your course. We challenge you to think of an assignment that involves Inventing Europe and this section in a way that matches the learning objectives of your course.

Share your assignment with us via inventingeurope@tue.nl or via [Facebook](#). There is a prize available for the most interesting assignment. The winner may select one hardcover volume of the [Making Europe](#) book series.

[Read more...](#)

Blog Jan Korsten, *Inventing Europe brings the past alive with Europeana*

Getting youngsters excited about European history and helping them develop a sense of historical awareness can be challenging. How do we help them actively understand why historical knowledge is important, and encourage them to discover the roots of today's society? To answer these questions, the Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) explores new and innovative ways of making historians' research suitable for the classroom.

[Read more...](#)

Want to learn more?

Do you want to find out about your opportunities for teaching with Inventing Europe, and Europe's growing digital cultural heritage collections? Please learn more about our education activities and teaching community [here](#). We are more than happy to think along with you via phone, skype or e-mail. Just drop us a note at inventingeurope@tue.nl.

Coming Conference / Workshop

SPRU Anniversary Conference, 7-9 September 2016: Call for Proposals

In 2016 SPRU is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016. From 7-9 September 2016 an Anniversary Conference will be organized at the University of Sussex (United Kingdom). Theme of the conference is *Transforming Innovation: Science and Technology for Social Needs*. Proposals can be submitted now. The organizers are seeking a range of main and parallel sessions proposals that explore the nature, determinants and direction of innovation and its contribution to meeting future global challenges in multiple domains - such as economic stability, food security, healthcare provision, resource use, water supply, waste management, energy supply and climate change. The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2016. Read more [here](#).

RUCHE Conference Bordeaux-Montaigne, September 8-10, 2016

RUCHE, the French Network of Environmental Historians, organizes an international conference, that will take place at Bordeaux-Montaigne University on 8-10 September 2016. Theme is *Mobilising and Using Energy, from Antiquity to the Present Time*. Find more on this conference [here](#).

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