



Alternative Funding Models

Marco Raciti

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HaS-DARIAH

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Executive Summary

The document gives an overview of funding opportunities related to European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for digital arts and humanities research, and provides concrete examples of successful actions that have been carried out in the last two programming periods (2007-2013 and 2014-2020). Moreover, this guide describes other funding schemes, notably Erasmus+, COST, Creative Europe, Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) that could be interesting for DARIAH partners.

Nature of the deliverable		
✓	R	Document, report
	DEM	Demonstrator, pilot, prototype
	DEC	Websites, patent filings, videos, etc.
	OTHER	
Dissemination level		
✓	P	Public
	CO	Confidential only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)
	EU-RES	Classified Information: RESTREINT UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)
	EU-CON	Classified Information: CONFIDENTIEL UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)
	EU-SEC	Classified Information: SECRET UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)

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Introduction

The idea behind this deliverable is to show that, despite a challenging context for the funding of research in digital humanities and arts in Horizon 2020, other EU funds can be potentially explored in our sector. While some DARIAH partner institutions have successfully ran projects outside the well-known Horizon 2020 scheme, other funding opportunities, such as the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF), are widely underestimated.

While most of the funding programmes presented in this deliverable do not finance research *per se*, they can open the opportunity to strengthen links with SMEs and creative industries, finance breakthrough projects in education etc.

This report presents 5 different funding schemes and related project examples: ESIF, COST, Creative Europe, Erasmus+ and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

Undoubtedly, Horizon 2020 remains a very important scheme for financing research in DARIAH: to help partner institutions to find interesting calls and submit their proposals, within the project it has been developed a registry to collect information on institutions and researchers involved in previous calls and share tools. DARIAH-IT (CNR) currently runs the funding hub. The objective is to scale it at the European level for all DARIAH-EU partner institutions.

1. Structural and Investment Funds – Cohesion Policy in a nutshell

Cohesion policy aims – via the Structural Funds – to **reinforce economic and social cohesion in the EU** by redressing the main regional imbalances through support for the development and structural adjustment of regional economies. In doing so, it supports the priorities of the European Union and in particular the **implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy**.

Launched in 2010, **Europe 2020 is the EU ten-year strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**. This strategy aims to reach 5 headline targets:

- Employment:
 - 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed
- R&D:
 - 3% of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D
- Climate change and energy sustainability:
 - greenhouse gas emissions 20% lower than 1990
 - 20% of energy from renewables
 - 20% increase in energy efficiency
- Education:
 - reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10%
 - at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education
- Fighting poverty and social exclusion:
 - at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion

Cohesion policy represent 32,5% of the overall EU 2014-2020 budget (€351,8 billion).

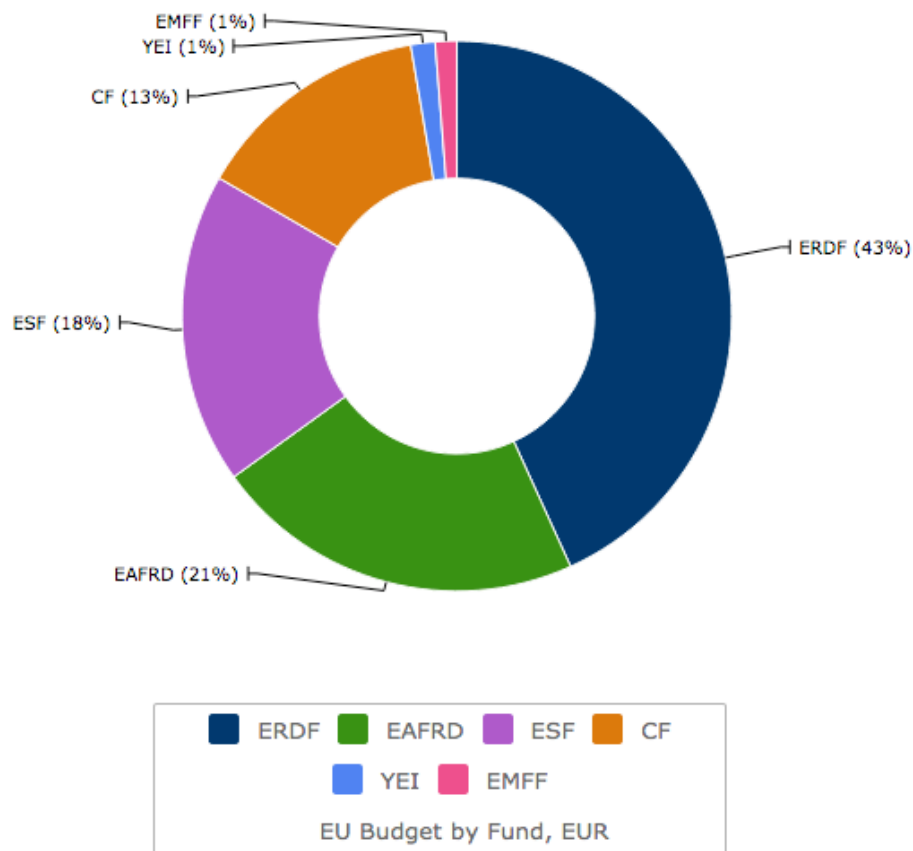


Image 1 ESIF EU budget by fund 2014-2020, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/investment-policy/

In order to measure the impact of European Structural Funds, the EC proposed a standardized definition of **Thematic Objectives (TOs)** and **investment priorities**, which follow the European Union Strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.



Image 2 Thematic objectives, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/

The European Structural Funds are listed below:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):** The ERDF represents a financial instrument for the implementation of the European regional policy and aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the EU by correcting imbalances between its regions. The ERDF will contribute to all 11 TOs. However, it will devote the majority of resources to **R&D, SMEs, Low carbon economy and Transports and Energy infrastructure**. All EU regions are eligible to ERDF. Moreover, the ERDF supports, through the INTERREG initiative, **cross-border cooperation** (through joint local and regional initiatives), **trans-national cooperation and interregional cooperation**.

- **Cohesion Fund (CF):** It aims to **reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development**. Member States whose Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is **lower than 90%** of the EU average can benefit from the Cohesion Fund. Member States eligible for funding from the CF are: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia.

The CF allocates a total of € 63,4 billion to activities under the following categories: trans-European transport networks, energy network infrastructures, environmental protection and low carbon economy (energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc.).

- **European Social Fund (ESF):** The ESF is the European Union's main financial instrument for **supporting employment in the Member States of the European Union as well as promoting economic and social cohesion**. The ESF will focus on few priorities, which are: strengthening employment and mobility, better education, social inclusion, institutional capacity (better public services).

- **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFDR):** The EAFDR is a funding mechanism under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which co-finances the **rural development** programmes of the Member States.

- **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF):** The EMFF encourages **sustainable fishing and sustainable aquaculture**.

For the aims of this publication, we only focus on the first two funds of the list above.

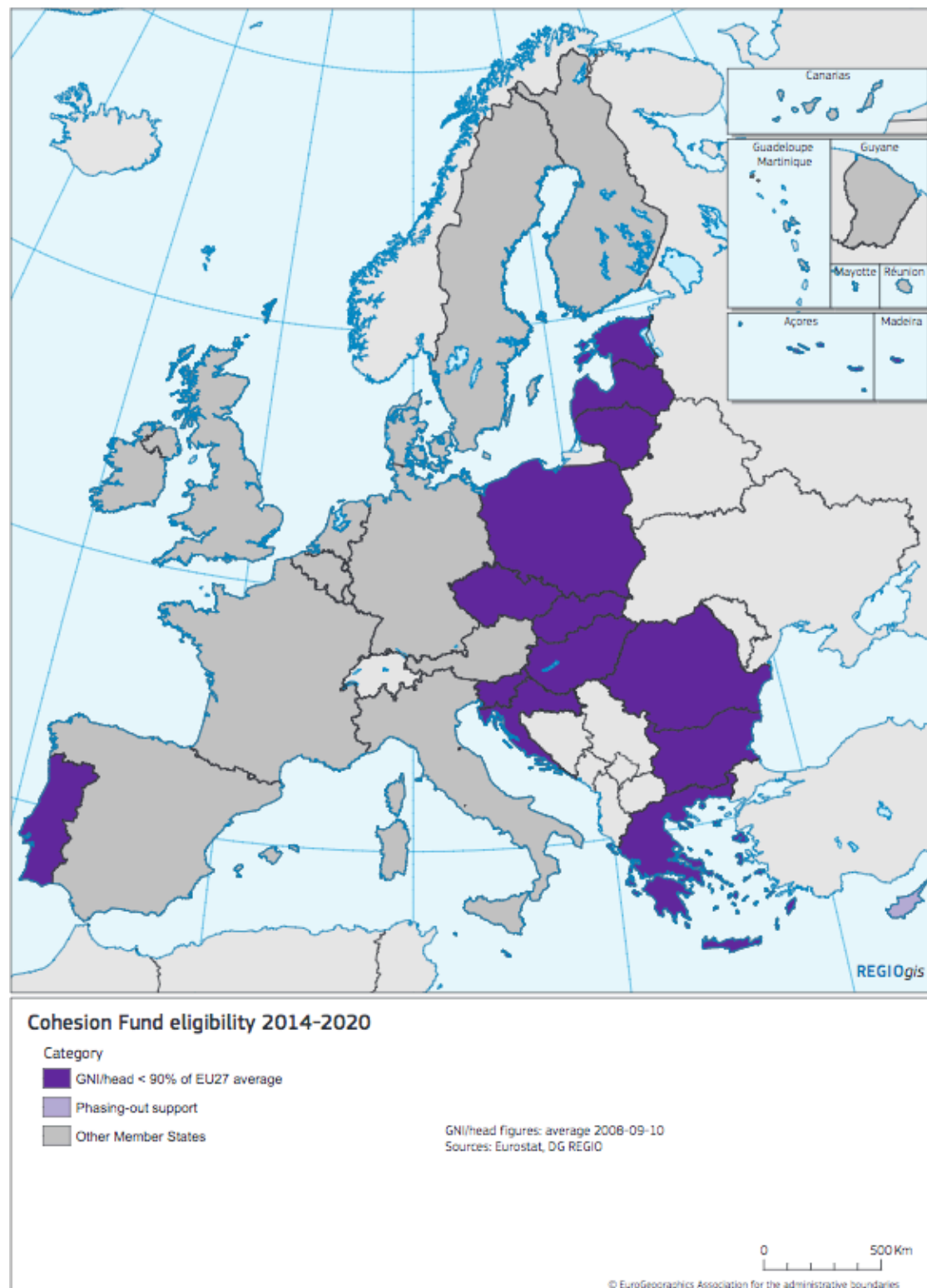


Image 3 Cohesion Fund 2014-2020 eligibility, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/is-my-region-covered/

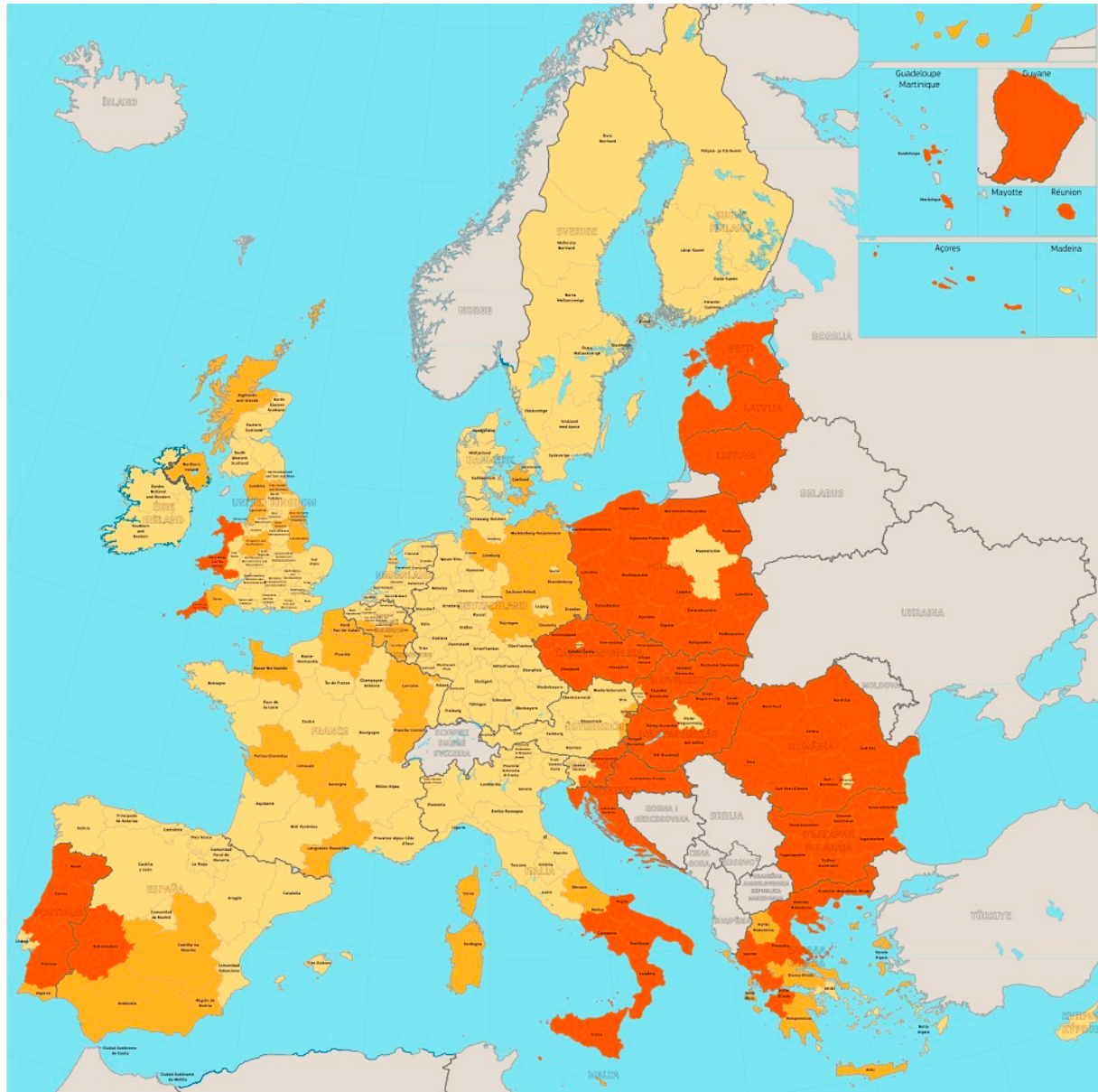


Image 4 ERDF and ESF eligibility 2014-2020. More developed regions (GDP/head \geq 90% EU average) in yellow, transitions regions (between 75% and 90%) in orange, less developed regions ($<$ 75%) in red), http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/is-my-region-covered/

1.1 How it works

75% of the overall European Union budget is managed by the Member States themselves. The way in which Structural Funds are spent is through a **decentralized system** of shared responsibility between the European Commission and Member States. The Commission negotiates and approves the **Operational Programmes (OPs)** proposed by each Member State and regional/local authorities. Each OP details the objectives to achieve with the available resources, funding priorities and the expected impact of Structural Funds. For each Operational Programme, the Member State appoints a **Managing Authority** (a national, regional or local public authority or public/private body). They are in charge of:

- Setting up and applying selection procedures and eligibility criteria;
- Selecting projects, control and assess them;
- Providing information to potential beneficiaries;
- Ensuring that projects falls within the scope of the Funds concerned;
- The financial management of the programmes.

IMPORTANT: In order to apply for Structural Funds, a potential beneficiary should check the investment priorities, eligible criteria and funding rates of the relevant programme in their region or countries. Moreover, **application procedures are specific for each Operational Programme** (calls on proposals on specific priority axes with fixed deadlines, ongoing applications etc.).

The list of Managing Authorities and Operational Programmes can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/

1.2 How operational programmes are structured?

An Operational Programme consists of priority axes. A priority axe corresponds to one Thematic Objective (see page 2) and includes one or more investment priorities (defined in the Fund specific regulations) of that specific TO. The choice for INTERREG programmes is limited to a maximum of four TOs.

A specific objective and limited number (no more than two) of corresponding result indicator(s) are defined for each selected investment priority.

Actions to be supported that will deliver outputs and lead to attainment of specific objectives and results are described.

Corresponding categories of intervention are listed and output indicators chosen. Common output indicators are used.

Result indicators are programme-specific. These can be expressed in quantitative as well as qualitative terms.

1.3 European Structural Funds general principles

Some general principles apply to all Operational Programmes. The most important are listed here below:

- **Co-financing rule:** The EU only partly co-funds the project. Therefore, both the applicant and partners must have their own or third party financial resources to contribute to the costs of the project.
- **Non-profit rule:** the grant may not result in a profit being made. If it does, a financial gap analysis will be performed in order to assess the need for and potential grant amount.
- **Non-retroactivity rule:** co-funding is eligible only for the costs incurred after the starting date of the project set out in the grant agreement.
- **Non-cumulative rule:** only one grant is allowed per beneficiary. However, this rule does not apply to Horizon 2020 funds. Regulation EU No 1290/2013 and the Common Provisions regulation on the ESIF allow for the funding of the same project (action/operation) through several grants from different EU instruments, subject to the absence of double funding. Horizon 2020 and ESIF funding shall not cover the same cost/expenditure item.
- **No double financing rule:** in no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice under any budget.

2. European Structural Funds: which opportunities for DARIAH?

For an operation to be eligible for European Structural Funds support it must contribute to a specific objective defined for an investment priority and fall within the scope of the fund's activities. There is a major **difference between Horizon 2020 and the European Structural Funds**, as Horizon 2020 doesn't take into account geographic specificities in allocating funding (if the participant is established in the EU and H2020 associated countries). Several Thematic Objectives seems well suited for financing projects on digital humanities:

Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.

One of the investment priorities of the TO 1 will contribute to enhance “research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest”. **Research infrastructures in the ESFRI roadmap are considered as being of European interest as they enable EU researchers to stay at the global forefront of science and technology.** ERDF allows **fixed investment** (infrastructure, equipment, laboratories), **support for enterprises and research and innovation bodies, networking, cooperation and technical assistance.** It may also support investment in research, innovation and business infrastructures such as science parks or research centres of competence. Research Infrastructure (RI) managers have to contact the Managing Authorities to explain the **impact of the RI on the regional economy** (links with innovative industries, spin-offs etc.).

Thematic Objective 2 – Enhancing access to, use and quality of, ITC

One of the investment priorities of the TO 2 helps to “**strengthen ICT applications for e-government, elearning, e-commerce, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health**”

Thematic Objective 6 – Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency.

Under this thematic objective, the European Regional Development Fund regulation mentions specifically the protection, promotion and development of **cultural heritage** among its investment priorities.

The use of the European Regional Development Fund may represent an effective financial tool for DARIAH's network, due to the objectives and the extent of the programme and the possibility to set up a **territorial cooperation** through the INTERREG programme.

Concerning the Cohesion Fund, the Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013 set out the following investment priorities (TOs 4, 5, 6, 7, 11). Due to the investment priorities, it seems hard to get support for actions in Digital Humanities and Arts.

1. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors;

2. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;
3. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
4. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;
5. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the Cohesion Fund.

2.1 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. The ERDF focuses its investments on the following priority areas (thematic concentration):

- Innovation and research (OT 1);
- The digital agenda (OT 2);
- Support for SMEs (OT 3);
- Low-carbon economy (OT 4).

In more developed countries, at least 80% of ERDF funds must focus at least two of these priorities, in transition regions 60% and in less developed regions 50%. **Every EU Region benefit from the ERDF.** As a general rule, activity funded through ERDF **must be located within the relevant Operational Programme area.**

DYAS – Greek Research Infrastructure Network for the Humanities

In May 2013, following a call launched in July 2012, the DYAS network received funding to construct a Greek national research for the Humanities, DARIAH-GR. The project ended in 2015 and the co-funding, provided at a regional level through the ERDF scheme, has been crucial to support the construction of the Greek national infrastructure. Moreover, in 2009, the network has benefited from a first funding from the Operational Programme of Attica (Athens WFP) 2007-2013, for a project entitled “Creating a Research Infrastructure Network for the Humanities DYAS“. The aim of the project, which was completed in February 2011, was to prepare a feasibility study for the establishment of a national research infrastructure for Arts and Humanities and a proposal for a strategy to link the Greek Humanities research community with DARIAH. ([The Status Quo of Digital Humanities in Greece](#), Helen Katsiadakis).

<http://www.dyas-net.gr/?lang=en>

Summaries of Operational Programmes approved for 2014-2020 can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/

2.2 INTERREG VA

European Territorial Cooperation is one of the objectives of the ERDF. The first cooperation programme was launched in 1989.

INTERREG V is currently operational, covering the 2014-2020 period. The fifth programming period has a **budget of € 10,1 billion EUR** invested in over 100 cooperation programmes. INTERREG funds actions on three different levels of cooperation:

- Cross-border cooperation (INTERREG A)
- Transnational cooperation (INTERREG B)
- Interregional cooperation (INTERREG C)

Cross-border cooperation aims at **strengthening crossborder cooperation** through joint local and regional initiatives. INTERREG VA has 60 Operational Programmes, each covering part of a border area between EU Member States. Most programmes are bilateral, but there are few exceptions (e.g. the Euregio Meuse-Rhin, which covers parts of Belgium, Netherlands and Germany). By far, INTERREG A is the largest level of cooperation in terms of budget and number of programmes and gives a very large panel of funding opportunities. Although each programme is different and covers specific priority axes and investment priorities, there are some similarities:

- Set up of the Operational Programme: each OP is based on thematic objectives and investment priorities identified by the Managing Authorities and negotiated with the European Commission;
- Partnership: Each project should include a consortium consisting of, at least, 2 partners from different countries in the programme area. An organization can participate if is located in the **eligible area** of that programme.
- Co-financing principle: INTERREG is based on co-financing. Depending on the GDP/head the co-financing rates may vary between **50% and 85%** for less developed regions.

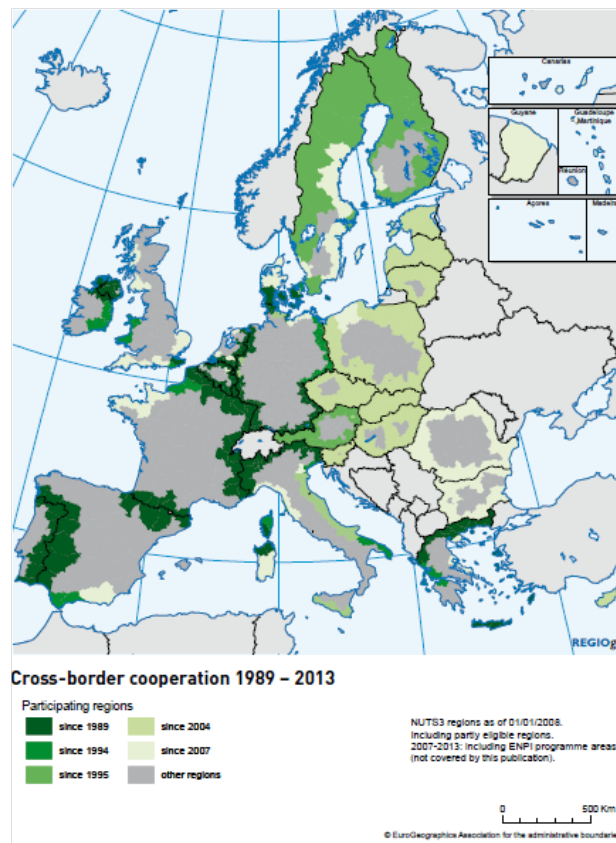


Image 5 EU regions participating in cross-border co-operation 1989-2013, Source: European Territorial Cooperation: Building bridges between people, September 2011

The **full list of Regions eligible** for ERDF funding under INTERREG can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1423062747409&uri=CELEX:32014D0388>

Example of INTERREG A projects on digital heritage and digital humanities financed during the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods:

ARCHIVUM RHENANUM

The French and German archives of the Upper Rhine keep unique manuscripts which go back to the Early Middle Ages. They describe the history of the Region, its cultural and socio-economic evolution. The project aims at offering access to the general public to their memory by providing up-to-date explanations, consistent bilingualism (German and French) and new media (digitization, online offerings and services, bilingual communication platforms). This project has been co-financed by the ERDF through the **INTERREG IVA Upper-Rhine programme**.

<http://archives-fr.hypotheses.org/>

Digital Humanities Labor zur grenzüberschreitenden historischen Forschung

The project started a collaboration between the University of Passau and the University of South Bohemia in the field of digital humanities. The aim is to build a joint digital humanities laboratory. The project includes the high-quality digitization of the Lower-Bavarian and South Bohemian regional newspapers for the 1914-1918 war period, the development of a wide range of methods in digital humanities and the organization of thematic seminars. The project has been co-financed through the INTERREG IVA Saxony-Czech Republic programme.

[Link to the project website](#)

ViSIT

The project ViSIT is carried out by the University of Passau in cooperation with several museums and scientific partners ((Museum und Veste Oberhaus Passau, Top-City Kufstein GmbH, Fachhochschule Kufstein Tirol, Salzburg Research Forschungs.). The project will further expand the digital development of the cultural heritage across the Inn-Salzach-Danube region. Two digitization projects will be carried out in particular by two pilot projects at the Kufstein and Passau sites. Multimedia installations, mobile applications and a virtual 3d museum will be created during the course of the project. ViSIT will make a cross-border regional history accessible to visitors in an innovative way. The project has been co-financed thorough the INTERREG VA Österreich-Bayern programme

[Link to a project partner website](#)

DOC EXPLORE

DocExplore is an EU France (Channel)-England INTERREG IVA project investigating the computer-based access and analysis of historical manuscripts. The project commenced on the 1st April 2009. The aims of the project can be summarized as empowering citizens and researchers on both sides of the Channel to engage with, explore and study their cultural heritage, as embodied in written and printed documents, in meaningful, informative, accessible and entertaining ways, through the provision of transparent computer-based interactive tools.

<http://www.docexplore.eu/academic/>

2.3 INTERREG VB

INTERREG VB is a transnational cooperation programme which aims to promote a better integration within the Union through the **formation of European macro-Regions**. There are 15 INTERREG VB programmes (DARIAH member countries are underlined):

Adriatic Ionian: Italy (partially), Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia.

Alpine Space: France (partially), Italy (partially), Germany (partially), Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland.

Atlantic Area: France (partially), Ireland, Portugal, Spain (partially), UK (partially).

Balkan Mediterranean: Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Macedonia, Greece.

Baltic Sea: Germany (partially), Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia (partially), Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark.

Central Europe: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Germany (partially), Italy (partially).

Danube: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (partially), Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine (partially).

Mediterranean: Croatia, Cyprus, Spain (partially), France (partially), Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal (partially), UK (Gibraltar), Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro.

North Sea: Belgium, Denmark, Germany (partially), Netherlands, UK (partially), Sweden (partially), Norway.

North West: France (partially), UK, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Germany (partially), Switzerland.

Northern Periphery and Arctic: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, UK (partially), Denmark (Greenland, Faroe Islands), Iceland.

South West: Portugal, Spain, France (partially), Andorra, UK (Gibraltar).

There are also 3 INTERREG B programmes involving European overseas Regions exclusively (Caribbean area, Indian Ocean area, Amazonia area). Transnational cooperation allows partners from different countries to **tackle issues that go beyond national borders**. Operational programmes are **mainly focused on environmental issues**: climate change adaption, preserving and adapting the environment, promoting resources

efficiency, promoting sustainable transport, supporting the shift to a low carbon economy. The thematic objective 1 (strengthening research, technological development and innovation) has been also widely chosen, especially to **promote business investment in innovation and research**. The choice of the thematic objectives may limit the participation of DARIAH partners. In any case, Managing Authorities secretariats and national/regional contact points can be contacted for questions related to project development and the application procedure.

Eligibility rules (as well as funding rates) may vary from programme to programme. Usually a minimum of 2 partners from 2 different countries is required to submit a proposal. However, the participation of a large consortium is appreciated.

SHCity

SHCity tackles the challenge of encouraging the evolution of the Smart City to the Smart Heritage City. In order to achieve this it will create a single open source tool to gather data on heritage urban centres and facilitate the work of the administrators in charge of their management. The solution that the project proposes will integrate data gathered by networks of sensors used in the urban setting that will allow controlling of and responding to the risk elements affecting buildings and their surroundings, the management of energy consumption, and the control and planning of the flow of visitors. The management system will be demonstrated and validated in the city of Ávila in Spain which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

<http://shcity.eu/finalidadobjetivos.asp?language=fr>

2.4 INTERREG VC

INTERREG VC provides funding for **interregional cooperation across Europe**. INTERREG C is the most flexible funding tool under the European Territorial Cooperation: **partners from 30 countries are eligible** (EU28 plus Switzerland and Norway).



Image 6 Countries eligible to Interreg VC

For the 2014-2020 programming period, **4 priority axes are supported**:

1. Research Technological Development and Innovation (corresponding to TO 1). The investment priority for this axe is “enhancing R&I infrastructure and capacity to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competences, in particular those of European interest.
2. Competitiveness of SMEs (TO 3)
3. Low Carbon Economy (TO 4)
4. Environment and resource efficiency (TO 6). The investment priority is “conserving protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage”.

Types of actions supported are described in the Operational Programme 4. Participating to the interregional cooperation programme implies the exchange of experiences and the sharing of good practices. **INTERREG VC may be an excellent idea to involve potential partners from all over Europe.**

2.5 Suggestions and conclusion

European Structural and Investment funds can play an important role for strengthening the participation of the arts, culture and the creative sector in DARIAH. In 2007-13, €3.2 billion was invested in heritage from the European Regional Development Fund and the programming period 2014-2020 still offers plenty of opportunities. In July 2014, the Commission adopted a communication *Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe* in which European Regional Development Fund is mentioned as a support for exploiting the **potential of cultural heritage for local and regional development**. Concerning the 2014-2020 funding period, “ESIF investments in heritage will remain eligible, under certain conditions, through direct funding, but also through investment in urban regeneration, sustainable development and support to small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) [...] investment in culture and heritage should be part of integrated and sustainable economic development strategies¹”.

Furthermore, the digitisation of Cultural Heritage has been one of the priorities of the Smart Specialisation Platform². *The Digital Agenda Toolbox*³, published in 2014, states that “the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural resources as input for added-value products and services can fuel innovation in areas such as tourism, education, architecture, design, publishing, advertising or gaming”⁴. Making use of the ESIF co-fund is suggested to help regions in contributing to play a key role in promoting cultural diversity and produce creative content for jobs and growth, meanwhile projects could give **greater visibility of GLAMs’ collections**.

The European Union is promoting **synergies** between Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds. The objective is to build interaction combining place-based innovation investments in smart specialisation priorities with world-class research and innovation initiatives.

Despite the above-mentioned example of Greece, raising awareness activities on ESIF opportunities should be organized with DARIAH members. The DARIAH Innovation Forum will tackle for the first time the challenge of enhancing the connection between digital humanities and creative industries, while the newly introduced Innovation Board will provide suggestions to DARIAH members to fill this gap. However, due to the vast number of Operational Programmes and Thematic Objectives, it is **difficult to set up precise guidelines for DARIAH members**. Moreover, it is important to notice that projects

¹ EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe*, COM(2014) 477 final, Brussels 2014, p. 10.

² <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digitisation-of-cultural-heritage>

³ <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC88896/ipts%20jrc%2088896%20%28print%29%20final.pdf>

⁴ EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *The Digital Agenda Toolbox*, European Union 2014, p. 48.

are assessed on their contribution to the local/regional development and its contribution to the specific thematic objectives described in the relevant Operational Programme. We suggest to contact the relevant Managing authority in case of questions.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/managing-authorities/

3. COST Actions

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is Europe's longest-running intergovernmental framework for cooperation in science and technology. COST is formally inscribed in Horizon 2020. Its mission is to **enable break-through scientific and technological developments leading to new concepts and products**. COST actions are bottom-up science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders with a duration of 4 years. **COST doesn't fund research itself**. A COST action has money exclusively for **networking activities** such as workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs) and dissemination activities. Reimbursement takes place for an individual researcher who participates in one of those activities. **COST does not set any research priorities**.



Image 7 COST Member States. The COST programme includes Israel as cooperating State

COST consists of 36 Member states and a cooperating State. Researchers throughout can submit proposals through a **continuous Open Call**. Participants should propose an innovative idea linked to a specific challenge in their field of expertise, potentially leading to a **scientific or technological breakthrough**. The decision to fund an action is taken by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) within 8 months from the collection date.

Successful proposals are approved to become COST actions and can expect to start within 3 months. A Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) should be set up and the action is launched when at least seven member States have agreed the MoU. Researchers can also join existing COST actions.

The openness of the programme and the absence of research priorities make the funding scheme particularly interesting for DH researchers. Three examples of COST Actions, which involved researchers in Digital Humanities, can be found here below.

**European Network of e-Lexicography (ENeL)
ISCH COST Action IS1305**

Computers and the availability of the World Wide Web have significantly changed the conditions for the production and reception of dictionaries. For editors of scholarly dictionaries the Internet is not only a source of inspiration, it also generates new and serious challenges: (a) To give users easier access to scholarly dictionaries and to bridge the gap between the general public and scholarly dictionaries, (b) To establish both a broader and more systematic exchange of expertise and common standards and solutions, (c) To develop a common approach to e-lexicography that forms the basis for a new type of lexicography that fully embraces the pan-European nature of much of the vocabularies of the languages spoken in Europe. The proposed Action aims to establish a European network of lexicographers in order to deal with the above issues in a structured way.

<http://www.elexicography.eu/>

Women Writers in History - Toward a New Understanding of European Literary Culture - ISCH COST Action IS0901

The main objective of the Action is to create a strong collaborative international Research Network and to produce a Road Map outlining future systematic collaborative research in European women's literary history. The historiography of literature needs renewal. In particular women's contribution to European literary practice can and must be accounted for in a much more adequate way than current literary histories do. This [COST Action](#) lays the foundations for an innovative European-scale approach to this problem. The neglect of women as cultural agents is indeed an international phenomenon, directly relating to gender inequality in modern societies. International cooperation is needed in order to change things and demonstrate that women's growing presence, since the Middle Ages, prepared the way for their massive entrance into the "literary field" (Bourdieu) during the 20th century. Using recent theoretical insights (Moretti, Hutcheon, Valdés) and new technological means, the Action will prepare avenues for collective research by organizing a strong network of European (and other) researchers. At the end of the Action the network will be ready to carry out a large European research programme that contributes to a more balanced picture of - western and eastern - Europe's cultural heritage). Women Writers in History became, after the end of the COST Action, a Working Group in DARIAH.

Analyzing the dynamics of information and knowledge landscapes (KNOWeSCAPE) MPNS COST Action TD1210

There is no escape from the expansion of information, so that structuring and locating meaningful knowledge becomes ever more difficult. This Action will tackle this urgent problem using the unique networking and capacity-building features provided by the COST framework. For the first time, a platform will be created where information professionals, sociologists, physicists, digital humanities scholars and computer scientists collaborate on problems of data mining and data curation in collections. The main objective of this Action is advancing the analysis of large knowledge spaces and systems that organize and order them. The combination of insights from complexity theory and knowledge organization will improve our understanding of the collective, self-organized nature of human knowledge production and will support the development of new principles and methods of data representation, processing, and archiving. To this end, the knowledge organization in web-based information spaces such as Wikipedia as well as collections from libraries, archives, and museums will be studied. This Action aims to create interactive knowledge maps. Their end users could be scientists working between disciplines and seeking mutual understanding; science policy makers designing funding frameworks; cultural heritage institutions aiming at better access to their collections; and students seeking a first orientation in academia.

<http://knowescape.org/>

3.1 Suggestions and conclusion

The financial support averages EUR 130 000 per year for a four-year period. COST does not transfer money to any partner institution, which makes those actions different from other collaboration funding instruments. Individual researchers are reimbursed on the basis of their participation to action's activities such as meetings, conferences, Short Term Scientific Missions (which allows scientists to go to an institution or laboratory in another COST country to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or to take measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory). COST actions offer the opportunity to **boost individual careers**, especially of early career investigators by providing networking opportunities. Another aspect of COST actions is, despite firm rules for expenses, the freedom in running the action and a **flexible structure**. Even though the budget for each action is usually lower than the most of other funding schemes and Horizon 2020 actions, nevertheless generates **durable networks of scientists, a regular exchange of scientific ideas and the establishment of strategic alliances**.

DARIAH has provided support to some COST actions and one of them has been established as a working group ([Women Writers in History](#)).

4. Creative Europe

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for **support to the culture, creative and audiovisual sectors**. Creative Europe has a budget of €1.46 billion.

Creative Europe consists of three Sub-programmes:

- a) a MEDIA Sub-programme;
- b) a Culture Sub-programme
- c) a Cross-sectoral Strand

4.0.1 MEDIA Sub-programme

Creative Europe aims to support initiatives that can generate a real impact for the **audiovisual sector** across Europe. MEDIA provides support for:

- the development of a comprehensive range of training measures promoting the acquisition and improvement of skills and competences by audiovisual professionals;
- the development of European audiovisual works;
- activities aiming to support European audiovisual production companies;
- activities helping European and international co-production partners to come together;
- facilitating access to professional audiovisual trade events and markets and the use of online business tools inside and outside the Union;
- establishing systems of support for the distribution of non-national European films through theatrical distribution and on other platforms;
- facilitating the circulation of European films worldwide and of international films in the Union on all distribution platforms;
- a European cinema operators' network screening a significant proportion of non-national European films;
- initiatives presenting and promoting a diversity of European audiovisual works;

- activities aimed at promoting film literacy and at increasing audiences' knowledge of, and interest in, European audiovisual works, including the audiovisual and cinematographic heritage, in particular among young audiences;
- innovative actions testing new business models and tools in areas likely to be influenced by the introduction and use of digital technologies.

4.0.2 Culture Sub-programme

Despite the potential of the **culture sector**, it remains poorly exploited and at risk, both from an **environmental and human perspective**.

The Culture Sub-programme provides support for:

- transnational cooperation projects bringing together cultural and creative organisations from different countries to undertake sectoral or cross-sectoral activities;
- activities by European networks of cultural and creative organisations from different countries;
- activities by organisations with a European vocation fostering the development of emerging talent and stimulating the transnational mobility of cultural and creative players and circulation of works, with the potential to exert a broad influence on the cultural and creative sectors and to provide for lasting effects;
- literary translation and its further promotion.

4.0.3 Cross-sectoral Strand

The Cross-sectoral strand of the Creative Europe programme is designed to serve three primary functions:

- The establishment of a Guarantee Facility targeting the cultural and creative sectors;
- The promotion of transnational policy cooperation;
- Supporting a network of Creative Europe Desks.

Also, the European Commission supports a variety of actions, initiatives and prizes, such as the European Capitals of Culture, the EU Literature prize, the EU Architecture Prize etc.

Each year, an annual Work Programme for the implementation of the Creative Europe programme is published and contains the Grants to be awarded in the three Sub-programmes.

Calls for proposals and tenders are regularly published in the Creative Culture website. The maximum co-funding rate awarded may vary from a call to another.

4.1 Suggestions and conclusion

While some calls of the Culture Sub-programme have the potential to raise the interest of DARIAH members, from our experience so far, it's an hard action to match from academia as proposals tend to be **assessed negatively for being too much into research**. The suggestion is to privilege arts, mobility and exchange as a mechanism for research outreach/partnership. However, the programme remains interesting for its potential for **knowledge exchange, citizen engagement and new partnerships**. In particular, we think that the following calls might be interesting:

- European Cooperation projects
- Support to European Networks

Creative Europe desks can help to find valuable information for developing a proposal and build the partnership.

Contact: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/contact_en

5. Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU programme for **Education, Training, Youth and Sport** for the 2014-2020 period. Erasmus+ merged seven prior programmes to offer opportunities for a wide variety of individuals and organisations. The aim of Erasmus+ is to contribute to the **Europe 2020 Strategy for growth, jobs, social equity and inclusion**, as well as the aims of the EU strategic framework for education and training (ET2020). Erasmus+ also aims to promote the sustainable development of its partners in the field of higher education, and contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy.

In order to achieve its objectives, the Erasmus+ programme implements the following 3 key actions:

Key Action 1 – **Mobility of Individuals**. This key actions supports:

- Mobility of learners and staff
- Erasmus Mundus joint Master degrees
- Erasmus+ Master Loans

Key Action 2 – **Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices**

- **Strategic Partnerships**, aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education training and youth and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields.)
- **Knowledge Alliances**, between higher education institutions and enterprises which aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning.
- **Sector Skills Alliances**, supporting the design and delivery of joint vocation training curricula and training methodologies.
- **Capacity-building** projects supporting cooperation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth.
- **IT support platforms**

Key Action 3 – **Support for policy reform**

- **Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth** for evidence-based policy making and monitoring.
- **Initiatives for policy innovation.**
- **Support to European policy tools** to facilitate transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits, to foster quality assurance, support validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance.
- **Cooperation with international organisations** with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity (such as the OECD and the Council of Europe), to strengthen the impact and added value of policies in the fields of education, training and youth.
- **Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion** involving public authorities, providers and stakeholders in the fields of education, training and youth for raising awareness about the European policy agendas.

#dariahTeach

#dariahTeach (the official name is DARIAH Reference Curriculum) is a project funded through an Erasmus + Strategic Partnership Grant, which began in January 2015 and ended in June 2017. Its goal is to develop online, open-source, high-quality, multilingual teaching materials for the digital arts and humanities. It also strengthens alliances and fosters innovative teaching and learning practices among members of the DARIAH network, under the lead of Maynooth University, with seven other participating institutions from seven countries (Austria, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Serbia and Switzerland).

The beta version of the #dariahTeach platform was launched on 23 March 2017 with four courses and two workshops.

#dariahTeach represents the first openly accessible Digital Humanities curriculum of its kind and will serve as a model for creating and delivering open-source asynchronous online educational materials, from which other communities can benefit.

<http://dariah.eu/teach/>

The programme has an overall indicative budget of 16 billion EUR for the seven years (2014-2020). **The level of funding for projects as well as the timeframe and participation rules are highly dependent to the type of action related.** Financial management is simplified and takes into account a wide range of unit costs. Calls for proposals and tenders are regularly published in the [Erasmus+](#) website. The actions of the Erasmus+ programme are divided into **decentralised actions**, managed in each programme country by National Agencies that are appointed by their national authorities, and **centralised actions**, managed at a European level by the EACEA in Brussels.

DigiLing

DigiLing is an Erasmus+ project (Strategic Partnership) coordinated by the University of Ljubljana with the goal of meeting the increasing European job market demands for digitally skilled linguists. This will be achieved through the creation of a trans-European e-learning hub containing online core modules covering the essential skills and competencies in Digital Linguistics.

The DigiLing objectives and the activities planned to achieve them are as follows: 1. Create an internationally approved model curriculum for Digital Linguistics by combining existing and new courses; 2. Train the teachers in relevant disciplines in the use of authoring tools and in the design of high quality online learning materials; 3. Design online courses for selected modules. The project is strictly connected to CLARIN-ERIC.

<http://www.digiling.eu/>

5.1 Suggestions and conclusion

While the programme **doesn't fund research per se**, Erasmus+ offers interesting funding opportunities in the fields of **higher education**, in particular under the Key Action 2, which is expected to produce innovative approaches by providing more attractive education and training programmes, use of participatory approaches and ICT based methodologies, support the exchange of good practises and reinforce networks, stimulate the flow and exchange of knowledge between higher education and enterprises (implementing new learning and teaching methods), development, testing and adaption of curricula, courses, learning materials and tools.

The example of **#dariahTeach** is of paramount importance. The project has been submitted by a working team of the **DARIAH VCC2 Research and Education Liaison**. The Virtual Competency Centre (VCC) Research and Education Liaison aims to promote and support the use of research data and ICT methods and technologies, including the DARIAH infrastructure. It is a clear example on how being member of DARIAH is a concrete added value and a successful evidence of a **DH funded project beyond the well-tested Horizon 2020 mechanism**.

#dariahTeach members have recently started the procedure for being approved as a **Working Group** in DARIAH to guarantee sustainability after the grant period has ended.

To receive more information on Erasmus+ and support, we suggest to contact the relevant National Agencies: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/contact_en.

6. Connecting Europe Facility

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is a EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructures at European level. It supports the development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services.

Within the CEF in Telecom, calls for supporting access to digital resources of European heritage, namely EUROPEANA, core service platform are opened. DARIAH has participated in a 14 months project [EUROPEANA DSI](#), while CNR-OVI has recently received support for participating to the project EUROPEANA collection: Rise of Literacy.

7. Funding Opportunities Hub

The funding opportunities Hub is a service offered by the National Coordination Office of DARIAH-IT, which helps partner institutions in finding appropriate funding opportunities.

The Hub offers an access to a registry which contains relevant information on funding opportunities at European level, especially for Horizon 2020, and highlights calls related to digital humanities and arts. Moreover, the registry offers information on research organizations and researchers involved in previous proposals, as well as tools developed by partners and which are collected as in-kind contributions.

The Hub is a key element to identify interesting funding opportunities for partner institutions. Moreover, it develops network activities and helps matchmaking.

Elisa Brunoni (hub@it.dariah.eu) is the contact point of the Funding Opportunities Hub.

In the framework of Work Package 3, there are ongoing discussions on how to scale the service for the whole DARIAH-EU in the following months.

Website: <http://it.dariah.eu/hub/>

8. Useful sources for information

- European Commission Regional Policy website:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm
- List of Managing Authorities:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/managingauthorities/
- European Structural and Investment Funds regulations:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/information/legislation/regulations/
- Regional Policy
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/basic/basic_2014_en.pdf
- INTERREG VC website:
<http://www.interreg4c.eu/programme/2014-2020/>
- Guide on “synergies between Horizon 2020, European Structural Funds and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes”:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf
- Digitisation of cultural heritage
- <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digitisation-of-cultural-heritage>
- Supporting cultural heritage
https://ec.europa.eu/culture/policy/culture-policies/cultural-heritage_en
- Creative Europe website:
http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/opportunities/index_en.htm
- COST website:
http://www.cost.eu/about_cost
- Overview of funding programmes:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/overview-funding-programmes_en

- Erasmus+ website
https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en
- Erasmus+ programme guide
http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/sites/erasmusplus/files/files/resources/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf