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Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union



## **YOUNG DIGITAL TREASURES**

**Focusing on young users to highlight,  
promote and show the history and  
culture of Europe, our joint European  
Heritage**

## Introduction

In 2021, the European Digital Treasures project announced a competition for high school students based in Norway, Malta, Hungary, Portugal, Austria and Spain, to participate in a multimedia contest called "Young Digital Treasures". The objective of the call was to make a free interpretation of one of the 60 archival documents about the Construction of Europe based on the digital catalogue and exhibit this interpre-



*The participants visiting the building of the National Archives of Hungary / Photo by: Zsuzsanna Lantos, NAH/*

tation through words and images in a digital format. The ultimate objective is to build European identity to bring young people closer to the knowledge of the historical roots of Europe, of what unites our values and us.

The 15 best storytellers selected by the jury received the prize to be part of an international archival camp in Budapest, Hungary from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. The palace of the National Archives of Hungary in the Castle District of Budapest hosted the youth camp.



*Portrait collage of the participating students  
/Photo by: Zsuzsanna Lantos, NAH/*



Through the archival camp, the selected students participated in a professional archival program. During the morning sessions they presented their successful winning projects with an explanation of why they chose the archival document they worked with and in their perspective why the documents they chose play a key role in a shaping European identity.

## Program

### Day 1

During the first two mornings of the camp each of the students presented their work they prepared for the call by sharing thoughts and ideas of the documents chosen. The aim of the projects' presentation was to provide a networking opportunity to share thoughts, experiences and ideas on how archival documents can help in our everyday life and how they provide a base to our scientific and historical researches. Sharing their views, students engaged in deep conversations with each other.

To ease the formal program, students got to visit the archival building through a personalised treasures hunt activity. The treasure hunt or escape building activity is a personalised team building activity in the format of escape room, with scenarios and unique puzzles in line with the archives' values. Players must search for clues, solve puzzles and overcome challenges. To do so, they must show cohesiveness, logical thinking, and communication skills.

The activity had two main goals: First was to give an insight into Hungarian Art history, by encouraging the participants to observe the details of the palace with an emphasis on the ornate elaborations and wall decorations, seccos and sculptures through riddles and different challenges.

The second goal was to help participants understand the purpose of the Archives in Hungary. For example, they had to solve a riddle about a specific document that is kept in the National Archive of Hungary, the patent of the famous invention, the hologram. When the riddle was



figured out, it guided the team to the original hologram of the Crown of St Stephen, King of Hungary which is placed in the Exhibition Hall. Through this activity, the students besides gaining a theoretical knowledge, also had a hands-on, 21<sup>st</sup> century experience on the purpose of an archival document.

### Day 2

On the second day, following the presentations, participants had the opportunity to do a personalised storage room visit with a presentation of some of the documents chosen for the EDT project. This was followed by a restoration activity lead by professional conservators and restorers. This activity ensured the learning of archival conservation processes.

### Day 3

Day 3 had the purpose of the creation of the European Digital Treasures time capsule. Each of the participants has been requested before the camp to bring a very unique and special object with them to be put in the time capsule. By working in groups, each of the participants had to fill the capsules with reasonings, which and why of the selected documents are decisive documents for the understanding of European history. Reasons to leave evidence in a time capsule of the vision and experiences of the teenagers regarding European Identity and the History of Europe in 2022 for future generations of young people. This program resulted to be a very engaging activity for the participants, they have promised to come back to meet in Budapest and to dig out the capsule in 50 years time.

### Day 4

Day 4, the students had the chance to visit the Castle Garden and were given a guided tour of the European Digital Treasures exhibition. After the tour, the students had the opportunity to develop their newly acquired knowledge of the exhibition topic within the framework of an archival pedagogy study competition.

### Day 5

On the last day of the camp, Day 5, all participants had an outdoor activity, a field trip in the Open-Air museum in Szentendre. The museum undertakes the research of folk architecture, interior furnishings and way of life, the collection of tangible and intangible relics in the

Hungarian language territory, the safeguarding of this heritage, and providing access to this knowledge. This field trip provided an insight to Hungarian history, the rural life of Hungary.

## Conclusion

The participants through this very special and networking 5-day event enjoyed the highlights of Budapest by visiting the Hungarian Parliament, the Hungarian Open Air Museum in Szentendre and the European Digital Treasures archival exhibition at the Castle Garden. The Archival palace on Bécsi kapu square hosted different workshops connected to archival work such as conservation and storage. The students got to learn about the special features of the archival work in Hungary. One of the most important parts of the program of the camp was to create and bury a time capsule, which the participants have promised to visit in 50 years' time. This camp was a great opportunity to young treasurers not just to visit the beautiful city of Budapest but to experience the Hungarian culture, history and the archival work in Hungary whilst learning about European roots through different nations youngsters perspective.

Sneak-peek into the camp experience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moBLUur75IY>

Gallery:



*Burying the time capsule in the courtyard of the  
National Archives of Hungary  
/Photo by: Anna Palcsó, NAH/*



*Restoration workshop  
/Photo by: Anna Palcsó, NAH/*



*Preparing the time capsule in the Knights Hall of  
the National Archives of Hungary  
/Photo by: Anna Palcsó, NAH/*



*Visiting the parliament building  
/Photo by: Anna Palcsó, NAH/*





*Visiting the Open-Air Museum in Szentendre  
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