

THINKING THROUGH PLACES



Improving archival work with AI and with place

Thinking Through Places (TTP) is a European consortium developing a Horizon Europe proposal for September 2026. Working with four archives, the TTP project innovates how Artificial Intelligence (AI) together with place can enrich archival work practice.

The Importance of Place-based AI

Place means more than locations. Place shapes how we connect with culture and heritage — it is a potential reference for everything and anything—in objects, documents, and the very structure of archives.

Yet this potential remains largely undeveloped. By making place explicit, AI can connect archives, professionals, and citizens, opening new pathways for knowledge and innovation in society.

The *TTP* project enriches these connections by developing novel, place-based solutions with four archives from across Europe. The project applies work-centric approaches to strengthen AI skills, strategies, and develop cultural insights, recommendations, methods and tools to support AI integration in archival work practice. The scenarios are part of solutions and services for specific CCSI groups.

Driving Ethical AI Innovation with archives

The TTP project includes developments showing how AI can be responsibly integrated into cultural heritage work, e.g., sensitivity to archival holdings during curation and public access.

Through the pilot studies and scenario development, the project will identify challenges—such as provenance, inclusivity, and access to digitised materials—and propose evidence-based solutions and policy recommendations that put ethical concerns front and centre. Combining geographical perspectives with digital humanities expertise, TTP develops tools and insights to help CCSI stakeholders innovate with confidence and care. This adds attention to mental health

The TTP Consortium

Our consortium consists of 11 institutions including cultural creatives, researchers, and heritage groups. We develop AI innovations that strengthen cultural heritage and creative practice.

Why Place-related AI?

We treat place seriously. Places connect culture. By combining geographical and digital perspectives with archives, we uncover meaningful connections between data, heritage, and community—with rich potential for AI.

Innovating Connections

We foster collaboration between creators, institutions, and citizens. By merging critical AI methods with human expertise, we develop new ways to connect places, culture, and knowledge.

From Local Impact to European Insight

TTP digital innovations help develop archival resources and connect with European strategies and policy discussions.

Planned TTP Activities

An integral part of the proposed Thinking Through Places (TTP) project (2027–2030) will support archives in improving their work practice by integrating AI and place in specific work flows.

Key activities include:

- Developing a **self-assessment tool and materials** for archives looking to develop capacities and the best AI
- Organising **workshops and training** for different types and sizes of archives
- Holding **workshops on AI integration, ethics, and best practices**
- Offering **online and in-person meetings** to share knowledge
- Facilitating **challenger/solver pairs** to take on specific AI challenges for archives
- Supporting **training and mentoring** for future CCSI leaders
- Promoting **diversity, inclusion, and mental well-being** in all actions

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awareness to help enhance all connections of people to cultural heritage resources in archives.

Horizon Europe Proposal in 2026

The TTP consortium is preparing a Horizon Europe proposal for submission in September 2026, with activities expected to begin in 2027. Planned work includes case studies, collaborations, and surveys that will support CCSI groups in developing and applying AI responsibly, ensuring alignment with EU policy frameworks and regulations, including the AI Act. Through pilots, the project will generate tangible local impacts and scalable insights toward a trustworthy, human-centric European AI for society's archives and enhance their competitiveness.

What TTP Does

TTP unlocks the potential of place by embedding it into archival work practices. The project strengthens capacities, resilience, and inclusivity across European archives, enhances AI-based competitiveness, and develops new digital competences and policy inputs. The consortium provides insights, recommendations, methods, and tools to support AI integration—connecting Europe's cultural heritage with the innovations of tomorrow.

Interested in these topics?
Join the TTP Consortium!

