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Mingei

Representation and
preservation of
heritage crafts

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Mingei website



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 822336.

Mingei is a Horizon 2020 project that aims to digitize and transfer knowledge about both the tangible and intangible aspects of crafts. This covers the representation, preservation, and accessibility of craft as cultural heritage. Crafts include tangible artefacts, materials, and tools, as well as intangible dimensions, such as dexterity, skill, and the relationship between master and apprentice. These dimensions involve traditional and culturally identifying elements of the communities of practice, innovation, and artistic creation. At the same time, they are part of the history and economy of the areas and societies in which they flourish.

Aims & Objectives

To achieve digitisation and knowledge transfer, Mingei will bring together the specialized knowledge. This includes crafts practitioners and heritage professionals, co-creative design approaches and the latest developments in technology and digitization, such as motion capture and mixed reality applications, as well as semantic knowledge representation. Mingei will develop a craft representation protocol and a technical platform for organizing and associating representations of crafts.

Mingei will pave the way for the development of digital curation tools. These tools will help create narratives on societal, political, historical, cultural, and economic topics. This is done through storytelling and the motion-driven representation and visualization of craft practice and dexterity. These narratives will form a scientifically validated basis for the curation of immersive presentations.

Pilot studies

Mingei chose 3 crafts that exhibit richness in tangible and intangible dimensions, that are directly related to European history, to create pilots around.



Silk

The traditional craft of Jacquard weaving is still practiced at the Haus der Seidenkultur, a former silk weaving workshop turned into a museum. Silk weaving takes place in an organized environment, and is a unique form of machine-enabled craftsmanship. The pilot will explore the material culture of weaving, the societal and economic impact, and the historic significance of the church for Krefeld's textile industry.



Mastic

On the Greek island of Chios, a single type of tree has shaped not only the local trade and culture, but even the built environment; the Mastic tree. The production of mastic is a family occupation that requires laborious care throughout the year. It has been at the epicenter of local economy, culture, social identity and folk culture for centuries. The pilot will explore the impact of hyper-locality, as well as the challenges related to capturing a craft that is highly interwoven with the everyday life of a region.

Glass

Being centuries old, glassmaking brings together artistic skill with a thorough technical and sensory understanding of the material. It offers an excellent opportunity to capture dexterous hand and body gestures, as well as the organization of an industrialized workshop. The Glass pilot will be hosted in the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris.

