





## E-RIHS DIGILAB: a Data and Service Infrastructure

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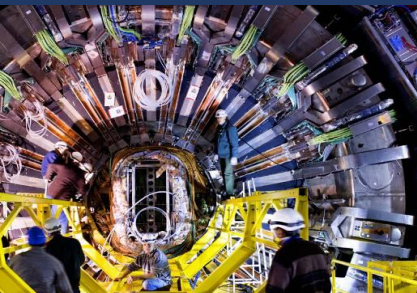




# a European research infrastructure...

...is based on **sharing** the best resources available to enable top-level research in specific scientific domains

- any researcher can apply to be a **user** of a RI
- any resource for cutting-edge research can be a **facility** in a RI
- the EU strategy forum for RIs ([www.esfri.eu](http://www.esfri.eu)) defines which RIs are strategic for EU development, and publishes a **Roadmap**

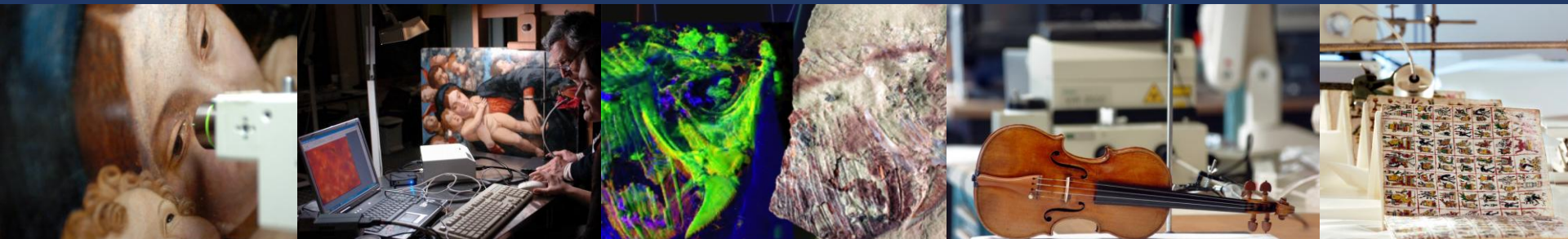




# heritage science is...

...a transdisciplinary scientific domain founded on the combination of knowledge from **arts**, **humanities**, **science** and **technology**

- providing a holistic approach to cultural and natural heritage **preservation**, **documentation**, **interpretation** and **management**
- heritage science approach leads to the **co-creation** of knowledge





# E-RIHS [ˈɪrɪs] European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science

- ❑ ESFRI Project for the implementation of the EU RI for heritage science – in ESFRI Roadmap since 2016 – coordinated by CNR, IT
- ❑ a **distributed** research infrastructure – about 100 facilities, currently involving 23 Countries (and counting...)
- ❑ a collection of **advanced tools** and **services** for a cross-disciplinary community of researchers







# E-RIHS access platforms



**ARCHLAB**

access heritage archives and collections



**DIGILAB**

data and tools for heritage research



**FIXLAB**

access LSF and advanced laboratories



**MOLAB**

mobile instruments for in-situ diagnostics

*access to all services but DIGILAB will be provided via periodic calls (every six months)*




# E-RIHS challenges

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- support the establishment of the **research area of heritage science**, fostering a transdisciplinary culture of exchange and cooperation
- pursue the **integration of world-class facilities** to play a prominent role at the global level
- carry out **alignment of diagnostic approaches** and use of best practices
- establish a common infrastructure of **open data** and **services**



# E-RIHS state of the art

- **E-RIHS** is in its preparatory phase, receiving funds by the EU project **E-RIHS PP**, also coordinated by CNR, IT
- some of **E-RIHS** services (access, training, dissemination) are provided by the EU project  **IPERION CH** ([www.iperionch.eu](http://www.iperionch.eu)) and by some national E-RIHS RIs
- **E-RIHS PP** is expected to deliver in 2019 all documents needed to start **E-RIHS** as a stable organization (ERIC)
- start of **E-RIHS ERIC** implementation phase is scheduled in 2021







# Pan-European dimension of the **E-RIHS**



## E-RIHS PP Partner Countries (16)

Italy (coordinating)

Belgium

Cyprus

Czech Republic

France

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Ireland

Israel

Poland

Portugal

Slovenia

Spain

The Netherlands

United Kingdom

## Observers

ICCROM

Romania

Russian Fed.

Austria

Brazil

Denmark

Sweden

USA

## Scientific contacts in:

Argentina

Australia

Canada

Cap Vert

China

Egypt

India

Lithuania

Mexico

Singapore

Taiwan



# Approaching (E-)RIHS global dimension

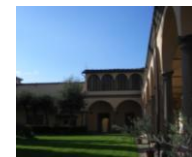
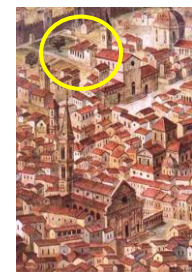
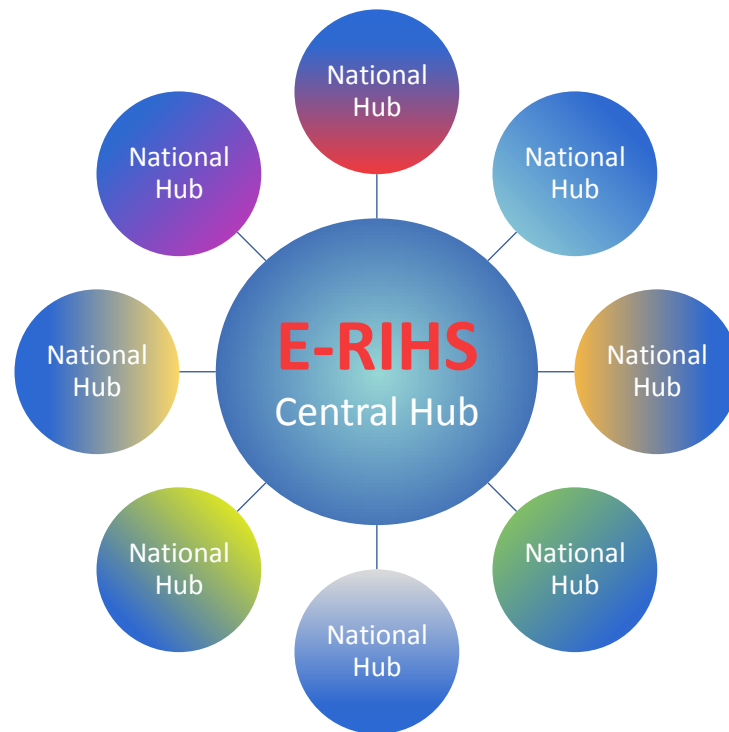


- while working to establish the **E-RIHS** Consortium in 2021 for EU Members and Associated Countries...
- ...partners are cooperating with ICCROM ( [www.iccrom.org](http://www.iccrom.org) ) to:
  - ❖ promote **E-RIHS** outside Europe
  - ❖ explore the potential of **E-RIHS** at global level
  - ❖ find suitable forms to grow **E-RIHS** into a distributed Global Research Infrastructure



# E-RIHS structure

- a Central Hub – to be seated in Florence – will be the unique access point of the RI
- National Hubs will organise facilities at national level
- only NHs will liaise with CH
- NHs will be responsible for committing the national in-kind contribution to **E-RIHS**





# Discovering the research potential of **E-RIHS**



**ARCHLAB**

access heritage archives and collections



**DIGILAB**

data and tools for heritage research



**FIXLAB**

access LSF and advanced laboratories



**MOLAB**

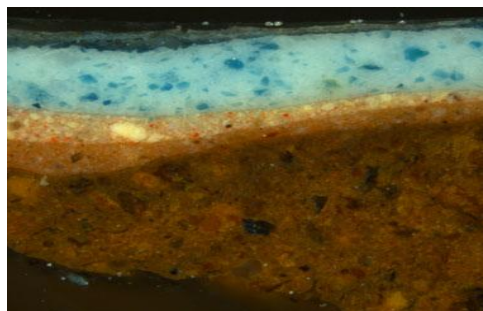
mobile instruments for in-situ diagnostics

*Highlights of access projects supporting research for heritage*



# ARCHLAB

scientific archives for heritage science







# ARCHLAB highlights - I



IPERION CH

## Scope of the access:

Indirect lost-wax casting and fusion welding: did Egyptian craftsmen master these two techniques to manufacture their large-scale bronze statues of the early first millennium BC?



## Heritage object:

Egyptian statue (BM EA60719)  
*height 83 cm, ~X century BC*

## Major research activities:

Access to the object and to reports and data at the BM

## Research outcome:

The project helped to better understand the beginnings of direct and indirect lost-wax casting of sculpture, predating large-scale Greek sculpture



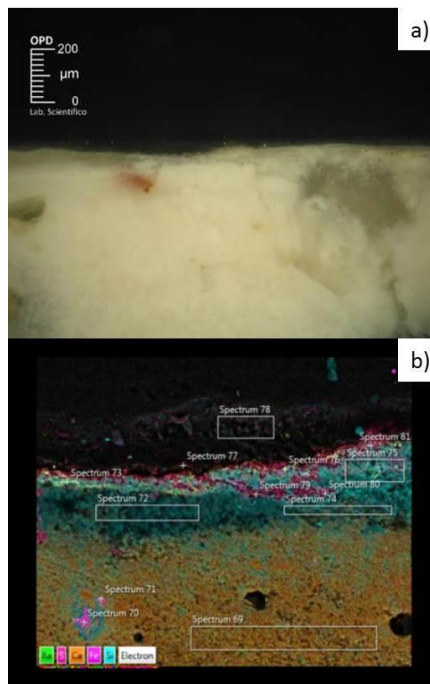
# ARCHLAB highlights - II



IPERION CH

## Scope of the access:

Assessing causes of yellowish gypsum efflorescence on wall paintings



## Heritage object:

Dome of Schleswig Germany,  
*XIII century*

## Major research activities:

Consultation of reports and data at OPD on similar cases of efflorescence; analytical measurements of samples

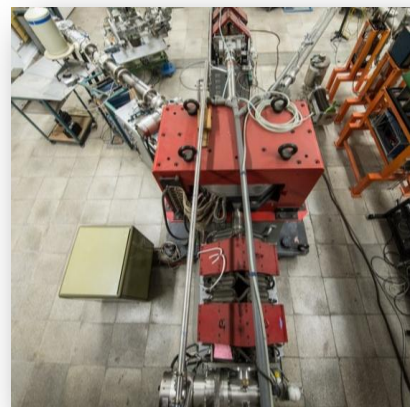
## Research outcome:

The nature of the deterioration of the wall paintings was discovered. Yellowish patinas can be attributed to organic materials present in the pore structure, originating from conservation interventions using fixatives or varnishes.



# FIXLAB

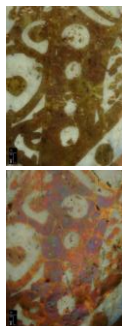
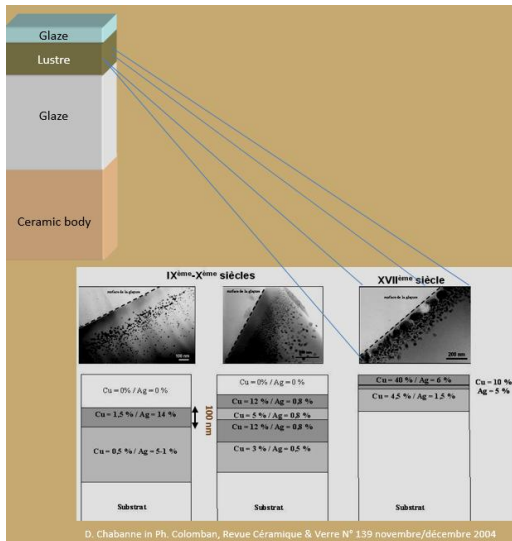
access to LSF and advanced laboratory facilities





## Scope of the access:

Understanding the lustre optical properties in relation to their composition – the observed dichroic behaviour is due to Ag/Cu nano-particles in the glaze

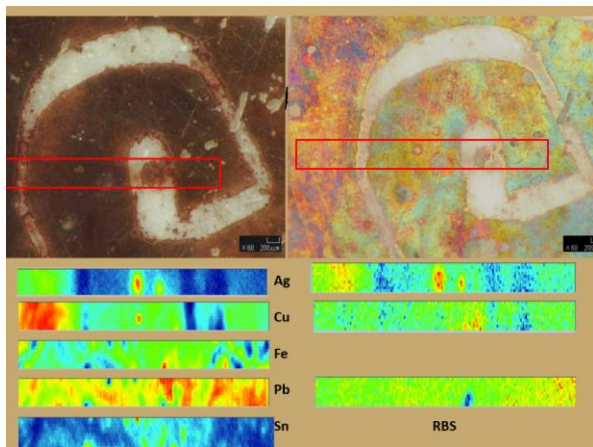


## Heritage objects:

Unique Iranian lustre tiles from the British Museum  
*XIV century*

## Major research activities:

PIXE and RBS at AGLAE



## Research outcomes:

Enrichment of the database of lustre recipes (>150 pieces measured).  
New protocol and data treatment for this type of analyses – PIXE and RBS mapping – at AGLAE.



# FIXLAB highlights - II



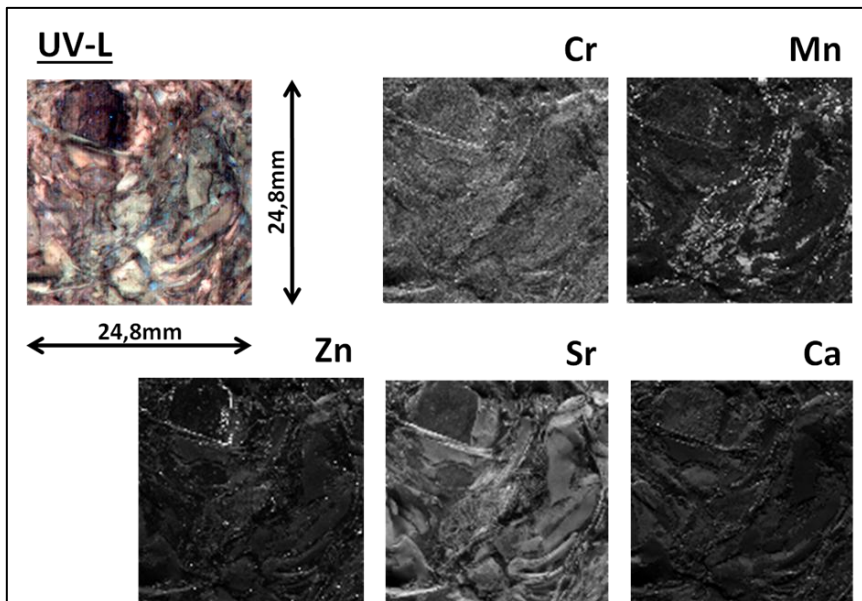
IPERION CH

## Scope of the access:

Deciphering exceptional fossilization process of 50 Myrs fossils from Italy

## Heritage object:

Fossil actinopterygians from the Eocene ~50 Myrs BC



## Major research activities:

Coupled synchrotron-X-ray fluorescence imaging and UV luminescence imaging at SOLEIL

## Research outcome:

Revealed the spatial distribution of trace elements within mineralized soft tissues and bones.





# MOLAB

mobile instruments for *in-situ* diagnostics





# MOLAB highlights - I

## Scope of the access:

Revealing a hidden underdrawing  
previously discovered by low-  
resolution instruments



## Heritage object:

*Virgin of the Rocks* by Leonardo ~1484  
@The National Gallery of London



## Major research activities:

Scanning Infrared and RGB imaging of the painting

## Research outcomes:

A fully sketched original Leonardo  
underdrawing was revealed thanks to the  
higher resolution of the MOLAB instrument.  
Resonance in international media was huge.

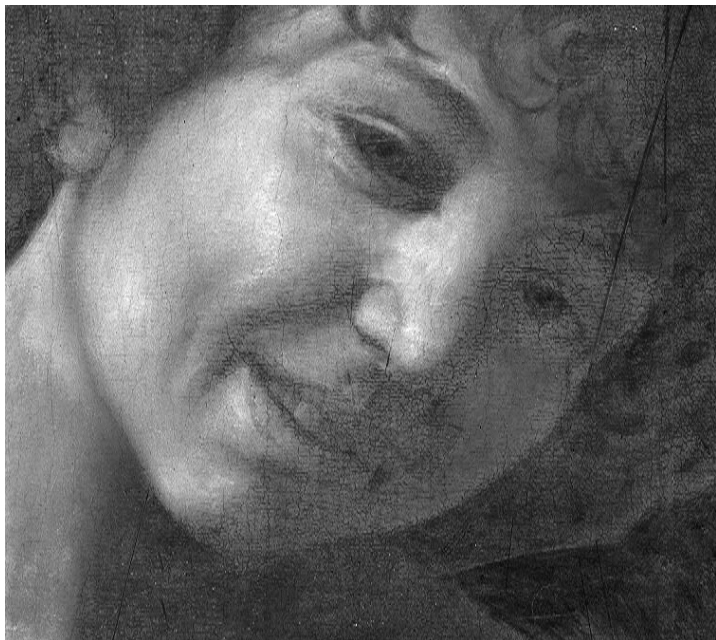
Photo © The National Gallery, London.



# MOLAB highlights - II

## Scope of the access:

Assessing the possible – and widely disputed  
– use of the *underdrawing* by Caravaggio



## Heritage object:

*Amor vincit omnia* by Caravaggio ~1602  
@Gemäldegalerie Berlin

## Major research activities:

Scanning Infrared and RGB imaging  
of the painting

## Research outcome:

Experimental evidence of the use  
of *underdrawing* by Caravaggio,  
ending a 400-year-long dispute.





## Scopes of the access:

Shedding light on the **darkening of yellow paint areas** coupled with signs of physical deterioration; **monitoring cleaning tests of the synthetic varnish.**



## Heritage object:

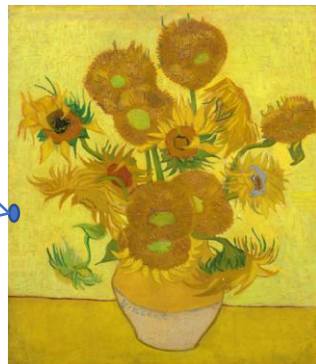
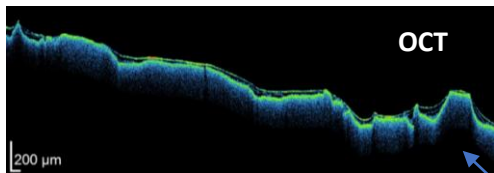
*Sunflowers* by Van Gogh 1889  
@ Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

## Major research activities:

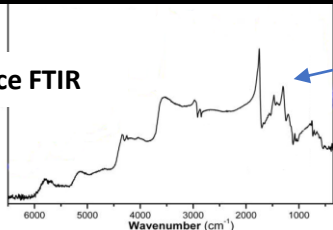
Investigate pigments by non invasive multi-analytical techniques  
Cleaning tests for varnish removal monitored by Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) and Reflectance FTIR

## Research outcomes:

Understanding of color alteration processes.  
Demonstration of feasibility of controlled varnish removal.  
Of great interest to scholars and general public alike.



Reflectance FTIR



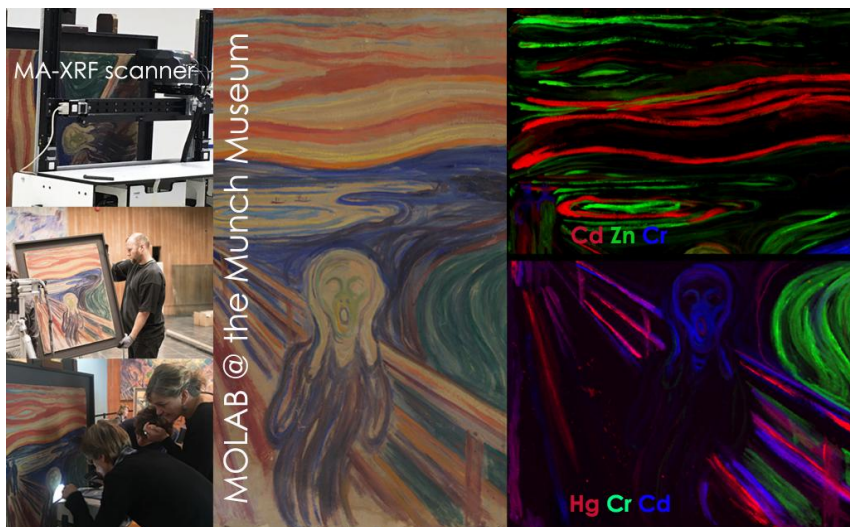


# MOLAB highlights - IV



## Scope of the access:

Investigation of the **painting, printing and drawing techniques** in 6 versions of *Scream* to understand the material characteristics of Munch's artistic experimentation and contribution to Modern art.



## Heritage object:

*Scream* by Edvard Munch 1893  
@ The Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway.

## Major research activities:

Multi-analytical non invasive techniques for the characterization of supports, organic and inorganic media in paint, drawing and printing layers  
Multi/hyperspectral imaging to map the materials and their conservation state

## Research outcome(s):

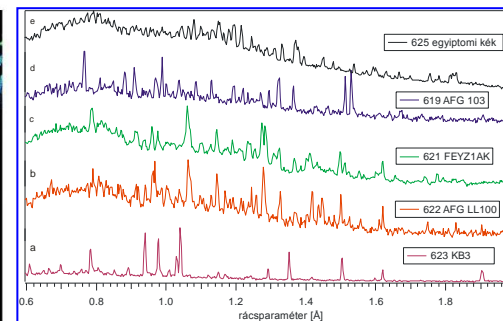
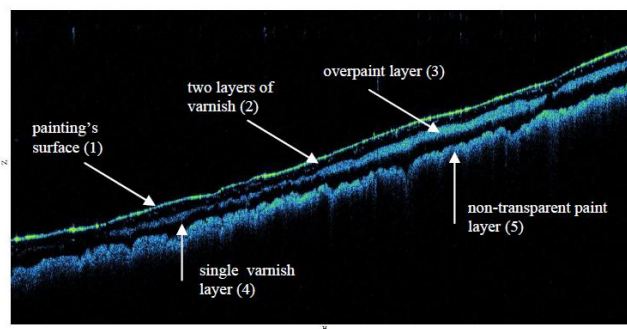
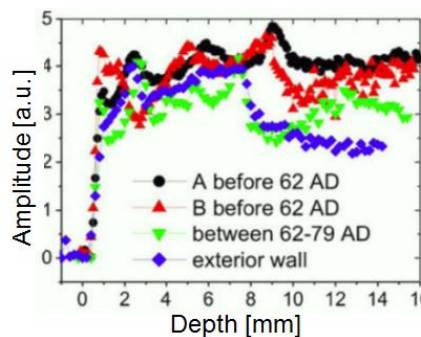
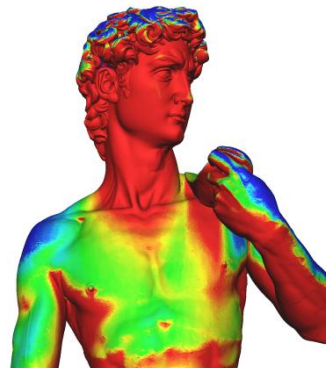
Innovative and interdisciplinary way of looking at the “Scream” in its different versions.  
This iconic image of Modern art was studied and displayed in all its material and technical details, bridging scientific knowledge and artistic illustration in a public-oriented approach.





# DIGILAB

digital datasets and tools for heritage science





# DIGILAB - the new access platform

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- **E-RIHS** adopts the FAIR, Open Data and Open Science principles
- **DIGILAB** will be the cloud-based heritage science **data and service** infrastructure provided by **E-RIHS** to the research community
- **E-RIHS** is working to open its **DIGILAB** services in cooperation with:
  - **DARIAH ERIC** - the Digital Research Infrastructure for Arts and Humanities, an ESFRI Landmark
  - **PARTHENOS** - EU project supporting digital development of all SSH RI
  - **ARIADNE** - the EU community of digital archaeology





# DIGILAB – opening data in heritage science

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- ❑ heritage data are often closed...
- ❑ **open by definition** but actually **restricted by necessity**
- ❑ capillary IPR management very hard to handle
- ❑ to overcome this situation, **DIGILAB** will start by creating registries of heritage data (opening the metadata, following the ARIADNE approach)
- ❑ at the same time, registries of **tools** will be created

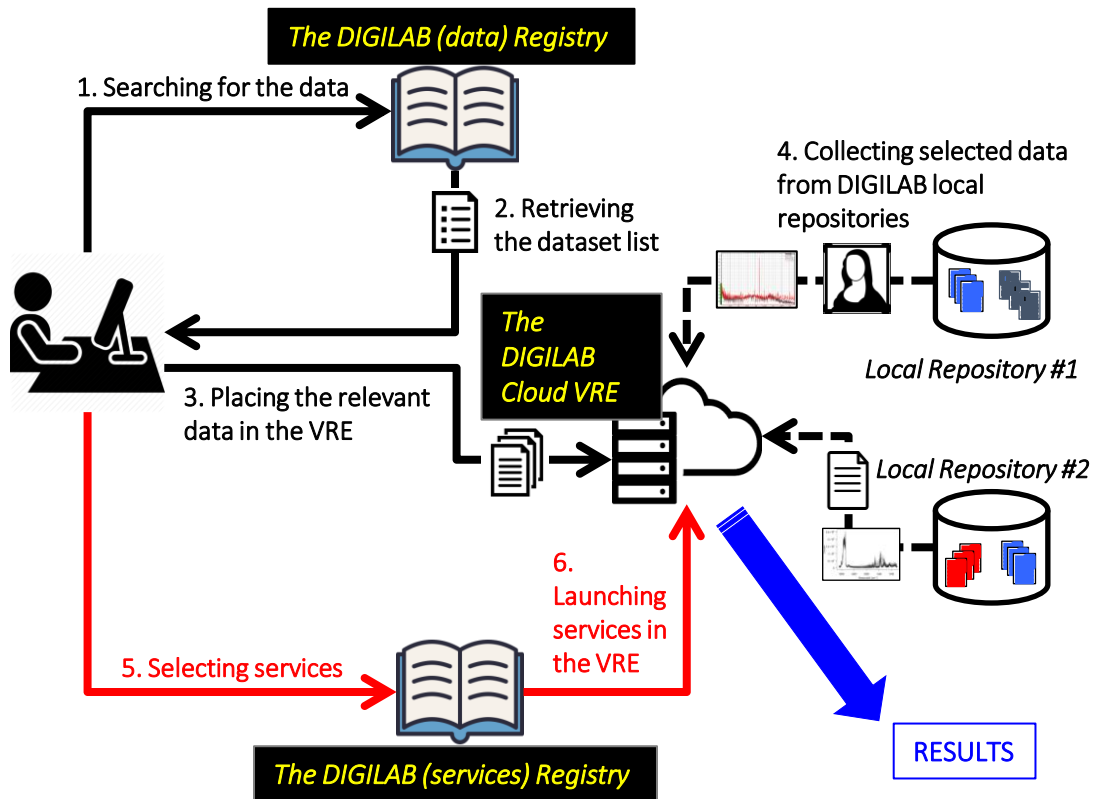


# DIGILAB in the EU Open Science Cloud

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- **E-RIHS** is at work to put all the key **DIGILAB** services in the new EOSC
- the **DIGILAB** VRE will be cloud-based
- data repositories will remain local
- IPR management demanded to the user-provider relationship (the “last mile” approach)





...coming soon on: [digilab.e-rihs.eu](http://digilab.e-rihs.eu)



## Growing **DIGILAB**...

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- **DIGILAB** will start as a cloud-based VRE linking heritage science data with services/applications
- **DIGILAB** will evolve in a system having both internal data repositories and applications and services...
- ...providing access to research data and other scientific documentation for professionals, practitioners and heritage managers



# International cooperation through **DIGILAB**

- **DIGILAB** VRE will grow by linking more and more data and services/applications
- both **DIGILAB** apps and data will be provided by contributors in the **E-RIHS** network
- non-EU providers will easily be able to contribute both applications and datasets to **DIGILAB**
- **DIGILAB** is the **E-RIHS** platform with the capacity to establish a **true international cooperation**



**E-RIHS**

EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE  
FOR HERITAGE SCIENCE

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**...thank you for your attention!**



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[www.esfri.eu](http://www.esfri.eu)