



EnrichEuropeana+ Enhanced UX in Transcribathon Platform

Version 1.0

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Introduction

EnrichEuropeana + (fully titled 'Enriching Europeana through citizen science and artificial intelligence - unlocking the 19th century') aims to enhance Europeana Transcribe (www.transcribathon.eu) as a service for cultural heritage institutions.

Scope

This document outlines the work carried out in Task 3.3, having the goal to enhance the user experience of the Transcribathon tool and to seamlessly integrate it with the Europeana Collections.

Objectives

The main objectives of EnrichEuropeana+ are:

- Engaging public users and professionals in enhancing the semantic and multilingual description of Cultural Heritage objects by continuing the development of Europeana Transcribe.
- Increasing accessibility of manuscripts related to historical events and societal transformations in Europe in the 19th century through a new Citizen Science crowdsourcing campaign which stimulates user engagement for transcribing, translating, and adding semantic enrichments.
- Transforming Europeana Transcribe into a service used by Cultural Heritage Institutions to crowdsource the enrichment of cultural object descriptions and improve the multilingualism of metadata.

The main objectives of **Task 3.3** are:

- Updating the existing design to improve user experience and extend with new functionalities
- Creating a seamless connection between Europeana.eu and Transcribathon.eu which makes it easier for people coming from Europeana.eu to navigate to (and back from) Transcribathon.eu and to transcribe an item there
- Improving the performance of the website

UX Analysis

An external review of the current UX and UI of the Transcribathon platform was performed, after which the shortcomings and the improvement points were identified, assessed and prioritised for implementation. The results of the assessment were collected in the following document:

- [UX Analysis document](#) (spreadsheet with functionality)

As result of the assessment made by Activity 3 partners, the tasks with the highest priority for the initial improvement phase include the followings:

- Loading time/Performance (row 19)*
- Story detail page
 - Inventory and general notes (row 10)
 - Metadata (row 11)
- System messages (row 14)
- Document status (row 15)
- Help (row 16)
- Cookie banner (row 20)
- Accessibility (row 24)
- Log in window offering people to log in using the Europeana account or Transcribathon.eu account

*indicated in the brackets are tasks' positions in the UX Analysis spreadsheet

In the following section, updated workflow and UI design, resulting from the UX analysis, is described.

Workflow

The updated workflow of the enrichment process starts with creating an account on transcribathon.eu. After clicking on “Transcribe now”, the user will select a document to transcribe, deciding on whether to work with the automatic handwritten text recognition tool (HTR) or start the transcription manually. In the former case, the user will be offered to either accept or edit the results of HTR. Upon adding further annotations, the user can change the status of the document, e.g. marking it ready for review. The review process is performed by an experienced user (champion), who is able to verify the enrichments' completion. Completed stories are then transferred to DEI, with sequential transfer: a) as annotations to Europeana, or b) to content providers, who can verify and update the original metadata. In the latter case, the re-ingestion of the updated content into Europeana follows. (Fig.1)

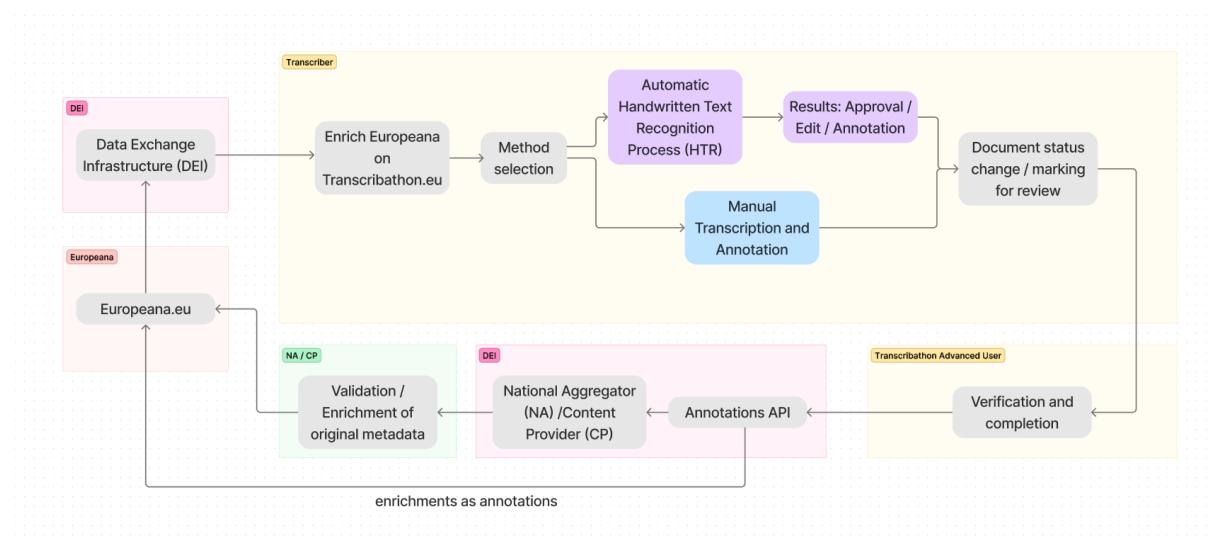


Fig. 1. End Users: Transcription and Enrichment Process

"Story" level

Currently, upon selecting a document to transcribe on Transcribathon platform, the user lands on a story page containing an items overview panel, a story description, the location, the enrichment status and the story metadata.

In the improved version of the page, users will be able to view more detailed information on the transcription progress (**1**), such as a number of users contributing to the transcription and how many enrichments have already been added to the story. (Fig. 2)

The most important metadata is highlighted and easily discoverable on the story page (**2**). Metadata, added by volunteers, will be visible on the story level (i.e. in the previous version it was visible on item level only) (**3**). The clear distinction between the two types of metadata (supplied by *cultural heritage institutions* vs. by *Transcribathon users*) is important to preserve.

Additional functionality will be provided, such as: display of a list with similar stories, which might present interest for the user (**4**), possibility to leave comments (i.e. discussion between users) (**5**), bookmarking and sharing the story (**6**).

The "Call to Transcribe" action is marked more clearly (**7**).

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The screenshot illustrates the updated design of the "Story Page" from EnrichEuropeana. The interface is organized into several sections:

- Header:** A navigation bar with links like "HOME", "ABOUT", "CONTACT", "LOGOUT", and "ENRICHMENT".
- Timeline:** A horizontal timeline at the top showing seven items, each with a small thumbnail and a colored square below it (1: blue, 2: yellow, 3: green, 4: red, 5: orange, 6: purple, 7: pink). Below the timeline is a "START TRANSCRIPTION" button.
- Item View:** A detailed view of item 1, titled "The Wide Streets Commission (1758 – 1851)". It includes a historical map of Dublin, a progress bar (100%), and a table with metadata: DATE 1914-1918, LANGUAGE DE, ITEMS 285, PROVIDER Dublin City Library, and DATASET Europeana 1914-1918.
- Metadata:** A section titled "METADATA" with tabs for "By Contributor" and "By Users". It lists details for Thomas Sherrard, including his identifier (#0p09ks786), document language (eng), and publisher (Dublin City Library and Archive).
- Location:** A map showing the locations of the items, with markers for Dublin, Ireland, and Waterford, Ireland.
- Similar Stories:** A section titled "SIMILAR STORIES" featuring three cards, each with a thumbnail, title ("THE TITLE OF THE STORY FULL TITLE"), and a snippet of text.
- Comments:** A section titled "Comments" with a "Add your comment" button. It displays two comments from users "lorm_poum_w000" and "lorm_poum_w000" with timestamps (25/05/2017, 15:30).

Fig. 2. Updated Design of "Story Page"

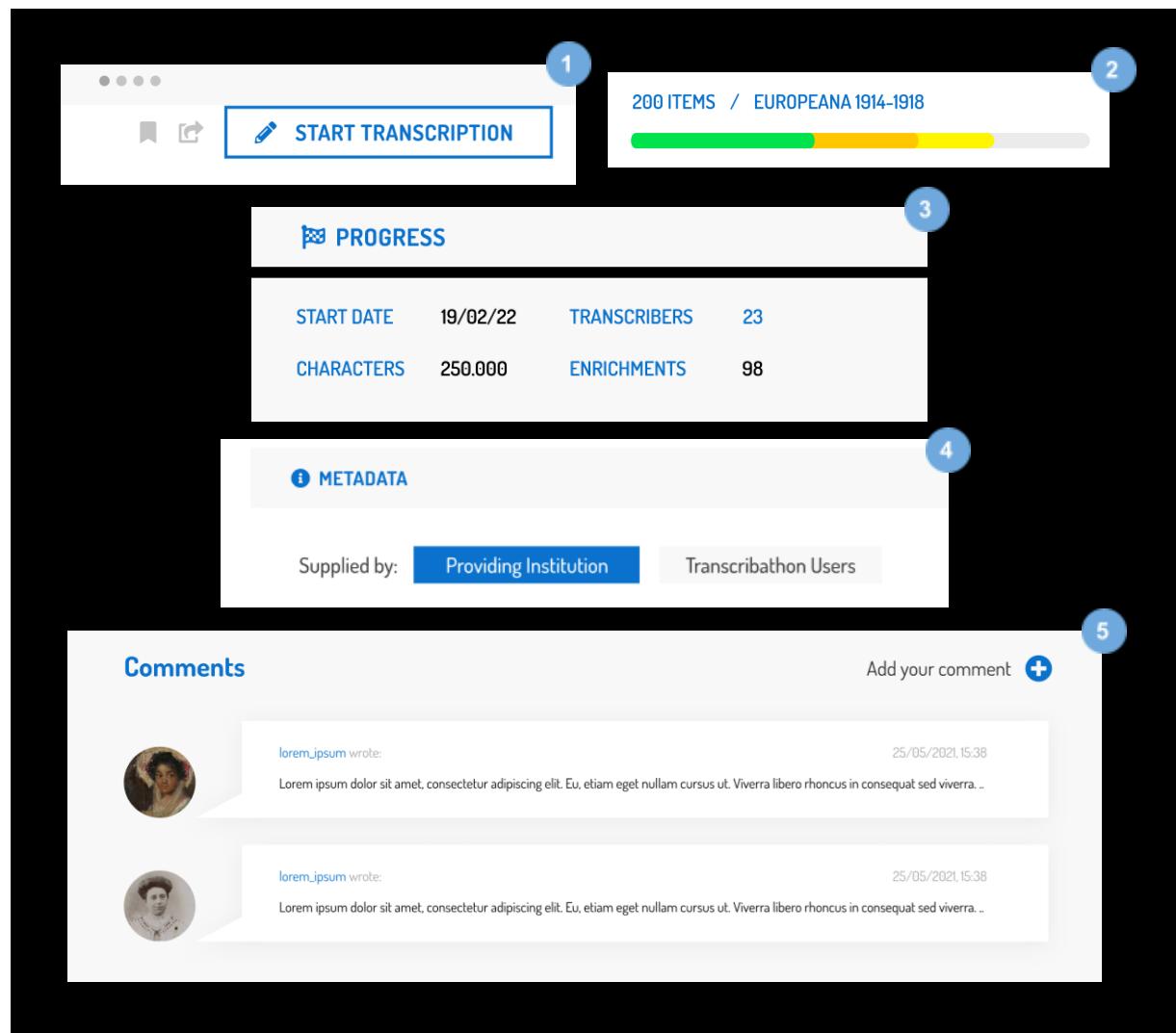


Fig.3. "Story Page" elements close-ups: (1) 'bookmark story', 'share story', Call to Transcribe button; (2) fragment of 'similar stories' widget - short info about the story and its enrichment status (colour-coded); (3) detailed enrichment info for an individual story - date of the first edit, characters transcribed in the story, number of users who worked on the story, number of enrichments added to the story; (4) filter story information - differentiation between two types: supplied by providing institutions or Transcribathon users; (5) Comments section.

"Item" level

Central to the updated workflow is the addition of the item page in read only mode (Fig.4). This page appears upon selecting an item at the "story" level. It shows all added enrichments and offers an ability to select or download them, without having to register.

The mockup illustrates the 'Item' level page design:

- Timeline:** A horizontal timeline at the top displays seven manuscript pages (labeled 1-7) with yellow callout boxes highlighting specific areas of interest. Navigation arrows are on either side of the timeline.
- Transcription:** Below the timeline, a large text area contains a transcription of the manuscript. It includes a 'TRANSCRIPTION' button, an 'EDITED' status indicator, and a pencil icon.
- Metadata:** A sidebar titled 'METADATA' lists the following details:
 - Contributor:** Thomas Sherrard, Sherrard, Thomas, Dublin City Library and Archive
 - Creator:** Sherrard | Thomas
 - Identifier:** #Op09k8786
 - Document Language:** eng
 - Publisher:** Dublin City Library and Archive
- Description:** A section describing the Wide Streets Commission re-design of medieval Dublin, mentioning minute books, architectural drawings, jury books, and over 800 manuscript maps. It includes a 'DESCRIPTION' button, a 'REVIEWED' status indicator, and a pencil icon.
- Location:** A map of Ireland showing the locations of Dublin, Waterford, and surrounding areas. It includes a 'LOCATION' button, a 'COMPLETED' status indicator, and a pencil icon.
- Comments:** A section for user comments. It includes a 'Comments' heading, a text input field for writing a comment, and a 'COMMENT' button. Two sample comments are shown, each with a timestamp (25/05/2021, 15:38):
 - Comment by lorem_ipsum: "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Eu, etiam eget nullam cursus ut. Viverra libe sed viverra..."
 - Comment by lorem_ipsum: "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Eu, etiam eget nullam cursus ut. Viverra libe sed viverra..."

Fig. 4. Mockup Design of "Item Page"

Transcription and Enrichment Editor

The design of the Transcription and Enrichment Editor has been modernised and the inner workflow improved (Fig. 5). Each enrichment task is distinctively labelled and has been assigned its own tab (1).

This version of the editor also includes the possibility to switch between items without leaving the full screen view, thus adding to the proficiency of the user (2). It is easy to “jump” to any of the previously discussed transcription levels (Story, Static item page, Next Item Edit).

To simplify the enrichment saving process, the new editor is supplied with the Save option that allows users to save all modifications with one click (3).

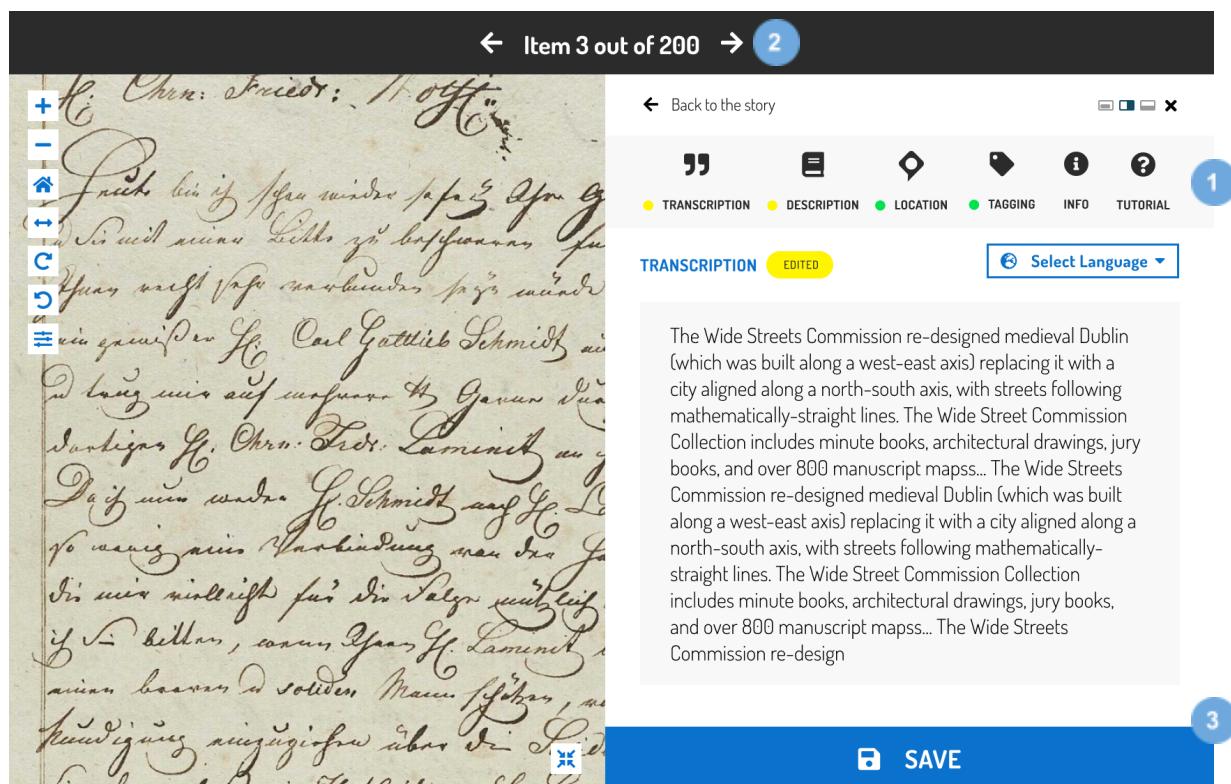


Fig. 5. Mockup design of full screen editor.

To secure the transcription in progress and avoid accidental loss of unsaved contributions, system warning messages have been added (Fig.6).

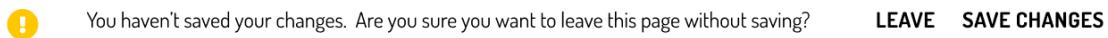


Fig.6. Example of warning messages

HTR Editor

For the seamless HTR Integration, several additional changes are required.

Text editor, provided by Transkribus (READ), will be graphically adjusted to the Transcribathon's interface, replacing its own text editor for certain priorly agreed-upon documents and datasets. Figure 7 represents the first Transkribus editor integration stage, whereas Figure 8 shows an adapted version of the new HTR editor.

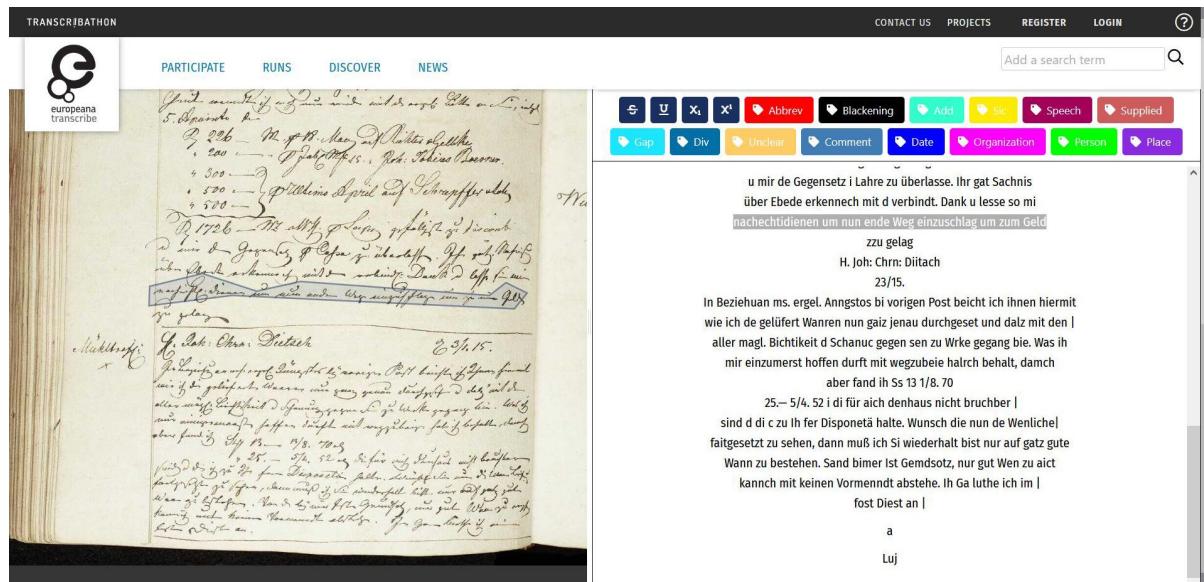


Fig. 7. HTR Editor integrated in Transcribathon. First version

This screenshot shows an updated version of the HTR Editor integration. The layout is similar to Figure 7, with the Transcribathon navigation bar at the top and a toolbar below it. The main area features a historical manuscript page on the left and a transcription on the right. The transcription includes several annotations: a blue box highlights the word 'Stadt' in the first line; a blue bracket spans across the middle section of the transcription; and a blue box highlights the word 'gefallen' in the bottom section. Below the transcription, there is a detailed explanatory text about the Wide Streets Commission's re-design of medieval Dublin. At the bottom right, there is a large blue 'SAVE' button.

Fig.8. Updated integration of Transkribus HTR Editor into Transcribathon

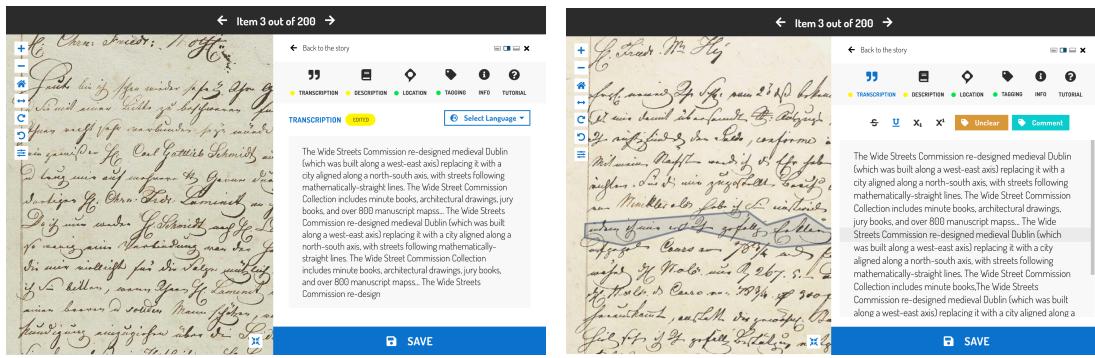


Fig. 9. Comparison between classic manual editor (left) and HTR editor (right)

Implementation

The Story page design requires new dynamic data like start date of the document, number of transcribers, count of enrichments, metadata from both user and institution, listing the locations of the story's items added by the users. Also featuring similar stories related to the dataset with a feature that enables users to add their comments on the document.

Status:

- The slider's design view is completed as per the new design.
- The static page (with php) of the design is currently in progress.
- Then the next major step will be to get the dynamic feature on the page by fetching the data from the database.
- And further necessary design improvements on view and layout will be the final step before deployment.

The new **Item page design** features the functionality that includes both the tinymce editor and HTR editor. The static version of the design is under progress which includes complete design modification of the existing item page. The design changes require both bootstrap and css modifications.

Status: The CRUD functionality for tinymce editor is done, but functionality has to be made, which can save the whole user written data into the database.

Backend functionality for invocation of the HTR Services

For invocation of the HTR service it was necessary to create new endpoints on the Transcribathon Platform API and a client which can consume both the Transkribus API (HTR service) and the new TP-API endpoints. The client for operation of the HTR data will be integrated in the backend of the Transcribathon Platform (Wordpress) and will be accessible by users with administrative rights. Currently a static page on the internal development server for testing different HTR models and stories has been created.

Europeana Call-to-action workflow

Presentation Link: [Call-to-action](#) ("Transcribe this story on Transcribathon") integration into europeana.eu.

The main change in the workflow would start from the Europeana platform, where a clear Call-to-Action to transcribe and enrich will be placed under the appropriate documents.

1. A person is on Europeana.eu on the item page.
2. The person clicks on the CTA on the item page to transcribe the item.
3. The person lands on that item page on Transcribathon.eu.
4. The person gets a prompt question/order to register/log in.
5. The person is offered the option to use their Europeana log in or Transcribathon log in.
6. The person is logged in.
7. The person transcribes the item.
8. The person wants to transcribe another item. OR The person wants to return to Europeana.eu.

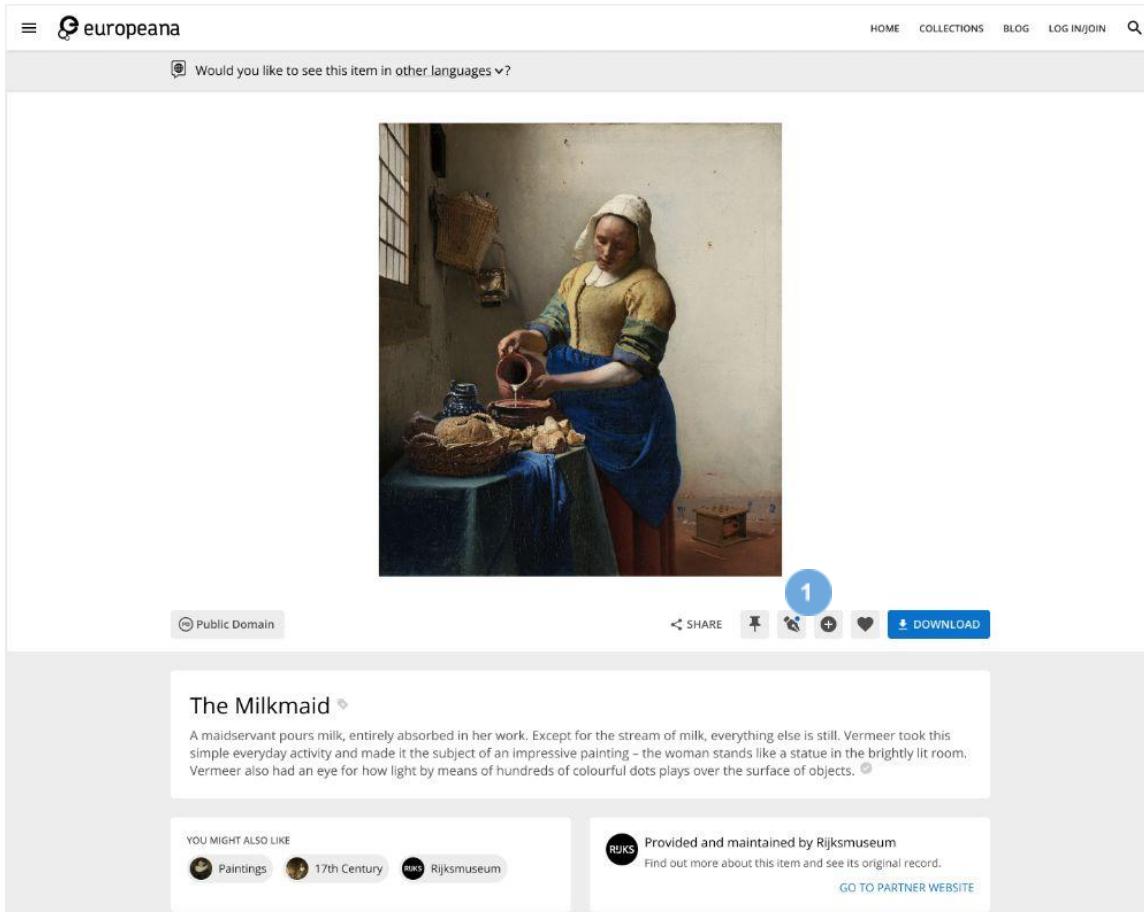


Fig. 10. Integration of "Transcribe Now" call to action

The 'transcribe' call to action is displayed using the pen icon (1), is located beneath the media next to the other calls to action such as the 'like' call to action displayed as a heart and 'add to a gallery' call to action which is displayed as a plus icon.

When a person clicks on the ‘transcribe’ call to action a popup appears clarifying the action and asking the person to confirm that they wish to proceed.

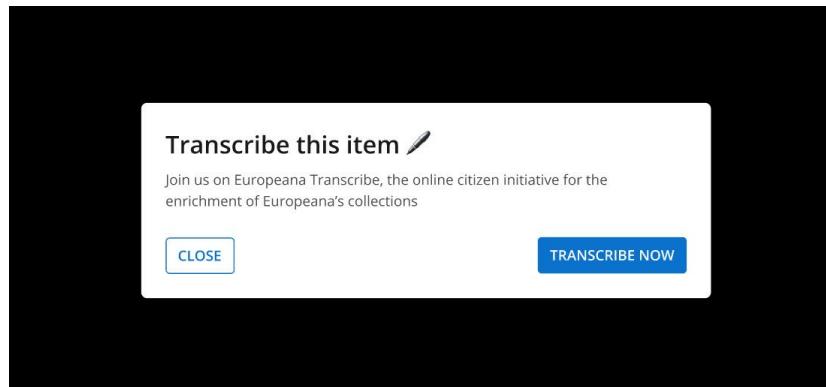


Fig. 11. “Transcribe this item” popup window

Conclusions and follow ups

This document presents the work carried out for achieving milestone 5 of EnrichEuropeana+ Action.

First, the current Transcribathon website and the transcription workflow have been analysed. In the next stage, the main improvement tasks have been identified and prioritised. Tasks included the refinement of the existing features, as well as the integration of new ones. During the process of the upgrade, accessibility requirements were taken into account.

Furthermore, design drafts and interactive prototypes have been created and are currently used for implementation.

The updated workflow and new UI will be tested by the development team, project partners, and advanced users, and will be continuously evaluated, updated and improved in the course of EnrichEuropeana+ project.

The draft works showcased in this document have been designed using the Figma designing tool. An interactive version of the new design and the workflow can be viewed and tested out online here: [Figma Prototype](#)
[https://www.figma.com/proto/isRmu4h0Tiw8hL97TYZRYo/Story-page-\(Copy\)?node-id=161%3A346&scaling=scale-down&page-id=0%3A1&starting-point-node-id=2%3A2&show Proto-sidebar=1](https://www.figma.com/proto/isRmu4h0Tiw8hL97TYZRYo/Story-page-(Copy)?node-id=161%3A346&scaling=scale-down&page-id=0%3A1&starting-point-node-id=2%3A2&show Proto-sidebar=1)