# Digital cooperation for sustainable heritage preservation

Lightning Talk – Martin Alvarez-Espinar 25/06/2025

> 23–27 June 2025 Lillestrøm, Norway

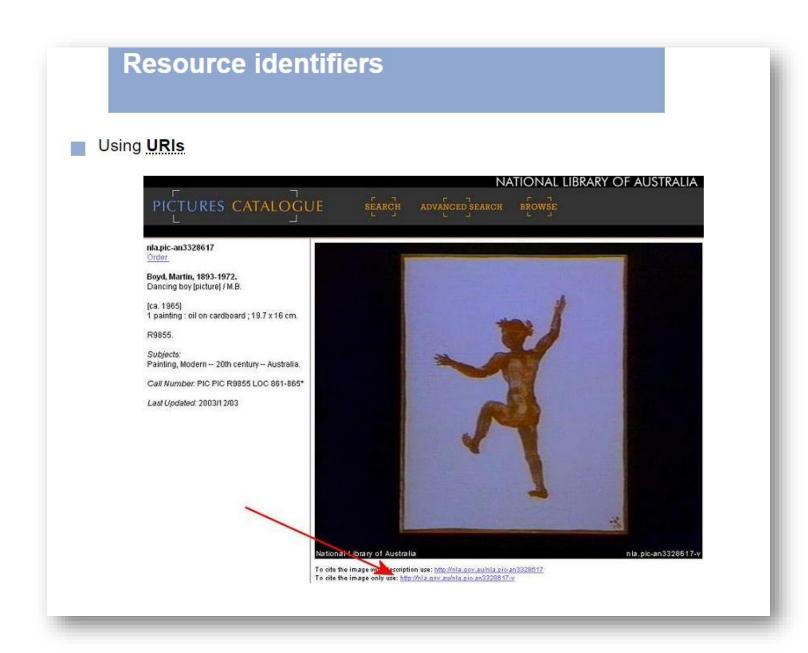


### About me...

- IT Engineer
- Web Standards... W3C
- Open Data advocate
- Linked Data advocate...

Local heritage enthusiast!





Talk at Workshop on Digital Libraries and Access to New Content (Barcelona, Oct 2005) <a href="https://espinr.github.io/talks/2005/1018-WebSemanticaREBIUN-MA/index.html">https://espinr.github.io/talks/2005/1018-WebSemanticaREBIUN-MA/index.html</a>

## Communities are proud of their culture & history

Heritage is a shared resource that both reflects and influences the essence of the communities' identity.

**Every community** has dozens of items in their towns (artworks or not) representing its history

- Statues, old buildings, bridges... but also
- castles, vineyards, gardens...
- Artworks may be nice-looking, but the origin and the history are the most important part... unknown to most of visitors.
- Archives help, but also the local experts





'De Koeieschieter' ('Cow Shooter')
A story from 1691 that explains why Leuven's people were nicknamed *koeschieters* or cow-shooters, after ending a "surprising French invasion" (in reality it was a herd of cows returning to the stable).

## Hidden (inaccessible?) gems

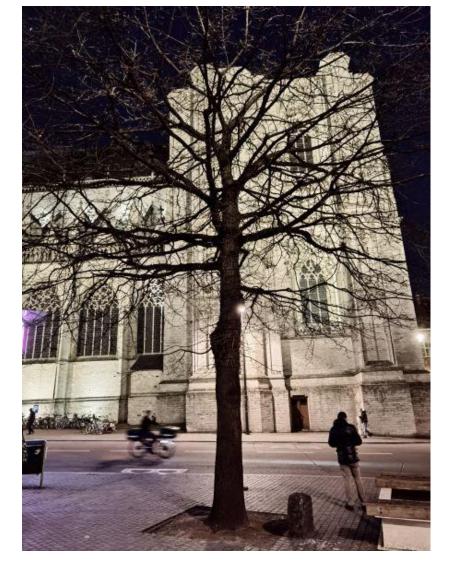


**IGF**<sup>20</sup><sub>25</sub>

NORWAY ---

Difficulties to understand foreign languages

- Not accessible for everyone
- Physically hidden?
- Multilingual?
- Multisensorial info?



Not easy to discover the non-popular monuments

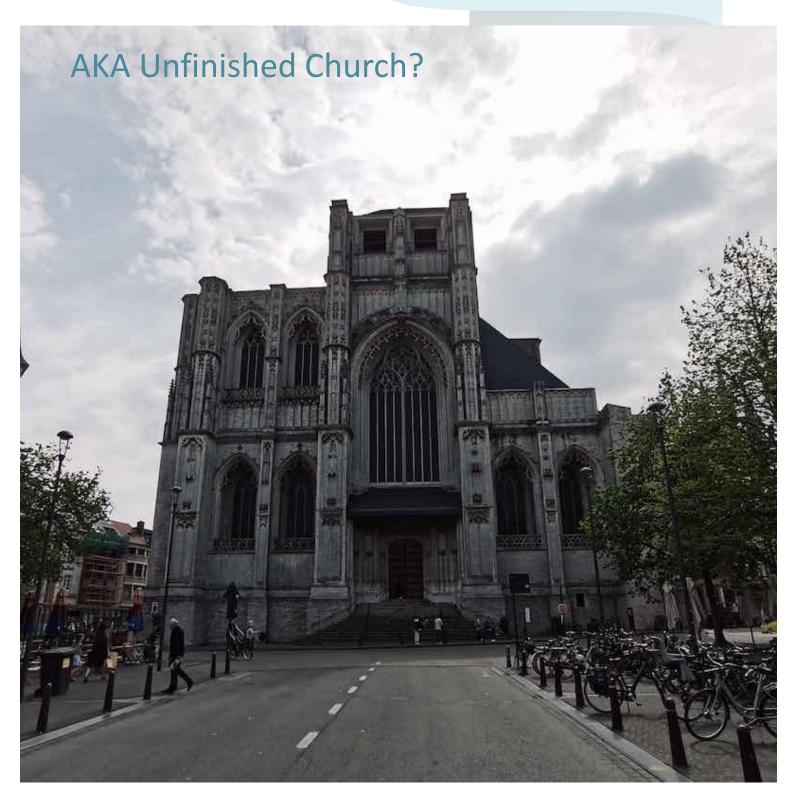
## ICT... our ally to preserve & understand

heritage

Easy to collect contextual information

- Geolocation, environment...
- Type of user (visitor, expert, citizen...)
- Increase accessibility (images, audio, text...)
- Large cities already have tourism apps/tools
- But most of small/medium cities usually do not have enough IT resources... but citizens are also experts and... enthusiasts.





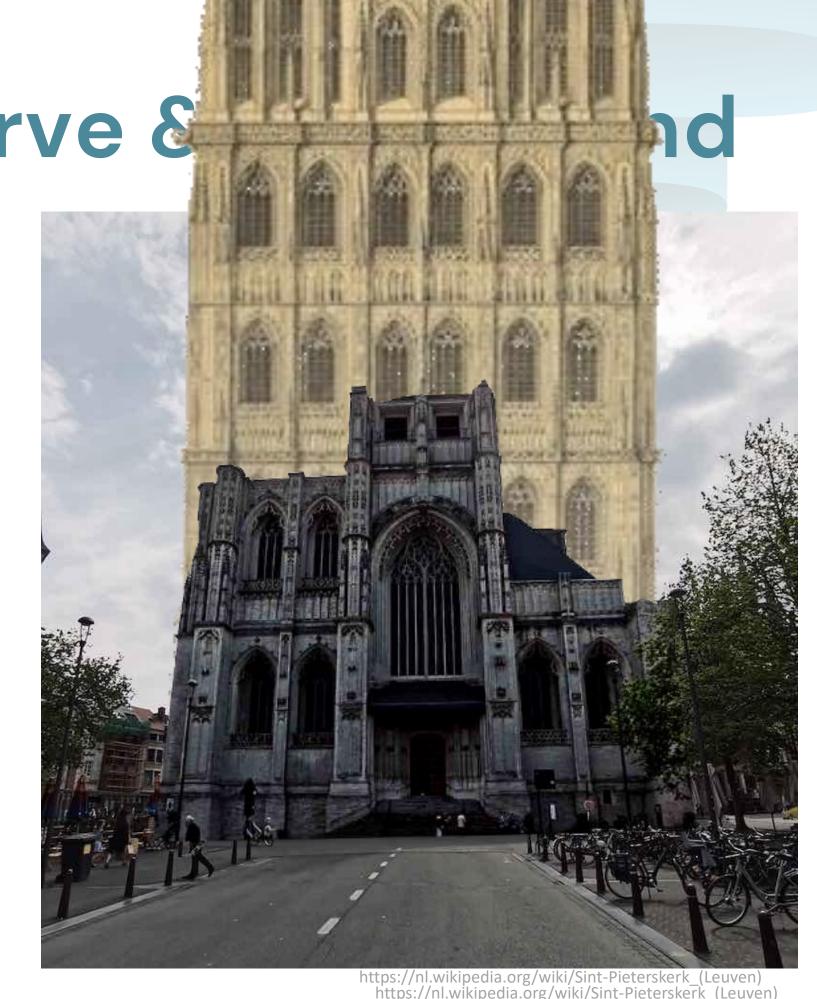
https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sint-Pieterskerk (Leuven)

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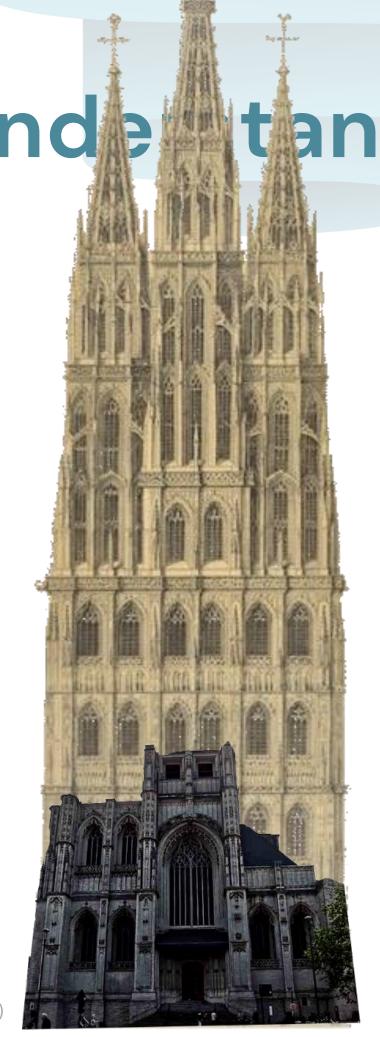
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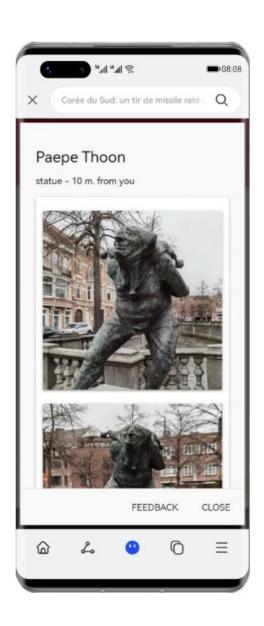
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# Heritage in... A collaborative methodology & toolset to support local heritage preservation





Maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the institutions & individual actions with **minimum costs** 

- Open (Linked) Data (official archives as the basis)
- Community-driven (popular anecdotes, stories...)
- Open Source (based on templates, code in Github)
- Sustainable (low-code approach)
- Accessible (ICT supporting diverse needs)
- Extensible (standards, adaptable to any scenario)



# Promotion of heritage in a feasible and realistic way, under low cost measures





Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

#### **TARGETS**

11.4

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Also linked to some points and indicators of **SDG4** through leveraging the cultural assets for education, and involving students in the participatory actions to digitize, store and protect the heritage locally.



## Heritage in... The Methodology

- 1. Clone & configure the project (git repository)
- 2. The database (from spreadsheets to linked data in one file)
- 3. Customize the app (i.e., colors, logos, attributions,... even new sections)
- 4. Upload and publish content (ready to use Github actions)
- 5.Run the app (test, publish, open it)

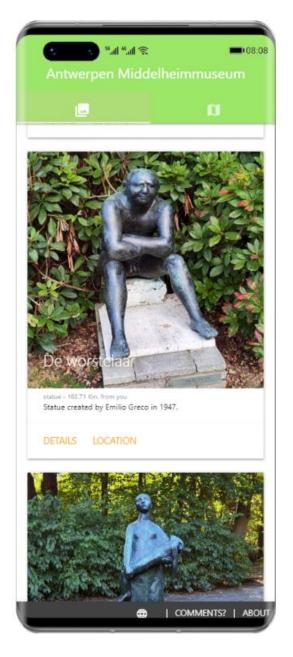


## Heritage in... The Methodology

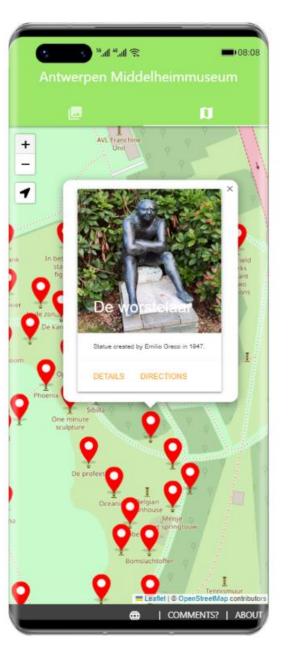
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## Configuration file & database









Native App (OpenHarmony) & Web App

```
"app": {
             "theme": {
                 "brand": "#9ce668",
                  "complementary": "#00ccf6"
              "repository_url": "https://github.
              "text_info": "This app was created
              "text_acknowledge": "Thanks to Ope
10
              "text_feedback": "Please let us kn
11
         "pois": [
12
14
              "id" : "2376124830",
              "type" : "statue",
              "lon": "4.4041079",
16
             "lat": "51.1796373",
             "name" : "Oceanide",
18
19
              "description" : "Sculpture created
              "images" : ["https://example.org/i
20
              "attributions": ["Source: Museums
21
22
              "wikidata": "id00293",
              "urls": ["https://www.openstreetma
26
```

## Customize color, languages, icons...

```
"content": {
    "en": {
        "app": {
            "theme": {
                "brand": "#071F32",
                "complementary": "#FAFAFA"
            "repository_url": "https://github.com/ow2-quick-app-initiative/poi-quick...",
            "text_info": "This app is created by local experts, so it ...",
            "text_acknowledge": "This is open-source and enriched by the community....",
            "text_feedback": "Please let us know if you want to contribute ....",
            "feedback_url": "https://ow2-quick-app-initiative.github.io/.../#get-involved",
            "issue url": "https://github.com/ow2-quick-app-initiative/issues/new?labels=fr/paris"
        "pois": []
```



## The app is ready in seconds...

#### Standards + Open-Source

- Progressive Web Application
- Native App (OpenHarmony)
- MiniApp (QuickApp)









### The app is ready in seconds...

## Well... in minutes ©

(tried yesterday in Oslo)



Please, list the most important touristic resources in Oslo







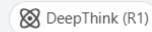
Oslo, the capital of Norway, is a vibrant city surrounded by nature, offering a mix of cultural, historical, and outdoor attractions. Here are some of the most important tourist resources in Oslo:

#### **Cultural & Historical Attractions**

- Viking Ship Museum (Vikingskipshuset) Home to remarkably preserved Viking ships and artifacts. \*
   (Note: Temporarily closed for renovation as part of the new Museum of the Viking Age, reopening around 2026-2027.)\*
- 2. **Munch Museum** Dedicated to Edvard Munch, Norway's most famous painter, featuring *The Scream* and other masterpieces.
- 3. **Norwegian Museum of Cultural History (Norsk Folkemuseum)** An open-air museum with historic buildings, including a stave church, showcasing Norwegian life through the centuries.
- 4. **Fram Museum** Exhibits the *Fram*, the strongest polar exploration ship, used by Amundsen and Nansen.
- 5. Kon-Tiki Museum Displays Thor Heyerdahl's legendary expeditions, including the Kon-Tiki raft.
- 6. **The Royal Palace (Slottet)** The official residence of the Norwegian monarch, surrounded by the beautiful Slottsparken.
- 7. **Akershus Fortress** A medieval castle and military base with museums and panoramic views of the harbor.
- 8. Oslo Opera House A stunning modern architectural masterpiece where visitors can walk on the roof.

Message DeepSeek











Please create a table with that information, one row per point of interest, and with the following columns: name of the PoI, description (1 paragraph), more (1 or 2 paragraphs with more detailed info), latitude, longitude, url to the wikipedia page, img (URL to an image), license (of the image, if known), type (the category of the POI as listed in the list already)



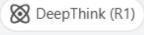




Here's a structured table with Oslo's top tourist attractions, including descriptions, coordinates, Wikipedia links, image URLs, and categories:

Name	Description	More Details
Viking Ship Museum	Houses three original Viking ships and artifacts from burial sites.	Currently closed for r new Museum of the \ and Gokstad ships.
Munch Museum	Dedicated to Edvard Munch, featuring <i>The Scream</i> and other expressionist works.	The new museum (or including rotating dis
Norwegian Folk Museum	Open-air museum with 160 historic buildings, including a stave church.	Hosts cultural events, culture. One of Europ
Fram Museum	Showcases the <i>Fram</i> , the ship used by polar explorers like Amundsen.	Interactive exhibits or can board the ship.
Kon-Tiki Museum	Displays Thor Heyerdahl's <i>Kon-Tiki</i> raft and <i>Ra II</i> papyrus	Focuses on his sc





D







```
Generate a JSON file with the Pols inside an array using following template: {

"id": "{id autogenerated in the form 00001, 0002, 0003 etc.}",

"type": "{type}",

"lon": "{longitude}",

"lat": "{latitude}",

"name": "{title of Pol}",

"description": "{Description}",

"more": "formed description}",

"images": ["{the image URL}"],

"attributions": ["{source where you found the resource or image license in text}"],

"URLs": []

}
```

0 2

Where's the JSON file with Oslo's points of interest (POIs) structured according to your template:





Here's the JSON file with Oslo's points of interest (POIs) structured according to your template:

```
json
        "pois": [
            "id": "00001",
            "type": "Cultural & Historical",
            "lon": 10.6844,
            "lat": 59.9048,
            "name": "Viking Ship Museum",
            "description": "Houses three original Viking ships and artifacts from burial sites.",
            "more": "Currently closed for renovation (reopening as part of the new Museum of the Vikin
      g Age). Known for the Oseberg and Gokstad ships.",
            "images": ["https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7d/Viking_Ship_Museum_0
      slo.jpg/640px-Viking_Ship_Museum_Oslo.jpg"],
            "attributions": ["CC BY-SA 4.0"],
            "URLs": ["https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_Ship_Museum_(Oslo)"]
            "id": "00002",
            "type": "Cultural & Historical",
            "lon": 10.7606,
            "lat": 59.9072,
            "name": "Munch Museum",
            "description": "Dedicated to Edvard Munch, featuring The Scream and other expressionist wo
      rks.",
            "more": "The new museum (opened 2021) has 11 floors of exhibits, including rotating displa
      ys of his 28,000 works.",
            "images": ["https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/3f/Munchmuseet_2021.jp
      g/640px-Munchmuseet_2021.jpg"],
            "attributions": ["CC BY-SA 4.0"],
Message DeepSeek

    ⊕ Search

DeepThink (R1)
```



#### Oslo Attractions

n



Cultural & Historical - 14 m. from

Norway's largest art collection, from ancient to modern (including The

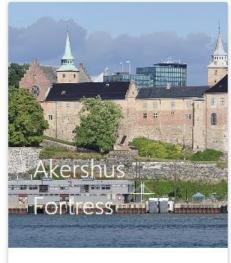
DETAILS LOCATION



Cultural & Historical - 715 m. from

Official residence of Norway's monarch, set in Slottsparken park.

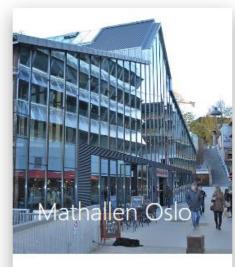
DETAILS LOCATION



Cultural & Historical - 1.18 Km. from you

Medieval castle with museums and views of the fjord.

DETAILS LOCATION



Modern & Unique - 1.20 Km. from you

Food hall with 30+ vendors selling Norwegian and international delicacies.

DETAILS LOCATION

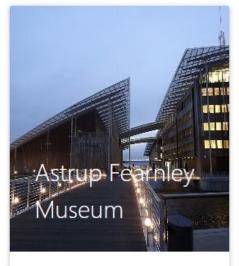


https://heritagein.info/oslo/





Cultural & Historical - 1.34 Km.



Modern & Unique - 1.63 Km. from



Cultural & Historical - 1.65 Km. from you



Outdoor & Scenic - 2.49 Km. from

## The App



#### **CONTEXTUAL**

Points of Interest shown by current distance

#### **CROWDSOURCED**

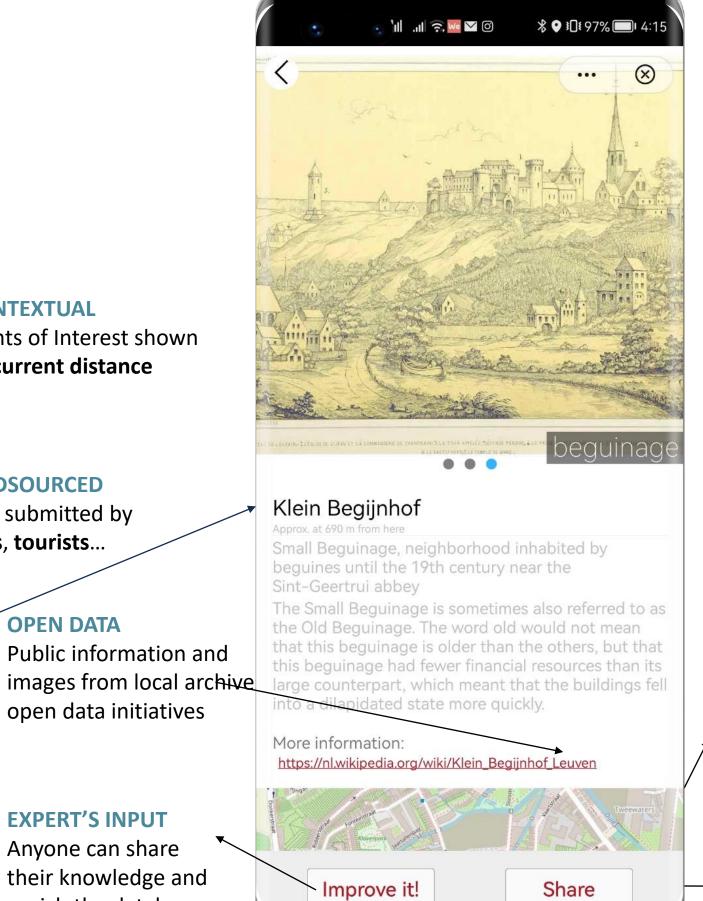
**Images** submitted by citizens, tourists...

#### **OPEN DATA**

Public information and open data initiatives

#### **EXPERT'S INPUT**

Anyone can share their knowledge and enrich the database





#### **USEFUL**

User's position on the map and the Pol



#### **PROMOTION**

Users can share the content and a link with their friends (Twitter, WeChat, etc.)

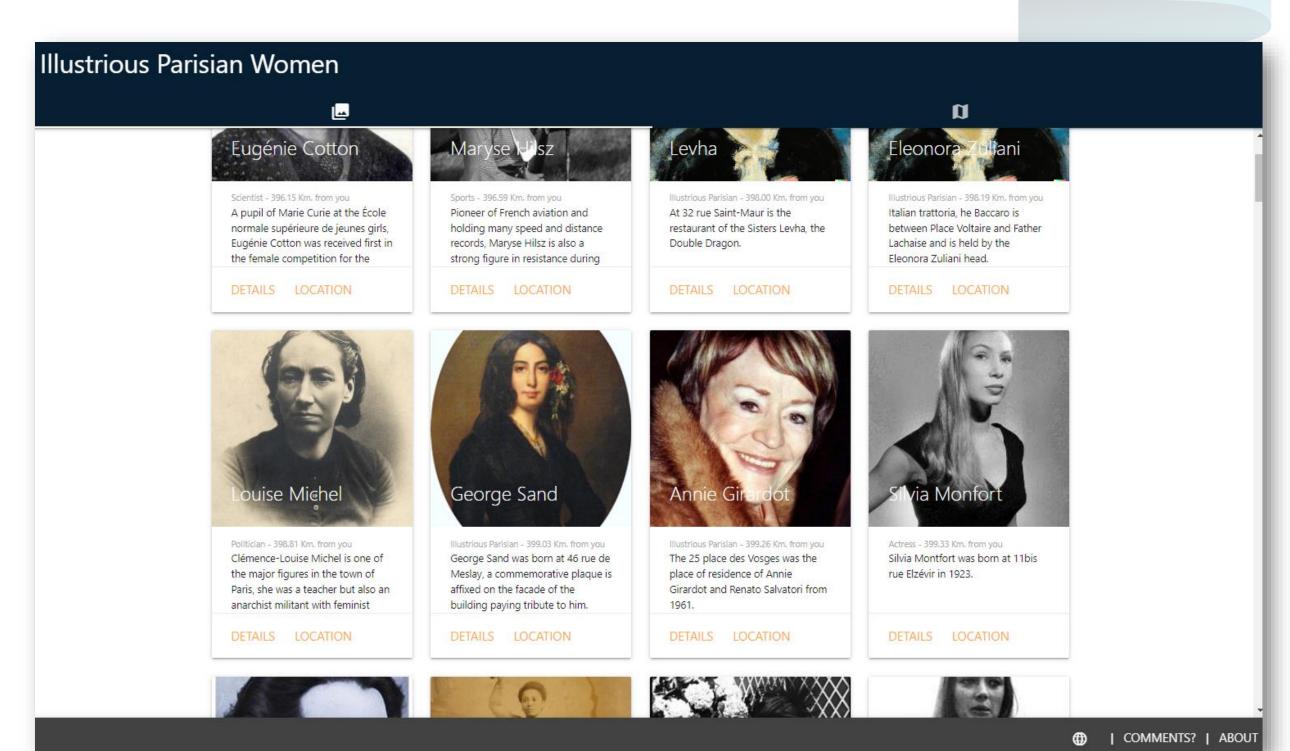


## Open to any type of heritage



https://heritagein.info/women/





# Customized and enriched by the experts (the locals)





https://youtu.be/m8zpySR8t7M

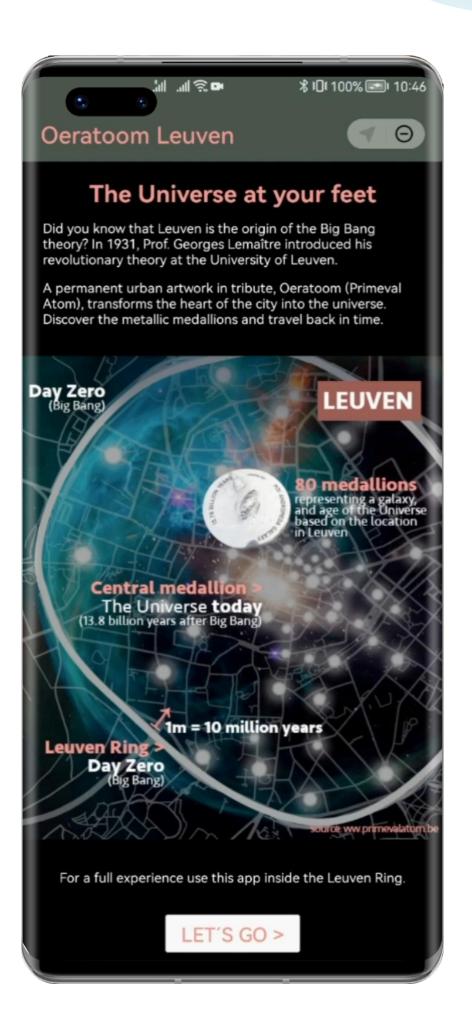
https://github.com/pbesteu/cultural-heritage-quick-app

# Adapted to specific artworks, resources... Astronomy →



https://youtu.be/TilDCRIq2ic

https://github.com/pbesteu/oeratoom-leuven-quick-app



## Preserve local, promote global

ICT enables universal local heritage preservation and global outreach, but... minimum toolsets, resources and policies are needed.

- Open Data: facilitate access to existing datasets/records;
- Open Source: tools and sample code to adapt/modify based on needs;
- Policies and infrastructure: leverage non-commercial solutions, initiatives
- Crowdsourcing: tools and support to engage local individuals... the real experts;
- Standards for accessibility and inclusivity: universal access by default.



## Thank you

