



Strengthening the cultural identity of the Danube region  
by building on common heritage of ART NOUVEAU

## **Art Nouveau Digital Catalogue**

### **Minute of expert meeting**

Part I

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

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## Short description of the Catalogue promoting the AN values of the Danube region

### What is the Art Nouveau Digital Catalogue?

The Art Nouveau Digital Catalogue [ANDC] represents a **collection** of Art Nouveau **sources**, arranged in a form of a **catalogue**, which sorts the digital platforms and / or analogue sources that contain information related to Art Nouveau heritage in the Danube region (literature, photography, films, etc.).

For easier access, the catalogue will be prepared in **digital format** and will be **structured** based on **topics**, with a **unitary format**.

### Main objective

The scope of the catalogue will be to **identify, analyze and process (new) information** related to the Art Nouveau in the participating regions.

The catalogue will act as a **joint platform for research**, it will provide support for professionals to identify and access the relevant information, which is currently rather challenging.

The digital platform (structured on topics and unitary format) will allow the interested readers to easily follow its content.

### Target groups

The digital catalogue is targeting mainly the **professional community** dealing with AN in the Danube region: local and national cultural institutions, public administrations, profile universities, researchers or NGOs (as Unions of Architects, organizations dealing with the preservation of cultural heritage, etc.).

These target groups will be also asked to **share with the partners** the most important sources of information they are aware of, so that the coverage of the catalogue will be as wide as possible. Hence, the output will be developed on the basis of the active contribution of its target groups. The participating partners will involve in the project these categories mainly through the events that will be organized.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The deliverable summarize the project partners meetings regarding the development of the Art Nouveau Digital Catalogue [ANDC] and outlines the steps to define the type of content to be detailed in the ANDC. The Minute of expert meetings includes information extracted from meetings (June 2021 – April 2022) in order to highlight the methodological path. Furthermore, it presents the situations/obstacles and the identified solutions for the development of the ANDC.

According to the search trends in the online environment, INP proposes the development of the ANDC as an internet-based platform with a domain associated to the institute, in order not to generate additional costs. The project partners can refer to it through direct link to the ANDC internet-based platform.

After discussions and exchange of experience, it was decided that ANDC should contain only to the online resources (listing websites and its details in dedicated record cards).

## 2. ANALYSIS OF DIGITAL (RE) SOURCES FOR ART NOUVEAU DIGITAL CATALOGUE

Considering that the purpose of the ANDC is to function as a platform for research and that the target group is represented by the professional community researching Art Nouveau heritage, the catalog is dedicated to **bibliographic (re)sources related to Art Nouveau**.

### Step 1 – Questionnaire + partner meeting in June 2021

INP developed a **questionnaire** in which defined the specialized terms for their common understanding by the project partners. The purpose was to consult the partners regarding:

- the main types of sources that should be contained primarily in the ANDC,
- in what form it is preferable for the information to be found on the platform,
- type of sources which can be found in the project partners library/archive,
- what is their main goal, target or desired outcome to be accomplished related to the ANDC,
- which are the main institutions in their country/city that own the most important sources related to Art Nouveau,
- experiences in similar projects etc.

INP centralized the results of the completed questionnaires, which were presented to the project partners during the **online meeting on June 23, 2021**.

Due to the fact that the project partners are institutions with different activity in the cultural field (museums, institutes for monuments protection, universities), the types of (re)sources are very diverse. Based on the results extracted from the questionnaires, INP proposed the development of the **ANDC with three sections**:

1. A section with digital platforms/resources (links) – for which record cards will be filled in regarding the content of the digital platform (website) in relation with Art Nouveau
2. A section of digitized sources (digitized within the project by project partners)
3. A section with record cards for the analogue sources - for which record cards will be filled in for the following types of sources: archive documents, books, periodicals / articles, photographs / illustrations / drawings, scientific research, other types of sources.

The work plan was also presented during the meeting.

The partners raised the following questions:

SITUATION / OBSTACLE	POSSIBLE SOLUTION
<p>Search engines</p> <p>From the experience of other previous projects, the partners specified that the search engines did not work at the expected parameters.</p>	<p>The ANDC internet-based platform will use the elastic search function independent of filters. The search will be done by keywords identified both in the specific keywords field from the record card and also in the descriptive part (free-text) from the (re)source record card. Controlled vocabulary for the keywords will be defined.</p> <p>To provide users the ability to sort, controlled filter types and vocabularies will be defined for each filter type.</p>
<p>Copyrights</p>	<p>For books, articles and scientific research that are protected by copyrights and cannot be digitized, there is the option to fill in record cards for them.</p>
<p>Record cards</p>	<p>INP will develop standard record card for each type of (re)source, which will contain mandatory and optional fields for filling in. Project partners will benefit of accounts for uploading filled in record cards in the ANDC internet-based platform.</p>
<p>Some project partners wish to upload the digitized sources within the project on their online platforms</p>	<p>This situation may lead at overlaps. INP will review the ANDC structure.</p>
<p>Connecting the Art Nouveau digital catalogue to other existing digital platforms</p>	<p>The connection can be made through web-links.</p> <p>Digitized sources can be uploaded on platforms managed by project partners or in the ANDC.</p> <p>Due to the allotted time, it is not possible to make connections like those in the Partage Plus – Europeana project (The Partage Plus website <a href="http://www.partage-plus.eu/">http://www.partage-plus.eu/</a> contains the methodology developed for digitizing sources which are available to the public on the Europeana platform <a href="https://www.europeana.eu/en">https://www.europeana.eu/en</a> ).</p>

## Step 2 – Development of the first proposal for the ANDC structure and mockup + partner meetings in July and September 2021

INP planned the first proposal for the ANDC structure. For the structure coherence, INP **reorganized the ANDC section types** and proposed to choose from the following:

1. A collection of digital platforms/resources (website) – for which record cards will be filled in regarding the content of the digital platform in relation with Art Nouveau;
2. A collection of record cards for analogue and digitized sources - for which record cards will be filled in for the following types of sources: archive documents, books, periodicals / articles, photographs / illustrations / drawings, scientific research, other types of sources;
3. A collection of digital platforms/resources (website) and a collection of record cards for analogue and digitized sources – includes both points 1 and 2 from the above; in order to maintain a balance on the number of uploaded record cards, the participating partners which will not digitize or fill in record cards for analogue/digitized sources, will provide more record cards for digital platforms/resources (websites).

INP developed the **first proposal of the ANDC for 3. A collection of digital platforms/resources (website) and a collection of record cards for analogue and digitized sources**. It refers to the static pages (about the Art Nouveau 2 project about the ANDC, the presentation of the project partners, deliverables) and the dynamic pages (with search engines – a. online resources/website and b. digitized and analogue sources). The online resources page is structured by: the country where the resources are located, the profile of the institution holding the resources (libraries, archives, museums, universities etc.). Digital sources are divided into the following types: archive documents, books, periodicals / articles, photographs / illustrations / drawings, scientific research, other types of sources. Filters apply to digitized source type, domain, country, creator. These are completed by the elastic search function.

The first ANDC proposal and mockup were presented to the MAK representatives in a **bilateral meeting on July 20, 2021**.

SITUATION / OBSTACLE	POSSIBLE SOLUTION
<p>Duplicate record cards for analog and digitized sources</p> <p>MAK manages a number of digital platforms such as MAK library catalog, journals published by the MAK, publications, etc., for which there are already filled in record cards.</p>	<p>In order to avoid the duplication of work on files related to analogue or digitized sources, it is necessary that the design of the ANDC, from an IT point of view, to be done based on the data mining IT process.</p>
<p>The compatibility of the record cards format with the databases managed by partners</p>	<p>The standard file format will be developed into an Excel file.</p> <p>In general, this format can be exported from most database management programs.</p>

Managing a large volume of sources	–
The digital platforms managed by MAK contain hundreds of sources displayed by searching for keywords related to the Art Nouveau artistic movement.	The ANDC (online based platform) will provide an API (a set of procedures and functions that allow the creation of an application that accesses the data of a database) and an ENDPOINT (search and retrieval of relevant data from a database). For security reasons, certain databases cannot be accessed.

INP has considered the option of using the data mining process for the entire ANDC, which involves scanning all the sources listed by certain keywords in the available online digital platforms (which include both those of the project partners and other potential national platforms and at European level). Scanning involves identifying unique attributes of the sources/item in order to retrieve them in the ANDC. The process is not iterative, for each platform there are defined other programming steps for attribute identification and retrieval. As a result of consultations with a number of IT specialists, the creation of the ANDC using the data mining process exceeds the time and budget allocated by the project.

**The first proposal for the ANDC structure and mockup was presented to all partner representatives during the meeting from September 8, 2021**, which took place during the SCOM session in Oradea.

The presentation highlighted the envisaged structure and operation of the internet-based platform which shall host the catalogue, specifying the contributions expected from the partners. The representatives of the partners then notified us about some challenges related to delivering their contribution.

SITUATION / OBSTACLE	POSSIBLE SOLUTION
Duplicate record cards for analog and digitized sources IMM, MAK, STUBA manages a series of digital platforms	Using the data mining process for the design of the ANDC or structure the digital catalog only as a collection of digital platforms (website).
Defining metadata	Metadata will be defined in accordance with CIDOC Conceptual Reference Mode, Europeana Data Model and Partage Plus project.
Copyrights holder	Usually, database owners have already clarified copyright details on their sites. In the case of ANDC, copyrights refer to the metadata owned by the institution that filled in the record card.
Intellectual property rights attached to resource	This information appears in the case of each database

(Re)using the platform developed in the previous Art Nouveau project, administrated by the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia	For the moment, the digital platform is not in usage. INP could take over the management of the <a href="https://www.andanube.eu/">https://www.andanube.eu/</a> platform if the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia will collaborate.
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Given the overall picture of the workload and the potential time, financial and human resources involved, the partners decided to develop the ANDC only as a collection of digital platforms/resources (website). The partners agreed to continue the discussions, maybe even at bilateral level, so the work on the platform can advance and it can be compatible with the systems by each partner.

### Step 3 – Development of the second proposal for the ANDC structure and mockup

INP developed the second proposal for the ANDC structure and mockup. The static pages (about the Art Nouveau 2 project; about the ANDC; the presentation of the project partners; deliverables) remained the same from the first proposal. The dynamic page is now dedicated only to the online resources (listing websites and its details in dedicated record cards). INP finalized the standard website record card to be filled in, detailing the attributes of the files with related explanations.

### Step 4 – Expert Meeting

The Expert Meeting took place in two halves: first part on 16.02.2022 and the second part on 18.02.2022. After all the details of the elaboration of the Digital Catalogue were understood, the issue of the record cards was discussed.

Record card templates were sent to all partners to test how to complete and to discuss particular issues that arise during completion. All submitted record cards received feedback and were discussed with partners during online meetings in April 2022.

It was established that until October 2022 every partner should fill in at least 10 record cards with various resources of digital and analog sources related with Art Nouveau.

SITUATION / OBSTACLE	POSSIBLE SOLUTION
Institutions that have more than one type or platform with different resources	The institutions will have as many record cards as types of resources: Public library / Public archive/ Museum library/ Museum archive/ Institute library/ Institute archive/ University library/ University archive/
More types of resources than first considered	INP will introduce two other types: Organization archive / Public repository



Introducing AN buildings and museums without referring to the bibliographic resources	The ANDC is dedicated to bibliographic (re)sources related to Art Nouveau. Only these types of resources will be referred to.
Lack of other institutions to fill record cards regarding their resources	A list with suggestions for institutions to be reached will be sent to the partners (County archives, Art museums, Public administrations – City Hall archive, NGO – databases, public platforms etc.)

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

INP updated the technical specifications for the development of the ANDC and defined the metadata for the digital platform sheet.

All the aspects of the elaboration and completion of the Digital Catalogue were discussed with the partners including the format and content of the record cards.