

PALIMPSEST Project

[*Newsletter*]

Vol.4 [April - June 2019]



University
of Ioannina



University
of Bari Aldo Moro



Region
of Epirus



Province
of Lecce



Municipality
of Ioannina

About PALIMPSEST

Our project will develop an interactive, open-air museum experience in urban spaces. PALIMPSEST aims to restore lost layers of the city's past, and thus, revitalize urban spaces and attract high quality tourism.

The project attempts to discuss the urban palimpsest as it is constructed by oral history and revived by art and culture as an open and progressive process, which involves many actors and takes place at the urban public space, configuring a new collective and participatory way to address culture and incite artistic creation.

PALIMPSEST addresses the common challenge of promoting tourism in less-developed areas, by animating the urban public space and recuperating cultural heritage assets through bottom-up, participatory procedures and artistic interventions that as a result create new cultural assets. It does so by developing an in-situ, localized archive of story-telling assets, which leads to an interactive, immaterial, open-air Museum experience in the urban space of the city, with the involvement of artists selected through an art competition.

PALIMPSEST aims to transform the urban public space's experience to a museistic, story-telling, interactive, thematic condition, which will revive the city and attract high quality tourism and at the same time it aspires to test in practice the way digital technologies affect and distort typical dipoles such as the author-audience, but also categories and typologies such as the museum and invite us to rethink their structure and characteristics.



Name Primary and Secondary Schools Visits

Place Ioannina, Greece

Date 04.2019

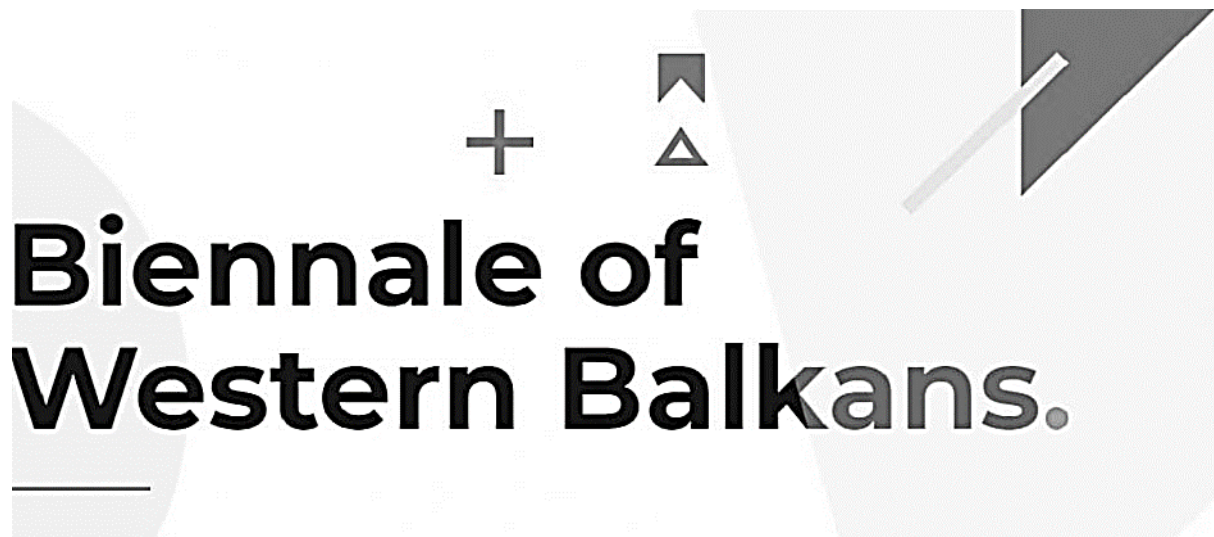
PALIMPSEST team members visited Primary and Secondary schools in Ioannina in order to familiarize the students with the project as a new type of museum experience, where they will be able to contribute urban legends and stories and later on witness how these will come to life in a mixed reality setting.

Oral history, subjective perception, digitization, new museum experiences, were some of the concepts discussed with the students in order to get them deeply involved in the project.

The involvement of the students is of great importance as the project's first stage involves an initial archive, created with the participation of schools and trans-generational collaboration. Students seek stories and memories related to the urban fabric of the city, from elder people in their familiar environment. They transcribe them, guiding the narrators to points that interest them and they tag, categorize and archive them. Tags used related to content are partly defined freely by the students and partly by the selection from a given tank of tags; while at the same time chronological and locative tags are also requested. Media used to

record the stories are chosen by the students but must include text.

During the visits the Palimpsest team gave instructions on how to collect stories from elderly family members and also assisted them with technical problems. The visits took place at the: 26th Primary School, 2nd Secondary School, 7th Primary School, 1st Experimental Primary School, 3rd Secondary School, 2nd Experimental Primary School during April 2019.



Name	Newspaper Article "The Biennale of Western Balkans is coming back"
Place	"Ipirotikos Agon" Newspaper
Date	07.05.2019
Link	https://www.agon.gr/politismos/15335/i-mpienale-dytikon-valkanion-epistrefei/

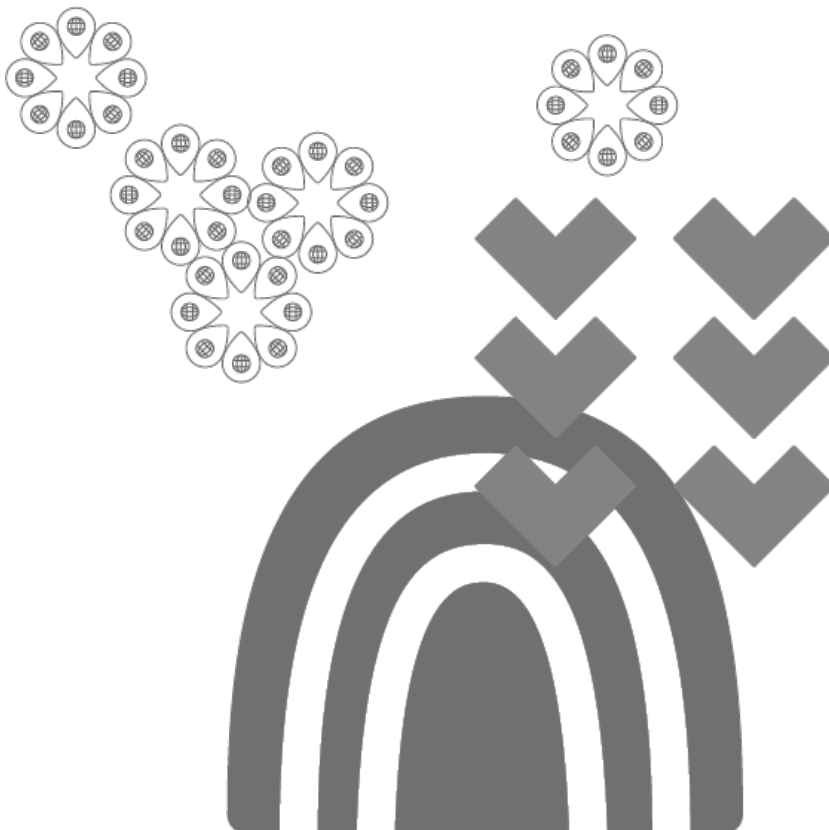
PALIMPSEST Project was featured in an article with the title "The Biennale of Western Balkans is coming back", in the "Ipirotikos Agon" Newspaper, a regional newspaper and website.

The Western Balkans Biennale and the working group "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Media" of the Art History Laboratory of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina participate in the activities, organizing a day of speeches, workshops and

screenings. The activities are carried out in collaboration with the Museum of Silversmithing of Ioannina of the Cultural Foundation of the Piraeus Group and the DIPETHE of Ioannina.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 15, from 12 to 3 at noon, at the Museum of Silversmithing. The program includes an introductory speech "Tradition again" by Professor of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina and director of the Art History Laboratory Christos Dermentzopoulos.

Following are the Assistant Professor of the University of Peloponnese, Director of the Laboratory of Knowledge and Uncertainty (GAB LAB) Manolis Wallace on "From IT for culture to cultural IT", the scientific associate of the National Documentation Center Georgia Aggelaki on "Interoperable and reusable digital cultural content for research, education and creative industries. The role of the EKT as a national accumulator of cultural content", the professor at the Department of Architectural Engineering of DUTH & PALIMPSEST Project Communication Manager Polyxeni Mantzou, on "Metatypologies: the museum", the assistant professor at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina Victoria Ferendinou "Visual Habitats: Towards an Ecology of Cultural Heritage through Contemporary Art" and the PhD candidate for International Relations at Panteion University and head of research Inter Alia Nikos Pasamitros on "Approaching Dark Cultural Heritage Sites through the Art Creation: the Project ECHO (European Cultural Heritage Onstage)".





Name Biennale of Western Balkans

Place Ioannina, Greece

Date 15.05.2019

Polyxeni Mantzou (Prof. DUTH) and Xenofon Bitsikas (Prof. UoI), our project manager, represented the PALIMPSEST Project in the Biennale of Western Balkans on Wednesday, the 15th of May. In the context of the events of International Museum Day 2019 on "Museums as Culture Nodes: The Future of Tradition" as chosen by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the Western Balkans Biennale and the "Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Modern Media" of the Art History Laboratory of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina, organized a day of talks, workshops and screenings.

The purpose of the action is to connect with the program of the 1st Western Balkans Biennale, which took place in October 2018 in Ioannina, and to further address issues raised then, such as, among others, the digital dimension of cultural heritage and cultural history, the applications of open standards and the value of

communities. The action launches a turnover, which aspires to continue with issues related to cultural heritage, in relation to art and technology.

The program includes a series of lectures by young people, as well as by renowned scientists, researchers and creators, who come from different fields and seek a re-examination of tradition through modern media. The main goal is to explore new ways of recording and highlighting the cultural heritage, material and intangible, of different communities, but also to reflect on established types, perspectives and methodologies.

The Palimpsest team presentation was focused on the transformations that are occurring in the Museum as typology.



Name	Newspaper Article “The return of the Biennale of Western Balkans”
Place	“Typos-i” Newspaper
Date	14.05.2019
Link	https://typos-i.gr/article/h-epistrofh-ths-mpienale-dytikwn-balkaniwn

PALIMPSEST Project was featured in an article with the title “The return of the Biennale of Western Balkans”, in the “Typos-i” Newspaper, a regional newspaper and website.

The Biennale of the Western Balkans, based in Ioannina, was introduced in October, 2018. The appointment for the 2nd Biennale has been given for October 2020. However, the organizers are trying to have a cultural presence in the meantime.

On the occasion of the International Museum Day 2019, the Biennale of the Western Balkans and the working group "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Media" of the Art History Laboratory of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina, participate in activities, which will take place on May 15, in collaboration with the Museum of Silversmithing of Ioannina of the Cultural Foundation of the Piraeus Group (PIOP) and the DIPETHE of Ioannina. The actions are entitled "Tradition again! Recording cultural heritage and artistic creation - interdisciplinary approaches, modern media".

The program includes a series of lectures by young people, as well as by renowned scientists, researchers and creators, who come from different fields and seek a re-examination of tradition through modern media. The main goal is to explore new ways of recording and highlighting the cultural heritage, material and intangible, of different communities, but also to reflect on established types, perspectives and methodologies. The theoretical analysis is framed by an educational workshop and a program of screenings of short films, which concern the modern aspects and manifestations of the tradition. The workshop is organized in collaboration with the GLAM Hack team and examines the creative possibilities offered by digital cultural heritage platforms. The screening program, curated by Balkan Beyond Borders, Inter Alia and the Caravan Project, presents anthropological and artistic representations of tradition through contemporary cinema.

According to a relevant announcement, the purpose of the action is to connect with the program of the 1st Western Balkans Biennale and to further address issues raised then, such as, among others, the digital dimension of cultural heritage and cultural history, the applications of open standards and the value of communities. The action launches a turnover, which aspires to continue with issues related to cultural heritage, in relation to art and technology.



Name **Lund University Urban Creativity Conference**
Place **Lund, Sweden**
Date **18.05.2019**

PALIMPSEST team member Maria Nikoli (PhD c. DUTH) represented the project at the Lund Urban Creativity Conference in Sweden. The conference was hosted by the Pufendorf Institute for Advanced Studies (Pufendorfinstitutet, Lunds universitet) in collaboration with the Division of Art History and Visual Studies at Lund University.

The conference was an opportunity to initiate an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas between scholars, artists, activists, planners and others who work within the diverse field of urban creativity.

The Palimpsest Team presentation was titled: Embedding Urban Legends: An interactive museum experience in public spaces.

The presentations focused on how PALIMPSEST attempts a hybridization of the public space of the city, using cultural heritage assets; this hybridization webs together dipoles previously understood as opposite and creates a new condition where past and present coexist, where digital and physical coincide, where scientific truth and fiction intermingle, where spectators and protagonists can constantly interchange roles. It was highlighted that the palimpsest of the city is a metaphor for the layers of data of the pasts that have been buried and concealed. The people will be able to engage with the museum through participatory practices. All the data collected through these practices will be used in different interpretations of the city. These interpretations will undoubtedly be one-sided and biased, as in the post-alphabetic world no unique historic truth and no objective reality can be possible.



Name Video Editing Workshops
Place Ioannina, Greece
Date 0.5-0.6.2019

The first series of workshops for school students was held with great excitement and attendance. Around 200 students took part in the workshops, which were about video editing and sound on screen, both in a theoretical but also in a practical basis, as the students were able, with the help and the guidance of the team members, to work creatively in order to make their grandparents' stories come to life and also to learn by applying the instructions about video and sound editing in their own stories. The workshops kicked off in late May and concluded in June.

All the activities took place at the AV Lab of the UOI School of Fine Arts. The Palimpsest team divided schools in 5 separate days/workshops and each day the students worked in groups of 4-5 with a total of 10 tutors.

An important benefit from the workshops was the implication and engagement of the students with the project and its implementation.





Name 100 Stories Milestone
Place Ioannina, Greece
Date 06.2019

PALIMPSEST's Team is very happy to announce a very important milestone! The stories about Ioannina that had been collecting through crowd-sourcing have now reached 100! We are thrilled with the public's response and we hope for many more to come.

Stories constitute a major part of the project. PALIMPSEST is not concerned about historic truths - it is intrigued by orality and aim to preserve urban legends and stories. Local lore should be passed on and shared, because stories create a sense of community. PALIMPSEST helps people come together in a creative context while they delve into storytelling, a craft that is as old as time.

learn more in

www.palimpsest.eu

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-  [interregpalimpsest](https://www.youtube.com/interregpalimpsest)
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Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Programme is a European Territorial Cooperation Programme that aims to help public institutions and local stakeholders to develop cross-border projects and pilot actions and to create new policy, products and services, with the final goal to improve the citizens' quality of life.

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