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## Dear friends and supporters of ICARUS!

Time flies and already half of 2025 has gone by! Let's take this opportunity for a [look back on what has happened so far](#) and glimpse into the coming autumn season.

We are happy to see our ICARUS community growing with another new addition: the [University Library Center of the University of Naples "Federico II"](#) joined our network earlier this year! A very warm welcome!

Glancing towards autumn, we'd like to draw your attention to some new events to mark in your calendars:

- [01.-02. September, Vienna: Launch Event "Digitise.Transform.Inspire"](#)
- [30.-31. October, Barcelona: SAGA Workshop on Disaster Management and Climate Change in Archives](#)
- [12.-14. November, Venice: ICARUS Convention #35](#)

And last, but not least: ICARUS is now on [LinkedIn](#)! Our association can be found [here](#) and we'd be happy to connect!

So, enjoy the read and have a great summer ahead!

Your ICARUS-team

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## New Member: University Library Center of the University of Naples "Federico II"

It is our great pleasure to welcome the [University Library Center of the University of Naples Federico II](#) (UNINA) as ICARUS member!!

The [University of Naples Federico II](#) is one of the world's oldest universities in continuous operation, currently hosting over 70.000 students. No need to say that the corresponding **University Library Center (Centro di Ateneo per le Biblioteche "Roberto Pettorino" CAB)** can boast with similarly large numbers, encompassing 12 Area Libraries covering the different academic fields (from agriculture to veterinary medicine) as well as the historic library and that of the University Language Center. Those 14 affiliated libraries under the lead of the Library Center house over 1.165.000 objects stored in over 40.000 shelf linear metres.

The Library Center/CAB provides a wide range of services to support users in accessing and utilizing the University's library resources. A key resource is the [fedOA open archive](#), which provides access to doctoral theses (from 2006 onwards) and other documents representing the University's scientific output, many of which are available in full text.

CAB coordinates the entire University Library System, which includes the Digital Library, the Area Libraries, Parks Library, and other centers. It sets cataloguing standards, operational guidelines, and promotes integration with similar systems. It also manages the self-archiving of doctoral theses, ensuring their validation and publication in fedOA after the degree is awarded.

For librarians, CAB provides documentation, guides, and instructions via a shared Microsoft OneDrive folder, with access granted upon request. It also organizes training sessions for staff and users, and offers tutorials and informational materials on its website.

## Welcome to ICARUS!

[Read more](#)

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## ICARUS activities in the first part of 2025

Looking back on what happened within ICARUS since the beginning of 2025 we are happy to share with you some relevant news and current developments:

- Thanks to the mediation of our friends at the University of Naples Federico II Department of Humanities, namely Prof. Antonella Ambrosio, ICARUS was able to make ties with the State Archive of Venice – needless to say, a treasure-hoard of extremely precious medieval documents in Europe!

In January, the ICARUS team visited Venice and had a fruitful negotiation with the director of the State Archives of Venice, Dr. Andrea Erbošo, kicking off a more serious collaboration in terms of including medieval charters to Monasterium but also in a wider sense. To top it off, Dr. Erbošo most graciously offered to host the next ICARUS Convention in Autumn!!

So, we plan to gather the ICARUS community in Venice between 12-14 November 2025! **SAVE THE DATE!**

- As every year in early March, the global conference for family historians hosted by FamilySearch - [RootsTech](#) - took place in Salt Lake City, US. ICARUS was represented by Vlatka Lemić and Thomas Aigner, intensifying our links with the worldwide community of genealogists and heritage enthusiasts.
- Late March also saw the 10th anniversary of the “**ICARUS Croatia Days**” inviting international guests to the wonderful location of Opatija by the Adriatic Sea. Around 70 presentations were given and hundreds of participants gathered, all the speakers and topics can be found [here](#).
- From 12-14th May 2025 the ICARUS consortium got together in Bupapest for our **34th ICARUS Convention**, this time hosted by our friends of the National Archives of Hungary. The gathering once again highlighted the strength of collaboration among European archives — especially through

projects like „Archives as Traces of Migration“ ([AToM](#)) and „Sustainable Archives and Greener Approaches“ ([SAGA](#)) where ICARUS has played a leading role.

Find some visual material [here](#) on our website trying to capture the spirit and beautiful surroundings of the Convention venue.

Additionally, an extensive summary of the different sessions of the AToM Symposium can be found [here](#).

## Project Updates

### DiDip – From Digital to Distant Diplomats:

- ongoing (until end of 2026), led by the University of Graz (prof. Georg Vogeler), collaboration with ICARUS-members (e.g. UNINA, Bavarian State Archives)
- the project is mostly dedicated to those who have already digitized data and want to share it within **Monasterium**. In terms of the profile of the charters, the portal is no longer a host for ecclesiastical archives exclusively but a gate to European history in general (covering mostly the period from the 14th - 18th century)
- a more detailed overview was given in the Monasterium session in Budapest (by Florian Atzenhofer-Baumgartner from the University of Graz) also introducing the latest technical development in “Monasterium Next Generation” - find a recap of the session [here](#).

### ICARUS Large Scale Project (2026-2029) - Submission

- Since October 2024 potential project partners were meeting on a monthly basis to coordinate content and administrative details of the project application. On 11 May the application was successfully submitted to the EC!
  - Title/acronym: **ACCESS - Archival Culture & Community Engagement for Social Sustainability**
  - 14 regular partners:
    - **8 archives:** CZ, DE, EE, ES, HR, HU, LV, SE
    - **3 scientific, academic and technological institutions:** Uni Graz (AT), Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (RS), DEX (ES, policy analysis and administrative support)
    - **3 pan-European organizations:** APEF (Archives Portal Europe Foundation), EBU (European Blind Union), ICARUS
  - lead partner: National Archives of Estonia, altogether there are 26 partners, incl. 12 associated partners
  - funding decision is expected for November 2025 - keep your fingers crossed!
- Project’s main targets according to three content-based Work Packages are the following:
  - **Technological Innovation:** The project integrates **advanced technologies such as AI, machine learning, and assistive technologies** to improve access to and engagement with historical archives.
  - **Social Innovation:** The project addresses social issues such as **gender equality, cultural inclusivity**, and the risks of **social exclusion** for people with **visual or cognitive impairments**. By analysing the **underrepresentation of women in archival records**, engaging with minority groups like **the Sámi society**, and implementing AI-powered solutions for accessibility.
  - **Capacity Building:** The project enhances the skills and knowledge of archivists through **training modules and workshops**.
  - **Audience Engagement and Development:** ACCESS involves **diverse audiences**, including **cross-generational activities** to engage with **younger and older generations, minority groups**, and individuals with visual or cognitive impairments, through interactive materials, workshops, and multimedia content.

- **Digital Communication and Dissemination:** The project utilizes **digital communication and multimedia** to promote its activities and results. By presenting outcomes at international events, networking activities and hosting a final event in the framework of Kiruna 2029 (European Capital of Culture), the project ensures the transfer and dissemination of innovative practices across Europe.

### BRIGADISTAS project - Submission

- initiated by the Spanish State Archives and focussing on **the Spanish Civil War** (1936–1939) and the involvement of the International Brigades. Project's main aims are:
  - to compile, describe and digitize trustworthy **primary archival sources** of the participation of International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War, a genuinely European historical episode, ensuring their continued long-term access for current and future generations;
  - to increase **the visibility of European documentary heritage** as part of the cultural heritage of the continent, integrating a gender perspective in the resulting cultural products
- ICARUS is among the regular partners, content shared by NA of Hungary, NA of Romania, and La Contemporaine of France - The Contemporary, a library-museum-archive specializing in contemporary history and international relations of the 20th and 21st centuries

### DigiS - Digital Scriptorium - Submission

- Erasmus+ project call, initiated by the University of Naples Federico II
- the project develops **a sustainable education model and an innovative methodology**, as well as **digital tools** to modernise the approach to historical documents using digital skills (incl. workshops, summer and autumn schools etc.)
- ICARUS is among the regular partners, content will be developed by University of Graz, University of Belgrade, and ICARUS Croatia

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## Digitise.Transform.Inspire - Shaping the Archives of Tomorrow

Against the backdrop of the new emerging technologies in the field of digitisation and AI supported developments in cultural heritage, ICARUS joined forces with **READ-Transkribus** and **FamilySearch**, to kick off an international workshop from 1.-2. September 2025 in Vienna.

Together, we will share insights, best practices, and bold visions with a passionate group of experts - united by our common belief that this wave of transformation is a unique opportunity to elevate archives to a new level of relevance for both society and research.

Find below more relevant information about the event – also to be found on our [website](#):

**Date:** 1-2 September 2025

**Conference Venue:** [Hotel Imperial Riding School, Rennweg 60, A-1030 Vienna, Austria](#)

**Registration:** Attendance is **free**, register [here](#) until **23 August 2025**.

**Accommodation:** [Hotel Imperial Riding School, Rennweg 60, A-1030 Vienna, Austria](#)

A certain number of rooms have been pre-booked with a 50% discount off the regular price.

[Book your room directly HERE](#) - Attention: During the booking process, the regular price of EUR 209 will be displayed. The 50% discount will be applied at check-out at the hotel.

**Travel Grant:** We gladly support your participation with our Mobility Grant Programme. In case you need financial support for your attendance, please apply [here](#) **by 25 July 2025**.

**See you in Vienna!**

[Read more...](#)

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## **Workshop on Disaster Management and Climate Change in Archives**

**Dates: 30-31 October 2025**

**Venue: Crown of Aragon Archive**, C/ Comtes, 2 (Palace of the Viceroys or Palau del Lloctinent), 08002 Barcelona, Spain

**Registration:** [here between](#) 23 June - 12 September 2025

This workshop is part of the [SAGA project](#), specifically within **Work Package 4: Capacity Building and Training**.

As part of this work package, a training activity has been planned in which each project archival partner will host a two-day hybrid workshop (in-person and virtual), focused on the following thematic areas:

- Day 1: Disaster Risk Management in Archives
- Day 2: Sustainability and Climate Change in Archives

The initiative aims to strengthen capacities, promote resilient and sustainable approaches to records management, and encourage knowledge exchange among archival professionals.

The workshop will be a side activity to the [International Congress of Archives](#), which will also take place in Barcelona from October 27 to 30. The event will bring together national and international experts to discuss strategies, case studies, and sustainable practices for safeguarding documentary and built heritage in the face of climate change and other risks.

Have a look at the [programme](#) and register at the following [link](#) (open from June 23 to September 12).

Places in person are available until full capacity is reached (100 places) and will be awarded in order of registration.

Note: Some presentations will be delivered in Spanish (ES) and others in English (EN). Automatic subtitles will be displayed on screen in both languages (ES/EN) to support audience comprehension.

[Read more...](#)

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## Save the Date: ICARUS Convention #35

We're happy to announce that the ICARUS **Convention #35** will take place from **12-14 November in Venice**, hosted by the State Archives of Venice. The Convention's topic and the Call for Papers will be announced during the summer months - so, stay tuned!

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All ICARUS community members are most welcome to share their news, updates, events, etc. with us to distribute them further. Just get in touch with our communication team.

Contact us



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