

# Visualizing the Narratives of European Integration

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The study here presented originates from an international student research project organized by the Radboud Honours Academy and IRUN excellence program. We aimed to design a concept for a sustainable and user friendly enhanced publication for cultural heritage institutes in general, but in particular for our client CVCE, the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe (centre for European Integration).

Here we focus on one of the research questions in our project: in what ways does presentation in a digital environment influence the perception of cultural heritage? Within this question, one of the accents is on visualization techniques as an instrument for narrativity on web pages. The way in which a narrative is told, differs greatly from medium to medium and especially within the digital realm there is a new way in which stories present itself. To clarify, to have an overview at

once or to refer to related stories or contexts, visualization techniques such as interactive images, videos, interactive maps and storylines could help to underline and open up the story for a larger audience.

The methodology that we use is the evidence based policy, developed by Pawson and Tilley (2004). This model compares several cases in order to distill a line or conclusion. By analyzing, structuring and comparing several CVCE-like websites on the way that they try to tell a story and on their interpretation and execution of visualization, we develop a concept that helps to rethink the way in which enhanced publications can help scholars in cultural heritage research.

We will discuss how media influence storytelling and, in addition, how visualization techniques can be helpful in doing so. Furthermore we will show examples of the weaknesses and strengths of different visualization techniques and present the outcomes of our comparisons.

## References

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