Full-Time Studies **Semester 1, 2**
SUMMER SCHOOL

Module 2 European Studies through Digital Historical Developments

Lecture Plan No. 1

Topic 1: Preservation of European Cultural Heritage in Digital Formats

1. General Information

- **Duration:** 90 minutes
- **Format:** Lecture + Case Study Analysis + Interactive Workshop
- **Target Audience:** Higher Education students, cultural heritage professionals, researchers, digital archivists
- **Required Materials:** Digital archives, EU policy documents, multimedia preservation tools, presentation slides

2. Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the significance of preserving European cultural heritage through digital means.
- Identify major EU initiatives and policies supporting digital cultural heritage.
- Analyze case studies of successful digital preservation projects.
- Evaluate the challenges and future directions of cultural digitization.

3. Lecture Structure

Part 1: The Importance of Digital Cultural Preservation (20 min)

- Definition and scope of digital cultural heritage
- The role of digitalization in protecting historical artifacts, documents, and traditions
- Key EU policies promoting cultural preservation

Part 2: EU Initiatives and Digital Platforms for Cultural Heritage (30 min)

- **Europeana** – The European digital library and its role in cultural preservation
- **The European Heritage Label** – Recognizing significant cultural sites
- **The Time Machine Project** – AI-powered historical reconstruction
- **UNESCO and EU collaborations on digital cultural heritage**

Part 3: Case Studies of Digital Preservation (20 min)

- **Case Study 1:** 3D digitization of historical landmarks
- **Case Study 2:** Virtual reality (VR) applications for museum experiences
- **Case Study 3:** AI and machine learning in restoring lost languages and manuscripts

Part 4: Interactive Workshop & Discussion (20 min)

- Hands-on exploration of digital cultural archives
- Group discussion on ethical and technical challenges in digital heritage preservation
- Brainstorming ideas for innovative approaches to digital archiving

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4. Assessment & Follow-up Activities

- **Practical Task:** Participants engage with a digital archive and write a brief report on its usability and impact.
- **Group Presentation:** Teams propose a digital strategy for preserving an underrepresented cultural heritage element.
- **Recommended Reading & Resources:**
    - European Commission. (2021). Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age.
    - Europeana official platform and research materials.
    - UNESCO guidelines on digital cultural preservation.
    - Case studies on AI and virtual heritage projects.

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5. Conclusion

This session explores the role of digital tools in safeguarding European cultural heritage, equipping participants with insights into best practices, challenges, and emerging trends in digital preservation.