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***Engaging European Citizens with their Common Past -  
Europeana 1914-1918 and Transcribathon.eu***

Europeana 1914-1918 is a crowdsourcing project which represents a new approach to challenges of European commemoration. Bringing together personal narratives of the First World War from more than 22 countries and making them accessible to everybody in a single online database is a very participatory way of creating a unique virtual archive for comparative studies on the history of World War One. It now includes over 200 000 digital images of personal historical documents. These sources are easily accessible on your screen, but the often-handwritten texts are not searchable and difficult to read. In order to tackle these challenges Europeana and Facts & Files have developed Transcribathon.eu, a platform that uses the power of the crowd to transcribe these documents and unearth hidden treasures and amazing stories. It is organised as an online competition and aims to engage different generations with their past. In addition to the ongoing online competition, special Transcribathon events are organised at schools and cultural institutions to attract different target groups like pupils, university students, experts and senior citizen together to work in mixed teams transcribing and annotating these sources. The tool can be used in the class room to engage pupils with different types of media, scripts, languages and more personal historical sources.

[www.transcribathon.eu](http://www.transcribathon.eu)

[www.europeana1914-1918.eu](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu)

Frank Drauschke is partner and co-founder of Facts & Files, a private historical research institute based in Berlin, specialised in historical research, applied history and especially the presentation of historical topics to a broad audience and in all forms of media. For eighteen years, Facts & Files has been conducting a wide range of regional and international historical research projects. Facts & Files is active at the intersection between cultural heritage and digital innovation and therefore became a partner of the Europeana Foundation in 2011. Since then Facts & Files is engaged in running the public history crowdsourcing campaigns Europeana 1914-1918, Europeana 1989 and Transcribathon

[www.factsandfiles.com](http://www.factsandfiles.com)