#### **EAGLE 2014**

International Conference On Information Technologies For Epigraphy And Digital Cultural Heritage In The Ancient World

# How do Italian Museums Communicate Online?

The #svegliamuseo project and the concept of a network of digital communication professionals for the Italian cultural heritage sector.



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Today, #svegliamuseo wants to function as a **container for ideas and resources**.

It is a blog, a Facebook group, a Twitter account and an hashtag that are prompting communities and experts from all over the world to start a dialogue about digital media in the museum field.

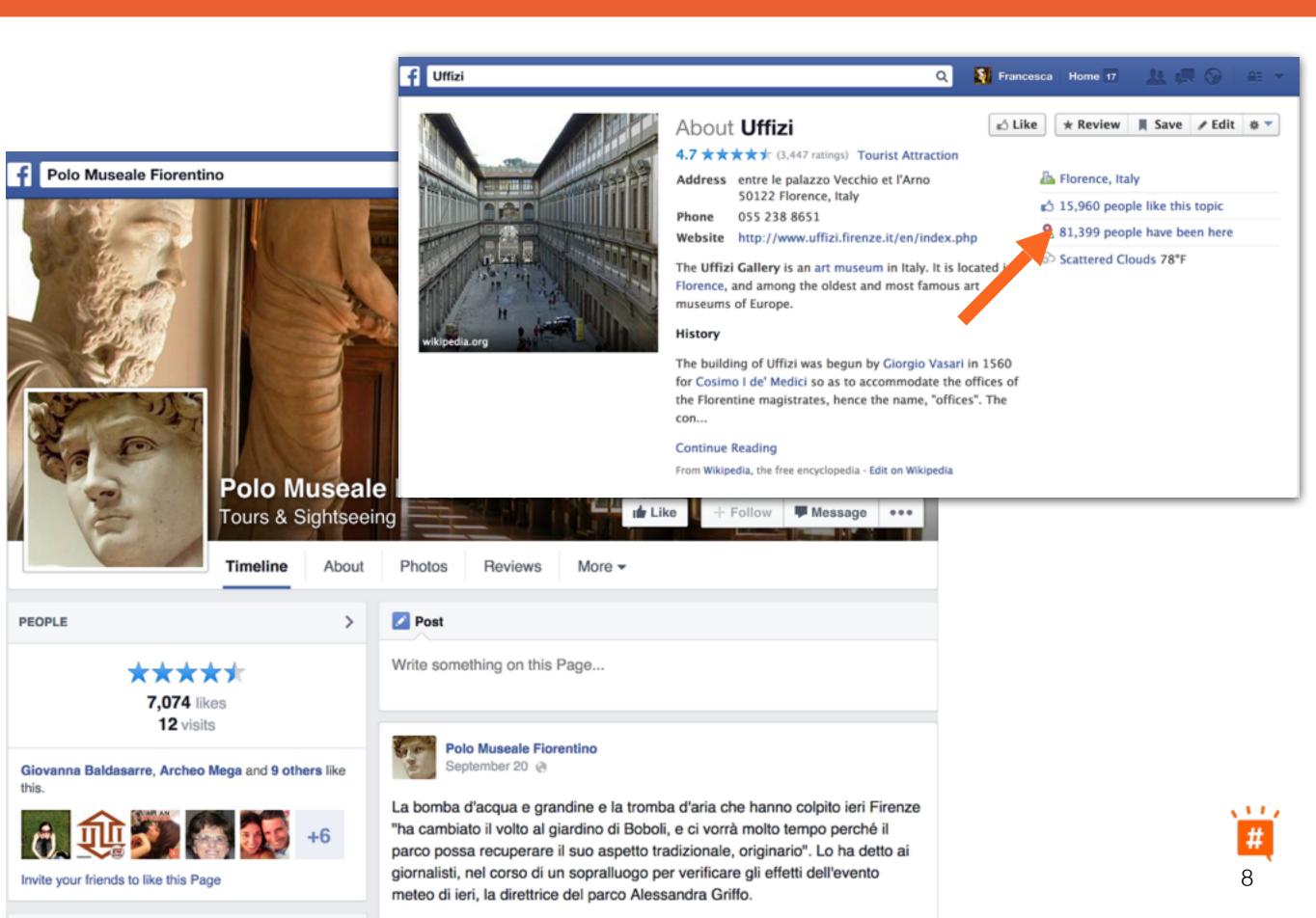
# Why a project on museums and digital communication?

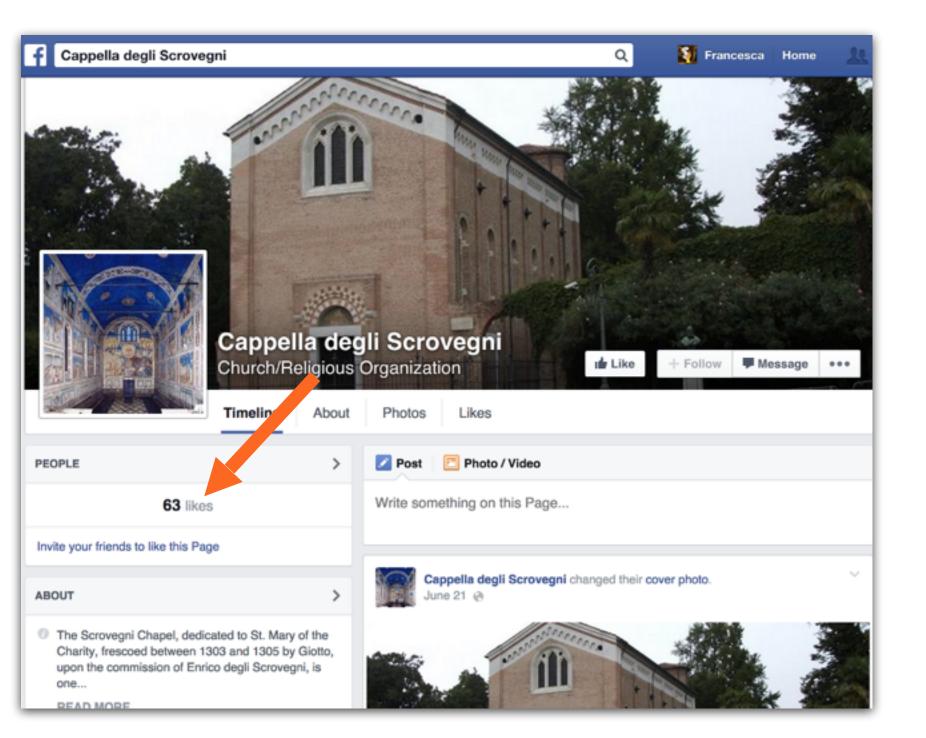
Because in Italy there are **4,588 museums** on an area of 301,340 km<sup>2</sup>, but only a small percentage of these institutions is leveraging on the power of the web to better communicate with their audiences, real and potential.

# Why a project on museums and digital communication?

- Many museums do not have a website yet and a lot of them rely on municipality websites that gather together local museums on the same portals
- Most of our museum websites are not accessible to those who do not speak Italian and, more broadly, there is not real attention towards accessibility issues
- There are some "notably absents" from the major social platforms
- There are very few museums that use the different online channels to reach specific objectives and targets (eg. Pinterest, Tumblr, Instagram)

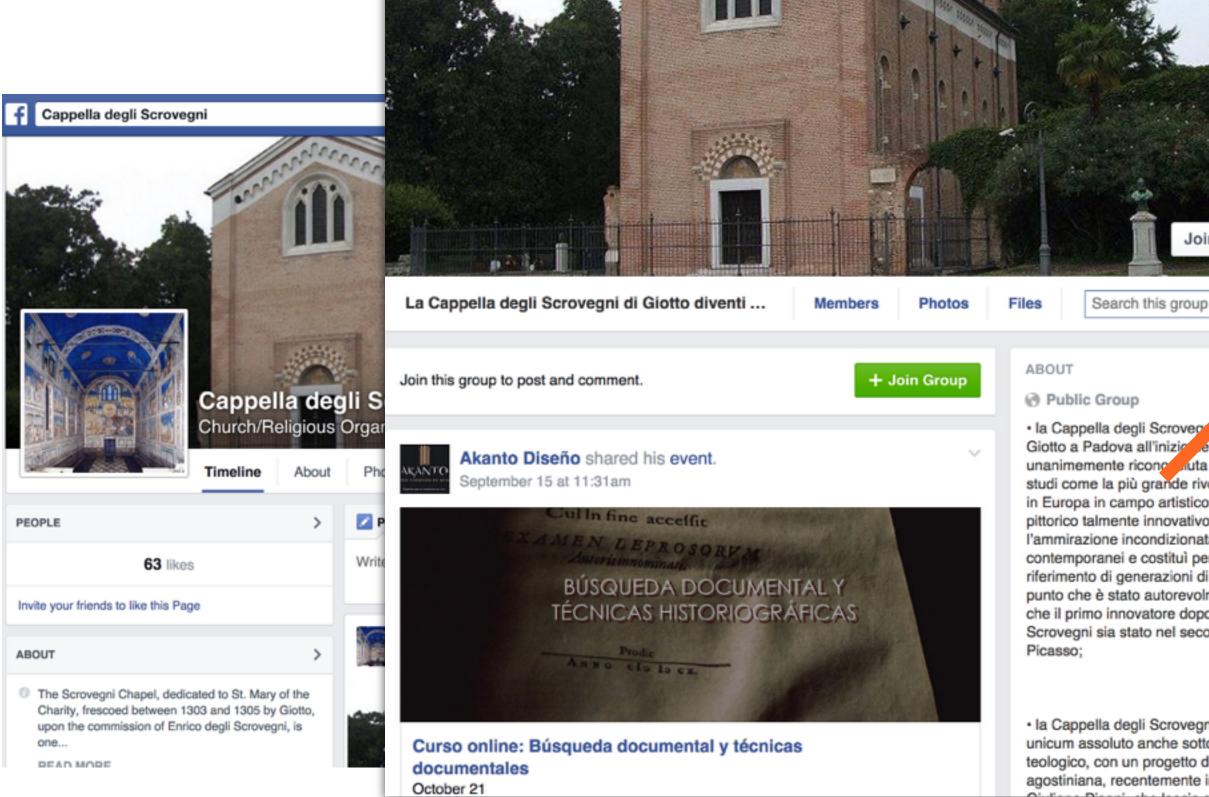






Francesca

Home 17



rovegni di Giotto diventi sito Unesco

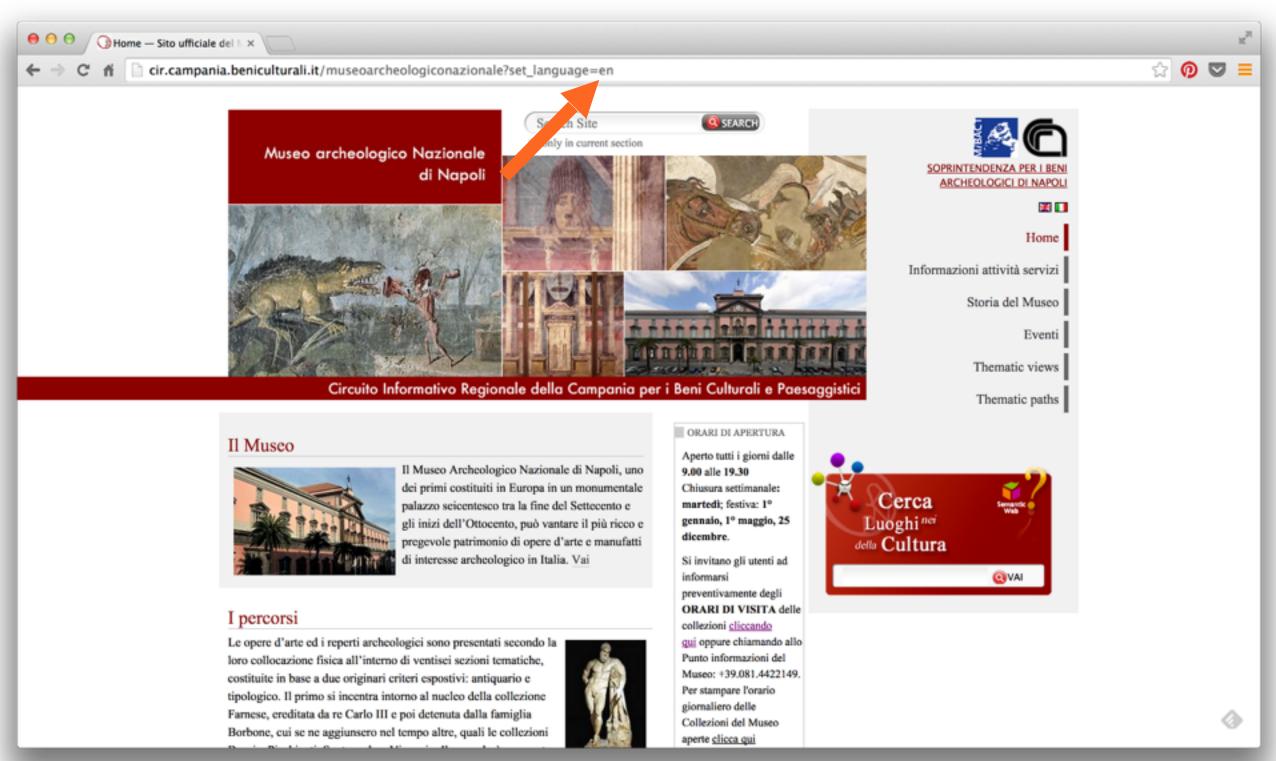
5.564 members

Join Group

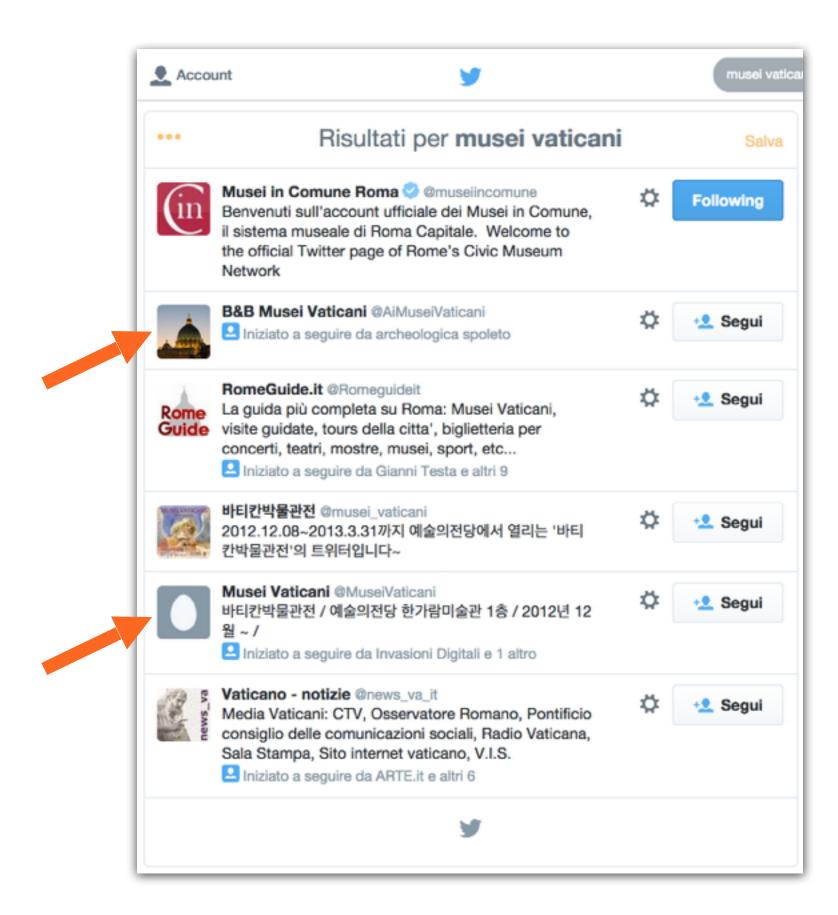
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- affrescata da la Cappella degli Scroveg Giotto a Padova all'inizionel XIV secolo è unanimemente ricono duta dal mondo degli studi come la più grande rivoluzione prodottasi in Europa in campo artistico, con un linguaggio pittorico talmente innovativo che suscitò l'ammirazione incondizionata dei contemporanei e costituì per secoli il modello di riferimento di generazioni di artisti europei, al punto che è stato autorevolmente sostenuto che il primo innovatore dopo il Giotto degli Scrovegni sia stato nel secolo scorso Pablo
- la Cappella degli Scrovegni rappresenta un unicum assoluto anche sotto il profilo filosoficoteologico, con un progetto di matrice agostiniana, recentemente individuato da









### Who we are









archaeology + marketing + social media cultural management + museums + mobile

archaeology + communication + storytelling

archaeology + museums + translation



Bridge the gaps in the digital communication of Italian museums



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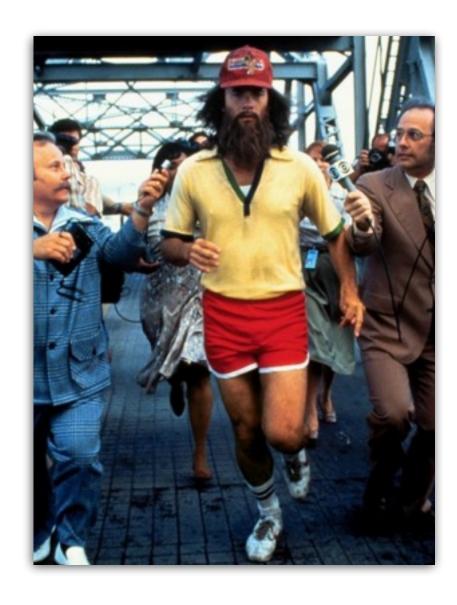
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- Open the Italian community to international dialogue, looking for best practices on a global scale to apply at a local level

# THISIS HOW WE 001

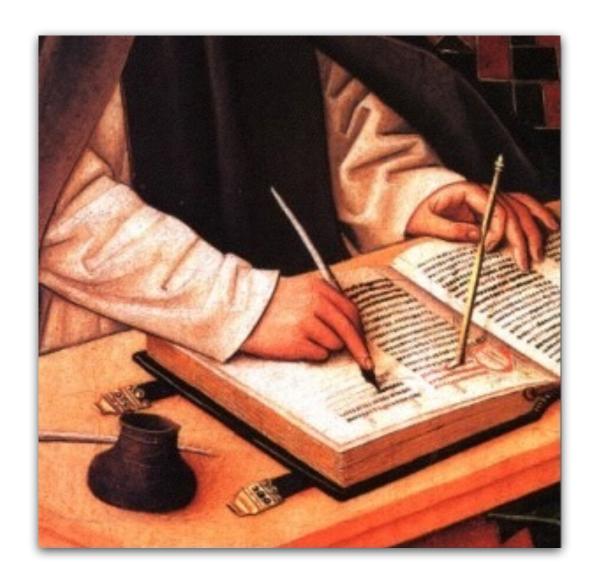
# Interviewing professionals in the field (both in Italy and abroad)

- Tate Gallery, London
- Smithsonian Institution, Washington
- Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
- Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
- Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid
- Horniman Museum and Gardens, London
- Mart, Rovereto
- Palazzo Madama, Torino
- Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci, Milano



# Writing articles and sharing the latest news on digital communication related topics

- New social media
- Analytics and evaluation for digital tools
- Communication strategies
- Best practices in the museum field
- Wearable technologies
- Museum blogging and storytelling techniques
- Mobile and interactive media
- Open data





# Connecting professionals through Svegliamuseo On Air

- One hour-long video-interviews on Google Hangout, broadcasted live and recorded on our YouTube channel
- An Italian museum professional meets a foreign colleague for exchanging methodologies, examples and advice on a specific topic
- Eg. digital engagement for younger audiences, staff training on digital tools, YouTube strategy, social media management on a budget, analytics ...



# "Communicating The Culture Online: A Practical Guide For Museums"

- A practical guide on social media, website design, evaluation and storytelling
- Lots of case studies and practical examples of social media use in the museum field
- 'How to' guide to different analytics tools
- Free download on #svegliamuseo website (Italian only)
- Up to now, more than 1,000 copies downloaded



# Questions, discussion and RTs: the #svegliamuseo community

- 2,000+ people taking part in the Facebook group
- 3,700+ people following on Twitter
- #svegliamuseo hashtag used by museums and passionates to share news and events
- Lots of interesting questions and discussions around tools, methodologies and ideas
- Very lively community of professionals at different levels



### How are things going?

The public and the press pay closer attention to these topics, often comparing our quality levels with those from other countries.

In the last year, Italian museums have definitely started a process of change.

The number of museums on Twitter and Facebook has significantly increased and there are more and more initiatives and cultural 'social' events going on.

### Some examples

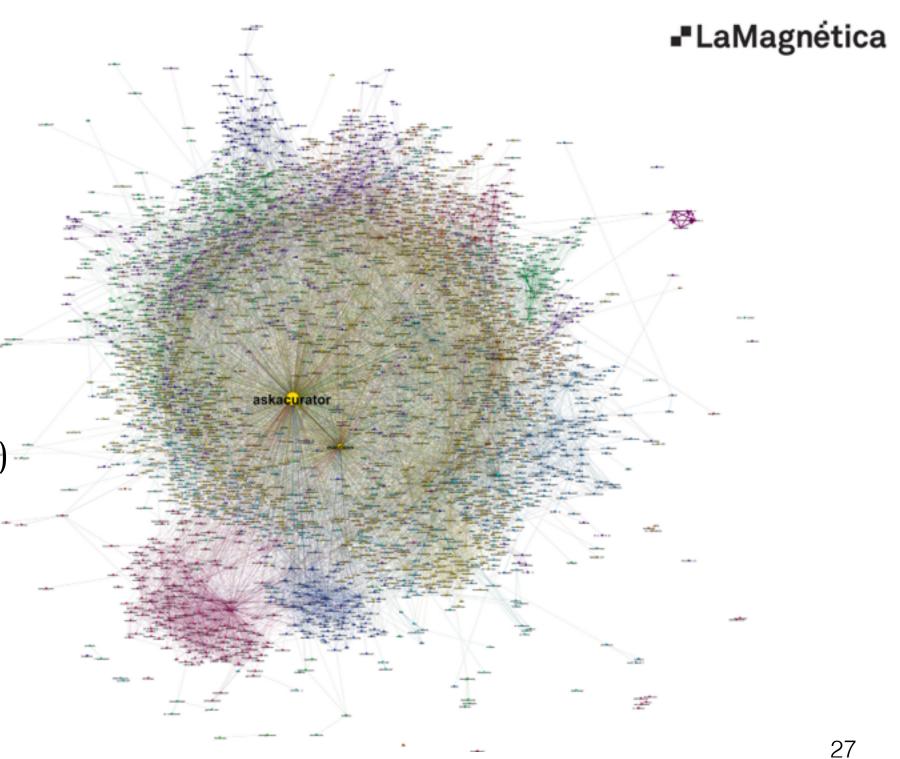


### Ask a Curator Day 2014

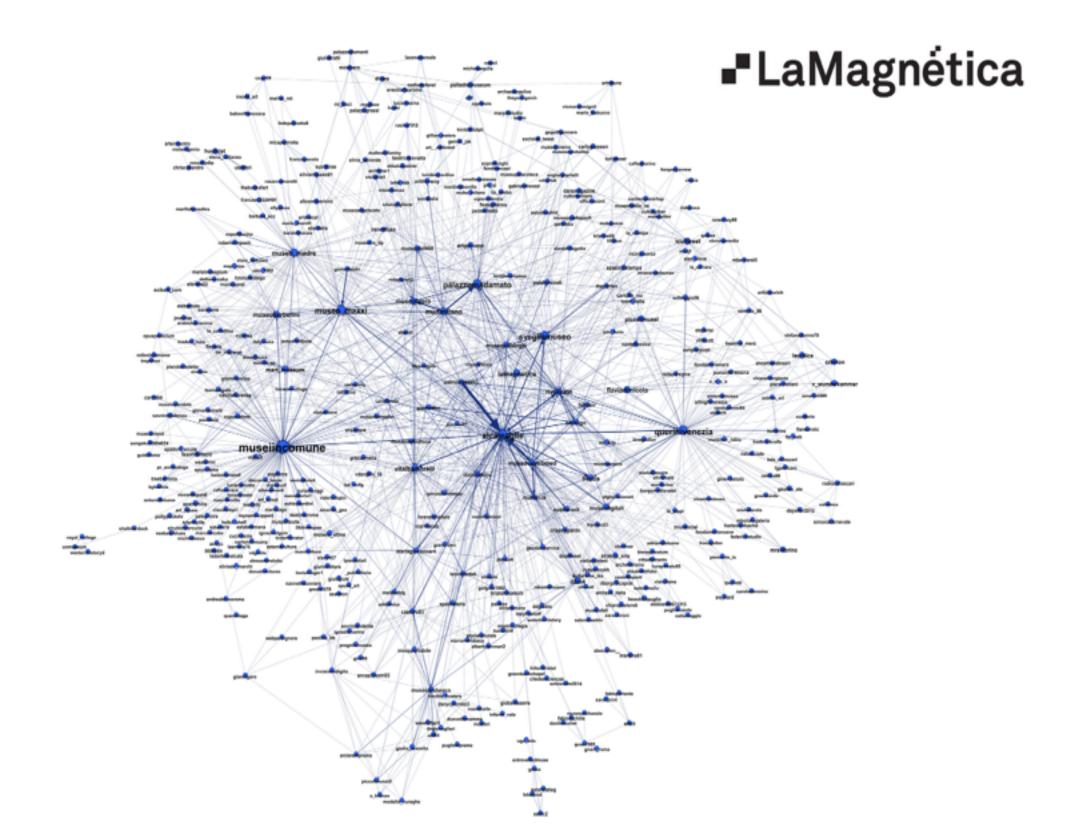


• 721 museums

- 43 countries
- 47,500 tweets
- 13,000 users
- 31 Italian museums (in 2013 there were 15)

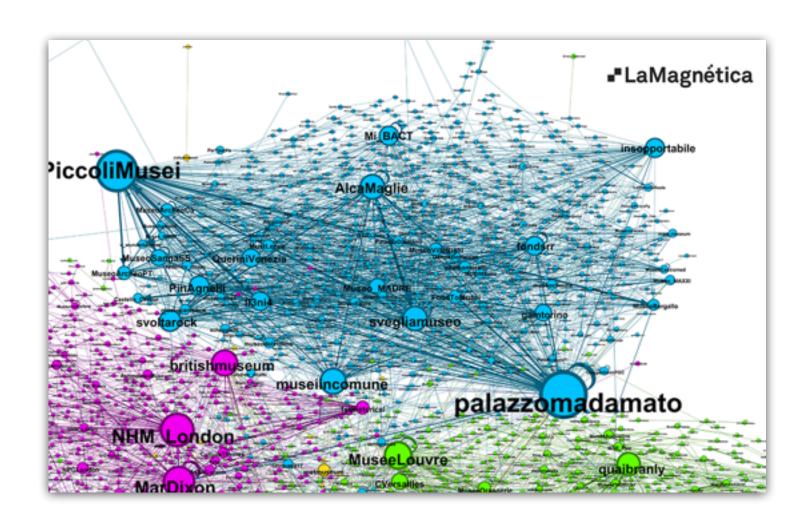


### Ask a Curator Day 2014



### Museum Week on Twitter

- 5 days on Twitter
- 5 different topics
- 630 museums
- 180,000+ tweets
- 40,000 users
- 20,800 photos shared
- 115 Italian museums



### Invasioni Digitali

- Two editions
- 407 invasions in 2014
- 15,000 people involved
- 39,500 tweets with the hashtag #invasionidigitali
- 10,300 photos on Instagram
- Museums were enthusiasts, some of them promoted 'selfinvasions'





#### **#SmallMuseumTour**

- 12 museums involved in Summer 2014
- One hour-virtual tours on Twitter
- "Accessible museums" (showing behind the scenes, no more boundaries between the public and the museum's staff)
- Second edition will take place in October





#### #MuseumSchool

- Initiative created spontaneously by a group of smaller museums across the country
- It brings together institutions whose mission is focused on educational goals (adhesion via email, 38 registered museums so far)
- Hashtag on Twitter to share news and activities
- Museums are using digital tools to form their specific communities



#### Conclusions

Italian institutions are starting to realize the potential of digital tools in communicating the museum to a wider audience and in a more personal and interconnected way.

Although some institutions still don't seem to adopt these tools, a high number of smaller institutions is becoming more and more curious trying out new tools and methodologies.

Online communication requires expertise and strategic approach, like traditional communication and any other cultural marketing process. Therefore, training and constant updating on digital topics are necessary, particularly for the museum staff (the real change, in fact, should start from within).

### Conclusioni

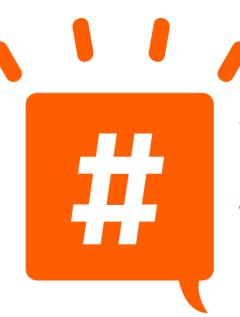
In order to represent a real change in the field, digital tools must be managed according to the specific mission of the institution, its target and the cultural, political and economic situation in which it operates.

By continuing to provide ideas and best practices on these topics, #svegliamuseo would like to promote **the development of a community of Italian museum professionals** in the field of digital communication and interpretation. A community that would be able to interact with the worldwide one and to communicate our heritage online with appropriate tools and skills.

L.Svegliamusec







Website: www.svegliamuseo.com

Email: info@svegliamuseo.com

Twitter: @svegliamuseo

Facebook: Musei e social media - #svegliamuseo!