



aracne

ADVOCATING THE ROLE
OF SILK ART AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE AT NATIONAL
AND EUROPEAN SCALE



6th
March
2023

Introduction to the project

ARACNE in short:

Donor: European Commission

Programme: Horizon Europe

Cluster: “Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society”

Call: Research and innovation on cultural heritage and Cultural and Creative Industries

Grant: 2 999 634.50 euro

Duration: 3 years



Project partners



**6 Universities and
Research Organizations**



3 Museums



1 Cultural Association



1 Cultural Foundation



3 SMEs/CCIs



**1 International
Organization**

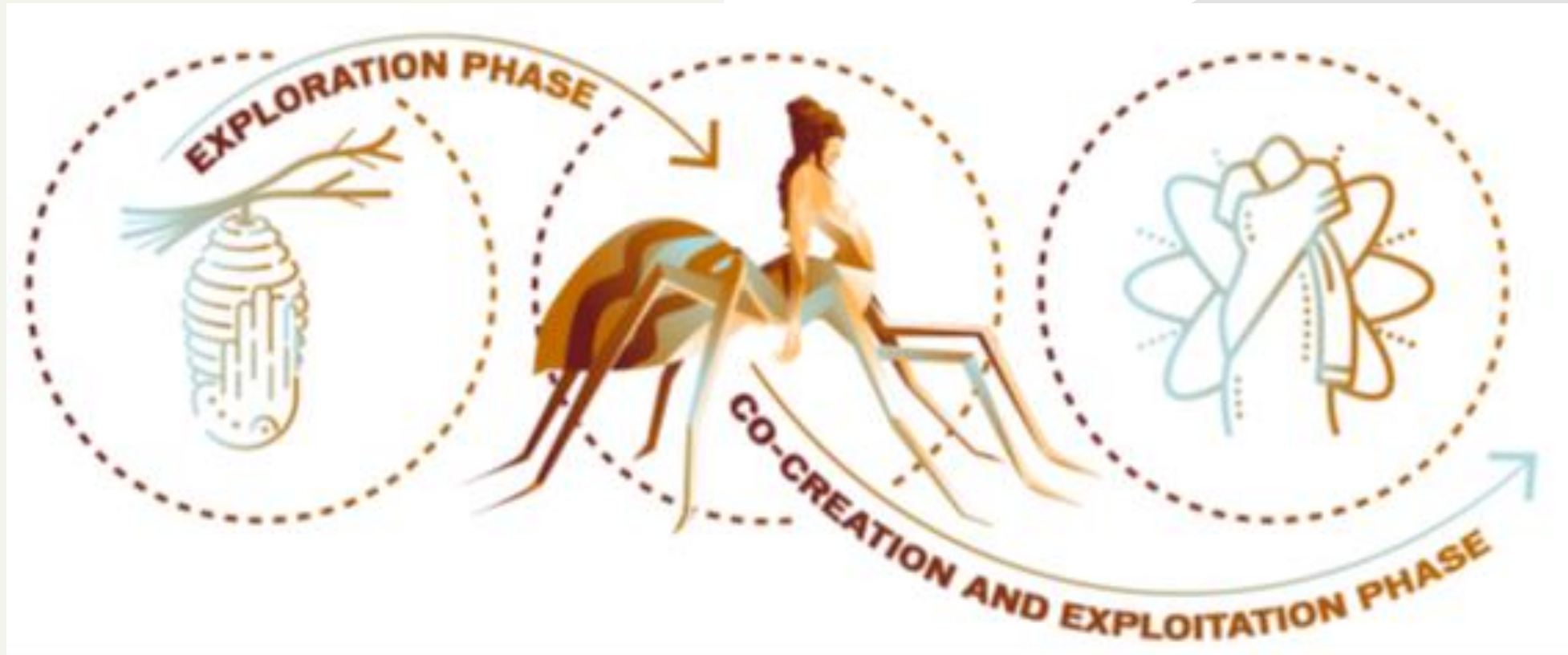
Project partners



The Aracne project and its seven objectives

- 1) Enhancement of knowledge and memory for the renaissance of a European Silk Innovation Ecosystem (WP1)**
- 2) Co-creation of human-centred and place-specific creative silk-based solutions leveraging on digital and cutting-edge technologies (WP2)**
- 3) Implementation of innovative strategies and business, governance and financing models for the involved CCIs organisations and SMEs, building on previous research (WP3)**
- 4) Support the establishment of a cultural European Silk Route, based on the tangible and intangible silk cultural heritage and landscapes (WP4)**
- 5) Raise awareness of ARACNE results and impacts among different stakeholders of the territories and CCIs of the silk sector and raise the expectation for the constitution of a European Silk Route in support to the European silk CH and silk CCIs (WP5)**
- 6) Enhance the European cultural identity and strengthen European competitiveness for a more resilient post-crisis society (ALL WPs)**
- 7) Contribution to the European Green Deal, the New European Bauhaus and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (ALL WPs)**

The Aracne project: its method



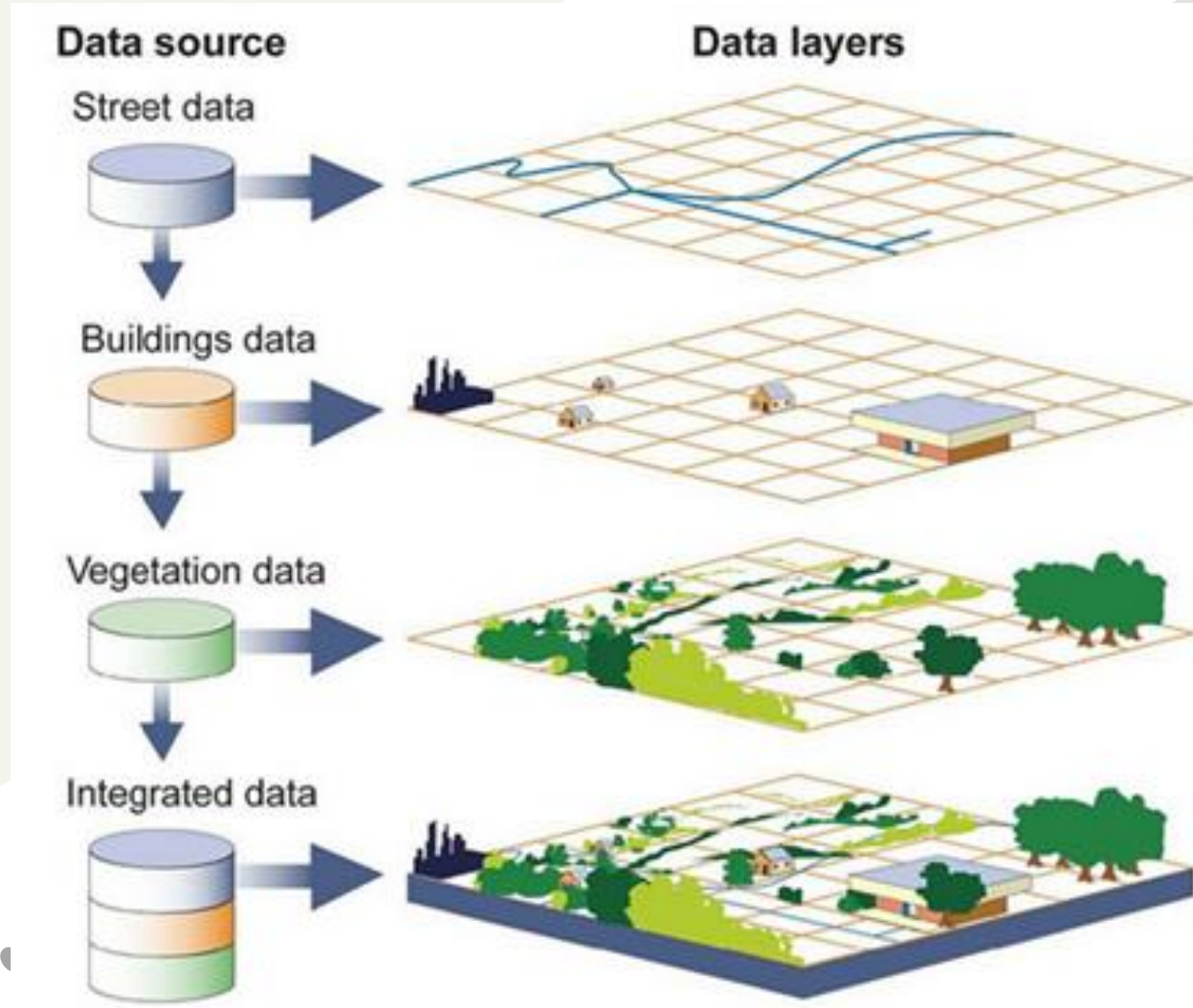
ARACNE's exploration phase (M1-12) – WP1

- desk research on publications related to the history of silk rearing and manufacturing in Europe;
- exploitation of the archives of the most relevant scientific and governmental institutions;
- collection of written and visual documentation through the bottom-up approach carried out by the joint action of schools and museums in different countries and their interaction (in particular, the young people will be stimulated in involving the elderly in this collection of information, as they represent the living memory of **the more recent silk period**);
- mapping architectonical/natural sites on the territories linked to the silk rearing, reeling and weaving through the bottom-up approach of schools and museums but also through the relationship and exchange with some already-established organizations (e.g. the Association of the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) of the Council of Europe (CoE));
- interviews with several European silk textile industries and the representative body for the European Synthetic & the Artificial Filament industry (AIUFFASS) as well as the Silk Industry; additional possible consultation of their archives and material collections;
- identification of “business” cases related to innovative silk production: start-up inventories;

ARACNE's exploration phase

- identification of ancient mulberry tree samples in the different territories, localization through GIS System, visual documentation (photos, videos...) for a first screening, with the involvement of schools, museums and farmers, and their organizations, acting throughout the network of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) according to the projects on sericulture that the Coordinator and other partners are involved in or may activate in the next years or through the European Net for Rural Development, based on National Rural Nets, with which the Coordinator and partners have direct links;
- recording the most relevant mulberry country-native varieties already established in the germplasm collections belonging to the scientific organisations participating to the project or to their scientific network;
- bibliographic research on the local ancient silkworm accessions in the participating organisations' archives, their re-tracing in the European or even in some international germplasm banks;
- their requests through exchanges even on the basis of already-tested Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) and obtainment of strains for the different project partners from these germplasm banks, or from private repositories, which will be identified through website research;
- research in the museums' archives, records and collections, to identify ancient cocoon samples to retrace the European strain creation and its relationship with the accessions presently preserved in the different silkworm germplasm banks in Europe.

ARACNE's exploration phase

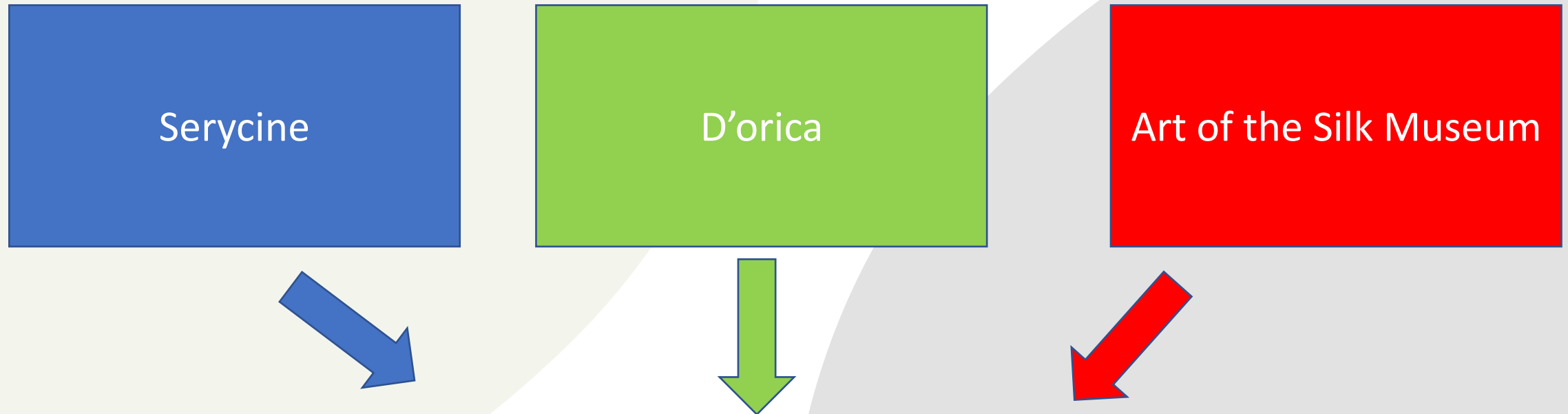


CO-CREATION AND EXPLOITATION PHASE (M13-36) – WP2-WP5

- building the virtual model for the European Silk Route
- building an integrated platform using data from WP1
- enriching the platform through the virtual exhibitions of different design and fashion-based solutions that will be developed by the **CCIs** participating to the project by leveraging on silk innovation techniques and digital technologies



CO-CREATION AND EXPLOITATION PHASE (M13-36) – WP2- WP5



Creations re-proposing the concept of the European Bauhaus, which “*is conceived to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for our eyes, minds, and souls*”. In fact, these creations will be “*enriching, inspired by art and culture, responding to needs beyond functionality; sustainable, in harmony with nature, the environment, and our planet; inclusive, encouraging a dialogue across cultures, disciplines, genders and ages*”.

CO-CREATION AND EXPLOITATION PHASE (M13-36) – WP2-WP5

- design and implementation of **innovative business and governance models** for the valorisation of **silk entrepreneurial and social initiatives and/or start-ups** in **WP3**
- establishment of a **European Silk Road (WP4)**
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ARACNE'S OUTCOMES

01

Better awareness and understanding of European arts, culture and values within the EU and internationally by leveraging the creativity of arts and cultural heritage partners in Europe.

02

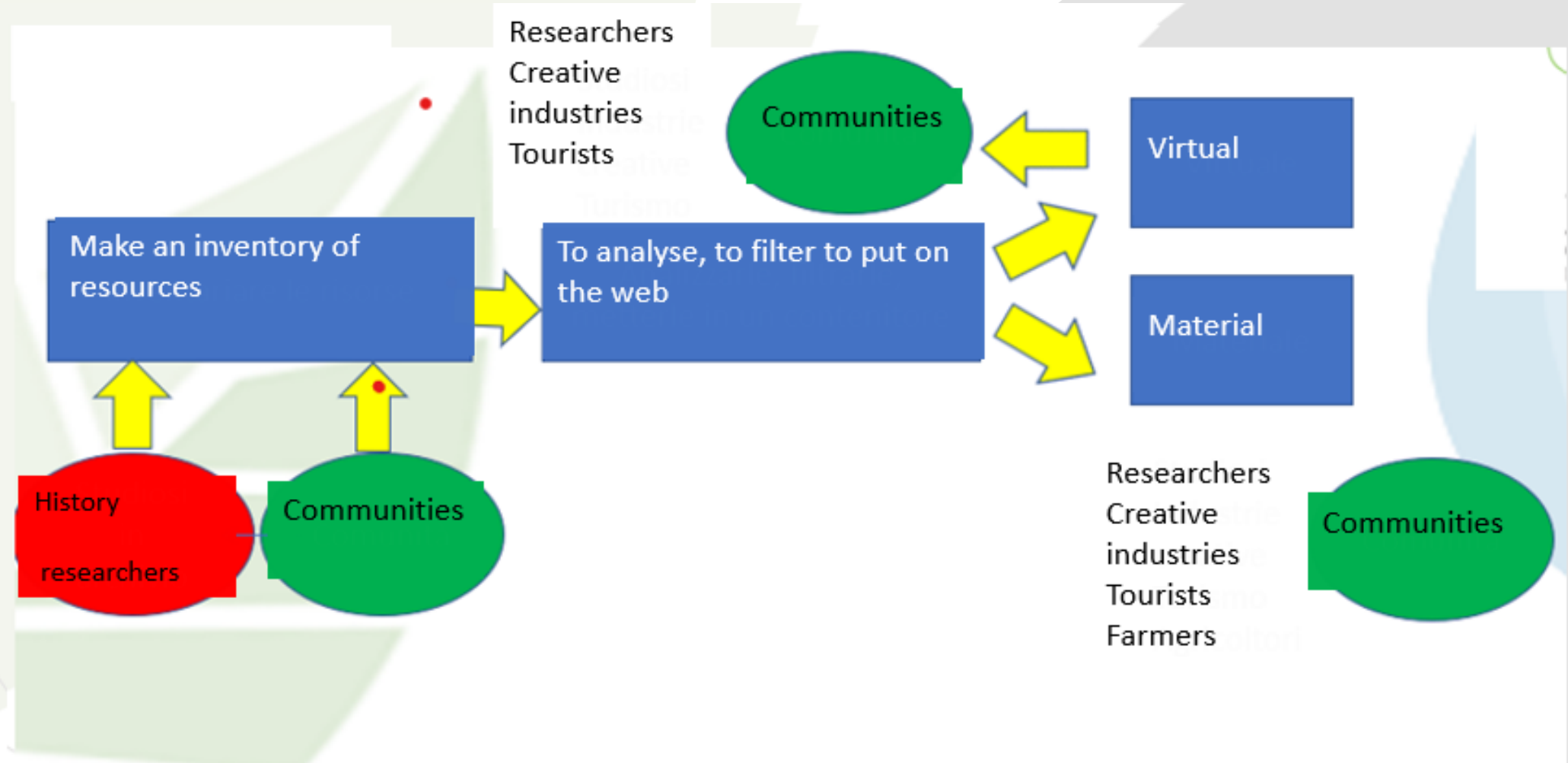
Wider exposure to the diversity of European art, culture and values for European and international partners, by strengthening links with creative industries and other parts of the economy

03

Reinforced common European action to promote Europe's culture and economic interests internationally, hence contributing to strengthen European competitiveness

ARACNE'S OUTCOMES

ARACNE will demonstrate that it is possible to restore sericulture in Europe based on silk-related **CH** and obtaining a general benefit for the **CCIs**, especially but not exclusively those of the silk sector



Key outputs of ARACNE

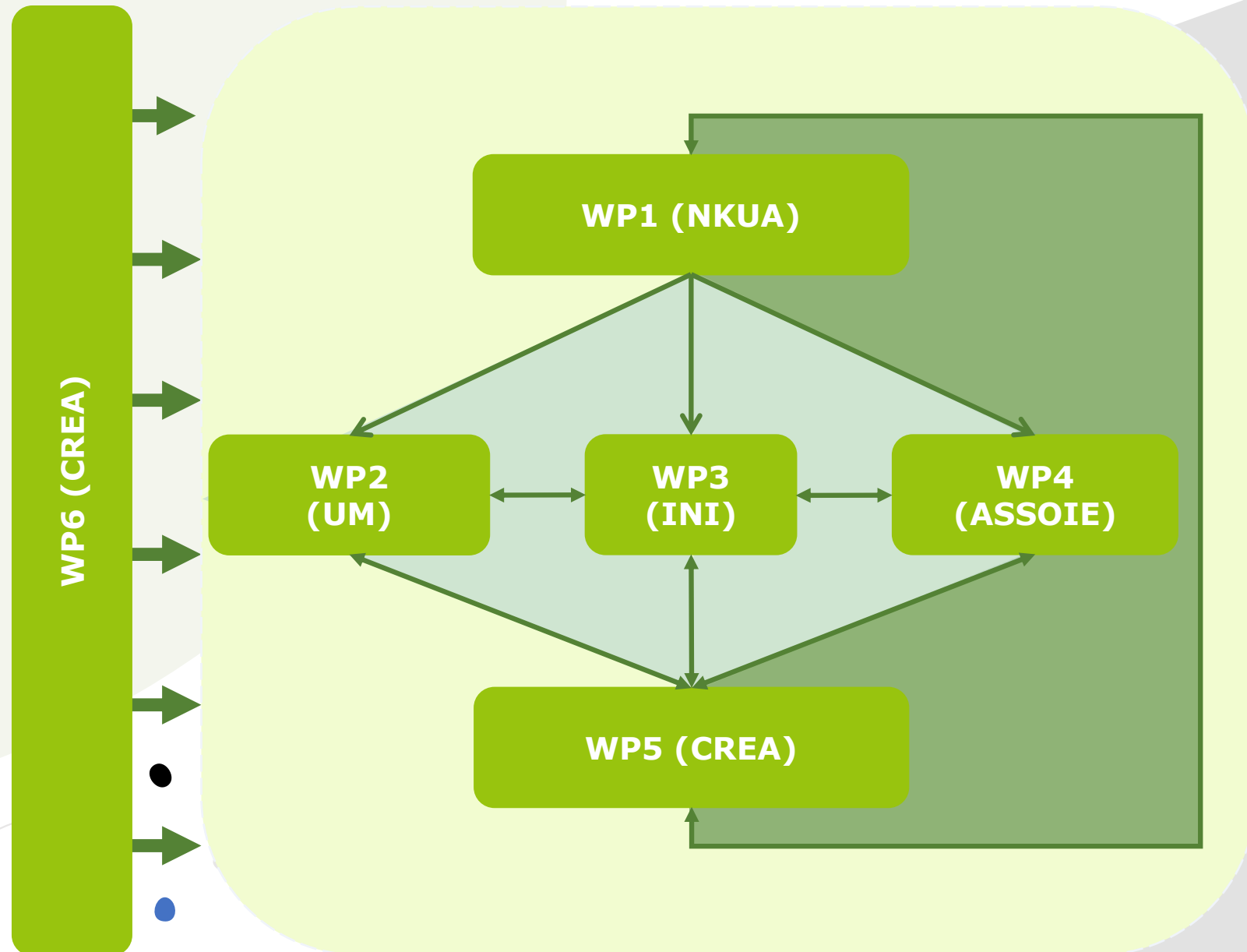
- ARACNE knowledge bank for the Silk Innovation Ecosystem represented by the results of the bottom-up and participatory activities (D1.2-M12);
- Reports on the collected mulberry samples and silkworm strains (D1.4 & D1.6-M12);
- Final silk narrative catalogue (D.1.8-M35);
- First virtual and georeferenced prototype (D2.4-M30);
- Innovative solutions for silk design and fashion (D2.6-M30);
- Innovative mulberry components to protect the silk thread and fashion materials produced through sustainable dissolution processes (D2.8-M30);
- Valorisation of silk-built heritage and landscapes (D3.2-M35);
- Innovative business, governance models and financial scouting for the start-up and scale-up of silk entrepreneurship (D3.3-M30);
- Recommendations on the future European Silk Route (D4.2-M35);
- European Virtual Silk Route (D4.3-M34);
- A strategic plan for transnational Silk Renaissance based on silk CH and the exploitation of the resources of CCIs (D4.4-M35);
- Mulberry and silkworm gene bank (D4.5, D4.6-M36);
- ARACNE website (D5.2-M3);
- Scientific publications (D5.5-M36).

ARACNE'S IMPACT

ARACNE will realize the full potential of cultural heritage, arts and cultural and creative sectors as a driver of sustainable innovation and a European sense of belonging through a continuous engagement with society, citizens and economic sectors as well as through better protection, restoration and promotion of cultural heritage.



Work packages' structure



Work packages' list

WP	Work Package Title	Lead Part.	Lead Participant Short Name	Person-Months	Start Month	End month
1	Development of the knowledge bank for the benefit of the European Silk Innovation Ecosystem	1	NKUA	149,39	1	12
2	Co-development, prototyping and testing of human-centered and place-specific silk-based solutions by CCIs, leveraging on digital and cutting-edge technologies	2	UM	157,25	6	30
3	Valorization and adaptive reuse of silk-built CH through circular business, governance models, financing mechanisms	3	INI	49,15	6	36
4	Towards the European Silk Route through tangible and intangible silk cultural heritage and landscapes	4	ASSOIE	175,25	12	36
5	Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation of ARACNE solutions for the renaissance of the European Silk Innovation Ecosystem	5	CREA	62,75	1	36
6	Project Management	6	CREA	51,03	1	36
Total person- months				645		

ARACNE'S ADVISORY BOARD

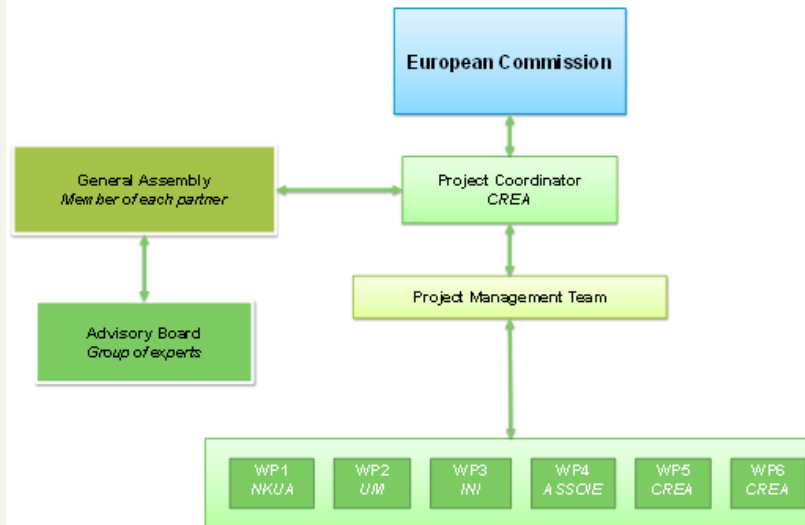


Figure 5 – ARACNE Organisational structure

<i>Name/Surname</i>	<i>Organisation/Country</i>
Luisella Pavan Wolfe	Director of Council of Europe Venice office (Strasbourg, France/Venice, Italy)
<u>Josè Cenís Anadón</u>	Ex professor at IMIDA (Murcia, Spain)
<u>Michael Woltje</u>	Research Associate at Institut für Textilmaschinen und Textile Hochleistungswerkstofftechnik (ITM) (Dresden , Germany)
<u>Luigi Fusco Girard</u>	Emeritus Professor, ex University of Naples Federico II, at CNR IRISS (Naples, Italy)
<u>Antonia Gravagnuolo</u>	Researcher at CNR IRISS (Naples, Italy)
<u>Ruba Saleh</u>	Researcher at ICHEC Brussels Management School (Brussels, Belgium)
<u>Christian Ost</u>	Professor and ex dean of ICHEC Brussels Management School (Brussels, Belgium)
<u>Nevio Benvenuto</u>	Head of CSR&Sustainability at Gucci

Figure 6 – ARACNE Advisory Board

Addition of a coordinator of the Advisory board: Roberto Formato



Grazie Thanks

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