



ENCATC

The European network on cultural
management and policy

ENCATC Award for Outstanding Contribution to cultural management, education, research, and policy

2025 Edition



Co-funded by
the European Union

OBJECTIVE

The ENCATC Award is a biennial accolade established in 2019 to celebrate the Network's twenty-fifth anniversary. It represents the highest expression of recognition to exceptional achievements in developing and sustaining innovative and consistent approaches that contribute to positive changes in cultural education, research, management and policy.

The Award is designed to acknowledge and honour visionary leadership, creativity, and contribution in education, research, policy, and advocacy within cultural management and/or policy. The Award recognizes individuals and organisations who have excelled in the following areas:

1. Transformational leadership in cultural management of cultural organisations/ institutions
2. Innovative and creative contributions to research in the cultural management and/or cultural policy field
3. Advocacy efforts that have a significant impact on the broader cultural policy landscape
4. Contributions that have broken new ground in the cultural management and policy discipline and/or laid the groundwork for others.

The Award aligns with ENCATC's mission, emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach and values such as sustainability, resilience, engagement, tolerance and dialogue, interaction and participation, and lifelong learning. It also adheres to principles of inclusion, promotion of values and ethics in education and research, European and international networking and cooperation, and cross-fertilization.

The Award serves as a testament to ENCATC's commitment to being one of society's most active global actors. In 2025, ENCATC has expanded the Award's reach to individuals, groups, or institutions worldwide.

The ENCATC Board is the body entitled to define and oversee the rules and procedures.

AWARD CONTENT

The ENCATC Award encompasses a diploma and entails a two-year engagement period within the ENCATC community. This duration signifies the recipient's activity participation within the ENCATC community, commencing upon receiving the award and concluding two years after that. Throughout this period, the recipient is expected to attend ENCATC events, contribute to ENCATC publications and activities, and engage with other members of the ENCATC community.

In addition, winning the ENCATC Outstanding Achievement Award comes with numerous benefits, including:

1. Recognition: The award is a prestigious recognition of outstanding value to the field of cultural management and policy.
2. Increased Visibility: The winner of the award receives extensive media coverage, providing an opportunity to showcase their work to a global audience.
3. Networking Opportunities: The award ceremony is attended by key international players in the cultural sector, providing a platform for the winner to connect with other professionals and potential partners.

4. Access to Information: The winner gains a life time access to a network of cultural management and policy experts, providing access to valuable opportunities, information and resources.

5. Professional Development: Winning the award can boost the winner's career prospects and provide opportunities for professional development.

6. Motivation: Winning the award serves as a catalyst, providing a significant boost of motivation and inspiration to the recipient, further fuelling their commitment to continue delivering outstanding value to the field of cultural management and policy.

The award ceremony takes place during the annual ENCATC conference, where the recipient will be invited to give a keynote speech and share their insights and experiences with the audience.

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates can be selected from both ENCATC members and non-ENCATC members.

To be eligible for the ENCATC Award:

- Individual candidates may be of any nationality and reside in any country worldwide.
- Group candidates must consist of two or more people of any nationality and may reside in any country worldwide, whether in a formal or non-formal collaboration.
- Institutional candidates must have a legal entity and may be registered in any country worldwide.

The Award cannot be granted posthumously.

NOMINATIONS

ENCATC members, non-members, individuals, or institutions may submit nominations for the ENCATC Award.

Nominators may submit a single candidate or multiple candidates.

Self-nomination is not permitted.

The ENCATC Secretariat will review all nominations to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria. Eligible nominations will then be forwarded to the ENCATC Panel Award.

ENTRY SUBMISSION AND DOCUMENTATION

The nominator must submit a nomination for the ENCATC Award through the ENCATC website, and all information and accompanying documentation must be in English.

Nominators are required to provide the following information and documentation:

1. A completed and signed ENCATC Award Nomination Form.
2. A professional resume of the nominee also including a list of programs, projects, websites, and publications showcasing the nominee's contributions to the field.

If the nomination refers to a group of people, the nominator must provide information regarding points 2 and 3 that demonstrate the convergent contributions of all group members.

If a nominator nominates more than one candidate, the applications must be submitted separately.

If the documentation is incomplete or contains errors, ENCATC will grant a three-working day extension to rectify the flaws detected so that the entry may be considered.

ENCATC guarantees to maintain the confidentiality of all documentation received and will not provide any individual information about nominations received or the deliberations of the award committees.

THE ENCATC PANEL AWARD

The ENCATC Award Panel is responsible for reviewing each nomination and ensures a fair and transparent process in selecting the winner of the ENCATC Award. The Panel is an interdisciplinary group of eleven members from different world Regions selected as follows:

1. ENCATC President
2. Former ENCATC President
3. Last ENCATC Award Laureate
4. ENCATC Correspondence Board member for the US
5. ENCATC Correspondence Board member for Asia
6. One Full member
7. One Associate member
8. One Individual member
9. One Honorary member
10. One member from Africa
11. One member from Latin America

The ENCATC Board appoints all Panel members for each edition of the ENCATC Award.

The ENCATC Board will ensure the Panel balances gender, geography, and expertise fields.

The Panel Chair will be the current ENCATC President.

Panel members must not have conflicts of interest with any of the nominees. Each Panel member must fill out and sign a Conflict-of-Interest Form to declare that they have no relationship with the nominee that could be deemed prejudicial.

SELECTION PROCESS

The ENCATC Secretariat shall collect the nominations, check eligibility criteria, and distribute all eligible nominations, along with all documents, to the ENCATC Award Panel members at the beginning of their work.

The ENCATC Award Panel will review each application based on award criteria.

The Panel shall individually read the nominations and then rank these privately following the award criteria for selecting the best candidate for the Award. No new additions to the listing can be considered following the vote. Each panel member shall send their votes to the ENCATC Secretariat.

ENCATC Secretariat collects all votes and based on the results, announces the best three nominations for the Panel's discussion.

The Panel will select the laureate after a discussion by majority vote. Further information can be collected if a deadlock of votes and a new assessment and voting round will be organized.

The decision will be considered quorate if seven out of the eleven members will submit their vote for the final decision. In case of a tie, the Chair's vote shall decide. If there is no majority after a third voting round, the Chair of the Panel will employ a casting vote. In the event of a dispute in the Panel that is unsuccessfully resolved, the Chair shall provide a complete and detailed report to the ENCATC Board for arbitration.

Once the Panel appraisal is completed, the Panel Chair will inform the ENCATC Board of the Panel decision and ask for the Board to ratify it by a majority vote of its members.

The Panel meetings are confidential, and there will be no external communication about the judgments.

The Panel's decisions will not be open to appeal, including the decision to leave the Award vacant.

If the winning nomination does not accept the Award, it will be offered to the nomination that came in second place. If for some reason the second-place person does not accept the award, it will be offered to the nomination that came in third place. If the third-place person does not accept, no award will be given that year.

The panel composition, the award certificate's contents, and the jury's citation will be publicly disclosed through the ENCATC website and social media channels.

AWARD CRITERIA

Award criteria will be used as criteria for selecting the best candidate. The ENCATC Panel Award will review all eligible applications based on the following criteria for ENCATC Award.

Criteria weighting as shown:

Evidence of core cultural management/policy teaching, research as well as advocacy activities interest in cultural development through the promotion of the central ENCATC values and principles.	20
---	----

Evidence of excellence in previous cultural management/policy activities (programs, projects, institutions, training, research, publications, prizes, policy documents, etc.).	20
--	----

Record of accomplishment in international cooperation in the cultural management/policy field.	20
--	----

Implementation of teaching, research and/or advocacy work that is internationally recognized.	20
---	----

Recognition for previous teaching, research, and/or advocacy work that has impacted a specific community (cultural, artistic, and/or social).	20
---	----

TOTAL 100

AWARD DECISION AND PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The laureate will be announced at the Award ceremony during the annual ENCATC Congress on 16 September in Barcelona, Spain.

The laureate must agree to attend the presentation ceremony. In the case of awards going to teams, one person will be allowed to represent the group.

If an award goes to an institution, it must furnish the following documents after being notified of the award decision: A statement from the pertinent governing body of the organisation or institution confirming its acceptance of the award.

ACCEPTANCE

Participating in any edition of the ENCATC Award signifies the acceptance of its conditions and award decisions and renunciation of any claim in their respect by both nominators and nominees.

Upon accepting the Award, the laureate is expected to fulfil the following commitments:

- Attend the Award ceremony in person.
- Deliver the closing keynote address at the ENCATC Congress.
- Participate in the upcoming edition of the ENCATC Panel Award.
- Engage in the various activities and events (as time permits) organized by ENCATC following the Award ceremony for a specific period.

These commitments are essential to upholding the spirit of the Award and maintaining its legacy of fostering extraordinary engagement and outstanding contribution in the cultural sector.



Call for nominations



End of nominations



Selection process



Announcement



Ceremony

ENCATC, THE LEADING EUROPEAN NETWORK ON CULTURAL MANAGEMENT AND POLICY.

It is an independent membership organization gathering over 100 higher education institutions and cultural organizations in over 40 countries. ENCATC was founded in Warsaw in 1992 to represent, advocate and promote cultural management and cultural policy, professionalize the cultural sector and make it sustainable, and to create platforms of discussion and exchange at the European and international level. ENCATC holds the status of an international non-profit organization, an official UNESCO member NGO, and of “observer” to the Steering Committee for Culture of the Council of Europe.

The mission of ENCATC is to stimulate the development of cultural management and policy in Europe and beyond, engaging and responding to new developments in politics, economics, society and technology.

Read more about what we do: www.encatc.org

ENCATC is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission. The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

ENCATC
Avenue Maurice1
1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 201 29 12
info@encatc.org

The ENCATC Award for Outstanding Contribution is an initiative of ENCATC



**Co-funded by
the European Union**