

PRESS RELEASE

Ernesto Ottone Ramírez wins the 2025 ENCATC Award for Outstanding Contribution



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Brussels, 23 July 2025 - The European Network on Cultural Management and Policy, ENCATC, is thrilled to announce that Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramírez is the winner of the 2025 edition of the ENCATC Award for Outstanding Contribution.

Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramírez is the **Assistant Director-General for Culture** at **UNESCO**, where he has been leading global initiatives in cultural policy, heritage protection, and creative industries since 2018. A Chilean cultural policy expert and international cultural manager, between 2015 and 2018 he served as Chile's **Minister President of the National Council of Culture and the Arts**, and later as the country's **Minister of Cultures, Arts, and Heritage**.

The Award Panel, an interdisciplinary group integrated by 11 ENCATC members from different world regions, evaluated and assessed all nominations recognizing Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramírez for his **visionary leadership and dedication**. His commitment has significantly **shaped the global cultural landscape**, positioning culture as a pillar of sustainable development, social inclusion, and peace. His career reflects the support for culture in both theory and practice. Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramírez has been instrumental in steering UNESCO's cultural agenda during pivotal moments, such as the 2022 Mondiacult conference, where culture was recognized as a **global public good** for the first time in decades. His efforts have **redefined global cultural policy frameworks** and elevated the role of culture within international development discourse.

ENCATC's president, Gerald Lidstone, commented: "*Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramírez stands out as a leader who understands **culture as a fundamental force shaping our societies**. His ability to translate complex cultural issues into actionable international policy has had a profound global impact. From redefining the global narrative around cultural rights to building bridges across governments, academia, and civil society, He has consistently demonstrated the kind of **interdisciplinary leadership** we strive to recognize with this Award. His role in landmark moments, such as the 2022 Mondiacult*

conference, and his advocacy for **evidence-based cultural governance**, mark him as a true architect of modern cultural policy."

ENCATC's Secretary General, GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens, expressed: "It is with deep admiration that we honour Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramírez with the 2025 ENCATC Award for Outstanding Contribution. His unique combination of leading global cultural policy at UNESCO, proven impact on **cultural development worldwide**, commitment in advocating for cultural rights and sustainability resonates with ENCATC's emphasis on **transformational leadership and innovation, international cooperation and advocacy, and impact on policy and practice**. Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramírez is not only a cultural policymaker of exceptional stature—he is a global connector and a source of inspiration for generations of cultural professionals worldwide."

The **Award Ceremony** will be held during the [2025 ENCATC Congress](#) on **15th September**, in the evocative frame of the **Ateneu Barcelonès** in **Barcelona, Spain**. [Registrations](#) are still open for the Congress.

About the Award

The ENCATC Award for Outstanding Contribution is designed to acknowledge and honour visionary leadership, creativity, and contribution in education, research, policy, and advocacy in the field of cultural management and policy. The Award recognizes individuals and organisations who have excelled in the following areas: transformational leadership in cultural management of cultural organisations or institutions; innovative and creative contributions to research in the cultural management or cultural policy field; advocacy efforts that have a significant impact on the broader cultural policy landscape; contributions that have broken new ground in the cultural management and policy discipline.

About the Jury

The Jury of the Award for Outstanding Contribution is composed by:

- **Gerald Lidstone**, President, ENCATC, Director of the Institute for Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship (ICCE), Goldsmiths, University of London, United Kingdom;
- **Lluís Bonet**, 2023 Award Laureate, Director of the Cultural Management Programme, University of Barcelona, Spain;
- **Wu Chieh-Hsiang**, Executive Director, TACPS, Professor, National Changhua University of Education, Taipei;
- **Dan Green**, Director of the Master of Entertainment Industry Management Program, Carnegie Mellon University, USA;
- **Francesca Imperiale**, Associate Professor of Business Administration, Università del Salento, Italy;
- **Xiao Lu**, Assistant Professor, School of Cultural Technology, XJTLU Entrepreneur College, China;
- **Mbuyamba Lupwishi**, Executive Director, Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa, Mozambique;
- **Héctor Schargorodsky**, Professor, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina;
- **Elena Theodoulou Charalambous**, Cultural policy advisor, Ministry of Education and Culture (Cyprus);
- **Lidia Varbanova**, Programme Director, Management of Performing Arts and Industries, National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts "Krastyo Sarafov", Bulgaria;
- **Catarina Vaz Pinto**, Councillor of culture, City of Lisbon, Portugal.

About ENCATC

ENCATC is the leading European Network on cultural management and policy. It represents, advocates, and promotes cultural management and cultural policy education, professionalizes the cultural sector to make it sustainable, and creates a platform for discussion and exchange at European and international level. The organization, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, has developed a wide offer of activities, products, publications, projects, mobility schemes, and more to the promotion of the field.

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