

OPEN CALL

Young and Emerging Researchers Forum (YERF)

The **ENCATC Young and Emerging Researchers Forum (YERF)** is specifically designed for the new generation of talented researchers in the field of cultural management and policy, to advance in their careers and enlarge their network in Europe and beyond.

It offers you a unique opportunity to:

- get feedback on your research and diverse views on how to tackle the challenges you are encountering from leading researchers in the field;
- get comments from fellow young and emerging researchers who are going through similar experiences;
- engage in discussions on shared challenges with both senior and emerging researchers on crucial matters for those entering the field;
- expand your international network and develop relations for future endeavours.

This year, in its **19th edition**, the YERF will take place in a **face-to-face format on 25 September 2026 in Nice, France**, and its programme will include:

- an introduction to the Forum;
- a panel with international senior scholars;
- two sessions devoted to the presentation by PhD candidates, who will be responded to and commented on by renowned researchers and fellow emerging researchers.

The YERF is part of the **2026 ENCATC Congress on Cultural Management and Policy**, "*Artists and Cultural & Creative Professionals at the Centre: Rethinking Work, Policy, and Cultural Ecosystems*", which will take place **23–25 September 2026 in Nice, France**.

The YERF is chaired by **Prof. Leticia Labaronne**, ENCATC Vice-President, Head of the Center for Arts Management, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (Switzerland).

Who can apply

The YERF is open to:

- **PhD candidates** in cultural management, cultural policy, or related fields
- **Young and emerging researchers** working on topics related to cultural management and policy

Participants should be conducting research relevant to the cultural and creative sectors, including but not limited to:

- cultural policy
- cultural management
- cultural governance
- cultural participation
- creative industries

- cultural ecosystems
- cultural heritage management

Application procedure

To apply, candidates must submit their application through the **Google Drive form**: <https://forms.gle/RWDmyuetWpwj1hCD8> providing the following information:

- **Applicant's information, of which:**
 - First name and last name
 - University or institution of the PhD programme
 - Email address
 - Mobile phone number (including national prefix)
- **Research topic**
A brief description of the **topic of the applicant's current research**.
- **Research description**
A description of the research project (**maximum 150 words**).
- **Motivation to participate**
A short statement explaining the applicant's **motivation to participate in the YERF (maximum 150 words)**.
- **Contribution to academic or professional development**
A statement describing **how participation in the YERF would contribute to the applicant's academic and/or professional development (maximum 150 words)**.
- **Short bio**
A brief biography of the applicant (**maximum 150 words**).
- **Photo**
Applicants are requested to **upload a portrait photograph** that may be used for communication purposes.

Important dates

- **20 March 2026** — Launch of the YERF call
- **30 April 2026** — Deadline for applications (23:59 CEST)
- **June 2026** — Notification of selected participants
- **25 September 2026** — Young and Emerging Researchers Forum, Nice (France)

Data protection

By submitting an application, participants consent to the processing and storage of their personal data by ENCATC for the purposes of organizing the YERF.

In accordance with **Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR)**, applicants have the right to access, rectify, or request deletion of their personal data at any time during the storage period.

Contact

For any questions regarding the YERF application process, please contact the **ENCATC Secretariat** at: congress@encatc.org