



ENCATC news

A monthly e-newsletter for the latest in cultural management and policy



Dear Members and Colleagues,

*The past few weeks have underscored just **how much is at stake for culture in Europe** today. While the challenges are not new, there is a growing sense of urgency — and a clearer recognition from institutions that culture needs to be taken seriously as a policy priority. The European Commission's new initiative, the **Culture Compass**, is a timely development in this regard.*

*The Compass seeks to outline a **long-term strategic framework for the role of culture in the EU**, aligning with broader efforts to enhance competitiveness, cohesion, and global engagement. What stands out is not just the ambition of the initiative, but also its method: **co-creation**. The first consultation, held on 20 March, brought together over 50 cultural organisations and networks — ENCATC among them — in the presence of representatives from all three EU institutions. This level of political backing offers real potential for more **coordinated action** in a field that has long suffered from fragmentation.*

*For ENCATC, this is a moment to continue doing what we do best: building **connections** between **education, research, and policy**. These elements are not peripheral — they are critical if we want cultural policy that is informed, inclusive, and future-oriented. Whether it's contributing to a consultation in Brussels, sharing policy insights in the European Parliament, or participating in discussions at events like TEFAF, we see our role as helping make the cultural sector's knowledge and needs visible by **linking practice with policy**.*

*This issue of the newsletter brings together some of these contributions, alongside other updates from across our network. We also offer a closer look at the Culture Compass through our new **"Policy Perspective"** feature — not as a celebration, but as a realistic analysis of the process ahead, its potential, and its constraints.*

We hope it gives you insight into how the cultural policy landscape is evolving — and where there is room to engage.

Warm regards,



GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens
ENCATC Secretary General

On the SPOTLIGHT

Applications Open: Join ENCATC's 2025 Study Tour in Seoul

From 26–29 May 2025, ENCATC will host its 11th International Study Tour in Seoul, offering participants a rare opportunity to engage with **South Korea's dynamic cultural sector** while strengthening connections between Europe and Asia. The ENCATC study tours are a moment to reflect on the potential of **cultural cooperation** across regions. At a time when EU–Asia collaboration remains underdeveloped in multilateral frameworks, this tour creates space for direct exchange among **educators, cultural professionals, and policymakers**.

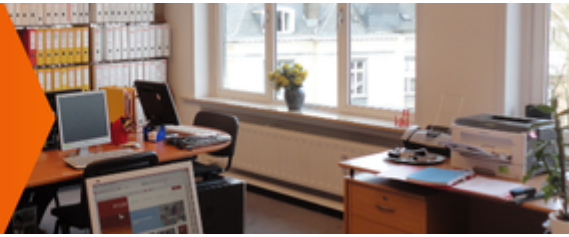


An initiative by:



Participants will explore Seoul's **most influential cultural institutions**, engage in dialogue with local experts, and gain first-hand insight into the country's thriving **creative industries** — from heritage preservation to pop culture, from public policy to independent initiatives. The programme combines **site visits, expert talks, and curated meetings** that highlight shared challenges and approaches in cultural management. It is an opportunity to explore how tradition and innovation coexist in one of Asia's most vibrant cultural capitals — and to contribute to building a stronger **cultural bridge between the EU and its Asian partners**. Join us in Seoul and take part in a meaningful exploration of global cultural cooperation.

[Learn more](#)



Bringing Cultural Expertise to the EU Table

On 20th March our network was invited to share our **vision, proposals, and expertise on cultural policy** with **European Commissioner** for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport **Glenn Micallef**. ENCATC expertise and deep knowledge of the sector were central in the stakeholder meeting, where our Secretary General **Giannalia Cogliandro** emphasized the essential role of **education** in the development of the cultural sector. Speaking about the **Culture Compass for Europe** initiative, she highlighted the need to safeguard cultural diversity, artistic freedom, and cross-border collaboration, as well as stressing the importance of **integrating sustainability into cultural practices**. We renovated our commitment to collaborate with political institutions thanks to our **deep expertise in capacity-building, research, and policy engagement**. The meeting was a crucial opportunity to demonstrate our central role in policy development in the cultural sector.

For a deeper look at the institutional context and what's at stake, see [this month's Policy Perspective](#): A Strategic Vision for Culture in the EU — Easier Said Than Done.

ENCATC Research Award Presented at the European Parliament

During the opening of the Changemakers exhibition at the **European Parliament in Strasbourg**, ENCATC was invited to share its approach to **linking cultural research with policy development**. In dialogue with MEPs from the **CULT and FEMM Committees**, we presented the ENCATC Research Award — a prize established in 2014 to recognise emerging researchers whose work contributes directly to EU cultural policy. Together with other networks and stakeholders, we highlighted the importance of **supporting evidence-based policy** in the cultural sector. ENCATC's long-standing commitment to research publications and advocacy reflects our belief that solid policy begins with solid knowledge. This exchange reinforced our dedication to **building bridges between academic research and institutional practice** at the European level.

[Read more](#) on our meetings.

ENCATC Art Talk: an impactful event to advance the fight on illicit trafficking

In the last month, ENCATC continued to foster dialogue and collaboration in the cultural sector in **Maastricht**, during the prestigious **TEFAF Art Fair**. On 19th March the international venue hosted a new edition of the **ENCATC ART Talk**. This engaging session focused on **policy updates, research advancements, and future initiatives** in the fight against illicit cultural trafficking. Participants shared insights on member projects, explored new research collaborations, and discussed recent studies. The event reinforced ENCATC's commitment to fostering knowledge and action, ensuring that cutting-edge research and policy dialogue continue to shape the field.

A dazzling Cultural Happy Hour between Turkmen art and networking opportunities

The **Embassy of Turkmenistan to Belgium** and **H.E. Sapar Palvanov** hosted the second ENCATC Cultural Happy Hour of 2025, offering a vibrant evening of cultural discovery and networking. Guests explored "**Turkmen Treasures Unveiled**", an artistic exhibition showcasing exquisite Turkmen **jewellery, tapestries, and textiles**. This inspiring event fostered international partnerships and cross-sector exchanges, bringing together professionals from culture, education, and business. Once again, the

Cultural Happy Hour proved to be a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and appreciation of cultural heritage, strengthening connections across diverse fields.

ENCATC welcomes four new members

The **World Poetry Slam Organization AISBL** dedicates its work towards respect, openness and inclusivity. Poetry slam represents a mean of emancipation, improvement but overall, an open stage for all the oppressed and invisibilized voices, such as women, LGBTQI+, precarized and racialized people, or any population exposed to some type of discrimination.

[Read more](#) on the World Poetry Slam Organization.

OrchestrAcademy organizes advanced musical training courses for young musicians aged between 18 and 25 with conductors from all over the world and coaches who are soloists and principal musicians of prestigious national and international orchestras. Classes are founded on the 'learning by doing' working method, which combines practice and theory.

[Read more](#) on OrchestrAcademy.

The **Fortress of Culture Šibenik** manages three restored fortresses in Šibenik—St. Michael's, Barone, St. John's, the House of Arts Arsen (since 2021), and the Croatian Coral Center on Zlarin (since 2023). It focuses on preserving Šibenik's fortification heritage, organizing cultural events, and fostering creative industries to attract local and international audiences.

[Read more](#) on the Fortress of Culture Šibenik.

Jiaying Gao is a PhD student in ICCE, Goldsmiths University of London. She completed a Master's degree in Curation and Collection at University of Arts in London, UK, from September 2019 to September 2020. Jiaying began her academic journey with a Master's Dance Studies at Nanjing Normal University in China and she is also a Chinese dancer, choreographer and curator. Her research investigates the intersection of body perceptions and the archive, particularly within the frame of dance museums.



Get ready for a new edition of the ENCATC Academy April 14-17, 2025 Bologna, Italy

How to concretely **embed sustainability** in the management of cultural institutions? What are the steps to devise cultural projects considering the **environmental impact**? The ENCATC Academy on sustainable cultural management and policy is the right place to address these and many more issues. Register to the academy for a full immersion of **dynamic lectures, immersive case studies, and hands-on exercises**. They will be the opportunity to understand how to concretely put into practice sustainability in cultural organizations.



[Learn more](#)

ENCATC Research Conference - Call for Abstracts

Deadline: April 11

In our mission to inform and inspire cutting-edge research thanks to the strength of our network, we invite researchers, educators, and professionals from our field to **submit an abstract for our next Research Conference**. The abstract may be both for a **research paper** and for a **teaching method**, and will be the protagonist of our next **Annual Congress** in Barcelona, from **15-17 September**. You can submit your 300 to 500-words abstract by the 11th April.



[Learn more](#)

POLICY Perspective



A new Culture Compass for Europe: easier said than done

We published on the ENCATC website a new detailed analysis on the **Culture Compass for Europe** initiative. With this project, the European Commission is working to deliver a long-term strategic framework to guide the role of culture in EU policy-making. The aim of the initiative is to **reaffirm shared European values** while **navigating societal transformation**, and it seeks to position culture not only as a pillar of identity but also as a driver of wellbeing, innovation, and development. The first **stakeholder meeting** of 20th March, where ENCATC actively participated, marked the clear ambition of the European Commission to **co-create** the Culture Compass. The consultation marked a step forward in **recognising culture as both intrinsic value and strategic asset**, including in the EU's global engagement. This initiative aligns with ongoing advocacy by European cultural and creative sectors for a more ambitious EU cultural agenda, including the call to allocate 2% of the EU budget to culture in the next Multiannual Financial Framework. Encouragingly, Micallef appeared receptive. Still, his convening call — encouraging stakeholders to work constructively within the remit of the Treaties and EU competences - highlights the enduring limitations of Article 167 TFEU, which only grants the EU a complementary role in cultural matters.

[Continue reading](#) on our website.

The RESEARCH Spotlight



Does network governance really work? Evidence from cross-national comparative research on urban regeneration in Belgrade and Amsterdam

The last article published on the **ENCATC Journal** is comparative case study that explores the **transformation of two former industrial riverfront neighborhoods: Savamala (Belgrade) and NDSM Wharf (Amsterdam)**. By combining network theory and empirical analysis, the research examines **governance structures in urban regeneration**. The study focuses on three key objectives. First, it investigates **governance differences** between the two cases, analyzing stakeholder involvement, decision-making, and policy networks. Second, it explores **policy implementation** through network governance, identifying power dynamics in regeneration programs. Third, it evaluates **governance effectiveness** at both the network and community levels.

Findings reveal contrasting governance modes. In Savamala, the initial phase featured a fragmented-governed network, later shifting to hierarchical governance. In contrast, NDSM Wharf maintained a coherent network governance approach throughout. The study concludes that network governance fosters more effective regeneration, while hierarchical structures tend to be less inclusive. Ultimately, the research highlights the importance of network governance in revitalizing industrial riverfronts.

[Continue reading](#) on the *ENCATC Journal*.



Patrick Barbier: A Life Between Music, History, and Cultural Engagement

Patrick Barbier, an Italianist by training and Emeritus Professor at the Université catholique de l'Ouest, has dedicated his career to exploring the connections between music, history, and cultural life. His research spans from Baroque opera and the world of the Castrati to 19th-century female composers and the musical role of Queen Marie-Antoinette.



Through over a dozen books, he has made complex cultural histories accessible to a broad public. Alongside his academic work, Barbier has played a key role in shaping cultural education in western France, helping launch the region's only musicology degree and a master's in cultural action. He is also a long-time contributor to *La Folle Journée*, a groundbreaking classical music festival that celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. From writing educational theatre pieces performed in schools to championing musical accessibility, his work reflects a deep commitment to opening up culture to new audiences.

[Read the full interview](#) to discover more about his journey, his reflections on cultural policy, and why he believes making music more approachable is essential for its future.

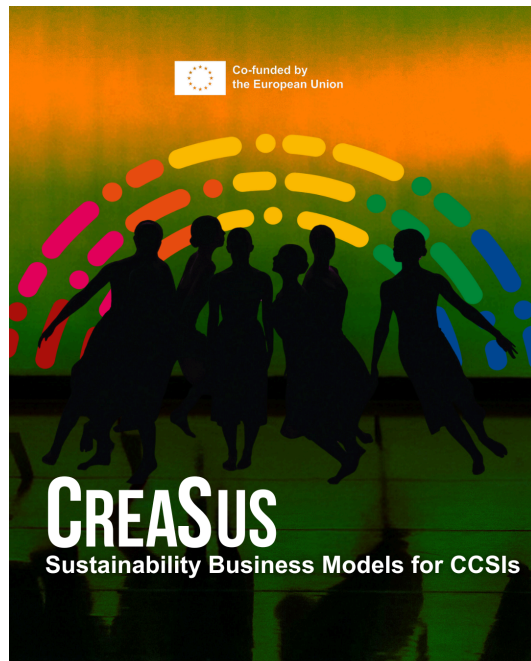
Our **EUROPEAN** Projects



Tools, methods, and data for CCSIs sustainability

ENCATC is proud to partner with **CreaSus**, a European project that provides a **clear framework to assess sustainability** using the European Sustainability Reporting Standards. Targets of the programme are **Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries**.

The project is now moving into its **pilot phase**, and **organizations across the EU are invited to take part**. Through a simple self-assessment, participants can evaluate their sustainability efforts, organize key data, and turn it into value for their work. This is a great opportunity for CCSIs to **measure progress and enhance sustainability strategies**.



[Learn More](#)

ECHOES Cascading Grants: first call is open for applicants

As a key partner in the ECHOES project, ENCATC invites Cultural Heritage Institutions to apply for funding to enhance digital access to cultural assets. Up to €60,000 will be awarded to each of twelve selected projects that contribute datasets to the Cultural Heritage Cloud. Applicants should outline their dataset's intended audience, its role in fostering engagement, anticipated impact, and potential for long-term cultural preservation. Furthermore, proposals should illustrate how they plan to leverage the Cultural Heritage Cloud to amplify their project's reach and usability.



[Learn more](#)

NETSWorking

Members and culture in action



A new edition of the Culture Summit 2025 Abu Dhabi is on its way

"Culture for humanity and beyond" is the motto for this year's edition of the Culture Summit in Abu Dhabi, the annual event co-organized by ENCATC member **Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism**. On 27th April, the ENCATC Member Natalia Grincheva will participate as a facilitator to the workshop session **"Rethinking Cultural Measurement"**.

As a global annual gathering in Abu Dhabi that brings together an exceptional collective of stakeholders in the cultural sector, its ambition is to identify **ways in which culture can transform societies and communities worldwide** and turn these ideas into actions and solutions. Creative thinkers, decision-makers, artists, designers, changemakers, and leaders from the culture and creative industries attend the event. With thoughtfully curated panel discussions, keynotes, case studies, creative conversations, artist talks and workshops, speakers and attendees have a unique opportunity to unlock the collective intelligence of the cultural and creative sectors at a global scale.

[Learn more](#) on the event.

Fortress of Culture presents "Night of Fortress Goes Green"

9th May

The ENCATC Member **Fortress of Culture Šibenik** has recently announced the 2025 edition of "Night of Fortresses", the event that connects cultural heritage with environmental responsibility. Under the new slogan **"Night of Fortresses Goes Green"**, this year's edition will be the occasion to raise awareness about green and sustainable development. The goal is to educate visitors about **sustainable tourism** and **practices that contribute to environmental preservation** and the protection of cultural heritage, encouraging their active participation in safeguarding natural and cultural wealth. **We invite all managers of cultural heritage, cultural institutions, and fortified sites in Europe to join the celebration of Night of Fortresses Goes Green**, with the note that registered programs should include a green component. Organizers are encouraged to create programs such as open days, guided tours, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, concerts, dance performances, and other activities that promote sustainable practices, environmental responsibility, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

[Learn more](#)

Other EVENTS



European Heritage Hub Forum

April 3-4, 2025

Hybrid - Budva, Montenegro

The third European Heritage Hub Forum, “**EU Enlargement: Cultural Heritage as a Key Resource for Cities & Civil Society**”, is on its way. This year's edition will focus on social transformation, highlighting the vital role of cultural heritage in fostering social inclusion, reconciliation, education, and economic growth. Participants will explore **how heritage can drive community resilience and sustainable development**, promoting best practices and innovative solutions. The event can also be followed online.

[Learn more](#)



Art Management in Africa

Online events, 1st April - 20 May

A new series of online events seven is about to be launched. It will focus on **art management in Africa's performing art and cultural sector**. This subject is under-discussed on the continent, and there exists a variety of experiences, exposures, and practices that, if shared, might support the sector. Specifically, this series will focus on the **administration of arts and culture organizations**, including marketing, fundraising, and policy in Africa. A variety of speakers will share their journey and offer practical insights into their operations.

[Learn more](#)



BEYOND 2025: Being Many

June 4-7, 2025

Turin, Italy

BEYOND 2025, **Culture Action Europe's** flagship annual conference (known previously as Beyond the Obvious) will take place in Turin from June 4-7, 2025. Culture Action Europe members **Club Silencio** and **Fondazione Fitzcarraldo** will be the partners of the event, hosting this edition of BEYOND at Lavazza and Sermig, among other locations around Turin.

[Learn more](#)



What we are READING



Report | Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture

The latest Progress Report for Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture is out. It focuses on a series of evaluations and analyses conducted by Cupore, the Centre for Cultural Policy and Research, to **assess Oulu cultural projects** in view of its role of **European Capital of Culture in 2026**. It outlines the progress of the Oulu2026 activities in 2023. It is based on the baseline report covering 2022. Progress reports will be produced annually until 2026. The final evaluation of the ECoC year will be published at the end of 2027.

[Read the report here.](#)

Publication | Cultural Ambassadors: The Role of Diasporas in Promoting Cultural Diplomacy and Development

Culture, diasporas, and diplomacy are strongly connected when it comes to promoting exchanges and fostering social inclusion, economic development, and the building of transcontinental bridges. In this publication, author Florencio Venté explores the nexus of these three areas and **how they can serve as pathways to achieve cohesion** across the Atlantic and beyond. Culture is crucial in promoting heritage, sharing history, and preserving collective memory. It is important to explore **how culture can function as a connector** for integration and peacebuilding, addressing the diversity of nations, what makes them culturally unique, and the shared cultural similarities within regions.

[Read the publication here.](#)

Do you wish to suggest a publication yourself? Have you read a book that you found very insightful?

Let us know [here](#)!

The fEUture of tomorrow



What future do young generation wish from Europe in 2025? In this new section of our monthly newsletter, we gather voices from young people, sharing their perspectives on the future of Europe and the cultural sector.

The latest **Eurobarometer** data offers a fascinating glimpse into the mindset of **young Europeans** today. Optimistic about the EU's future yet deeply concerned about economic insecurity, global instability, and democratic values, youngest generation faces a complex mix of hope and anxiety. Freedom of movement and EU solidarity remain highly valued, but rising living costs and job insecurity cast a shadow over these

benefits. **Will the EU respond to these concerns with tangible change?** The stakes couldn't be higher.

[Read the analysis](#) on our website.

UKRAINE Highlighted

Our individual member Daryna Zhyvohliadova, curator of the "Ukraine Highlighted" feature, has just joined KU Leuven University as an Academic Project Coordinator at the research group on Modernity and Society (History Department, Faculty of Arts). We support Daryna in this important step and feature today "HER-UKR", a Ukraine-focused project she will be working on.



The project HER-UKR: Challenges and opportunities for EU heritage diplomacy in Ukraine

addresses the role of cultural heritage in the EU's external action. A consortium of 15 universities, led by KU Leuven, brings together interdisciplinary expertise on EU foreign policy and heritage diplomacy, Ukrainian and Eastern European memory politics and heritage practices. The project is co-funded by the EU within the ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Policy Debate action. It focuses on the EU strategy for international cultural relations, conflict prevention – focus on contested heritage and disinformation, and protection and reconstruction of heritage in Ukraine.

The project has led to various research and educational events and reports. For example, the key points on heritage preservation, as highlighted by the research community, were shared during the conference [“Challenges of EU Heritage Diplomacy”](#).

Ukrainian heritage is under deliberate attack: The preservation and promotion of cultural heritage are at the heart of resiliency nation building asserting sovereignty and recognition as a European state.

Frontline response effort is local: Ukrainian heritage institutions, communities and heritage professionals are the main actors in the protection of heritage. Mobilizing all the heritage stakeholders is essential: International aid solidarity support to Ukraine has proven the effectiveness of heritage diplomacy.

Time to act for the future recovery: post-war recovery for Ukraine's heritage requires supporting and funding plans for reconstruction, documentation and memory politics.

Curated by Daryna Zhyvohliadova
Ukrainian academic researcher and consultant



Global **POLICY BRIEF** and more



Our ENCATC Weekly Flash informs our members about the most relevant updates on policy issues, fundings, research grants, collaboration calls, and much more.

If you want to receive our weekly exclusive communications, **become an ENCATC Member**.

Become an ENCATC Member



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

ENCATC is the European network on cultural management and policy. It is an independent membership organisation gathering over 100 higher education institutions and cultural organisations in over 40 countries. ENCATC was founded in 1992 to represent, advocate and promote cultural management and cultural policy education, professionalise the cultural sector and make it sustainable, and to create a platform of discussion and exchange at the European and international level.

ENCATC is also an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO.

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