



ENCATC news

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



November 2025

Dear colleague,

As 2025 draws to a close, the cultural policy landscape has been shaped by significant developments at the international and European level — many of which directly acknowledge the crucial role of culture in addressing today's complex societal challenges. This momentum has created new opportunities for our network to contribute expertise, channel evidence, and support more coordinated and research-informed policymaking.

At the **international level**, MONDIACULT 2025 has been a defining moment. ENCATC played an active role throughout the year, organising a federated side event, contributing to the MONDIACULT Digital Library, and accompanying members in the global discussions on cultural rights, sustainability, digital ethics, and fair work. In this newsletter, we are pleased to share two important outcomes of this work: the ENCATC's **Policy Statement** and the **ENCATC Policy Tracker *Shaping Regenerative Futures Together: MONDIACULT 2025 and Beyond***, both of which distil the perspectives of our members and our global cultural management and policy community by highlighting how education, research, and practice can jointly inform cultural policymaking.

ENCATC also continued its engagement with the **Council of Europe**, following discussions at the CDCPP's 14th Plenary on artistic freedom, democratic participation, and new approaches to strengthening cultural rights. These debates reaffirm the need for closer collaboration between

cultural networks and international organisations — an area where ENCATC remains deeply committed.

At the **European level**, the launch of the **EU Culture Compass** earlier this month marks a welcome step forward in positioning culture at the heart of the Union's long-term strategic thinking. ENCATC contributed to the consultation process and welcomes the recognition of cultural rights, artistic freedom, fair working conditions, digital transformation, and lifelong learning as central priorities for the future of the sector. Our official response, included in this issue, provides a closer look at these developments and offers fresh perspectives on implementing this new vision.

With a strong investment in Research activities and a global community of researchers and research organisations, ENCATC has also participated in key debates shaping the next **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, advocating for stronger investment in research, education, mobility, and cultural cooperation — elements essential to fostering an innovative and resilient cultural ecosystem.

To amplify the visibility and impact of our members' research, we have issued in 2025 two issues of our popular Cultural Policy Trackers, continuing our shared effort to make research more accessible and relevant for policymakers. **Policy Tracker Frameworks for the Future** explores how frameworks can support more equitable and future-oriented cultural governance, while **Policy Tracker Why Cultural Risk Matters** examines the role of cultural risk in strengthening learning and innovation across institutions. Together, these new publications invite our global community to reflect, engage, and contribute to a richer understanding of the policy choices shaping the cultural sector today.

Before the year comes to a close, we will also release a special edition of the **Cultural Policy Tracker** showcasing insights from the 180 research contributions presented at the ENCATC Congress and their potential to shape future cultural policies, as well as a report from ENCATC's **co-created event at MONDIACULT**.

As we reflect on an intense and impactful year of 2025, one message becomes clear: the future of cultural policy will depend on the strength of the evidence behind it — and this is where ENCATC and its members continue to make a decisive difference. By mobilising research, amplifying expert voices, and creating bridges between academia, practice, and policymaking, our community is helping to shape more informed, equitable, and forward-looking policy frameworks at every level. The work shared in this newsletter is not only a record of what we have achieved together in the past months, but a testament to the collective responsibility we embrace: to ensure that cultural policy decisions rest on rigorous knowledge, critical reflection, and the real experiences of those who animate the cultural sector every day. Together, we will continue to champion research-based cultural policymaking and contribute to building a more sustainable, innovative, and human-centred cultural future for Europe and beyond.

Best Regards,



GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens
ENCATC Secretary General



Policy statement: Supporting Culture and Education's Contributions to Sustainable Futures

Culture and education stand at the heart of sustainable development. Together, they shape how societies imagine the future, address diversity, and build the capabilities needed to navigate global change. Yet our institutions are struggling to adapt to the pace and scale of transformation driven by ecological, technological, and social disruption.

Traditional policy cycles—analyse, decide, implement, evaluate—no longer suffice in fast changing contexts marked by climate transition, digital disruption, and social inequality. We advocate for cultural policies that foster learning ecosystems that connect education, research, and practice.

[Read the full statement](#)



Cultural policy tracker:

Shaping Regenerative futures

The new edition of the Cultural Policy Tracker shares the collective work of the ENCATC community in the context of MONDIACULT 2025. It is conceived as a learning and decision-support tool rather than a conventional policy document — an invitation to reflect, connect and act. It asks a single guiding question: *What can we learn and change together to make culture–education systems more resilient and regenerative?*

Our Congress in Barcelona provided a milestone in this collective journey, extending months of online collaboration within six Focus Groups coordinated by ENCATC Board members and involving our members and partners worldwide. Their reflections informed ENCATC's contributions to MONDIACULT 2025.

[Read the Cultural Policy Tracker](#)



Cultural Policy Tracker:

Why Cultural Risk Matters

The 12th issue of the ENCADC Cultural Policy Tracker takes its title and inspiration from Jorge Cerveira Pinto's thought-provoking contribution, "Why Cultural Risk Matters". This edition explores one of the most pressing questions facing cultural systems today: how can institutions and policymakers balance accountability with experimentation, ensuring that culture remains a living, learning force in society? In a rapidly changing world—marked by digital transformation, climate urgency, and shifting social contracts—risk is no longer a liability to be managed away, but a resource to be cultivated. Pinto's article invites us to reframe cultural risk as a condition for creativity, resilience, and public trust.

[Read the Cultural Policy Tracker](#)

Advancing Democracy and Sustainable Development in Europe through Culture

Our Input Towards a New Culture Compass for Europe

Drawing on decades of engagement with European cultural policy, earlier in March we provided our contribution towards the Culture Compass for Europe with a dedicated policy paper. There, we echoed the call for policy coherence, joined-up governance, and a greater recognition of culture's transversal role across fields such as education, youth development, economy and tourism, employment, health, and the environment. We acknowledged that while positioning culture more centrally within the EU framework is necessary, it also requires a paradigm shift and a long-term commitment from all levels of governance.



[Read the Policy Paper](#)



We Welcomed the Launch of the Culture Compass for Europe

After the launch of the Culture Compass for Europe on 12th November, we reacted with a policy statement, pleased to see many of our recommendations reflected in the final version of the document, demonstrating the value of structured dialogue between EU institutions and the cultural education and research community. We welcome the perspective of the Culture Compass, affirming that culture is not peripheral but foundational to Europe's resilience, democratic life, global leadership, and sustainable development. A renewed commitment to artistic freedom and cultural rights and the willingness to go towards improved working conditions for artists and cultural professionals are just some of the points that we particularly welcome in the final version of the Culture Compass.

[Read the Policy Statement](#)

Our recommendations to the Multiannual Financial Framework



After the launch of the Multiannual Financial Framework by the European Union, we called for ambitious investment in Research, Education, and Creative Sectors in the EU's Future Budget.

In the face of rising societal challenges, we claimed that the EU's long-term vision must fully recognize the essential role of culture. Contemporary global challenges are not solely technical or economic; they are inherently cultural. Accordingly, the MFF must acknowledge and support research and practice in the cultural and creative sector not merely as an auxiliary domain, but as a critical axis and cross-sectoral point for sustainable development, cohesion, and innovation.

[Read our Policy Recommendations](#)



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ENCATC is the 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. Over three decades of work, the organization has developed a wide offer of activities, products, publications, projects, mobility schemes, and more to the benefit of the field by representing, advocating and promoting the excellence in the cultural management and policy community.

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