



ENCATC news

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



December 2025

Dear colleague,

As the year draws to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication, engagement, and contributions to The European Network on Cultural Management and Policy, ENCATC, throughout 2025. Your commitment continues to strengthen our community of educators, researchers, cultural managers, policymakers, and artists, helping us advance education and research across the broad field of culture and foster meaningful global dialogue across the sector.

This holiday season offers a chance to pause, reflect on our achievements, and recharge for the exciting challenges and opportunities ahead. I hope you find time to enjoy a well-deserved break with your loved ones and return with renewed energy and inspiration.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be a year of new, inspiring initiatives, strengthened partnerships, and fresh perspectives in cultural management and policy. I eagerly anticipate welcoming many of you in January for our first online and in-person activities, where we will come together to celebrate our community and open a new chapter in 2026.

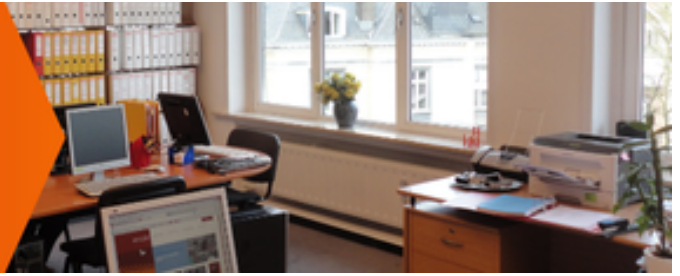
On behalf of the ENCATC Board of Directors, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a very happy and prosperous New Year. May 2026 bring growth, creativity, and continued success for all.

Yours truly,



GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens
ENCATC Secretary General

ENCATC Pulse



Culture that counts



Culture that counts: Evidence, Meaning, Responsibility: Newest ENCATC Magazine available

As we approach the post-2030 horizon, culture is moving—finally—from the margins of policy discourse to its foundations. Not as an ornament of development, but as a force that shapes how societies interpret risk, imagine futures, and decide what is worth protecting. This issue of ENCATC Magazine, Culture that Counts, is an invitation to take that shift seriously, and to examine what it demands of our sector: more precision in how we count culture, and more courage in how we recount it.

[Read Magazine here](#)



ENCATC Book Exchange Programme provide books to the Tajik State Institute of Culture and Arts

ENCATC continues to advance its mission of fostering international cooperation and knowledge sharing through its Book Exchange Programme, an initiative designed to support the international circulation of knowledge across countries, institutions, and professional communities. In 2025, ENCATC placed a particular geographical focus on the Nordic countries and Central and Eastern Europe, leading to several targeted initiatives and exchanges across these regions. In December 2025, Tajikistan marked two significant milestones with UNESCO: the inscription of the Culture of Sumanak Cooking on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List and the positive assessment of its periodic report on safeguarding cultural heritage. In this context, ENCATC met on 17 December 2025 with Mr. Behzod Ikromov to handle 50 books on cultural management and policy, which will be sent to the Tajik State Institute of Culture and Arts named after Mirzo Tursunzoda, supporting the education of future cultural managers and professionals.

ENCATC MENTORING PROGRAMME



Kick-off meeting of the 2025-2026 edition of the ENCATC mentoring programme

December 4, 2025 | 13:00-14:00 CET | *Online*

The Kick-off Meeting of the 2025-2026 edition of the mentoring program included a presentation of the programme and its structure, a round of short participant introductions in a Mini-PechaKucha format, and a collective discussion on expectations and ambitions for the future of the sector in the context of the triple transition. ENCATC mentoring programme supports cultural and creative professionals in strengthening resilience and skills to navigate the social, green, and digital transitions reshaping the sector. Using a peer-based collective mentoring model inspired by the Reinventing Mentoring in Arts Management (REMAM) model, participants engage in facilitated learning circles to share experiences and co-create practical knowledge.

[More info here](#)



Three ENCATC Masterclasses to embrace the digital shift

ENCATC remains committed to helping European cultural network leaders and professionals harness new technologies to boost competitiveness and long-term resilience. Each year, ENCATC organises four high-level masterclasses led by renowned experts on digital transformation in the cultural sector. Each masterclass is preceded by a networking breakfast for Brussels-based cultural leaders and European cultural networks. This format fosters exchange, collaboration, and new synergies between local and European cultural actors. The latest breakfasts included topics such as: Strategy, ethics and implementation, Practical applications of AI and digital tools and understanding this current landscape.

[More info here](#)

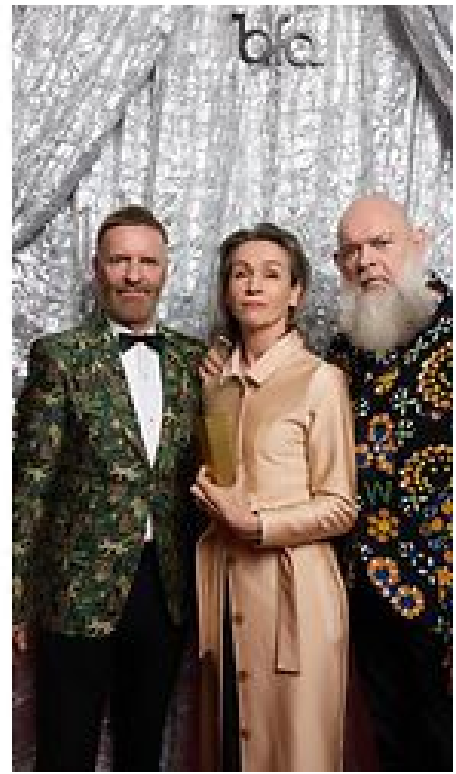


Virtual Crossroads: Strengthening Arts and Cultural Journalism: EU Insights, Accuracy & Impact

December 9, 2025 | 13:30-15:30 CET | *Online*

Virtual Crossovers is an e-residency and mentorship programme for arts and cultural journalists from Asia and Europe initiated by Asia Europe Foundation and ENCATC in 2021. This activity aims to support the next generation of arts and cultural journalists working at the intersection of cultural management and cultural policy. This session featured an experienced journalist who shared practical insights on collaborating with EU institutions, accessing reliable information, and reporting effectively on EU cultural policy. The webinar supported our shared commitment to strengthening media literacy, promoting democratic values, and countering disinformation in cultural journalism.

[More info here](#)



Three Cultural Happy Hours fostering the European and Brussels connections

The Cultural Happy Hours are informal networking spaces that foster community, trust, and the sharing of experiences in a more relaxed and creative atmosphere. The latest Cultural Happy Hours were dedicated to fashion and the inspiring journey of one of the city's most emblematic fashion figures, to musical heritage, celebrated with the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation and to contemporary art and mythology, in one of Brussels' most iconic spaces.

[More info here](#)



ENCATC Talks: Culture under threat: A European Response to Illicit Trafficking

December 12, 2025 | 13:30-15:30 CET | Online

The ENCATC Talks were launched on 8 May 2020 at the initiative of ENCATC Member Avril Joffre from the University of the Witwatersrand. This project aims to offer the cultural management and policy community a virtual space to exchange practice, methodology, ideas and projects proposals. This Talk examined why a coordinated European response to illicit trafficking is essential. The session provided an overview of relevant EU policies, initiatives, and collaborative actions currently being implemented in the field of cultural heritage protection. Co-organised with the Michael Culture Association, participants learned about the work undertaken within the ANCHISE, ENIGMA and AURORA projects.

[More info here](#)

Upcoming EVENTS and opportunities



2026 ENCATC ACADEMY on Sustainable Cultural Management

Bilbao: A strategic Context for the 2026 Academy

April 21-24, 2026 | Bilbao, Spain

Over the course of a decade, the ENCATC Academy has emerged as a trailblazer in the realm of **education and skills enhancement** within the domain of **sustainable cultural management**. The 2026 edition of the ENCATC Academy will be in **Bilbao, Spain**, where participants will embark on a journey of expanding their knowledge and acquiring fresh competencies. Save the date and don't miss the opportunity to acquire **new skills and competences** to **ensure a sustainable future in culture**.

[Register here](#)

2026 ENCATC CONGRESS

Artists and Cultural and Creative Professionals: Rethinking Roles, Work, and Policies

September 23-25, 2026 | Nice, France

The **2026 ENCATC Congress** will bring together educators, researchers, artists, cultural practitioners and policymakers from around the world to explore **the evolving roles, working conditions, and support ecosystems that shape the lives and careers of artists and cultural professionals today**. At a moment of rapid transformation, the Congress invites participants to reflect on how artistic and

creative work is performed, supported, valued, and sustained across diverse contexts. The ENCATC 2026 Congress offers **a vital platform to rethink how artistic and cultural work is understood, supported, and sustained**. By bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, we aim to shape a more equitable, resilient, and future-oriented cultural ecosystem.

Save the date

POLICY Perspective



European Commission | Education: United Kingdom set to rejoin Erasmus+ from 2027

The United Kingdom will rejoin the Erasmus+ programme from 2027, following the conclusion of negotiations with the European Commission.

This agreement restores access to learning mobility, cooperation projects and exchanges across education, training, youth and sport. UK organisations and individuals will once again be able to participate fully in the programme. The decision follows commitments made at the first EU-UK Summit held in May 2025. It marks a renewed phase of cooperation under a new EU-UK strategic partnership.

Read more [here](#)

European Commission | Culture: High-level Roundtable on the working conditions of artists and cultural professionals

On 8 December 2025, the European Commission held a High-level Roundtable in Brussels on the working conditions of artists and cultural sector professionals. The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including Executive Vice-President Roxana Mînzatu and Commissioner Glenn Micallef. Pearle* participated as the recognised European social partner representing employers in the live performance sector. Discussions focused on implementation challenges related to social protection, labour mobility, occupational safety and health, and undeclared work. Social partners agreed to continue exchanges on these issues in future social dialogue meetings.

Read more [here](#)

European Commission | Environment: Brussels invite EU citizens to Shape Europe's future in a world affected by climate change

The European Commission is inviting citizens, businesses, regional authorities, and all stakeholders to take part in a new public consultation on climate resilience. This is a unique chance to influence the EU's future policies and determine how Europe prepares for and responds to climate change. The future EU framework on climate resilience will follow up on the Commission's Communication on

Managing Climate Risks in Europe, which highlights the need for a stronger and more coordinated EU approach to climate preparedness and resilience.

Read more [here](#)

NEWS from the sector



Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 Key Opportunities for Korean Researchers

The Horizon Europe Work Programme (WP) 2026–2027 represents a shift towards impact-driven and development-oriented innovation with EU competitiveness, climate neutrality, and economic security objectives. It introduces a stronger focus on strategic, deployment-oriented research and innovation. As an Associated Country, Korea enjoys full access to funding and coordination opportunities.

Find out more [here](#)

ON THE MOVE: Greening Artistic Residencies

The 2025 Cultural Mobility Funding Guide highlights why green artistic residencies matter now, at a moment when sustainability is becoming central to cultural mobility across Creative Europe countries. Produced by On the Move, an international network that has monitored mobility trends since 2002, the guide explains what funding opportunities exist and who can benefit, from artists and residency managers to policymakers and private donors. It examines how artistic residencies, which constitute nearly half of all mobility opportunities, can integrate environmental responsibility into venues, travel choices and local collaborations. Drawing on research, expert articles and case studies from Slovenia and other regions, the guide shows where innovative practices are emerging and why broader systemic support is still missing. Its aim is to help cultural actors understand how green approaches can strengthen mobility ecosystems and inspire long-term, sustainable change in the arts sector.

Find out more [here](#)

What we are READING



NEW REPORT: Creative Shifts: empowering culture for sustainable living [European Commission]

The cultural and creative sectors, like all sectors and industries, have an impact on the environment, but they are uniquely positioned as drivers of systemic change through storytelling, imagination and behavioural influence. Mandated by the EU work plan for culture 2023-2026, a group working under the open method of coordination composed of culture and environment national experts on

"greening the cultural and creative sectors" began its work in April 2024. Its remit was to recommend how the EU, the Member States and the cultural stakeholders could better support the cultural and creative sectors in their greener environmental performance, while recommending strategic actions that can unlock the potential of culture and the arts for accelerating their contribution to the systemic transformation needed.

Find out more [here](#)

EUROCITIES "Future cultural spaces in cities: Emerging trends"

Under the title 'Spaces for vibrant cultural and creative scenes: Building blocks of a developed cultural and creative scene', the Eurocities Brno Culture Forum 2025 (24 to 26 September) welcomed 147 participants from 61 cities and 21 European countries to explore how culture reshapes our cities - physically, socially, and imaginatively. The catalogue showcases examples from over 30 member cities presented at the forum; from small to large-scale initiatives, from mobile spaces to those in city centres or peripheral neighbourhoods. These initiatives offer a glimpse into the future of shared cultural spaces as multifunctional hubs for culture, resilient communities, and sustainable urban innovation. It also highlights emerging trends shaping the future of cultural spaces in cities and outlines how we can strengthen our commitment to sustainable and inclusive culture as a foundation for vibrant and resilient cities. The catalogue features many cases of re-use of heritage buildings and spaces.

Find out more [here](#)



NETSWorking
Members and culture in
action

Fitzcarraldo: FitzLab special program 2026

FitzLab, the new ecosystem for cultural professionals, was launched on 25 November 2025 as Fondazione Fitzcarraldo celebrates thirty years of the CRPC – Course for Cultural Project Managers. The initiative highlights who is shaping the future of cultural training, bringing together professionals seeking tools, shared experiences, and a dynamic community of practice. FitzLab offers an open and evolving space that gathers the foundation's entire training catalogue, from intensive programs to short courses and special projects tailored to different stages of professional growth.

Find out more [here](#)

CULTURE Manager International Bootcamp 2026

The Chartered Culture and Education Institute (CCEI), an ENCATC member, has launched the CULTURE Manager International Bootcamp 2026, a 12-month online programme for emerging cultural managers and leaders. The Bootcamp includes self-paced courses, live expert seminars, professional assessments, and an international certificate. Participants gain practical skills in

managing cultural institutions, building partnerships, engaging communities, and driving innovation across culture and heritage sectors. The programme is led by distinguished international experts and offers career and leadership development support.

Applications are open until 31 December 2025 via the CCEI website.

Find out more [here](#)

The **RESEARCH** Spotlight



Fashion curation in dialogue. Toward a framework for codifying technology-enhanced curatorial practices in fashion

This research investigates the intersection between curatorial practices and technological mediation in fashion exhibition design, and looks into how technological integration can build upon curatorial approaches. Technology has received significant attention concerning its integration within exhibition contexts; however, its mediation role in reshaping fashion curatorial processes remains uncoded. This study attempts to articulate an approach to augmenting curatorial practices through technology to deeper engage with and understand the multilayered narratives embedded within fashion artifacts.

[Read the article](#)

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 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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