

**ALTER**heritage  
Adapting Learning Tools for Europe's Religious Heritage



Lifelong  
Learning

**LEUVEN**  
15-16 JUNE 2015



**RELIGIOUS HERITAGE CONSERVATION:  
EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT**



## **ALTER***heritage*

Europe's religious heritage shares threats of under-use, but also problems with managing large numbers of visitors. The sector has much to gain from increased international and inter-sectorial exchange to find good-practice models for building the capacity of the practitioners. *ALTERheritage* will increase the capacity of vocational learning targeted at practicing specialists involved in conserving, managing, and regenerating religious heritage, benefitting from international and interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge and resources.

*ALTERheritage* consisted of a series of meetings, hosted by partners from The Netherlands, England, Sweden, Germany and Spain and Belgium from October 2013 to June 2015. The partners presented guidelines, learning tools or methods that they are developing, and they will assess how the material can be adapted to their own circumstances.

*ALTERheritage* will support academically well anchored, high quality tools that can build the capacity of vocational learning in the field across Europe. The results will inform future production of new learning tools on religious heritage conservation, management and regeneration in Europe, in support of their widespread practicability. The European stakeholders include religious and governmental bodies, charities and businesses, and the sector needs a closer link between academic knowledge and vocational practice. *ALTERheritage* will transfer knowledge and experience between providers of informal vocational learning that represent different groups of these stakeholders and geographical areas. They will exchange experiences on vocational training for staff and volunteers of their own organisations and others, through silent partners.

## **ALTER***heritage* MEETING IN LEUVEN

The last *ALTERheritage* meeting takes place in Leuven on 15 and 16 June 2015 and is organised by Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC), KU Leuven, together with its two 'silent partners', the Centre for Religious Art and Culture (CRKC) and KADOC Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society. Educational and management aspects of conservation are the focus of the meeting.

On 15 June, the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC) will welcome *ALTERheritage* in the Arenberg Castle and invite seven speakers to talk about educational and management aspects of conservation in the University of Leuven and in Flanders. RLICC provides an international and interdisciplinary advanced master programme in conservation of monuments and sites that includes religious heritage, management and preventive conservation of heritage. The issue of how the University of Leuven uses and manages its numerous historic buildings, especially the adapted former religious buildings, will also be developed. Other speakers will present the policy and the tools developed by the Flemish Region for the management of parish churches in Flanders, as well as the original contribution of 'Open Churches' to the valorisation of church heritage.

## **MONDAY 15 JUNE 2015**

### **RELIGIOUS HERITAGE CONSERVATION - EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Heverlee (Leuven) – Arenberg Castle – Arenberg Auditorium (room 01.07)**

14.00 – **Welcome** by Koen VAN BALEN, KU Leuven, director RLICC

14.10 – **Educating on Church Heritage**, by Thomas COOMANS, KU Leuven, RLICC and Sven STERKEN, KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture

14.30 – **RLICC-students experience on church conservation**, by Eva WEYNS, KU Leuven, RLICC and Faculty of Architecture, and Valerie VERMANDEL, KU Leuven, RLICC

*Questions and answers*

14.50 – **Educating on preventive conservation**, by Aziliz VANDEZANDE, KU Leuven, RLICC

15.10 – **Managing religious heritage as part of university heritage**, by Zeljka KNEZEVIC, KU Leuven

*Questions and answers*

15.30 – BREAK

16.00 – **Parish churches in Flanders, managing the future**, by Jan JASPERS, CRKC

16.20 – **Database as managing tool for churches in Flanders**, by Dimitri STEVENS, CRKC

*Questions and answers*

16.40 – **Open churches, educative religious tourism**, by Martine VAN DEN BERGEN, Open Kerken / Églises Ouvertes

17.00 – **Conclusion**, by Thomas COOMANS, KU Leuven, RLICC

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#### **Leuven – Downtown**

17.45 – **St Peter Church** and museum, guided visit by Dirk DE GENDT, dean of the church

18.30 – **Town Hall**, visit and reception offered by Dirk VANSINA, alderman for Heritage, Tourism and Youth



St Michael, former Jesuit church (17th c.) / University Central Library (1920s) / Norbertine abbey of Park, church (13th-18<sup>th</sup> c.) / Our Lady of Fevers, former Franciscan church, KADOC (18th c.) / Park Abbey (18th c.), seat of CRKC / Arenberg Castle, Department of Architecture, seat of RLICC (16th-20th c.) / Town Hall and St Peter church (15th c.) / St Lambert Chapel (12th c.) restored by R. Lemaire (1960) / University Science Library, former convent of Celestines (16th c.), Rafael Moneo (2000) / Great Beguinage (13th-18th c), restored by R. Lemaire (World Heritage 1998).

## ORGANISORS



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Leuven, Great Beguinage (13th-18th c), used as students' housing  
University of Leuven (World Heritage 1998)