



## **Future for Religious Heritage Biennial Conference Vicenza review 2016**

**By Mara Popescu**

This year's FRH conference in Vicenza was more than religious heritage in the context of being a traveller in Europe's contemporary landscape. It was about connecting people with shared values in a sensitive surrounding.

The way the conference was organized gave people who attended it the experience and understanding of what religious heritage is about, how buildings break boundaries and more.

The presenters coming from different domains, either having an academic background or having a long professional hands-on experience in the field, covered various topics which had shown the human experiencing religious heritage while both facing new challenges.

Whether it was about holy places, communities or social media, the speakers offered good practices in the field of religious heritage.

Besides the presentations, the attendees had the opportunity to visit three UNESCO sites, to taste the Palladian architecture in Vicenza, to see the extraordinary cultural richness of Venice and to encounter unique religious heritage in Verona. The trip to Venice offered an interesting insight with the 500 years of commemoration of Jewish heritage and history through the focused exhibition at the Palazzo Ducale, accompanied by the trip to the Jewish ghetto and the visits to the synagogues, the Great German Schola, the Canton Schola, the Levantine Schola and the Spanish Schola. The day ended in the same note, with a dinner at the Ghimel Garden, a kosher restaurant offering the true inside experience of the Jewish cuisine. In the last day, the short trip to beautiful Verona introduced us to another type of religious heritage: the Biblioteca Capitolare, one of the world's oldest libraries, with its origin that goes back to the fifth century as it was the scriptorium of the Schola sacerdotum of the bishopric of Verona, presented us with beautiful ancient hand drawn manuscripts. Afterwards, back in Vicenza, the session was closed with the award ceremony of FRH Photo Contest and with the kind words of the Chairman of FRH, Mr. Olivier de Rohan Chabot.

The conference had a great success, despite the fact that perhaps for some of the participants the program seemed to be a little too heavy.