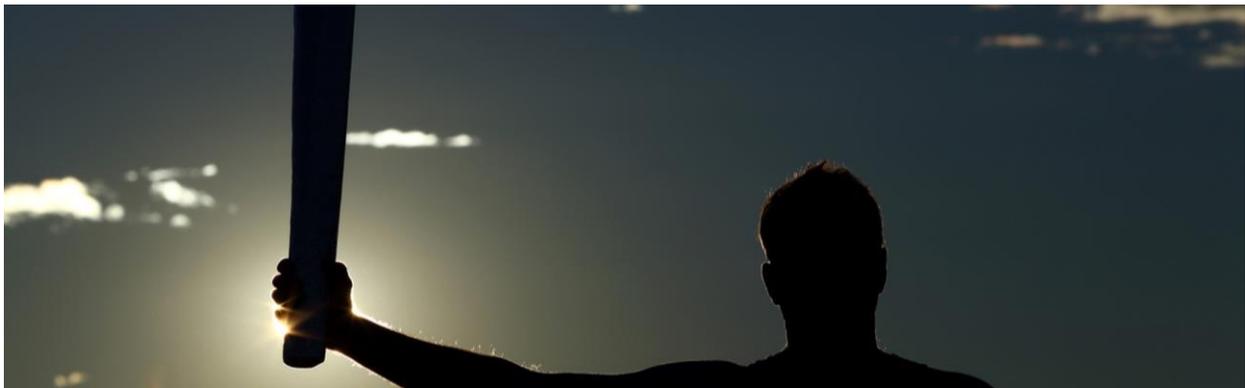


**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

19 September 2018

## **The FRH Torch of Heritage and Culture is coming to the 2018 ENCATC Congress on Cultural Management and Policy**

**Brussels, 19 September - After Leeuwarden, Lund, Mont-devant-Sasse, Berlin, and Budapest, the FRH Torch of Heritage and Culture is coming to Bucharest, Romania on 28 September for the 2018 ENCATC Congress on Cultural Management and Policy. ENCATC is honoured to welcome the FRH Torch and contribute to the memory treasure box carrying personal stories related to religious heritage.**



**ENCATC**, the leading European network on cultural management and policy is honoured to welcome during its 2018 Congress the Torch of Heritage and Culture, an initiative of **Future for Religious Heritage**. On the evening of **28 September**, the '**Celebrating Cultural Diversity - FRH Torch Ceremony**' will be held at the **Romanian Athenaeum**, a cultural landmark of Romania's capital city.

The ceremony will be a special moment to **celebrate cultural diversity at the ENCATC Congress**, contribute to raising awareness and safeguarding the importance of Europe's rich religious heritage and the values of our shared European heritage as a symbol of unity on which Europe was built.

*"ENCATC and our local partner and member, The National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (INCFC), are particularly proud to have the FRH Torch initiative in Bucharest for the ENCATC Congress. It is the very first time in the history of the country that all the representatives of the official cults in Romania will gather together. It is an immense achievement for ENCATC, a network that is strong committed to foster the dialogue between culture, religion and people,"* says ENCATC Secretary General, **GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens**.

All ENCATC Congress participants will be invited to share their personal memories related to religious heritage to a growing collection that will be presented to the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Mr. **Tibor Navracsics**, at the FRH Conference taking place in October 2018 in Paris.

*"As President of a global network, I am very proud thanks to ENCATC that the Torch memory treasure box will collect contributions from around the world. While in the other cities along Torch's journey so far have had contributions by Europeans, at the ENCATC Congress our attendees will be coming from more than 28 countries from Europe, Asia, North and South America, Africa and the Middle East,"* says ENCATC President **Francesca Imperiale**.

Inspired by the Olympic Torch of Athens, Torch is an initiative launched by Future for Religious Heritage. Since the start of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the FRH Torch has been traveling all across Europe where Ministers of Culture from all EU Member States have been invited to participate, together with prominent members of the international community (artists, scientists, politicians), European citizens and refugees.

*"Future for Religious Heritage is very excited to bring our Torch for Heritage and Culture to the ENCATC Congress where we gain more valuable contributions. It will help us grow our memory box from previous stops at various events dealing with cultural and religious heritage such as the at the European Cultural Heritage Summit and the European Parliament hemicycle,"* says FRH Council Member, **Lilian Grootswagers**.

With the launch in the Netherlands, the FRH Torch has visited Germany, Hungary, Spain, Sweden, and France. After the ENCATC Congress in Romania, it will continue its trip through Poland and Macedonia before the concluding ceremony at the FRH conference in Paris this 11-13 October 2018.

#### **Note to editors:**

**For more information about the 2018 ENCATC Congress and the Celebrating Cultural Diversity - FRH Torch Ceremony:**

<http://blogs.encatc.org/encatccongress/>

**For more about the FRH Torch of Heritage and Culture:**

<http://www.frh-europe.org/projects/frh-torch>

<http://bit.ly/2GHfwuq> (videos)

<https://www.frh-europe.org/events/2018-paris/> (FRH Biennial Conference in Paris, 11-12-13 October 2018)

#### **ENCATC**

ENCATC is the leading European network on cultural management and cultural policy education. 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 to make it sustainable, and create a platform for discussion and exchange at the European and international level. ENCATC is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. [www.encatc.org](http://www.encatc.org)

#### **Future for Religious Heritage:**

Founded in 2008, Future for Religious Heritage is the only European network for historic places of worship, bringing together those who work to protect religious heritage across Europe. A not-for-profit, non-religious organisation, FRH is proud to represent nearly 150 members in Europe and beyond. [www.frh-europe.org](http://www.frh-europe.org)

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