

# ANNUAL REPORT **2021**







© image: Miguel Angel de Arriba – Bike for Heritage - Cantabria, Spain



## Content

Mission, Vision, Values	5
President's report	7
Letter from Advisory Council President	9
Executive Officer's report	11
Sector guidelines	15
The Friends of FRH	17
Statutory Information	19
Governance	21
Accounts	23





© image: Lilian Grootswagers - Merseburg Cathedral - Merseburg, Germany

## Mission, Vision, Values

Future for Religious Heritage (FRH) was founded in 2011 as an organisation dedicated to the safeguarding of Europe's diverse and unique religious heritage. It is the only independent, non-faith, and non-profit network of charities and conservation departments of governmental, religious and university institutions, and other professionals and individuals working to protect religious heritage buildings across Europe, with over 170 members in 35 countries.

### MISSION

- FRH works to ensure the promotion and safeguarding of Europe's religious heritage, by bringing together organisations and individuals in a Europe-wide network and participating in forums and advocacy networks in order to bring the voice of religious heritage to relevant stakeholders and policymakers.

### VISION

- **Unite** – FRH consists of over 70 organisations and 100 professionals from 35 countries, seeking to promote and enhance good practices, project development and professional collaboration with all those interested in safeguarding Europe's historic places of worship as well as intangible religious heritage.
- **Promote** – FRH promotes the value of religious heritage by raising public interest and encouraging community engagement in the conservation and safeguarding of Europe's religious heritage.
- **Protect** – FRH works closely with EU policymakers and relevant cultural heritage stakeholders and forums. It shares relevant information and recommendations regarding the implementation of legislation that promotes community engagement, sustainability, cultural preservation, and innovation around religious heritage. This includes finding innovative solutions for preserving historic places of worship including extended use and reuse, to avoid demolition or abandonment.

### VALUES

- **Engagement** – reaching out to relevant communities, professionals, policymakers, and the public.
- **Sustainability** – working towards the sustainability of religious heritage to ensure it can be passed on to future generations.
- **Protection** – safeguarding Europe's tangible and intangible religious heritage; avoiding the abandonment and destruction of this invaluable European heritage.
- **Innovation** – finding new and innovative ways to protect historic places of worship.

Since 2017, FRH is one of the 28 European networks receiving funding from the Creative Europe Programme (EACEA) of the European Commission through the 'FRH Connect' project. This support is aimed at assisting the growth and consolidation of the network.





© image: Linde Grootswagers - Reims Cathedral - Reims, France

## President's Report

2021 was again marked by the Covid19 crisis, with restrictions impeding physical gatherings. However, despite all challenges, FRH continued its activities to safeguard Europe's religious heritage. Besides participating in high-level forums and advocating for religious heritage at the EU level, the FRH network brings together its members in project-building and collaboration opportunities, furthering the professional and knowledge exchange across the European religious heritage sector.

A key opportunity for exchange are the FRH Biennial Conferences - albeit due to Covid19 restrictions, FRH was unable to host a physical conference in 2020 or 2021. Therefore, instead of hosting the planned physical conference in Barcelona, 4 hybrid conference events were held, in 4 different countries across Europe. For the first time, these FRH hybrid conferences allowed both the speakers to be physically present, while allowing the audience to participate via online streaming services.

The overall conference theme was 'Europe's Living Religious Heritage', and there was a hybrid event for each of the 4 sub-themes:

- **Continuity in Function or Use (28 May 2021 – Barcelona, Spain)**
- **Continuity in Community Connection and Dialogue" (24 September 2021 – Bologna, Italy)**
- **Continuity in Evolving Cultural Expressions" (22 October 2021 – Michaelstein Abbey, Blankenburg, Germany)**
- **Continuity in Care and Safeguarding" (November 2021 – Brussels, Belgium)**

The FRH Biennial Conference stimulated a real debate on the usage of Europe's religious heritage, the range of uses available for this heritage and their practical applications. It examined issues such as the traditional use of religious heritage sites and their compatibility with being open to the general public. In that regard, it addressed the case of 'Heritage for All', or the potential for

inclusiveness of religious monuments, underlining the importance of an inter-religious dialogue and the involvement of the local community.

FRH was also delighted to conduct awareness-raising campaigns, despite the ongoing limitations. The 'Jump for Heritage' campaign combined sports and heritage, encouraging citizens across Europe to go outside, find their favourite religious heritage site near them, and take a picture jumping in front of the site. The campaign was greatly successful on social media, with hundreds of submissions from dozens of countries. The photographs could also be submitted to the photo competition, where they were rated on their quality and originality, and the two best won a trip to Barcelona. At the end of the year, the Run for Heritage campaign was also launched, adding a collective, group element to awareness-raising, involving entire classes of young students from across Europe.

FRH is looking forward to continuing our network's activities and campaigns into 2022, which will be the European Year of Youth - a great opportunity to involve Europe's younger generations in the care and safeguarding of our joint legacy - our European religious heritage!

Pilar G. Bahamonde  
President







© image: Pilar Bahamonde - Centro de Estudios Lebaniegos - Cantabria, Spain



## Letter from Advisory Council President

2021 has been a year of great challenges for all of us personally but also on an organisational level. Covid hit the world and we all had to adapt to it. The pandemic deeply affected the religious heritage world. FRH conducted a survey amongst its members, to be able to get an overall insight on the challenges and possible solutions. The outcome was shared within the European commission's expert group of cultural heritage, in order to ensure the voice of religious heritage was heard on the EU level. Although physical meetings were impossible, FRH staff worked hard to be able to create opportunities for our members to share knowledge and meet in an alternative way. The scheduled Biennial conference was altered into 4 hybrid events and a corona proof activity to raise awareness was set up, #Jumpforheritage. Both appeared to be successful. While facing the challenges of coping with Covid restrictions there was also very positive news. We received support and recognition from the Creative Europe Program, being for the 2nd time selected as one of the 28th EU networks in the field of culture, and remaining a partner in the Expert group of cultural heritage of the commission. With the financial support the new network project FRH UNITE was set up and new opportunities arise. Engagement and awareness raising activities such as FRH Photo & Video competition, further #Runforheritages will be set up. Knowledge sharing and learning opportunities such as FRH Talks and FRH Masterclasses. Religiana is the religious database of Europe for all Europeans to visit and learn more about Europe's beautiful religious heritage in a very visitor friendly way. FRH Innovator award of the year: A special award to recognize projects that make a significant contribution to the preservation of Europe's places of worship while highlighting the values of engagement, sustainability, protection and innovation. The 2022 award focuses on Sustainability. It makes me very proud that the council has decided to set up this award scheme. Climate change and environmental degradation are among the biggest challenges of our times, threatening Europe and the world. The European

Union is striving to become the first climate-neutral continent. This also applies to religious heritage. Sustainability is one of the five pillars of the Framework for Action on Cultural heritage. It highlights the potential to enhance social capital, secure environmental sustainability and boost economic growth. The award is an excellent opportunity to showcase how Religious Heritage contributes to many different challenges in society as a whole, and how innovative the sector is. Next year (2022) will be the European year of Youth. The #Jumpforheritage campaign showed clearly how religious heritage is in the hearts and minds of young people! I am already looking forward to 2022, an excellent opportunity to build initiatives engaging youth!

I hope all of us will continue to work together in order to raise the VOICE OF RELIGIOUS HERITAGE as we have one goal: handing over Europe's religious heritage to future generations! It is up to us to make the most of it!

**Lilian Grootswagers-Theuns**  
Advisory Board President.

Owner of Erfgoed.nu, the Netherlands. Founding member and former secretary of FRH Council. She represents FRH in the Commissions Cultural Heritage Expert group.







© image: Elisabeth Dufresne - #Jump for Heritage - Notre-Dame de Guebwiller - Guebwiller, France



## Executive Officer's report

FRH conducts various activities aimed at safeguarding Europe's religious heritage. These can mostly be grouped into three categories: membership support, advocacy, and specific projects.

### Membership

#### BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The 2021 Biennial Conference of FRH "Europe's Living Religious Heritage", took place in Barcelona, Spain, in a hybrid format due to the COVID-19 safety concerns. The aim of the conference was to stimulate a real debate on the usage of Europe's religious heritage and to discuss the range of uses available for this heritage and their practical application. The Conference was to be held in Barcelona in 2019 but had to be cancelled. Due to the new situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, 3 additional events took place in different locations across Europe to complement the FRH's in-person Biennial Conference.

The Conference 'Europe's Living Religious Heritage' took place in Barcelona (Spain) on 28 May 2021. The theme of the event was "Continuity in Function or Use" and included a panel discussion hosted by FRH Council Member Justin Kroesen that was followed by an interactive Q&A session with the audience. The event also included video messages from high-level speakers and the announcement of the winners of the #JUMPFORHERITAGE campaign.

A second event titled "Continuity in Community Connection and Dialogue" took place in Bologna (Italy) on 24 September 2021. This event featured a panel discussion of experts in the field of religious heritage, the presentation of the output of our Pre-conference Working Group B, as well as a mix of live and recorded video presentations from distinguished guests and FRH members.

A third event titled "Continuity in Evolving Cultural Expressions" took place in Michaelstein Abbey,

Blankenburg (Germany) on 22 October 2021. It featured a panel discussion of experts in the field of religious heritage including Sabine Verheyen, Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education, Member of the European Parliament.

A fourth and final event, titled "Continuity in Care and Safeguarding", took place on 26 November 2021 in Brussels (Belgium). It featured a panel discussion of experts in the field of religious heritage including Madina Benvenuti, Founder and Managing Director of Mad'in Europe and Jan Jaspers, former director of PARCUM and was hosted by Lilian Grootswagers, president of the FRH Advisory Board. This event also included the presentation of the "FRH's 10 key findings" about how and why religious heritage is such an important resource to contributing to the Future of Europe. These findings were drawn from the 4 hybrid events of the FRH biennial conference "Europe's Living Religious Heritage" and compiled into this document that was presented by our FRH Council President, Pilar G. Bahamonde to Catherine Magnant, the Head of Unit of Cultural Policy for the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture at the European Commission during the final conference event "Continuity in Care and Safeguarding".

#### FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

These meetings are an opportunity for members to meet, discuss projects and initiatives, and share best practice. They are organised in cooperation with a local member on site and the format includes presentations by local experts and FRH members, a general presentation about FRH, discussion of specific topics and study visits to interesting religious heritage sites accompanied. Friends of FRH are invited to participate in FRH



activities first-hand. These meetings not only allow members to better understand each other's work and contribute to FRH projects, but they also provide FRH with useful insights on how the network can best support its members in their efforts to safeguard religious heritage across Europe.

### **10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 10th Annual General Meeting was held on 26 November 2021.

The conference took place online with the participation of FRH members and included presentations on events, projects and plans for the upcoming years. A financial review of the year was also shared along with the presentation of the strategy of the organisation for the period 2021-2026.

At the AGM, Graham Bell was elected as a member of the Advisory Board and Uwe Otzen as a member of the Founders Circle.

## **Advocacy**

FRH participates in several networks and working groups on cultural heritage to make its members' voices heard loud and clear. In that regard, FRH highlights the relevance and richness of Europe's religious heritage, the challenges it is facing, and the best practices and creative innovations that can bring added value to the sector and to decision makers Europe-wide. FRH is a member of the European Commission Expert Group on Cultural Heritage; the EU Reflection Group on Cultural Heritage; the Climate Heritage Network; and the Heritage Alliance 3.3.

### **THE HERITAGE ALLIANCE:**

The Heritage Alliance brings together over 130 heritage organisations in a coalition for an independent heritage advocacy movement in the EU. Its activities include consultation, awareness events, advocacy groups, and more. In 2020 FRH Advisory Board President chaired the meetings of the Heritage Alliance.

### **THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP ON CULTURAL HERITAGE:**

The group provides the Commission with advice and expertise, serving as a platform for consultation and exchange of information on cultural heritage policies to support the implementation of the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage. The Expert Group includes the Commission, Member States and selected stakeholders operating in the area of culture and cultural heritage. The Group focuses on maintaining the spirit of cooperation and policy dialogue achieved during the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

### **THE EU REFLECTION GROUP FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE:**

The EU Reflection Group for Cultural Heritage is an informal group of experts that are nominated by national heritage authorities. Its aim is to raise awareness on cultural heritage, its value for EU policy development, and its value as a resource for EU policy objectives. Its tasks include collaborating with other heritage organisations and authorities on a European level and to ensure that cultural heritage is considered in EU policymaking.

### **THE CLIMATE HERITAGE NETWORK:**

The Climate Heritage Network is a community of organisations from the culture field, working together with the goal of tackling climate change and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Climate Agreement. Their tasks include involving heritage in carbon mitigation, helping heritage adapt to the changing climate, planning for loss and damage to cultural heritage, and showcasing the potential of heritage as a tool for addressing these pressing challenges.

## Projects

### RELIGIANA

[www.frh-europe.org/projects/religiana](http://www.frh-europe.org/projects/religiana)

Religiana is an online platform and key heritage resource giving religious heritage Europe wide visibility, and providing visitors with accurate information on opening hours, contact details, and historical information. The Religiana website also includes thematic lists, which feature key aspects of religious heritage across Europe, showcasing key examples with beautiful photographs and descriptions.

Religiana is developed by FRH in partnership with a growing number of organisations that promote or directly manage religious heritage sites at a local and regional level. This partnership with eleven geographically diverse organisations allows the promotion of these organisations, which also link their content to Religiana. The platform currently features more than 8,000 heritage sites in 46 countries, and is constantly expanding its coverage, with contributions by partners and the public, who are encouraged to upload information of their favourite religious heritage sites. The next steps will include the collection of data on sustainability data including renewable energy usage in religious heritage buildings, biodiversity in land owned by these sites, identification of adaptive reuse, location of burial sites, archives, artefacts and more. This will be done in order to provide useful information for the European Green Deal strategy and the New European Bauhaus initiative, of which FRH is a proud partner.

### #JUMPFORHERITAGE

The #JUMPFORHERITAGE campaign was an initiative to unite sports and heritage, encouraging people to go outside and explore their religious heritage. Participants in the campaign were encouraged to submit a photo of themselves jumping in front of a religious heritage site as a way to showcase Europe's religious heritage.

The campaign launched on December 15, 2020, and was initially planned to end on March 15, 2021, however, due to the success of the campaign, the end date was extended to May 15, 2021. #JUMPFORHERITAGE is an extension of FRH's Torch initiative, a project collecting personal stories in the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

### RUN FOR HERITAGE

Run for Heritage is an initiative launched in 2021 to continue showcasing the legacy of The European Year of Cultural Heritage. The main goal of 'Run for Heritage' is to raise awareness among young generations – showcasing the wonderful treasures we have around us and that we often are not aware of. This is to be done in a fun, outdoor activity which promotes healthy habits while allowing young generations to learn about the history and cultural richness of their city.

Four Run for Heritage activities took place in various cities of Spain between October and December 2021.







© image: Lilian Grootswagers - Hermitage Virgin de la Salud at the Picos De Europa - Liebana, Spain

## Sector guidelines

Thanks to reflections and consultations with FRH members, we would like to share some sector guidelines, which offer some key points in ensuring a sustainable future for our invaluable religious heritage.

### **Places of worship should be kept open and welcoming.**

- Interesting content, history, art and architecture both tangible and intangible should be catalogued, secured and actively promoted to all sectors of the population.
- Opening hours should be publicised.
- Local secular tourist organisations should be encouraged to promote religious heritage and visitors encouraged to search out the less well-known buildings.
- Managers of religious heritage sites should promote their spiritual and community value.
- Visitor comments should be publicised.
- Complementary compatible uses should be sought for buildings that are insufficiently used.
- Buildings and contents should be properly maintained and adapted to current use without harming their atmosphere.
- Artefacts should, where possible, be kept on site.
- Financial needs should be articulated.
- Financial sustainability should be sought through the encouragement of on-line tax efficient donations and commercial use of buildings where appropriate.
- Local volunteer support should be sought, structured and trained with particular emphasis on management of buildings taken over by volunteer groups.
- Formalisation of the roles of managers of religious buildings and provision of resources to prepare development plans, statements of cultural significance, maintenance schedules, inventories, records of work on the building and its content.
- School curricula should include education about religious heritage.
- Closure should only be envisaged after full consultation of all stakeholders.
- Future public use and not financial gain should be the criterion for deciding the fate of buildings no longer required.





© image: Lilian Grootswagers - Basilica of San Martiño de Mondoñedo - Lugo, Spain

## The Friends of FRH

The Friends of FRH is an independent association set up by la Fondation Roi Baudouin.

Friends are invited to join FRH events, to meet its members, to explore the different issues facing the sector and to enjoy examples of Europe's glorious religious heritage. For further information on the Friends please contact FRH's office: [info@frh-europe.org](mailto:info@frh-europe.org)

Friends of FRH welcomes anyone who wishes to support Europe's religious heritage and organises activities so they can meet each other and learn about FRH's projects and initiatives.

**Join Friends of FRH now: [www.frh-europe.org/get-involved/joinus/friends-of-frh](http://www.frh-europe.org/get-involved/joinus/friends-of-frh)**





© image: Lilian Grootswagers - New Jewish Cemetery - Krakau, Poland

## Statutory Information

### COUNCIL 2021-2022

**President - Pilar Bahamonde**, Spanish, Director of Liébana Centre for Studies, and Infantado Tower Museum, Potes, Spain.

**Secretary - Becky Clark**, English, Director of Churches and Cathedrals, Archbishop's Council, Church of England.

**Treasurer - Sarah de Lencquesaing**, American, Board Member of the French Heritage Society, the VMF, and Music Sacrée à Notre-Dame de Paris.

**Stefan Beier**, German, Chair of the Board of KLOSTERLAND, an association of monasteries in Germany and Poland. Director of Museum im Zisterzienserkloster Lehnin.

**Justin Kroesen**, Dutch, Professor of the Material Culture of Christianity at the University of Bergen (Norway), and curator of the church art collection at its University Museum.

**Henrik Lindblad**, Swedish, One of the founding members of FRH and co-founder of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee PRERICO (Places of Religion and Ritual).

**Wenceslas de Lobkowicz**, French / Czech, Ambassador for the Order of the Knights of Malta to the Czech Republic. Vice-President of the European Historic Houses Association. Former EU lawyer.

**Andrea Longhi**, Italian, Associate Professor in the History of Architecture at the Politecnico di Torino. Consultant for Cultural Heritage Projects for ecclesiastical projects and from 2019 consultant on the implementation of the Regional Landscape Plan for Regione Piemonte.

**Michael Mail**, Scottish, Founder & Chief Executive, Foundation for Jewish Heritage.

**Mara Popescu**, Romanian, Expert in Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development.







#### **MEMBERSHIP**

FRH has two classes of membership: full members (organisations that support FRH objectives) and Associate members (individuals). More information: [www.frh-europe.org/get-involved/join-us](http://www.frh-europe.org/get-involved/join-us)

#### **LEGAL IDENTITY**

FRH was registered as an ASBL (Association Sans But Lucratif – a non-profit organisation) in Belgium on 29th September 2011 under number 839745430.

#### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

67 Rue de Trèves, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium.  
FRH currently employs two full-time staff.

#### **HOW TO MAKE A DONATION**

By regular bank transfer to:  
IBAN : BE35 0019 2887 7837  
BIC : GEBABEBB  
For tax certificates please contact the FRH office.

© image: Lilian Grootswagers - Merseburg Cathedral - Merseburg, Germany

## Governance

### COUNCIL

The Council, elected by its members, is responsible for FRH's governance. Council members also play a role as ambassadors for the association. FRH seeks to combine within its Council good knowledge of the sector, competency in ensuring top quality governance and specific skills such as the supervision of complex cross-border projects. It aims to include a good spread of nationality.

### FRH ADVISORY BOARD

The members of the Advisory Board are previous Council members who advise the current Council.

**Lilian Grootswagers-Theuns** - President of the Advisory Board. Owner of Erfgoed.nu, a Dutch Heritage Institute, and Vice-President of the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen.

**Thomas Coomans de Brachène** - Belgian, professor at the KU Leuven, representative of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation. Founder member of FRH.

**Graham Bell** - Director of the UK-based NGO Cultura Trust and the Hungarian Renaissance Foundation. Founder member of FRH.

### INTERNAL RULES

The statutes and internal rules are available on the website: <https://www.frh-europe.org/about-frh/organization/documents/>

### COMMITTEES

Members are encouraged to participate actively in Committees, who provide recommendations and guidance on FRH's activities and strategy. The full committee organigram is available on the FRH website: [www.frh-europe.org/about-frh/organization/committees](http://www.frh-europe.org/about-frh/organization/committees)

#### The Committees include:

**The Executive Committee** - composed of three Council members, it supports the FRH office, oversees day to day implementation of Council policies, and provides organisational direction for FRH's Executive Officer.

**The Communication Committee** - provides recommendations and supports the FRH office with external communications.

**The Finance Committee** - supervises FRH's finances with the help of an external accountant and ensures that FRH fulfils its statutory financial obligations.

**The Membership Committee** - helps FRH develop a coherent membership strategy.

**The Governance and Nominations Committee** - sets the structures under which FRH operates, manages the nomination process to committees and to the Council.

**The Scientific Committee** - provides scientific expertise and guidance to FRH.

**The Strategic Planning Committee** - sets the general FRH strategy for the upcoming years.

**The Conference Subcommittee** - sets the academic perspectives for the FRH Biennial Conference.






© image: Pilar Bahamonde – Run for Heritage – Cantabria, Spain

## Accounts

	12/2019	12/2020	12/2021
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	13 875	14 200	15 075
Donors	32 421	30 438	6 891
EU funding	180 854	190 737	167 102
Others	359	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>227 509</b>	<b>235 375</b>	<b>189 068</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Rent	-17 646	-17 730	-13 444
Salaries	-109 080	-134 844	-105 928
Telephone, Post, Internet	-1 134	-2 340	-1 215
Printing, Documentation	-1 130	-4 146	-230
IT SUPPLIES	-3 554	-6 073	-8.878
Insurance	-195	-195	-195
IT Development	-9 643	-10 094	-12 693
Fees	-43 578	-45 604	-36 849
Partena - HR supplier	-3 447	-3 754	-2 660
Hotel	-11 839	-2 340	-154
Substenance	-11 837	-1 749	-2 256
Travel	-13 565	-6 786	-2 216
Finance costs	-738	342	-949
Other	0	0	-1 199
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-227 386</b>	<b>-235 313</b>	<b>-188 866</b>
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>202</b>
	12/2019	12/2020	12/2021
<b>Assets</b>			
Members	519	76 000	62 253
Bank Balances	164 783	171 778	213 138
Accruals FRB	7 305	4 800	4 800
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>172 607</b>	<b>252 578</b>	<b>280 191</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors	4 425	29 160	18 2128
Grants received in advance	125 416	180 590	218 950
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>-129 841</b>	<b>-209 750</b>	<b>-237 162</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>-42 765</b>	<b>-42 827</b>	<b>-43 028</b>





"All over Europe, our shared culture of tangible and intangible religious heritage needs to be safeguarded for future generations to enjoy."

Olivier de Rohan, Former FRH President

**Future for Religious Heritage**

Trierstraat 67 Rue de Trèves  
B - 1040 Brussels

Office land line: +32 24 00 77 03

Office mobile: +32 471 66 37 36

Email : [info@frh-europe.org](mailto:info@frh-europe.org)

Skype: FutureForReligiousHeritage

Registered Charity (ASBL Belgium)

No. 839 745 430



© image: Lilian Grootswagers - Merseburg Cathedral - Merseburg, Germany

[www.frh-europe.org](http://www.frh-europe.org)



Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union