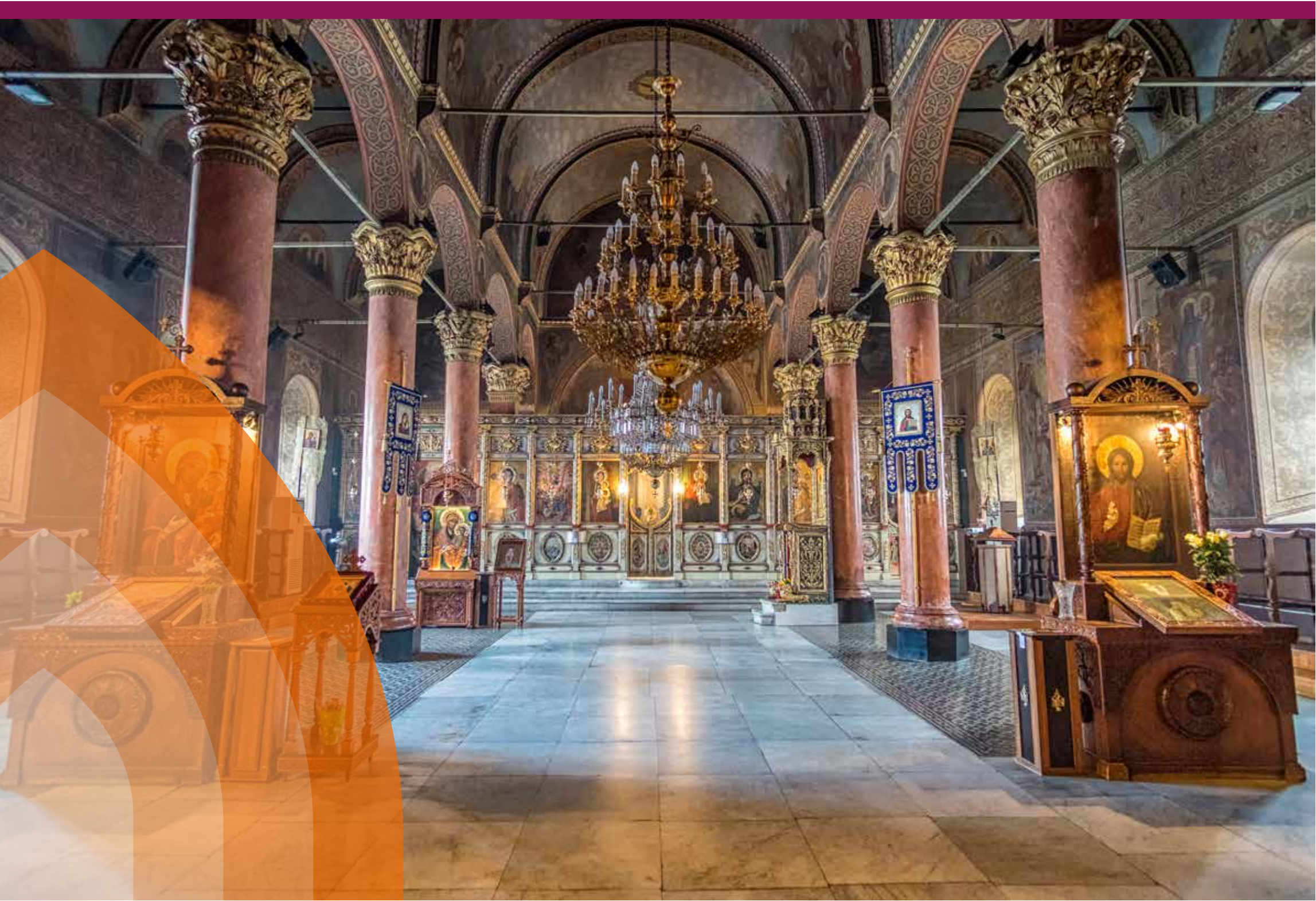


ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

© image: Stephane Boudon - Praying in Jesuit Church - Mannheim, Germany



© image: Todor Tilev - The Church of the Holy Mother of God - Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Content

Mission, Vision, Values	5
President's report	7
Advisory Board President's Report	9
Executive Officer's report	11
Our members across Europe	19
Report on the situation of crafts skills in Europe	23
EU funded projects	25
FRH Working Groups	27
The Friends of FRH	29
Statutory Information	31
Governance	33
Accounts	35



© image: Pyae Phyo Thet Paing - The Land of Ancient Pagodas - Bagan, Myanmar

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 200 members in 36 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 80 organisations and more than 200 professionals from 45 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 36 European networks receiving funding from the Creative Europe Programme (EACEA) of the European Commission. This support is aimed at the operation, growth and consolidation of the network.



© image: Parviz Azimov - Lost in green - Copenhagen, Denmark

President's Report

As I look back to 2024, I can only be overjoyed to be at the forefront of an international network driven by passionate and dedicated people committed to Europe's rich religious heritage.

The dedication of practitioners, experts and academics was evident at our latest conference entitled 'Religious Heritage in Transition: Challenges and Solutions', which took place in September in Krakow, Poland. This event brought together the themes that have defined our agenda in recent years: the extraordinary resilience of the sector in the face of pressing challenges, the many creative solutions emerging across Europe to adapt to new times and scenarios, the endless possibilities brought by digital transformation to understand, interact with and promote heritage, and the growing interest in the relationship between religious heritage and wellbeing. The many conversations I had during these two days in the Jewish quarter of Krakow confirmed that the efforts to understand and preserve the religious heritage do not cease.

This year we have supported the creation of two working groups, on the initiative of FRH members. The Cyprus Working Group is providing our network with invaluable insights into the complex and often contested nature of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue in Cyprus. This small island, with its diverse religious heritage, offers a unique opportunity to examine the potential of heritage to foster mutual understanding and promote peaceful coexistence. For its part, the Young Professionals and Researchers Working Group is ensuring that young people's perspectives, concerns and initiatives remain an integral part of our collective work. Both groups are about to publish documents with key recommendations and advice to guide the sector into the future, addressing the multicultural and intergenerational challenges we face.

We successfully continued with our awareness raising activities. The FRH Photo Competition, which showcases the beauty and diversity of Europe's religious heritage, once again received overwhelming participation with 858 extraordinary

pictures of places, moments and traditions. The Innovator of the Year Award recognised a remarkable initiative that empowers volunteers, even those without previous experience or specialised skills, to record the religious heritage assets in Scottish churches at risk of closure. Our FRH Masterclasses, have provided a capacity building platform for cultural religious heritage practitioners; our dynamic FRH Talks series featured several experts fostering discussions on relevant topics for our sector. Lastly, our Religiana platform now offers access to information on over 15,000 religious buildings in an easy way and for free, becoming a valuable source of information for religious heritage tourists and the general public.

Apart from the many events, campaigns and awards celebrated this year, in the next two coming years we will amplify the importance of minority religious heritage and interreligious dialogue through our involvement in two European projects: Miretag and Polyverse. These projects will ultimately result in the creation of new methodologies to enable minority religious communities to participate in heritage-making activities and the creation of a European interfaith choir that promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

Looking ahead, I am confident that our ongoing collaboration and dedication will enable us to make further progress in the preservation and promotion of Europe's religious heritage and forge new pathways for innovation, collaboration and sustainable heritage practices.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of this extraordinary community.

Pilar G. Bahamonde
FRH President





© image: Antoine Buttafoghi - Faith - Conques, France

Advisory Board President's Report

We come to the end of another eventful year marked by key actions that have underlined the importance of religious heritage and society's willingness to preserve it, but also the many issues that the sector still needs to address in the short and long term.

In 2024, FRH closely followed the development of the Etats Generaux du Patrimoine Religieux (EGPR), a French initiative to bring to light the challenges faced by the over 100,000 churches in the country and set a comprehensive strategy for their future. Throughout the year, 87 French parishes participated in a national survey to document their movable and intangible heritage, and a series of consultative sessions with key religious heritage actors, including our network, were held. This intensive year of work resulted in a Guide to Patronage and a series of standard agreements for compatible uses of religious places, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated action among a variety of actors.

European citizens do not doubt that religious heritage matters. In April, we released the findings of a Europe-wide survey, revealing that 81% of Europeans believe that religious heritage is a key element of their communities' present and future. Furthermore, 79% of respondents embraced the idea of extending the use of religious buildings for tourism and other non-religious cultural activities, as long as these uses are respectful and compatible with the sites.

I was delighted to confirm for myself this extraordinary support for religious heritage at the closing ceremony of the Lebaniego Jubilee Year 2023/24 in Cantabria, Spain, to which FRH was invited. The event marked the end of the celebrations along the pilgrimage route leading to the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana and was an invaluable opportunity to strengthen our link with a region that is harnessing the potential of religious tourism as a driver for more sustainable tourism.

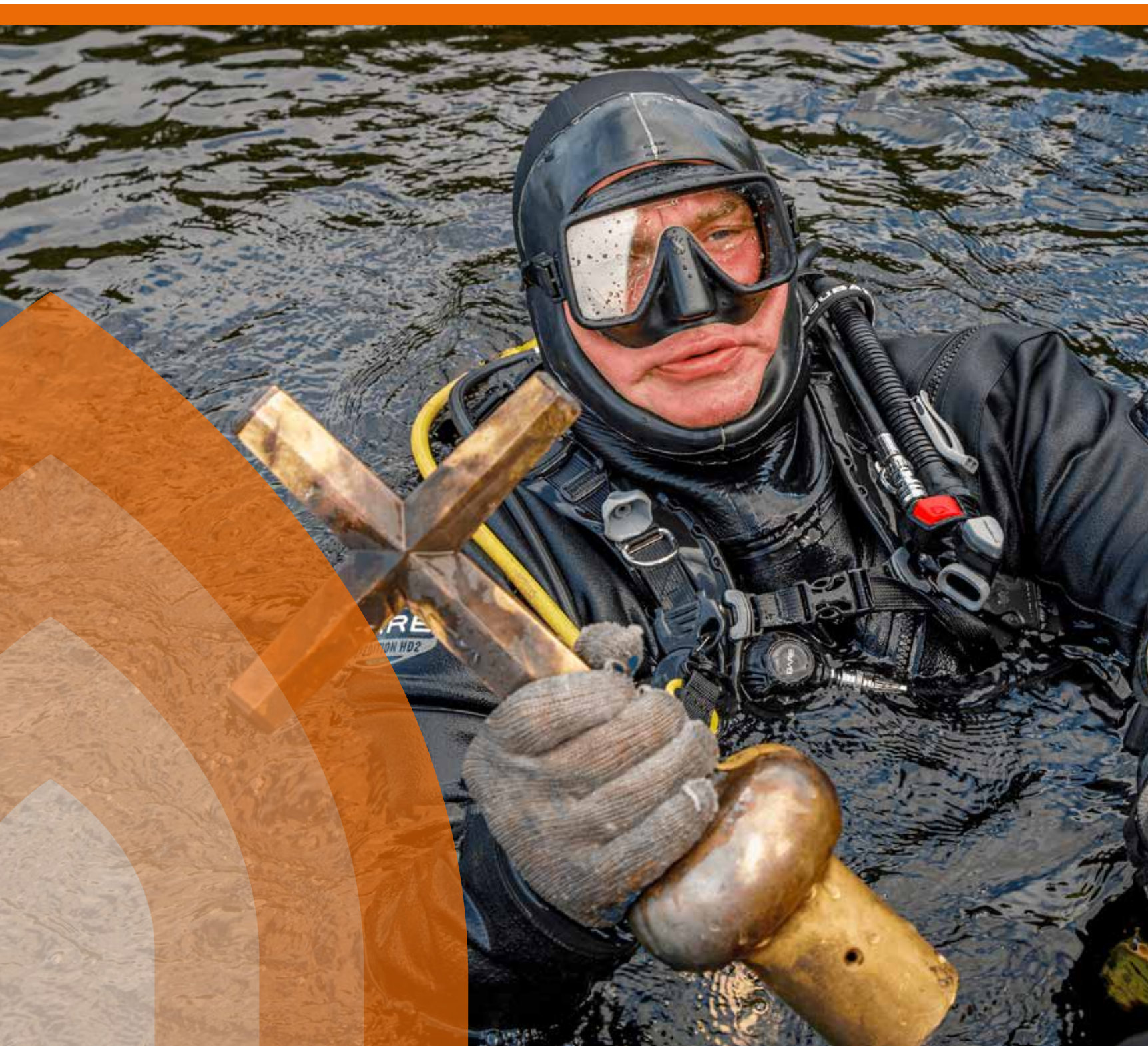
However, the future of Europe's hundreds of thousands of religious buildings needs something essential: qualified professionals to keep them in good condition. In November we published our 'Study on the Situation of Craft Professions Involved in Safeguarding Built Heritage', produced in collaboration with Mad'in Europe, which warns of an ageing workforce and calls for effective strategies to pass on traditional knowledge to younger generations. The survey also draws attention to the disparities in certification systems across Europe and urges greater support to navigate the digital transition, while addressing the limited pathways available to young talent seeking to enter the craft sector.

The recent appointment of Glenn Micallef as the new EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture, and Sport, is a new opportunity to bring to the fore the critical issues on which the EU's cultural policy should focus in the term 2025-2029. Micallef has already pointed to a "Cultural Compass" which will set the strategic framework for the upcoming years, although priorities in terms of cultural heritage remain to be seen. What is clear is that 2025 will be crucial to set religious heritage on the European Union's agenda for the coming years.

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: Stanislav Trofimov - Mast cap from the sunken steamship of the Valaam Monastery - Valaam Island, Russia

Executive Officer's report

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

Membership

FRH has two types of members: full members - organisations working in the field of religious heritage; university departments, public authorities; and associate members - individuals, professionals, students and volunteers working in the field of religious heritage.

In order to provide them with the opportunity of getting to know each other, exchange ideas, finding partners for projects and come up with possible collaborations we organise the following activities:

FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

These meetings are an opportunity for members to meet, discuss projects and initiatives, and share best practices. 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.

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.

A physical face-to-face meeting was held in Malta on 25-26 January 2024. This meeting was hosted and co-organised by Din l-Art Ħelwa (National Trust of Malta), which works for the preservation and protection of historic buildings, monuments, places of natural beauty and features. The face-to-face allowed FRH members to visit the religious heritage landmarks of the island, including St John's Co-Cathedral, the Jesuit Church and the Church of

Our Lady of Victory in Valletta; St Paul's Cathedral and the Monastery of St Peter in Mdina; and St Paul's Grotto and the Wignacourt Museum in Rabat.

Two other face-to-face meetings took place online: in May from Istanbul (Turkey) and in September from Wallonia (Belgium)

The online face-to-face meeting from Turkey was led by the Association for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (Kültürel Mirası Koruma Derneği - KMKD) and focused on the ongoing efforts of the association to safeguard abandoned religious heritage sites in Turkey

The online face-to-face meeting from Belgium was conducted by CIPAR (Interdiocesan Center for Heritage and Religious Arts) and revolved around the need for evaluating religious heritage in scenarios of natural disasters.

FRH MASTERCLASSES

www.frh-europe.org/frh-masterclasses

The FRH Masterclasses aim to improve the capacity of FRH members to address current challenges in the cultural heritage sector with the aid of highly qualified professionals. During the masterclasses, participants have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of innovative methodologies and concepts as well as useful tools to face pressing issues facing religious heritage. This activity is exclusive to members of the FRH network.

,In 2024 we organised two masterclasses:

- **The first masterclass, "The Churches and the City. A review of the past, present and future role of churches in urban environments"** was held in a hybrid format on 7-8 March 2024 in Bologna, Italy. This masterclass offered a

critical analysis of the relationship between churches and cities in different European regions after World War II and explored the current and future role of religious buildings in urban contexts

- **The second masterclass, entitled “Staging religion in museums: the “performance” of religion(s) as a challenge for museums”** was also held in a hybrid format on 14-15 October at the Michaelstein Monastery in Germany. This masterclass focused on how museums can research and communicate to the public the “language” of different religions in exhibition spaces, recognising the uniqueness of each and their way of making sense of the world.

FRH TALKS

www.frh-europe.org/frh-talks

FRH Talks are a series of virtual chats where we invite the public to meet an expert in the cultural heritage field. The aim is to offer an in-depth view of some of the sector's burning issues and challenges as well as to give participants the floor to ask questions to an expert in the field and exchange views with the rest of the participants. The FRH Talks are open to everybody.

In 2024 we organised three FRH Talks:

- **The FRH Talk “(Re)discovering Europe’s Islamic heritage: 1,400 years of history and what it means today”** took place in April. It featured Tharik Hussain, author, travel writer and journalist specialising in Muslim heritage. This webinar explored the long presence of Islam in Europe and its often overlooked contributions to art, culture, architecture and religious heritage, from Cyprus to Sicily, from Al-Andalus to the Ottoman Empire and the Tatars.
- **The FRH Talk “New Horizons for Religious Heritage Preservation in the Digital Age”** took place in September. It featured Joseph Elders, freelance professional specialising in religious heritage. This webinar introduced participants to some of the current digital initiatives to map out Europe’s religious heritage.

- **The FRH Talk “Religious Heritage at Crossroads”** took place in October. It was organised by the FRH Young Professionals and Researchers Working Group. It featured three young professionals: Meetali Gupta, architect specialising in World Heritage Studies; Tudor Coman, graduated in Computer Science and Inge Basteleur, project leader education at the Groningen Historic Churches Foundation.

13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The FRH 13th Annual General Meeting was held on 23 September 2024 in a hybrid format. The meeting took place with the participation of FRH members and included presentations on the latest activities, campaigns, and initiatives of the network as well as a financial review of the year.

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 Heritage Alliance 3.3; the European Commission Expert Group on Cultural Heritage, the Climate Heritage Network, and the New European Bauhaus.

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 2023 FRH Advisory Board President, Lilian Grootswagers, 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



© image: Rocío Sánchez - Face-to-face visit in Malta

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.

New European Bauhaus:

Launched by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in September 2020, the goal of the New European Bauhaus is to bring the European Green Deal closer to citizens and their living spaces by bridging the world of science and technology with the world of art and culture. As an official partner, FRH is committed to ensuring that religious heritage is included as an integral part of the New European Bauhaus and will advocate the need for a heritage-led transformation of our society, economy and environment.

Projects and activities

RELIGIANA

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 twenty geographically diverse organisations allows the promotion of these organisations, which also link their content to Religiana. The platform currently features more than 15,000 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.

EUROPEAN RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DATABASE

In September 2024, after a year and a half of work in cooperation between FRH, Religioscape and several experts in mapping and digitisation tools, the network presented 'Sanctuary', its open repository of religious heritage sites in Europe. This user-friendly tool offers free access to national, regional and private databases to researchers, policymakers and civil society as a whole, on the same map interface and to the same data standard, overcoming the current limitations of fragmented data in numerous pages. The platform gathers several existing databases of religious buildings and burial grounds of different denominations.

The current map allows users to search sites by name or address. The map also offers the possibility to customise your search by denomination and site type. The current denominations are Anglican, Armenian, British

(Cyprus), Christian (other), Evangelical, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Latin, Maronite, Protestant, Russian Orthodox and Sunni Muslim. In the future, other denominations may be added according to the new buildings added to the platform. It is also possible to filter the results by these site types: Cathedral, Chapel, Church, Minaret, Monastery, Mosque, Synagogue, Burial Ground, Cathedral precinct, Cemetery and Sacred landscape.

RUN FOR HERITAGE

www.frh-europe.org/activities/ongoing-activities/run-for-heritage

Run for Heritage is an awareness-raising campaign that unites sports and religious heritage, encouraging people, especially the younger generation, to go outside and explore their religious heritage. Participants in the campaign take part in fun activities outdoors - stroll, bike tour, cultural visit - that promote healthy habits while allowing them to learn about the history and cultural richness of their towns and cities. The initiative was launched in 2021 to build on the legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

www.frh-europe.org/religious-heritage-innovator-of-the-year

Launched in 2022, the competition aims to spotlight Europe's most innovative practices in religious heritage. The third edition of the Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year Award ran from June to November.

The competition jury was composed of four heritage experts: Anne Grady (Head of Development with the National Museum of Ireland to the CULT Committee of the European Parliament), Gilles Guey (President of the Association of Directors of Culture of French Large Cities and Urban Areas), Justin Kroesen (Professor of Cultural History at the University of Bergen) and Greg Pickup (Chief Executive of The Churches Conservation Trust).

The overall winner for 2024 was the Scotland's Churches Trust (United Kingdom) for their project "Recording Scotland's Closing Churches:

A Race Against Time". The initiative involved the development of a rapid recording methodology to enable the network of volunteers across Scotland to record the moveable contents of the many hundreds of churches in the process of closing. The methodology requires no specialist knowledge or tools and can be taught to people with limited digital skills.

The finalist projects were:

- **"Buurtbakens Haarlem"** by the Municipality of Haarlem in cooperation with seven congregations (The Netherlands)
- **"Una catedral en el páramo: Villamorón - Burgos, España"** by Asociación Cultural "Amigos de Villamorón" (Spain)
- **"3D Sacral Art of Rivne region"** by Rivne Museum of Local Lore (Ukraine)
- **"Focus Craftership: Ora et Labora"** by PARCUM (museum and centre of expertise on religious art and culture) (Belgium)



© image: Scotland Churches Trust - Team of heritage recorders at St Cuthbert's Church - Saltcoats, Schotland

© images from top to bottom:
Joke Rooseboom - Church for Community Activities in Oosterkerk - Haarlem, The Netherlands
Asociación de Amigos de Villamorón - Cathedral of the Moor - Spain
Digitised collection of Rivne Regional Museum of Local Lore - Ukraine
PARCUM - Focus Craftership, Ora et Labora - Belgium

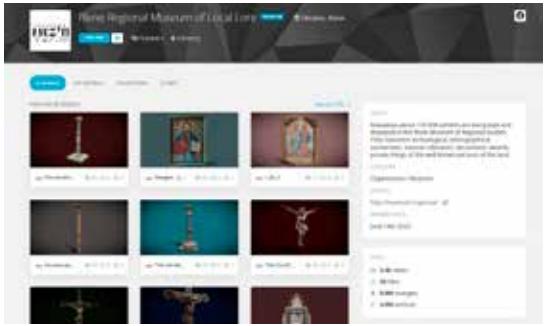


PHOTO COMPETITION

www.frh-europe.org/frh-photo-and-video-competition/winner-and-finalists/

The FRH Photo Competition is an annual contest open to amateurs, professionals and anybody with an interest in photography. The competition has three categories: Artefacts, Religious Buildings, and People and Events. The aim is to showcase the beauty and diversity of Europe's places of worship through its architectural wonders, fascinating artifacts, and unique celebrations.

In 2024 the competition received 858 entries from 100. The competition was judged by: José Cobo Calderón (Spanish sculptor), Savina Lambert (French artist and amateur photographer) and Snezana Negovanovic (Serbian professional photographer working for the Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute of Belgrade).

The selection of the winner and eight finalists was made on the basis of content and aesthetics of the photographs and the creativity and technique demonstrated by the contestants.

The overall winner of 2024 was Stéphane de Rouville (France) for his photograph of the former monastery of Santa Catalina in Antigua, Guatemala.

The finalists were:

Category of Artefacts

- Yoe Yar (Myanmar)
- Sirsendu Gayen (India)
- Stanislav Trofimov (Russian)

Category of People and Events

- Stanislav Trofimov (Russian)
- Dmitrii Kiselev (Russia)
- Apratim Pal (India)

Category of Religious Buildings

- Hamidreza Hamzehpour (Iran)
- Pyae Phyo Thet Paing (Myanmar)

All selected photographs were compiled in a booklet available on the FRH website.



Winner of the 2024 Photo Competition

© image: Stéphane de Rouville- Former monastery of Santa Catalina - Antigua, Guatemala



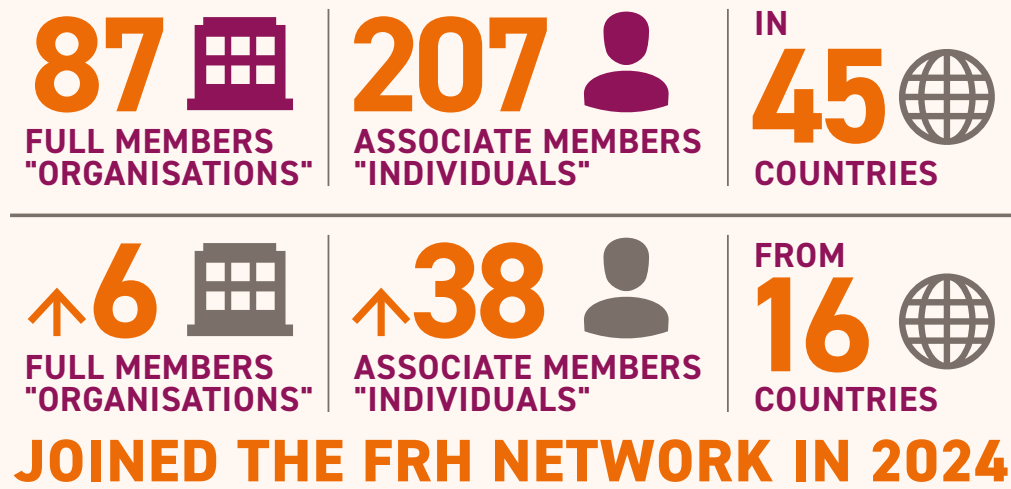
© image: Hamidreza Hamzehpour - Saint Thaddeus Cathedral - Chaldiran, Iran

Our members across Europe

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



OUR MEMBERS



Our 2024 in numbers

<div>11</div> <div>EVENTS</div> <div> <div>7</div> <div>ONLINE</div> </div> <div> <div>4</div> <div>IN-PERSON</div> </div>	<div> <div>858</div> <div>PHOTOS FROM</div> </div> <div> <div>100</div> <div>COUNTRIES</div> </div> <div> <div>SUBMITTED TO THE</div> <div>PHOTO COMPETITION</div> </div>	<div> <div>+30.000</div> <div>WEBSITE VISITORS</div> </div>
<div> <div>3</div> <div>FRH TALKS</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>MASTERCLASSES</div> </div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>FACE-TO-FACE</div> </div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>CONFERENCE</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>SATELLITE EVENTS*</div> </div>	<div> <div>+100.000</div> <div>VISITORS ON</div> <div>THE RELIGIANA</div> <div>WEBSITE</div> </div>	<div> <div>PARTNER IN</div> <div>2</div> <div>EUROPEAN</div> <div>PROJECTS:</div> <div>MIRETAGE &</div> <div>POLYVERSE</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>DIGITAL</div> <div>PUBLICATIONS</div> <div>RELIGIOUS HERITAGE</div> <div>INNOVATOR OF THE</div> <div>YEAR BOOKLET AND</div> <div>PHOTO COMPETITION</div> <div>BOOKLET</div> </div>
<div> <div>+1.000</div> <div>PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH FRH EVENTS</div> </div>	<div> <div>3.600</div> <div>VIEWS ON</div> <div>YOUTUBE</div> </div>	<div> <div>+2.200</div> <div>PEOPLE REACHED MONTHLY</div> <div>THROUGH OUR NEWSLETTER</div> </div>

*THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS FESTIVAL
AND THE EU WEEK OF CREATIVE SKILLS



© image: Anatoly Svirin - Ancient Tashtyk Legacy at the Oglahty complex - Republic of Khakassia, Russia

Report on the situation of crafts skills in Europe

At the end of 2023, FRH and Mad'in Europe launched a survey to shed light on the situation of crafts skills in terms of education, certification, practice and transmission. The results of the survey were published in 2024 in the “Study on the Situation of Craft Professions Involved in the Safeguard of Built Heritage” together with a set of recommended policy actions aimed at bridging educational gaps, fostering collaborations, and raising awareness of the role of crafts in the heritage sector.

KEY RESULTS:

Ageing workforce. With 56% of respondents over 50 years old, the craft sector faces a significant challenge in attracting younger talent.

Unclear transmission of skills and businesses. 55.29% of respondents over 50 are unsure about their business's future after retirement, the lack of succession planning poses a significant threat to the sector's sustainability.

Digital transition. Although 90% of respondents acknowledge the potential of digital tools for business, there is a gap in digital literacy, with 64% respondents reporting insufficient support for digital transition.

Difficulties to find qualified craftspeople in traditional techniques. There is a significant challenge for architects, curators and owners of historic buildings in locating skilled professionals in specific traditional techniques, particularly in areas like metalwork, ceramics, textiles, and bell making.

Lack of standardised certification. There is no consistent certification system across Europe, making it difficult for employers to measure the value of qualifications obtained by craft professionals.

Curriculum Gap. Most schools prioritise practical teaching over theory, yet essential subjects like digital tools, marketing, and entrepreneurship are either optional or missing, suggesting a gap

between current curricula and the evolving needs of the craft sector

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- **Standardising certification systems.** The absence of a unified certification system across Europe makes it difficult to assess the value of qualifications for both students and employers.
- **Integrate digital skills, marketing, and entrepreneurship training into craft education programs.** Additionally, partnerships with local enterprises and craft workshops should be strengthened, offering students practical experience.
- **Promote succession planning.** Given the ageing demographic of the sector, it is essential to support mentorship and apprenticeships of craftspeople to enable the transfer of knowledge.
- **Enhance industry collaborations.** Craft professionals, architects, heritage curators and public entities need to operate in collaboration with each other. Online directories and platforms are essential for this.
- **Increasing awareness and advocacy efforts.** Public awareness campaigns to emphasise the cultural importance and economic potential of the sector.

The full report is available at www.frh-europe.org





© image: Maria Marques - Praying to the Holly Reliquary, church Santa Croce in Gerusalemme - Roma, Italy

EU funded projects

As of 2024, FRH is part of the international consortia of two EU-funded projects.

MIRETAGE

<https://www.miretage.eu/>

MIRETAGE (European Pathways to Minority Religious Heritage: Inclusive Heritage in Adult Education) is an EU-funded project to enhance the participation of minority religious groups in heritage-making activities. The project will co-create minority religious heritage trails in Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands through Heritage Labs that will bring together different actors involved in cultural heritage and education and communities. These labs will serve as a forum for ideas and exchange.

These experiences will be transformed into guidelines and digital tools that will be brought to European associations through multiplier and policy events, and by working through heritage and educational networks.

The project partners are KADOC (Belgium), La Xixa Community Theatre (Spain), Mozaika (Spain), Muslim Archive (the Netherlands), Storytelling Centre (the Netherlands), University of Groningen (the Netherlands), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain) and Future for Religious Heritage (European).



POLYVERSE

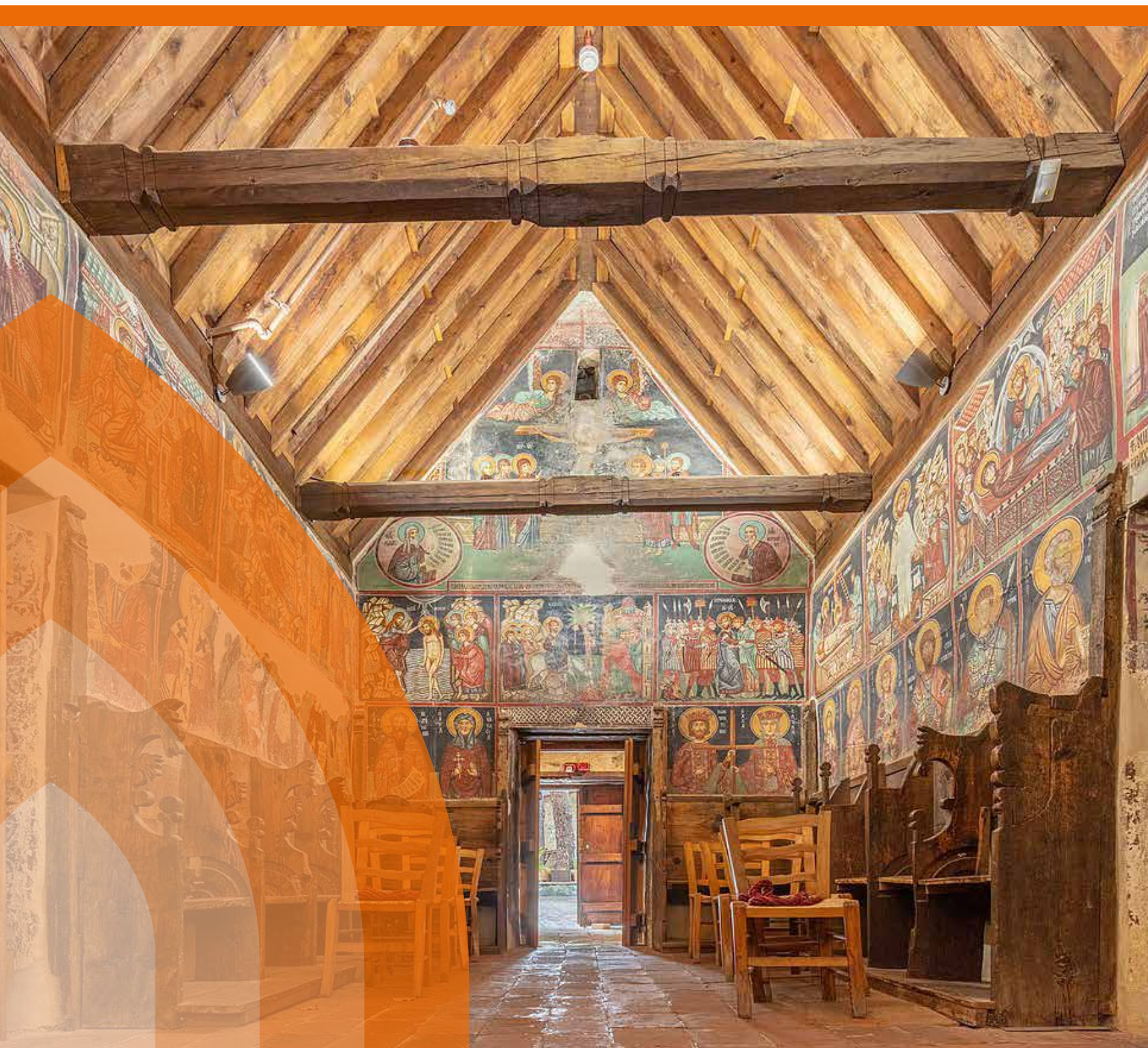
<https://www.polyverse.eu/>

POLYVERSE (Promoting multicultural dialogue and religious heritage by creating a European Interreligious Choir) is an EU-funded project focusing on harnessing the unifying potential of music to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue. With this goal in mind, the project consortium will create the first European Interreligious Choir.

The choir will be composed of choristers from a diverse array of countries, religions and cultural backgrounds. Its repertoire will include compositions from the different religious traditions represented, as well as a main “interfaith” piece that will be composed collaboratively by three selected composers and encompass the messages of peace, respect, and mutual understanding.

The project partners are the Società di Conservazione della Basilica di Aquileia (Italy), the Jewish Community of Athens (Greece), Evangelical Church and Community of Lehnin Monastery (Germany), the Islamic Cultural Centre of Italy – Grand Mosque of Rome (Italy) and Future for Religious Heritage (European)





© image: Diego Delso - Archangelos Michael Church- Pedoulas, Cyprus

FRH Working Groups

CYPRUS WORKING GROUP

The Cyprus Working Group was established in 2023 to identify best practices in addressing the complex and highly contested nature of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue in Cyprus, focusing on the management, research, documentation and safeguarding of the country's religious heritage sites.

In the coming year, the CWG will produce a report analysing the role of religious heritage in relation to peace, conflict, climate change and sustainability. The team will also develop a blueprint for successful collaborative projects across the cultural, social, linguistic and religious divides that exist in Cyprus. This blueprint is intended to eventually be useful also for other countries facing similarly sensitive political and inter-community circumstances.

The CWG will additionally develop a set of recommendations for FRH to better take into account the religious heritage of Europe that does not belong to the two largest religious communities (Catholic and Protestant).

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND RESEARCHERS WORKING GROUP

The Young Professionals and Researchers Working Group was set up at the end of 2023 to carry on the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022. Its aim is to empower young talents in the religious heritage field and ensure that young people's concerns, perspectives and insights are present in FRH's work.

In the coming year, the YPWP will publish a Position Paper identifying key-challenges faced by emerging young professionals and researchers to pursue a career in religious heritage. To this point, the working group has conducted a series interviews with experienced professionals analysing crucial topics such as education, working conditions,

The paper will also propose a series of recommended actions to bridge the generation gap between young professionals and the necessary resources and to support their successful integration into the sector.





© image: Elizaveta Klimova - Praying for peace in Ukraine at St. Sofia Cathedral - Kyiv, Ukraine

The Friends of FRH

The Friends of FRH is an independent association set up by la Fondation Roi Baudouin. Its aims are to promote a better understanding of the sector's needs and advocate positive change, promote FRH as the European federation of like-minded organisations, provide a source of volunteer support and introduce FRH to major donors.

Friends are invited to join FRH events and participate in activities to meet each other, explore the different issues facing the sector, enjoy examples of Europe's glorious religious heritage and learn about FRH's projects and initiatives.

Friends of FRH welcomes anyone who wishes to support Europe's religious heritage. Join Friends of FRH now: www.frh-europe.org/get-involved/joinus/friends-of-frh

For further information on the Friends please contact FRH's office: info@frh-europe.org

DONATIONS TO FRH

Europe's sacred heritage - architectural, movable and intangible - is central to its cultural and aesthetic roots. In a constantly evolving society, religious buildings are unique repositories of art and history, a resource for sustainable development and quality of life and tools for urban regeneration.

By donating you are contributing to the safeguarding and preservation of this significant part of our society.

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: David Bryson - Palm crosses for Easter in Pollenca - Mallorca, Spain

Statutory Information

COUNCIL 2023-2024



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



Treasurer - Peter Aiers, British. 34th Master and Chief Executive of the Charterhouse. Former Chief Executive of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT).



Secretary - Stefan Beier, German, Chair of the Board of KLOSTERLAND, an association of monasteries in Germany and Poland. Director of Museum im Zisterzienserkloster Lehnin (Museum in the former Cistercian Monastery of 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.



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



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



Chiara Curti, Italian, Doctor in Art History, teaching at the Antoni Gaudi Faculty at the Ateneu Sant Pacia. Director of the Barcelona Office of the Eugenia Balcells Foundation.



Sofia M. Vollmer, French/Venezuelan, Director of Business Development for a Belgian Company that provides digital tools to family offices, businesses, boards and councils worldwide.



Lacramioara Beilic, Romanian, Executive Director of the Bucovina Tourism Association



Patty Wageman, Dutch. Director of the Groningen Historic Churches Foundation (Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken). Former director of Museum De Buitenplaats Eelde.



© image: Kent Harry Cumpio - Katedra Latem, Ostrów Tumski - Wrocław, Poland

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: www.frh-europe.org/about-frh/organization/documents

REGISTERED OFFICE

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

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.

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

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.

Accounts

	12/2022	12/2023	12/2024
Income			
Membership fees	13 100	15 325	14 475
Donors	20 862	800	5
EU funding	132 000	210 311	158 219
Others	492	657	521
TOTAL INCOME	166 454	248 710	173 220
Expenses			
Rent & offices costs	-11 393	-10 358	-7 060
Salaries & partena	-104 025	-115 238	-116 072
IT	-16 449	-42 127	-35 284
Insurance	0	-203	-207
Accounting	-28 767	-37 504	-18 237
Travel & events	-7 104	-43 191	-29 878
Finance costs	1 380	1 467	832
Other	0	-1 515	-3.066
TOTAL EXPENSES	-166 359	-248 669	-210 636
RESULT	95	41	-37 416

© image: Geoffrey Touche – Golden beacon amid the clouds, St. Sergius Of Radonezh Monastery - Bar, Montenegro



"Religious heritage is the biggest museum of Europe, and its buildings are markers of it connected by routes and paths and lanes which were the highways of their time. Cathedrals, synagogues, mosques, chapels, and hermitages are real palimpsests. They hold layers upon layers of history and art."

Pilar G. Bahamonde, FRH President

Future for Religious Heritage

Trierstraat 67 Rue de Trèves
B - 1040 Brussels

Office land line: +32 22 35 20 00

Office mobile: +32 471 66 37 36

Email : info@frh-europe.org

Skype: FutureForReligiousHeritage
Registered Charity (ASBL Belgium)
No. 839 745 430

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© image: Lilian Grootswagers - Closing Ceremony of the Lebaniego Jubilee Year 2023/2024 - Cantabria, Spain

www.frh-europe.org