

## Conference programme

**Thursday, 22 October 2026**

Venue: Irish College Leuven, Janseniusstraat 1, 3000 Leuven, Belgium ([View on Google Maps](#))

8.30	Registrations
9.00	Official institutional welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Patty Wageman, President of FRH</li><li>- EU Commission representative</li><li>- Peter De Wilde, CEO Flemish Heritage Agency</li><li>- Wouter Jaspers, Director PARCUM</li></ul>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUB-THEME   From community-based to holistic: Different approaches to future-proofing religious heritage</b>	
09.30	Keynote presentation by Luigi Bartolomei, Department of Architecture at the University of Bologna
10.00	Presentation by Manuela Klauser, TRANSARA research group at the University of Bonn
10.15	Audience Q&A
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	Presentation by Dani Kranz, Tikvah Institute in Berlin; and Sarah Ross, director of the European Center for Jewish Music at Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media
11.15	Presentation by Karim Ettourki, Services and Expertise Sharing KADOC - KU Leuven
11.30	Abstract presentation
11.37	Abstract presentation
11.44	Audience Q&A
11.55	Summary by the moderator of the day
12.00   Lunch at the Irish College Leuven	

<b>STUDY VISITS</b>	
13.30	Bus departure from Irish College Leuven. Participants will be divided into two groups. The first group will visit Site 1 first and then head to site 2, and vice versa. Both groups will meet for dinner.
Site 1	<b>Paul van Ostaijen Cultural Centre in Heverlee, Leuven.</b> Former monastery transformed into a carbon neutral cultural hotspot.
Site 2	<b>Saint-Michael's and Saint Anna's Churches in Boutersem</b> As part of a municipal "kerkenbeleidsplan" (church policy plan) in Boutersem, several churches of the municipality are exploring extended use possibilities. We will visit two of them: Several churches of the municipality are currently exploring extended use possibilities as part of a municipal "church policy plan". We will visit two of them: -The Saint-Michael's Church is home to the community project 'Come and see'. Rooted in the Christian tradition, this project creates a place to pause, reflect, connect, and explore spirituality. -St Anne's Church has been converted into a community center and museum dedicated to local religious heritage. A place for cultural events, exhibitions, and social gatherings managed by the non-profit organisation Hannah Acteum.
18.00   Conference dinner	
After the study visits, both groups will meet at the Kabbeeklooster in Tienen. Due to its strategic location in the heart of the city, the redevelopment of the Kabbeeklooster site is one of the most important inner-city challenges for the city of Tienen in the coming years.	

## Friday, 23 October 2026

Venue: Irish College Leuven, Janseniusstraat 1, 3000 Leuven, Belgium ([View on Google Maps](#))

8.00	OPTIONAL: Mass at the St John the Baptist's Church, followed by a guided tour offered by the Bishops' Conference of Belgium.
9.30	Coffee at Irish College Leuven
<b>2<sup>o</sup> SUB-THEME   Policies and Instruments: Good Practices Across Europe</b>	
10.00	Keynote presentation by Joanna Dorsser, Real Estate Director at the Diocese of

	Paris
10.30	Presentation by Sara Vermeulen, Flemish Heritage Agency
10.45	Audience Q&A
11.00   Coffee Break	
11.30	Presentation by Judith Toebast, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
11.45	Presentation by Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed, Islam-UK Centre at Cardiff University
12.00	Abstract presentation
12.07	Abstract presentation
12.14	Audience Q&A
12.25	Summary by the Moderator of the Day
12.30	Photo Competition Award Ceremony (2024-2025)
12.45	Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year (2024-2025)
13.00   Lunch at the Irish College Leuven	
<b>14.00 - 16.15   PARALLEL WORKSHOPS</b>	
Participants will be divided into groups. The groups will revolve so that all participants have the opportunity to attend all workshops.	
Workshop 1	Holistic approaches to managing religious heritage
Workshop 2	Policies and Instruments
Workshop 3	Poster exhibition
<b>17.00   Closing of the conference at KADOC</b>	
The closing will be followed by a reception organised by KADOC.	

## Saturday, 24 October 2026

Conference participants that stay Saturday in Leuven are warmly invited to join the following events happening in town. Both activities can be combined. Please note that these activities are not guided by FRH, although our team will provide guidance on how to get to the venues and what to expect from each event.

### **Visit & presentation at PARCUM (First slot: 9.30 | Second slot: 11:00)**

PARCUM is celebrating the completion of the restoration works on Park Abbey, which houses the organisation’s museum and centre of expertise on religious heritage. To mark the occasion, a festive open day will invite the public to discover the details of the restoration and learn more about the role PARCUM plays in supporting Flanders’ religious heritage.

### **Visit & presentation at KADOC (First slot: 9.30 | Second slot: 11:00)**

KADOC (Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society) is opening the doors of the its Chapel of Our Lady of Fever, a former Franciscan monastery church, sold in 1987 to the University of Leuven and since 1994 serving as venue for presentations and a meeting place for art and heritage. Apart from the visit, participants will learn more in depth about KADOC’s mission in the oldest university in Belgium.