



ENCATC
The European network on cultural
management and policy

PRESS RELEASE

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Artists in the spotlight! In search of new agendas for education and research in the cultural management and policy field

Brussels, 13 October 2021 – The 2021 ENCATC Digital Congress “Artists in the spotlight! In search of new agendas for education and research in the cultural management and policy field” is taking place next 19-22 October. Connecting from all over the world, experts, stakeholders, and participants in the areas of cultural management and policy will address pressing issues related to the 2021 theme, explore ground-breaking innovations, bridge the knowledge gap, promote research esteem and the evolution of pedagogy, and encourage steps to ensure significant improvements in this industry.



Acknowledging the work of artists as the core element in the sector, with its 2021 Digital Congress taking place from 19-22 October, ENCATC aims to provide a space for reflection on the implications for cultural management and policy education and research of the situation of artists.

This investigation is needed with regards to the current, multi-dimensional crisis, and the scenario(s) ahead, considering not only the health crisis, but also other dimensions of the current context, such as climate change, societal changes, etc. Taking a comprehensive view on the issue, the Congress considers not only the status of the artist in terms of professionalization, standards, etc., but also encourages an examination of the roles assigned to artists in society and the territory in the forthcoming scenarios.

“Putting the spotlight on artists for our 2021 Congress theme this year means going to where the creative process takes place as artists are at the heart of the creative and cultural sectors. Moreover, we know many have had their livelihood and activities threatened by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. We have seen how artists have adapted, mostly in the digital environment, but there are still many challenges that need to be addressed within this crisis context and beyond. I thank all the leading experts from around the world who will be joining us to invigorate our discussions with their new perspectives and challenge us to innovate in exciting ways,” says **Francesca Imperiale**, ENCATC President.

The 2021 Congress' impressive lineup of international speakers includes experts from UNESCO, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, Ministries of Culture, internationally recognised higher education institutions, and world-renowned cultural institutions joining for a timely exchange on the urgency for a new cultural policy agenda which has been brought forth since almost the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak.

The 4-day dynamic programme will start on 19 October with the Keynote speech by **Luciana Lazeretti**, Full Professor of “Economics and Management”, Department of Economics and

Management, University of Florence (Italy) when she will share her critical reflection to be followed by a panel debate. The first day will close with the 2nd edition of the **ENCATC Fellowship Award Ceremony** to honour this year's laureate, **Rod Fisher**, Associate Lecturer and Researcher at Goldsmiths, University of London (United Kingdom). This Award is the only international public recognition of its kind bestowed for developing and maintaining an innovative yet consistent approach and commitment to positive change and remarkable and visionary leadership, creativity, and results in education, research, policy, and advocacy in the cultural management and policy fields. A musical **performance** will follow the Ceremony.

The next day is dedicated to the **Global Conversation**, an international platform for a global debate on education on cultural management and policy. On 20 October, representatives from Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Africa, will exchange their perspectives on the Congress' focus and explore how it will impact national cultural policy, cultural management education and research, and new paths for international collaboration.

On 21 October, the **Bauhaus Debate** will take place on "What is the role of culture facing the digital revolution challenge? Some reflections for a research agenda". This scientific debate will examine with researchers, academics, policy makers, artists, and cultural operators the relations between the digital transformation and societal challenges through a creative approach. It will set the stage for the **2021 ENCATC Education and Research Sessions** to follow which will gather the international cultural management and policy research and education communities to present the latest cutting-edge research, trends, and pedagogical innovations.

The final day of the Congress on 22 October will begin with the **Policy Round Table** "Artists in the spotlight! / Artists at the centre! In search of new policy agendas for education and research". This part of the programme is the unique occasion to delve deeper into what has been done at a policy level to support artists in the current context, reframe artists' working conditions and social security, and identify new recommendations for shaping a new agenda for cultural policy. The Congress will close with the **ENCATC Research Award Ceremony** to announce the 2021 winner selected from the four talented finalists in the running for this year's competition.

"As the only network situated at the intersection of culture, education, and research, the ENCATC Annual Congress, is the unique global event bringing together academics, researchers, cultural professionals, policy makers, artists, and players in the wider cultural and creative ecosystem. This diversity of voices and wealth of knowledge are especially crucial in times of crisis so we can gather the most exciting ideas and trends across fields of expertise to help make the cultural sector stronger and more sustainable," says **GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens**, ENCATC Secretary General and member of the 2021 Congress Steering Committee.

This is the 29th edition of ENCATC Congress and for a second year it will be fully digital in response to the ongoing covid situation.

Note to editors:

2021 ENCATC Congress: <https://www.encatccongress.org/>

Speakers: <https://encatccongress.org/speakers/>

Programme: <https://encatccongress.org/programme/>

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. www.encatc.org

2021 Congress partners

The 2021 ENCATC Congress is a contribution to the [New European Bauhaus](#). The 2021 Global Conversation is done in partnership with the [Association of Arts Administration Educators](#). ENCATC Research Award is done in partnership with the [University of Antwerp](#) and the [Fonds voor Cultuurmanagement](#).

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