

# What is FRH

future for  
religious heritage



**The only European network of charities, governmental, religious and university departments**



**Works to protect religious heritage buildings and interiors across Europe**



**Not-for-profit organisation**



**Open to all people and religions**



# What is FRH

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- Since 2011 a European platform of exchange
- Since 2012 based in Brussels at the heart of the EU
- FRH has built up a European network representing 30 countries



# What's at stake

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# What's at stake

Religious heritage is under threat /  
European approach necessary

Europeans are not aware of the scale of  
the problem potential significance of losing  
Europe's biggest Museum in the world



# What's at stake

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In the Netherlands, 70% of churches are running deficits.

Of the 1,593 Catholic churches, two-thirds are projected to close by 2025.

The merger of the three main Protestant Churches has also provoked a wave of closures.

The current 150 monasteries are expected to reduce to five within ten years.

# What's to be done?

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- Introduce extended use
- Promote community use and events
- Embrace tourism
- Build up volunteer support
- Become more adept at raising money

# How can FRH help?

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- Build a European network
- Raise awareness within the EU
- Obtain a better understanding of the issues and the opportunities
- « The biggest museum in Europe »
- Religiana





# 2014 poll: Secular Europe backs religious heritage

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4 out of 5 Europeans think that religious buildings are essential for community life, and want them used more widely.

87% of European citizens are very open to the idea of promoting religious buildings and their architectural or artistic treasures to tourists.





# Religiana

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- Religiana is a tool to help managers of churches to promote community use and church tourism by distributing basic information to an international standard.
- Religiana is developed by FRH and managed by a partner in each relevant country / region.
- Religiana encourages contributors to articulate their financial needs and users to make tax efficient on-line donations.

# Committee of the Regions’ opinion in 2015

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“Religious heritage is one of the pillars of European culture and identity. It is the largest “museum” in Europe and covers every corner of the continent”.



# Religious heritage needs you!

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FRH is looking for cooperation to **open**  
Religiana in your region!

FRH is looking for EU project partners

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Develop yourself!

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