

European  
Historic  
Houses  
*Circle*

# Owners' Circle Congress 2025

18th-21st September 2025  
Barcelona

“Hidden Architectural Secrets of Barcelona”

# Programme



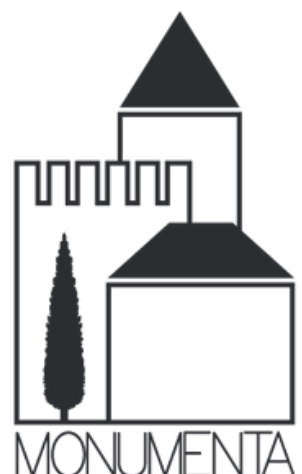
# Welcome

We are thrilled to invite you to the third edition of the Owners' Circle Congress, this year brought to you in partnership with our esteemed members from Monumenta. Together, we have curated an engaging and inspiring programme that promises to deliver unforgettable experiences in the vibrant and culturally rich city of Barcelona.

Over the course of three extraordinary days—or four, if you are joining us for the extended weekend—you will have the unique opportunity to explore Barcelona's hidden gems, uncovering its rich history, stunning architecture, and dynamic spirit.

From exclusive insights to meaningful connections, this year's event is designed to celebrate the essence of discovery, collaboration, and inspiration.

Whether you are a returning guest or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to welcome you to this unforgettable journey. Get ready to be inspired, connect with like-minded peers, and fall in love with Barcelona in a whole new way!





# Thursday, 18 September

- 15:00 h Visit to Colonia Güell
- 19:0 h Visit to Casa Viçens
- 20:00 h Rooftop visit and dinner at Hotel Plaza

# Friday, 19 September

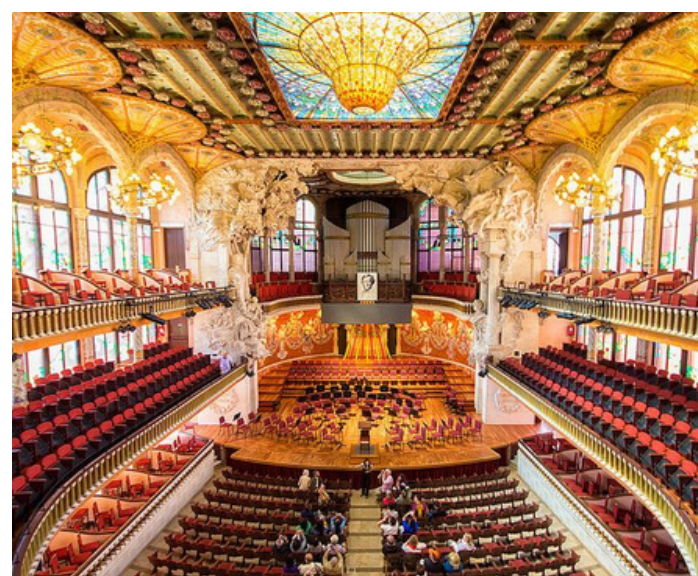
- 10:00 h Reception at Palau Mojà
- 13:00 h Lunch, Conference and Visit to Bellesguard
- 20:00 h Cocktail and Gala dinner at El Liceu

# Saturday, 20 September

- 09:00 h Group visit to Sagrada Familia
- 13:00 h Free Lunch
- 15:00 h Visit to Casa Amatller
- 17:00 h Visit to Casa Batlló
- 20:00h Dinner at Círculo Ecuestre

# Sunday, 21 September

- 09:00 h Optional mass
- 10:00 h Visit to Palau de la Música Catalana
- 12:00 h Farewell lunch at Palau de la Música





# Thursday, 18 September

- 14:00h                      **Welcome**  
Meeting point to follow
- 14:30h                      **Bus transfer**
- 15:00 h                      **Visit to Colonia Güell**  
Meeting point for bus transfer will follow
- 19:00 h                      **Visit to Casa Viçens**  
Bus transfer from previous stop
- 20:00 h                      **Rooftop visit and dinner at Hotel Plaza**  
Bus transfer from previous stop







## Learn about the venues

### Colonia Güell

The Colonia Güell, located in Santa Coloma de Cervelló near Barcelona, is a modernist gem and a key site for exploring Antoni Gaudí's architecture. Created in 1890 by Eusebi Güell, it was an industrial colony designed to provide workers with housing, cultural amenities, and improved living conditions. Güell's vision included modernist elements, making the Colonia both functional and innovative.

Its highlight is the unfinished church by Antoni Gaudí, particularly the crypt, which showcases groundbreaking techniques like catenary arches and hyperbolic walls. This masterpiece laid the foundation for Gaudí's Sagrada Família. Other modernist buildings, designed by Gaudí's collaborators, feature distinctive materials like exposed brick, ceramics, and wrought iron. Declared a Cultural Heritage Site in 1991, the Colonia Güell blends architectural significance with historical value, making it an essential destination for modernism enthusiasts.

### Casa Vicens

Casa Vicens, located in the Gràcia district of Barcelona, is one of Antoni Gaudí's earliest works and a brilliant example of his distinctive architectural style. Built between 1883 and 1885 as a summer house for the Vicens family, it showcases an eclectic mix of influences, including Moorish, neoclassical, and oriental styles, combined with Gaudí's innovative use of colour and materials.

The building is adorned with intricate ceramic tiles, wrought iron details, and vivid floral motifs inspired by nature. Its design marked a turning point in modernist architecture, setting the stage for Gaudí's later masterpieces. Casa Vicens was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005 and is now open to the public as a museum, offering visitors a glimpse into the origins of Gaudí's creative genius.

# Friday, 19 September

10:00 h

**Reception at Palau Mojà**  
Meeting point will follow

13:00 h -  
18:00h

**Lunch, Conference and Visit**  
Bellesguard Street 20, 08022 Barcelona

20:00 h

**Gala dinner at Círculo el Liceo**  
La Rambla, 51-59, 08002, Barcelona (Barcelona)







## Learn about the venues

### Palau Mojà

A historic building in Barcelona reflecting the lifestyle of the city's high bourgeoisie in the 18th and 19th centuries. Originally owned by Josep de Copons and his wife Maria Luisa Descatllar, it was designed by architect Josep Mas and opened in 1784. The building blends Baroque and French Neoclassical styles, with notable features including the Grand Salon, paintings by Francesc Pla, and the façades. In 1870, the Marquis of Comillas purchased the palace and made renovations, including the Staircase of Honour and the blue, pink, and green salons. After a fire in 1971, it was abandoned until it became the headquarters of the Catalan Government's Cultural Heritage Department.

The house, with its intricate detailing and harmonious integration into the landscape, reflects a fusion of history and innovation. Today, Bellesguard remains a privately owned cultural landmark, offering guided tours that delve into its royal heritage, architectural ingenuity, and Gaudí's unique vision.

### Bellesguard

Bellesguard, also known as Casa Figueras, is a hidden gem of Antoni Gaudí's work, nestled at the foot of the Collserola hills in Barcelona. Built between 1900 and 1909, it masterfully blends modernist and neo-Gothic styles, drawing inspiration from the site's medieval past as the residence of King Martin I of Aragon. Gaudí's design incorporates natural stone, colorful ceramic mosaics, and an imposing central tower crowned with a cross, embodying both his signature aesthetic and deep historical symbolism.

### Liceu

The El Liceu Grand Teatre, located on Barcelona's famous La Rambla, is one of Europe's most prestigious opera houses and a cultural icon of the city. Founded in 1847, it has a rich history of hosting world-class opera, ballet, and classical music performances. Despite enduring two devastating fires and a bombing, the Liceu has been beautifully restored. Beyond performances, the Liceu invites visitors to explore its history through guided tours, providing a glimpse into the heart of Barcelona's vibrant cultural heritage.

# Conference

Private historic properties, whether lived in or run as businesses, play a vital role in shaping our cultural heritage. This year's conference explores their evolving relationship with tourism and heritage designations such as UNESCO status and will dive into how a strategic property management plan can bridge past and future, aligning restoration with long-term vision.

11:30h

Welcome speeches

**M<sup>a</sup> Eugènia Gay**, deputy mayor for Barcelona town hall  
**Mateu Hernández**, director general for Turisme de Barcelona  
**Marcos Ros**, Member of the European Parliament and architect  
**José M<sup>a</sup> Mata Herberg**, Monumenta vice-president/**William Cartwright Hignett**, Owners' Circle coordinator  
**Anna Mollet**, manager of Torre Bellesguard by Antoni Gaudí

Business Lunch

Guided visit

Conference: *Survival of heritage, from policy to action*

**Session 1:** EU regulatory frameworks panel- "Is UNESCO status the only answer?"

- European Travel Commission
- DG EAC
- Marcos Ros

**Session 2:** "The respectful transformation and adaptation of the historic house for modern times and uses"

- Anna Mollet - manager of Torre Bellesguard
- William Cartwright-Hignett - owner of Iford Manor, UK

**Session 3:** "How to: the technical challenges of conversion and the essential nature of an agreed plan"

17:30h

- Galdric Santana - director de la Càtedra Gaudí de la UPC



# Conference

## Gaudí 2026, an event organised by all the owners of Gaudí's works of art

The death of Antoni Gaudí will be commemorated in 2026. All the entities owning works by Antoni Gaudí have come together to organise this commemoration. Within the joint programme, there are two important actions:

- **The creation of new routes between Gaudí's works.** From the Gaudí Chair, and based on the unpublished research of Galdric Santana, new guided tours have been created based on the interrelationship between his buildings. Based on similarities or contrasts, his works are paired two by two, always linking a well-known work by Gaudí with one that is still unknown. This new way of looking at and explaining Gaudí allows us to understand the architect's genius in a global and rigorous way, while helps us to get to know his most unknown buildings.
- **The candidature for UNESCO extension of 6 of Gaudí's works.** Casa Botines, the Episcopal Palace of Astorga, the Capricho de Comillas, the Cathedral of Mallorca, Teresianas and Torre Bellesguard have applied for the extension of the UNESCO Declaration, which seven buildings already enjoy (inscriptions made in 1984 and 2005): Park Güell, Palacio Güell, Casa Milà, Casa Vicens, the work of Gaudí on the façade of the Nativity and the crypt of the Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló and the crypt of the Colonia Güell. Promoted by the Gaudí Chair, and within the framework of the 2026 anniversary, if the extension is accepted, it would make Gaudí the architect with the most works declared World Heritage Sites.

## Owners and uses of Bellesguard over the years

Antoni Gaudí's Torre Bellesguard is much more than Gaudí. The land on which it stands has two thousand years of history and has been the scene of crucial moments in the history of Catalonia. All this history, and that of the people who have played a leading role in it, influenced Gaudí in the creation of his work. But the story does not end with Gaudí's building. Gaudí's work has continued to be put to very different uses, adapting its architecture to the function it was to fulfil at any given moment.

From hunting lodge to royal residence, from papal residence to refuge for bandits, from ruins to Gaudí's work, from hospital to home, and from home to house museum. With special mention to this last step, we will explain how the Guíler family decided to open their home to visitors, initiating the adventure towards the cultural management of their heritage gaudiniano. And how Occident subsequently bought Bellesguard in 2018, initiating a new stage in its history, facing the challenges and challenges of the future; such as the drawing up of a Master Plan to carry out global restoration work or the candidacy to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## Director plan of Torre Bellesguard

Galdric Santana is the Director of the Bellesguard Research Group and has been studying this little-known work by Antoni Gaudí for the last fifteen years. Over these years he has accumulated a large amount of unpublished information that will be made public in 2026, with the publication of the Bellesguard monograph and the dissemination of his research at the Congress on Gaudí to be organised by the Gaudí Chair.

This first-person research and all his knowledge of the building, together with his working methodology, made Galdric Santana the author of the Master Plan for the Bellesguard Tower. Using the latest technological innovations, with a scanning of the whole building by means of point clouds, the use of 3D glasses and a meticulous historical and constructive research, the case of the Bellesguard Master Plan is an example of excellence and the will to do things well. In this conference, will explain in detail what a master plan is, why it is necessary to have one and what are the new technologies applied to the study of heritage.

# Saturday, 20 September

- 09:00 h                      **Group visit to Sagrada Familia**  
Meeting point will follow
- 13:00 h                      **Lunch**  
Free time, you can choose where to go
- 15:00 h                      **Visit to Casa Amatller**  
Pg. de Gràcia, 41, 08007, Barcelona
- 17:00 h                      **Visit to Casa Batlló**  
Pg. de Gràcia, 43, 08007, Barcelona
- 20:00 h                      **Dinner at Círculo Ecuestre**  
Balma street, 169 - Bis, 08006, Barcelona







## Learn about the venues

### Sagrada Família

The Sagrada Família is Barcelona's most iconic landmark and a masterpiece of Antoni Gaudí's architectural genius. Construction began in 1882, and the basilica remains under construction, reflecting Gaudí's ambitious vision. Combining Gothic and modernist styles, its design features intricate façades, towering spires, and stunning interiors illuminated by vibrant stained-glass windows.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Sagrada Família is a symbol of Barcelona and one of the world's most visited monuments, drawing millions of visitors each year to experience its unique beauty and profound significance.

### Casa Amatller

Casa Amatller, designed by Josep Puig i Cadafalch, is a standout example of Catalan modernism, blending Romanesque and Gothic elements in a richly symbolic façade. Its iconic stepped gable, inspired by northern European architecture, conceals a photography studio built for the owner, Antoni Amatller. The façade features asymmetrical details, sculptural frames, and motifs like almond branches that reflect Amatller's name and interests, making it one of Barcelona's most distinctive buildings.

### Casa Batlló

Casa Batlló, one of Antoni Gaudí's most iconic masterpieces, stands in the heart of Barcelona's Passeig de Gràcia. Redesigned between 1904 and 1906, the building's organic forms, vibrant mosaics, and skeletal balconies reflect Gaudí's imaginative modernist style, inspired by nature and Catalan folklore. Its undulating façade, colorful trencadís (mosaic tiles), and dragon-like roof make it a striking symbol of Barcelona's architectural heritage. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Casa Batlló offers immersive tours showcasing Gaudí's creativity and innovation.

### Círculo Ecuestre

The Círculo Ecuestre is an exclusive private club in Barcelona, established in 1856, with a long history of fostering social, cultural, and business connections among its distinguished members. Located in a stately building on Avenida Diagonal, the club is renowned for its elegant interiors, including grand halls, refined dining areas, and spaces dedicated to cultural events and networking.

Over the years, the Círculo Ecuestre has become a symbol of tradition and prestige.

# Sunday, 21 September

09:00 h

**Optional mass**

Some churches or cathedrals might have an English mass.  
More information will follow soon for those interested

10:00 h

**Visit to Palau de la Música Catalana**

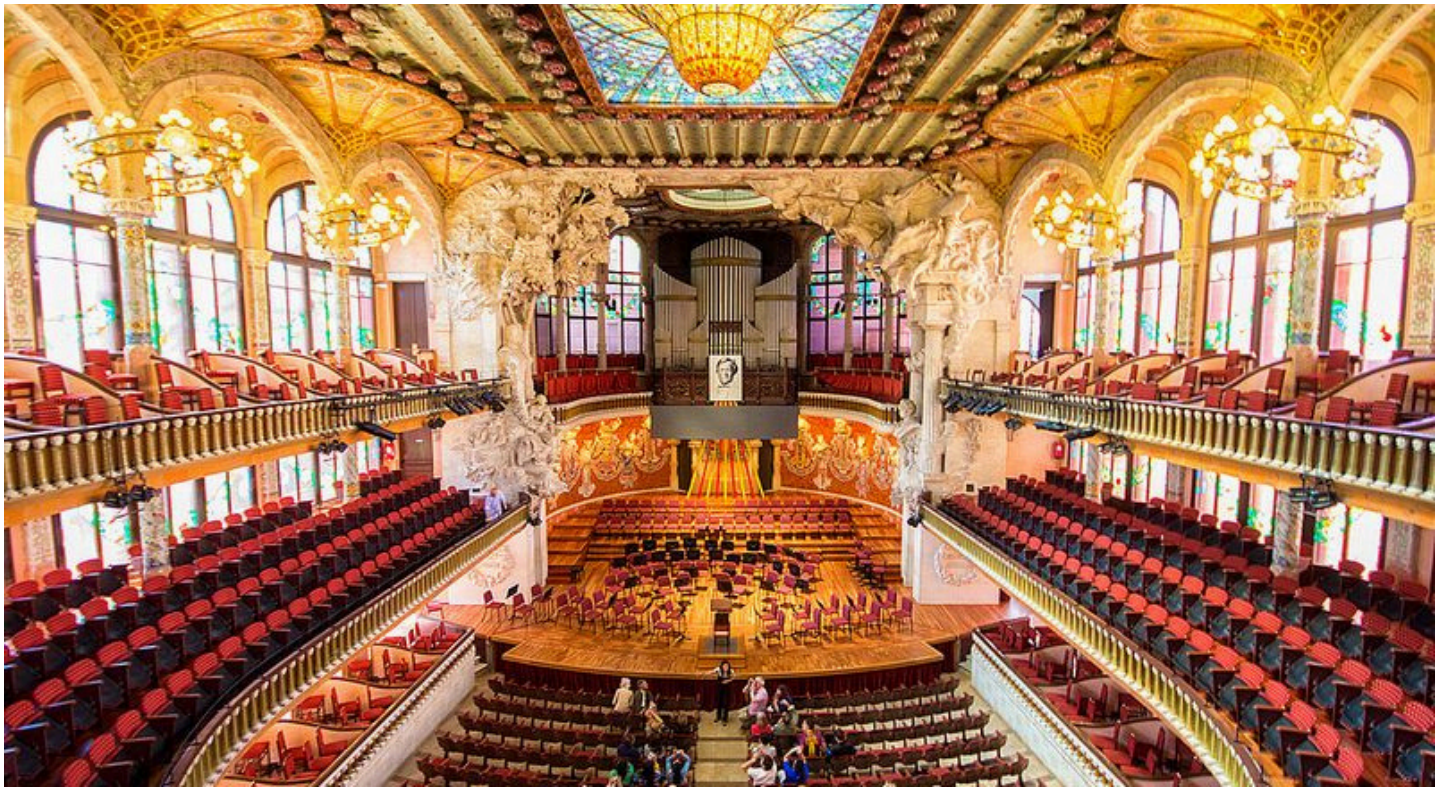
Carrer Palau de la Musica, 4-6, 08003, Barcelona

12:00h

**Farewell Lunch at Palau de la Música Catalana**







## Learn about the venues

### Palau de la Música Catalana

The Palau de la Música Catalana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of Barcelona's most stunning architectural treasures. Designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner and completed in 1908, this modernist concert hall is renowned for its vibrant mosaics, intricate stained glass, and sculptural details that celebrate Catalan culture. Its most striking feature is the skylight—a massive inverted stained-glass dome that bathes the auditorium in natural light, creating a unique atmosphere for performances. The Palau has hosted world-class concerts for over a century, ranging from classical music to contemporary genres. Beyond its role as a premier music venue, the building itself is a masterpiece of craftsmanship and artistic expression. Visitors can explore its rich history and breathtaking interiors through guided tours, making it a must-see cultural landmark in Barcelona.





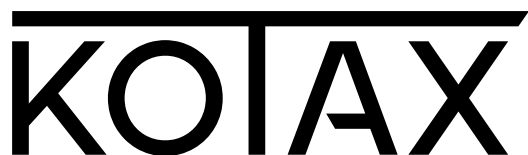


# Big Thank You to our sponsors:

## Kotax

<https://www.kotax.com/en/>

Kotax is committed to balancing premium and insured value, ensuring clients are optimally covered while respecting the emotional worth of their assets. Their approach goes beyond financial security, aiming to offer reassurance and a personal touch in every solution.

The logo for KOTAX, featuring the word "KOTAX" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A thick horizontal line is positioned above the letters "K" and "O".

Versicherungs  
Systeme

## Dorotheum

<https://www.dorotheum.com/en/>

Dorotheum is one of the world's largest and oldest auction houses, offering expertise in art, antiques, jewellery, and classic cars. With a tradition dating back to 1707, it provides a trusted platform for buying and selling valuable items through auctions and private sales.

The logo for DOROTHEUM, featuring the word "DOROTHEUM" in a red, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font, is the text "SEIT 1707".

## Damm Fundació

<https://www.fundaciodamm.cat/es>

The Damm Foundation promotes and supports Damm's philanthropic and sponsorship activities across sport, society, and culture in Spain, with a focus on fostering young athletes, strengthening civil society, and enriching cultural life. Through different initiatives, the Foundation aims to contribute to building a better, more vibrant society.

The logo for Damm Fundació, featuring the word "Damm" in a large, red, serif font, and the word "Fundació" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it.

# Tickets, Hotel and Travel

## Tickets

4-day ticket (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)  
EUR 850

3-day ticket (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)  
EUR 680

## Registration Link

<https://europeanhistorichouses3.wildapricot.org/event-6031198>

## Included in the ticket price

This includes bus transfers during the programme when indicated, lunch on Friday and Sunday, and dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Accommodation and travel to and from the programme is the responsibility of the participant.

## Hotel Recommendations

Please make the booking of the hotel in Barcelona by yourself. These recommendations by Monumenta include exclusive discount codes:

- [H1898](#) (code applied on the link)
- [Granvia](#) (code applied on the link)
- [Casa Sagnier](#) - code: CSMONUMENTA25
- [Catalonia](#) - code: CIRCLE
- Hotel Cotton House - 20% off if you send them an email to [reservations@hotelcottonhouse.com](mailto:reservations@hotelcottonhouse.com) mentioning the congress before 30/06/25

Or you can find different accommodations on Airbnb and Booking

## Travel to Barcelona

*by plane:* Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat (30 minutes away from city centre)



# General Information

## Remarks:

Please be on time!

The bus doesn't wait if you are late. So please contact us and let us know if you will be catching up by car or taxi

## Dresscode:

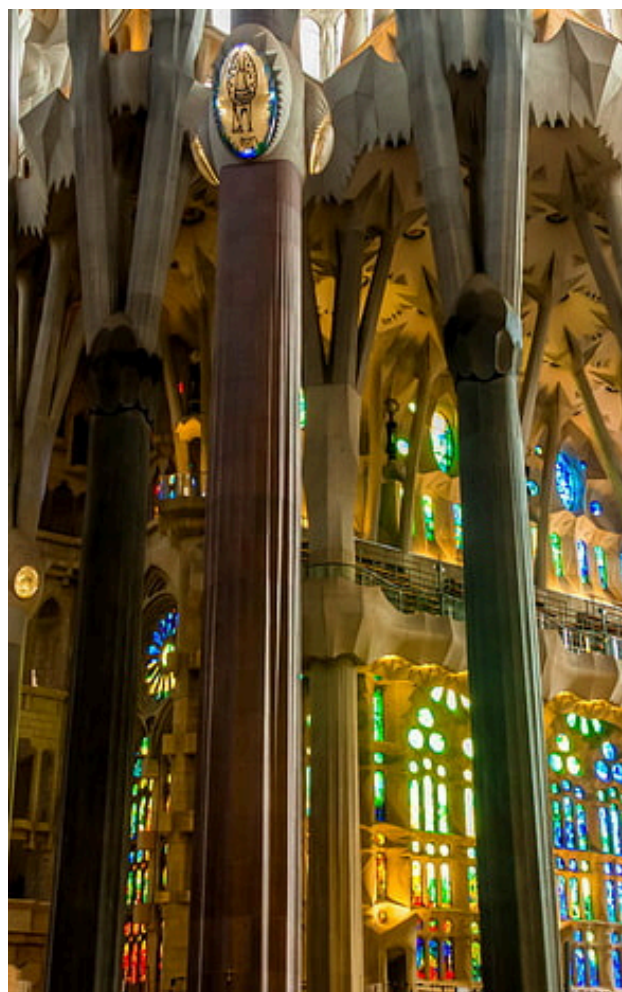
Whole weekend: smart casual

Friday gala dinner: black tie

## Contacts on location (for emergency)

William Cartwright-Hignett, +44 7967 630579

Ewelina Oksiuta, +32 488 22 16 07



## Terms and Conditions

To confirm your registration, payment must be received within ten days of getting your invoice. If you have not paid within this time, your registration may be cancelled by EHH, and your place given to someone on the waiting list.

Refunds are generally not offered except where the event is cancelled by us. But in exceptional circumstances, EHH, in its sole discretion, may consider full or partial refunds for elements where costs have not yet been incurred prior to cancellation by you.

## Insurance

As organisers, EHH provides a liability insurance for the attendees during the events. The travel and health optional insurances are left to the participants' discretion.

## Photographer

We will have a professional photographer for the whole Friday. The photos are used by EHH for communication purposes. If you do not agree to your person being photographed, please contact us in advance by e-mail at [info@ehh.eu](mailto:info@ehh.eu).

