



18th ICTA – 18th International Congress of Turkish Arts
17-20 September 2027, Skopje-North Macedonia

1st Circular

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the 18th International Congress of Turkish Art will be held between the 17th of September and 20th of September 2027 in Skopje, at the National Gallery Chifte Hamam and National Gallery Daut Pasha Hammam.

We intend to continue the thematic areas developed over the long tradition of the Congress. We also understand the role of the Congress as a forum for the development of research on Turkish artistic culture and for expanding research areas and methods.

We emphasize the need to cover (as in the previous years) the artistic culture of the Turkic peoples in such areas as Middle East, Iran or Central Asia, Balkans, and the intra-Turkic cultural links. We also hope to encourage to pay attention to historical phenomena of transmission of culture between the Turkish and other interacting societies, as in Central and Eastern-Southern Europe, and Balkan region.

We intend to publish the proceedings of the Congress in print.

We also want to enrich the Congress program by additional events: visiting the Ottoman and historical collections in North Macedonia. Therefore, for those participants who will declare interest, we plan to arrange a visit to Alaca Mosque and Arabati Baba Tekke in Tetovo, Ohrid lake, Ali Paşa Mosque, Halveti Hayati Tekke, Ancient Theatre, St.Naum Monastery in Ohrid.

We would like to see the Congress also as a forum for museum, library and archive experts that may contribute to establishing links between their institutions and to intensifying the popularization of Turkish art in the world through museum presentations as well as through deepening knowledge of monuments of Turkish art preserved in world collections. Therefore we have formulated the section *Art in Science and Society* hoping to draw the attention of these specialists.

Below you find the research themes to be discussed by the participants of the Congress in Skopje.

I. TURKISH ARTS

1. Architecture and Architectural Decoration
2. Painting
3. Ceramics, Glass and Tiles
4. Rugs and Textiles
5. Metalwork and Woodwork
6. Epigraphy and Numismatics
7. Arts of Book
8. Art of Tombs and Tombstones
9. Art at War (Arms and Armour, other Militaria)
10. Archaeology
11. Art in Science and Society (Foundations, Collections and Collectors, Historiography, Museology, Conservation, Protection of Cultural Heritage)

II. TURKISH ARTS AND CULTURAL INTERACTIONS

III. TURKIC / OTTOMAN ART AND CULTURE IN THE BALKANS

Congress Schedule

Announcement of the 1st circular 18th ICTA: 10 October 2024

Submission Deadline for abstracts: 01 May 2025

Announcement of the accepted abstracts: 01 March 2026

Announcement of the 2nd Circular 18th ICTA: 01 September 2026

Confirmation of the attendance: 01 February 2027

Announcement of the Congress Program: 01 June 2027

18th ICTA Congress: 17-20 September 2027, Skopje-North Macedonia

The languages of the 18th International Congress of Turkish Art will be **English** (however we will endeavor to provide a simultaneous Turkish/English translation system for special cases in selected sessions).

The presentations should not exceed 20 minutes.

We kindly ask applicants to submit their abstracts in English (600-800 words) related to one of the specified topics by May 1, 2025. **Applications can be submitted on the website:** <https://icta.congress.gen.tr/en>.

For any question: info@balkanfoundation.com

The anonymous abstracts will be evaluated (blind review) by both the International and National committee members. The applicants submitting abstracts will be informed of the evaluation results in 01 March 2026.

The abstracts should include the following elements:

- a. Title
- b. The content and aim of the paper
- c. A brief overview of relevant literature
- d. The main argument of the paper
- e. Indication of one of the Congress topics listed above to which the paper should be classified
- f. Four keywords

The participants will be charged a registration **fee 150 €** payable once their paper has been accepted, before February 28th, 2027 (200 € after this date). It does not include the costs of tour in North Macedonia.

Details of the payment, as well as the costs of tours to Ohrid/North Macedonia, will be specified in the 2nd Circular. **Travel and accommodation costs will be paid by the participants.**

A list of recommended hotels and other accommodation venues, to be contacted directly by the participants, will be enclosed to the 2nd Circular.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Congress in Skopje, in September 2027!

Yours sincerely

Dr. Sevba Abdula

Head of the Skopje Organizing Committee

Prof.Dr.Michaele Bernardini

Head of the International Organizing Committee

Skopje Organizing Committee of the 18th ICTA:

Dr. Sevba Abdula - Head of the Committee

Metin Xhelil – Vice-President of the Committee, Balkan Studies Foundation

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Bujamin Bela - Vice Rector of Mother Tereza University and Balkan Studies Foundation Member

Elif R. Nazim - Balkan Studies Foundation

Zehra A. Sadiki - Balkan Studies Foundation

Assist.Prof.Dr. Mustafa S. Öztürk – Kırklareli University and Balkan Studies Foundation Member

Dr. Besnik Emiri - Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Albanians, Skopje

The list of previous congresses is as follows:

1959 Ankara, Ankara University

1963 Venedik, Fondazione Cini

1967 Cambridge, University of Cambridge

1971 Aix-en Provence, Université de Provence

1975 Budapest, Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum

1979 München, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität

1983 Warsaw, Uniwersytet Warszawski

1987 Cairo, Wazarat al-Thafaqa

1991 Istanbul, İstanbul University

1995 Geneva, Université de Genève

1999 Utrecht, Universiteit Utrecht

2003 Amman, Al-Jami'a al-Urdiniyya

2007 Budapest, Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum

2011 Paris, Collège de France

2015 Naples, Università di Napoli "L'Orientale"

2019 Ankara, Hacettepe University

2023 Warsaw, Uniwersytet Warszawski

2027 Skopje, Balkan Studies Foundation