

## **Proposal of the National Board of Antiquities for the National Inventory of Living Heritage to the Ministry of Education and Culture**

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003 at the UNESCO General Conference. Finland adopted the Convention in 2013. The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the implementation of the Convention in Finland.

The aim of the Convention is to promote the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of communities, groups and individuals and raise awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage. The Convention emphasises transmission of traditions and cultural diversity as well as the role that people have in cultural heritage.

The UNESCO Convention also includes creating an inventory of intangible cultural heritage at both the national and international levels. The resulting inventory is a tool which can be used to identify, describe and convey knowledge about and information on intangible cultural heritage.

In Finland, the compilation of the inventory was started in early 2016 with the launch of the Wiki-inventory of Living Heritage, where communities can freely enter information on living heritage that is meaningful to them. So far, the platform has attracted more than 120 notifications written by more than 170 communities in five different languages. The Wiki-inventory is a continuously updated information resource on living heritage in Finland, moderated by the National Board of Antiquities.

The next step in the implementation of the UNESCO Convention in Finland is the National Inventory of Living Heritage, which was started by asking communities to submit applications. The first round of applications was open from 4 to 31 May 2017. A total of 95 applications were received within the specified time frame, 49 of which concerned traditions that were not yet listed in the Wiki-inventory of Living Heritage. 70 applications passed the technical inspection carried out by the National Board of Antiquities. An open round for commentary for communities and experts in the fields of living heritage was organised from 16 May to 13 June 2017. 30 different people submitted a total of 123 comments on the wiki platform within the specified time frame.

The expert group on intangible cultural heritage processed the applications in its meetings on 11 September 2017 and 2 October 2017. The applications were assessed in accordance with the criteria of the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage and the specific national criteria. The proposal of the National Board of Antiquities is largely based on the expert group's recommendations.

The National Inventory will be updated regularly, and the next opportunity to submit applications will be in 2019 at the earliest. It is possible for elements in the National Inventory to be later submitted for inscription on UNESCO's international lists of intangible cultural heritage. Decisions on which elements are to be nominated for inscription are made by the Ministry of Education and Culture, based on the proposal by the National Board of Antiquities and the expert group on intangible cultural heritage.

The National Board of Antiquities proposes the inscription of the 52 items listed in the annex in the National Inventory of Living Heritage.

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## **Festive events and social practices**

### **Visiting cemeteries on Christmas Eve**

Taking candles to the cemetery on Christmas Eve is a nation-wide tradition in Finland that is maintained by private persons. In Finland, the deceased are primarily remembered at Christmas. The tradition is transmitted by families, including children and grandparents, as well as couples. On Christmas Eve, people visit cemeteries to remember their deceased relatives, or to spend a silent moment in a devotional spirit on Christmas Eve. The tradition that everyone can freely observe dates back to the 1920s. There are interesting personal, family-related, local and national nuances to the tradition. The application was submitted by 26 private persons.

### **The Declaration of Christmas Peace in Turku**

The Declaration of Christmas Peace in Turku follows a traditional form that includes the hymn A Mighty Fortress is our God, reading the declaration, the Finnish national anthem and the military march called March of the Björneborgers. The Declaration of Christmas Peace is a significant tradition in Turku and an important part of Christmas for many Finns. Similar events are also organised in other towns. The event in Turku attracts large crowds of participants, viewers and listeners from all over Finland and from abroad. It is a tradition kept up by the city, with Finland being the only Nordic Country in which the tradition still exists. In Turku, the long tradition has remained alive and practically uninterrupted for 700 years. The applicants are the City of Turku and the Turkuseura regional association.

### **Conferment of Master's Degrees**

Dating back to the Middle Ages, the conferment of master's degrees is an academic celebration in which the people who have obtained master's or doctor's degrees can celebrate their achievements. The conferment of master's degrees is organised once every 2 to 10 years, depending on the university and faculty. It entails ceremonies that extend over several days, including a number of carefully considered details, many of which highlight learnedness and education. Among other things, the conferment includes the tying of the laurel wreaths for degree recipients, the sharpening of the symbolic doctoral sword, speeches and the conferment ceremony. The long tradition dates back to the 17th century. Finland is the only country in which master's degrees are conferred. The well-documented tradition is still alive. The application was submitted by the Alumni Association of the University of Helsinki, the University of the Arts Helsinki and the University of Jyväskylä.

### **Easter fires**

Easter fires have been an important part of Ostrobothnian traditional celebrations since the 18th century. Fires have been a part of celebrations related to different phases of the year and calendrical celebrations in different parts of Europe. The tradition is kept alive by lighting small house or family fires and organising local village festivities with common village bonfires. Building bonfires and collecting materials for them is often started weeks before the night that the fires are lit. However, the bonfire is not built until in the morning of lighting it or a few days before lighting it on Holy Saturday. These days, village associations and other organisations, such as farmers' associations and sports clubs, organise village bonfire events. The Easter Fire tradition has survived and adapted to modern days. The application was submitted by the South Ostrobothnia provincial museum, the Peräseinäjoen Viitalan Nuorisoseura youth association, Hanhikoski village association, Kihniänkylän nuorisoseura youth association, Könnin kyläseura village association, Luovan Kyläseura village association and Munakan nuorisoseura youth association.

### **Whitsunday festivities in Ritvala village**

The Whitsunday festivities in Ritvala village are the oldest traditional celebration in Finland. It takes place every Whitsunday in Ritvala village in Sääksmäki, nowadays part of the town of Valkeakoski. The core of the tradition is a progression, the participants of which sing Whitsun hymns in the metre of the Kalevala. The progression ends at the Seurantalonmäki hill in a large circle. The event continues as an outdoor event,

with a programme organised by the people who live in the village as well as visiting performers. The knowhow concerning the organisation of the event is passed on as oral tradition and collaboration from one generation to the next. In its current form, the tradition has remained uninterrupted since 1904. The number of people keeping the tradition alive is small. However, the Whitsunday festivities in Ritvala village are a special form of celebration with a strong, local significance. The Whitsunday festivities are also fairly well-known on a national level. The application was submitted by the Ritvalan Nuorisoseura youth association.

### **Celebration of Runeberg**

The poet J.L. Runeberg (1804-1877) is celebrated in many practices, such as cakes, festivities and events. The tradition is passed on, and it has remained alive and developed over the course of time. Since the 1970s in particular, regional history associations and players in the tourism sector have brought forward traditions connected to Runeberg in places where he lived. The celebration of Runeberg is a part of both the national and, in many places, local identity in Finland. Key institutional operators participate in the application, and people can take part in the activities in many different ways. The application was submitted by the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, Porvoo Museum and Jakobstad Museum.

### **Sauna bathing**

Sauna bathing is a significant part of the Finnish lifestyle, transmitted from generation to generation and internationally. The sauna has been a place with many different functions: in addition to bathing, people have treated the sick, given birth, washed the dead and taken care of many everyday chores in the sauna. The sauna tradition has many forms, differing greatly both locally and between families. There are an estimated 2.2 million saunas in Finland, and sauna bathing is possible in both public and private spaces. Finns are active sauna bathers, and young urban people in particular have adopted public saunas as their own spaces in recent years. The sauna tradition is a living, evolving tradition. The application was submitted by the Finnish Sauna Society.

### **The Santa Claus tradition in Finland**

The Santa Claus tradition in Finland is known everywhere in Finland and in many other countries as well. An essential part of the Finnish tradition is that Santa Claus lives at Korvatunturi fell in Lapland, where there are reindeer and snow. Another essential feature of the tradition are the elves that build presents in their workshop all year round. The tradition is primarily kept alive by parents who tell their children about Santa Claus. However, the media also do their part by broadcasting information regarding the Christmas traditions. The strong tradition is transmitted as a part of the Christmas traditions that families transmit, with Santa Claus in a central role. The application highlights the cultural significance of the phenomenon. The application was submitted by the Santa Claus Foundation and Visit Finland.

### **Opening of the Finnish summer**

The yearly singing tradition at schools in the city of Joensuu dates back about 30 years. On the last Friday of the spring term, children from all elementary schools in Joensuu and from several schools in the neighbouring municipalities gather on the Laulurinne open air music venue to sing. With their songs, the children bid farewell to the school year, officially open the Finnish summer and look forward to their summer holidays. They sing about ten songs, accompanied by the Joensuu Wind Band. Teachers make the event happen, and even the event's host is a local teacher. The annual event with about 6,000 singing children gathers a crowd of about 15,000 listeners. The local event attracts people from other towns as well. The application was submitted by the organiser of the event, the City of Joensuu.

### **Workers' Labour Day on 1st May**

Workers' Labour Day refers to the celebrations that have evolved in the past 100 years based on the activity and traditions of the labour movement. It is typical for workers' festivities to highlight democracy, class consciousness and the power of the masses. These themes are reflected in the most important traditions of Workers' Labour Day festivities, such as Labour Day parades and political Labour Day celebrations. The Labour Day celebrations play a central part in the history, identity and festivities of the labour movement. The earliest records of the workers' Labour Day celebrations in Finland date back to the

mid-19th century. The traditions that are observed today, however, have evolved decades later. The contemporary Workers' Labour Day celebrations are a mix of old Scandinavian and Russian festivities to celebrate the beginning of the summer and the European and American class struggle traditions from the late 19th century. Even today, the Labour Day traditions of the working class have a central role in the celebrations of 1st May. They are transmitted by the players in the labour movement, other stakeholders and, most importantly, regular people. The application was submitted by the Finnish Labour Museum Werstas.

### **The Orthodox and Karelian tradition of virpominen**

In Orthodox congregations, the preparations for Palm Sunday include the decoration of a large amount of willow branches that are consecrated in the church before the children distribute them in the houses where they wish Happy Easter in the morning of Palm Sunday. Traditionally, virpominen takes place early in the morning. Dressing up in a disguise is usual in Finnish virpominen tradition, but it is not a part of the Orthodox tradition. Today, the Orthodox and Karelian tradition of virpominen is kept alive in Finland by Orthodox and Lutheran congregations, many associations and smaller communities. The message delivered in connection with virpominen is one of good, health and blessings. The application was submitted by the Joensuu Kalevala Women's Association, the Ortodoksisten Nuorten Liitto youth association, the Orthodox congregation of Joensuu, the Lutheran congregation of Joensuu and several Northern Karelian regional associations of the Finnish Karelian League.

## **Music and dance**

### **Purpuri folk dance in the Kokkola region**

The ceremonial series of dances called purpuri, traditionally performed at weddings, has an important role in Finnish folk dance and is popular in both Finnish- and Swedish-speaking areas. Purpuri has its roots in France in the 18th century. It reached Finland in the beginning of 19th century and remained as living tradition until the 1950s. Later, from the 1980s onwards, it has gained in popularity again. The tradition is particularly strong in the Swedish-speaking areas of Northern Ostrobothnia. Purpuri has evolved and adapted over the course of time. The application was submitted by the Purpuridansarna i Karlebynejden and Kronoby Hornkapell associations.

### **Minuet in Finnish Swedish speaking areas and Minuet at Jeppo**

All Swedish folk dance groups in Finland observe the musical minuet dance tradition in their repertoire. Minuet originated in the French court of the 17th century, from where it quickly spread to Nordic Countries. Here it was popular among kings as well as upper and lower classes. In Sweden and the eastern parts of the kingdom, Finland, the 18th century was the golden age of the minuet. Folk dance associations have included the minuet in their repertoire since the early 20th century. Today, separate courses are organised to teach it to folk dance instructors who then pass on the skills in their associations. The tradition is well alive and the minuet is a widespread tradition with a particular importance in the village of Jepua in Ostrobothnia. The two applications concerning the same phenomenon are approved together as one element to the National Inventory. Both applications were backed up by a large group of applicants: the national application was submitted by the Society of Finland's Svenska Folkdansring and six regional dance associations, and the application concerning Jeppomenuetten by five local associations and seven private persons.

### **The Kaustinen style of playing the fiddle**

The fiddle tradition from Kaustinen has lived for centuries in the communities in Kaustinen, passed on from one generation to another by memory, earlier mainly within families and among kin. The tradition continues to be transmitted from one generation to another. Musicians of all ages are involved in the activities, some of which are organised. With education and formal teaching, passing on the tradition has

become more widespread, and the circle of skilled musicians has grown. Nowadays, most of the fiddlers have learnt to play in Näppäri ('string pluckers') activities for children. The age distribution of the musicians covers all age groups in an unusually even manner. Folk music as a hobby in Kaustinen is active and organised, and there are enough players in all age groups to ensure the continuity of the tradition. The application was submitted by the Folk Music Institute, the musical association Kaikenlaisen musiikin yhdistys Musiikki ry, the Kaustisen Nuorisoseura youth association, the musical associations Kaustisen Näppärit and Kaustisen Pelimanniyhdistys, and the music and dance association Pro Kaustinen (Kaustinen Folk Music Festival).

### **Open air dancing**

Open air dancing refers to events for partner dances organised on open air platforms built specifically for this purpose. Finland has long traditions in open air dancing, which remains popular among the general public. There are about 15 different dance rhythms that are played or danced. Up until the late 20th century, it was common that friends and family taught you to dance. However, today dance studios, open air dance clubs and associations have a much more important role in passing on the tradition. The elements of the dance are also largely passed on from one dancer to another. The tradition is alive and it continues. The application was submitted by the ballroom dance section of the Finnish association of dance instructors (Suomen Tanssinopettajien Liitto STOL ry), Finnish ballroom dance association (Suomen Seuratanssiliitto SUSEL ry), Dance Info Finland and the Finnish dance portal tanssi.net.

### **Barrel organ playing**

In Finland, there have been barrel organ players since the beginning of the 19th century, and the tradition still lives on among a small community. Some 30–40 people have a barrel organ, and there are about ten known active hobbyists. Therefore, it is a tradition that needs urgent safeguarding. In the past, barrel organ players entertained common and poor people as they played in the streets. Today, it is possible to encounter a barrel organ player in various kinds of private parties, opening ceremonies and summer events, as well as market places, market events and circus performances. Barrel organ playing is one of the early forms of popular culture in Finland. The application was submitted by the Finnish association of barrel organ players Suomen posetiivarit.

### **Tango in Finland**

Tango in Finland is an important phenomenon on a national level, both historically and today. International popular culture has evolved into local and national culture. Tango is sung by performers of dance music and popular music in concerts and dance pavilions, and amateurs also sing the songs in karaoke bars. People of all ages listen to tango and are interested in it. The tradition is passed on in various tango singing and composition contests as well as tango events, which often attract large groups of friends of tango music. The application was submitted by the Finnish tango association Suomalaisen tangon Satumaa ry with nine other associations and 15 private persons.

### **The singing tradition of Finnish Roma people**

The singing tradition of the Roma people has lived on for hundreds of years, and it continues to be living oral tradition. Roma songs, or Kale songs, are an asset of the entire Finnish Roma population, and carefully regulated cultural rules apply to singing them. The songs reflect the unwritten rules of Roma culture regarding how, for example, men and women and, on the other hand, older and younger Roma people can behave appropriately towards each other. New songs, singing styles and the cultural meanings of the songs are still learnt by ear within the home and family. Although the tradition is constantly evolving, it has maintained its old-fashioned elements. The traditional programme and singing style are also reflected in the new Roma songs. It is an exceptionally strong phenomenon that both conserves and creates the Roma identity. The application was submitted by the National Advisory Board on Romani Affairs and the Finnish Roma Association (Suomen romaniyhdistys).

### **Performing arts**

### **Circus culture**

Both traditional and contemporary circus are very much alive in Finland, with performances being staged by both amateurs and professionals. As a phenomenon, Finnish circus culture is widespread; it covers both traditional and contemporary circus performances staged professionally, diverse amateur activities and various kinds of performances in different parts of Finland. The tradition is evolving and renewing while at the same time also conserving. The circus culture is passed on from one generation to the next in hobby communities, training and via professionals. The circus audience is wide, and tradition has a significant role in the forming of a communal identity for those involved. The application was submitted by the Cirko – Center for New Circus, Circus Info Finland, the Finnish Youth Circus Association, seven circus groups, two traditional circuses, five youth circuses and two educational institutions.

### **Funfair tradition in Finland**

A funfair offers people the opportunity to enjoy the rides, games, performances and delicacies of a travelling amusement park. For decades, travelling funfairs have provided people with entertainment that has a wide international reach. The Finnish funfair season begins in the spring and ends in the autumn. During the season, funfairs visit dozens of locations around Finland. Depending on the funfair, they may spend from a few days to several weeks in one location. The tradition is passed on from one generation to another in family businesses and among funfair workers, and it seems to have a bright future. The application was submitted by the association of Finnish funfairs and circuses Suomalaisten Tivolien ja Sirkusten yhdistys.

### **Finnish gymnastics tradition**

Aesthetic group gymnastics and dance gymnastics were developed from Finnish women's gymnastics ('naisvoimistelu'), which is known for its field performances – straight lines, precise formations and simultaneousness. The tradition has its roots in the 19th century. Dance gymnastics and aesthetic group gymnastics are performed in gymnastics clubs, and professional instructors have a key role in spreading and transferring the tradition of dance gymnastics. New choreographies and themes adapt the performances and make the tradition evolve over the course of time. At a national level, the Finnish gymnastics tradition has a significant role in encouraging women to do sports. However, there are also groups for men. The application was submitted by the Finnish Gymnastics Federation.

### **Oral traditions**

#### **Stinginess of the people in Laihia**

Jokes and stories about the stinginess of the people from Laihia are well-known everywhere in Finland. People from Laihia are often seen as a symbol of stinginess and economy, and a person who is very careful with their money may be said to be from Laihia. Thus, the idea is very well known. New jokes about the stinginess of the people from Laihia are invented constantly. The phenomenon has adapted into contemporary times, and the tourism and marketing in the area make use of the tradition. The oral narrative belongs to national tradition, whereas the reputation of being stingy and making use of this reputation are local traditions. The tradition has a strong impact on the local identity of the small municipality. The application was submitted by the regional and museum association of Laihia (Laihian Kotiseutu- ja museoyhdistys ry).

#### **Runosong**

Finnish people have a living, unbroken connection to the old runosong tradition, even though the practice became rarer in the 20th century. Runosong is an original phenomenon that belongs to an older layer of national traditions. Today, it lives on as remnants or as a result of conscious work to keep it alive. Nowadays, cultural institutions, universities, associations and organisations that have a central role in the field of language and culture also take part in maintaining the runosong tradition. Runosong is an important

part of the national cultural identity. The application was submitted by the Juminkeko Foundation, the Kalevala Society Foundation, the Kalevala Women's Association and the association that supports the runosong academy Runolaulu-Akatemian kannatusyhdistys ry.

## **Crafts**

### **Knitting tikkuröijy sweaters from Hailuoto island**

The tikkuröijy sweater is traditional knitwear made from yarn from unwashed Finnsheep wool. Traditionally, the sweater was a men's garment, though women have also worn it. There are about ten people on Hailuoto island that knit tikkuröijy sweaters for sale. Dozens of people from Hailuoto also knit these kinds of sweaters for their own use, and people in other parts of Finland also knit similar sweaters. The tradition of the sweater from Hailuoto dates back to the early 19th century, and the tradition is very much alive on the island. It is passed on in families, in tikkuröijy knitting circles and in blog posts. Though the phenomenon is marked with a strong awareness of tradition, the models have also changed over the course of time. Knitting tikkuröijy sweaters from Hailuoto is locally a highly significant tradition. The application was submitted by the Hailuoto-seura society.

### **Making national costumes**

National costumes are revised versions of the festive costumes that people wore in the 18th and 19th centuries. Men and women of all ages make and wear the costumes, among them both professionals in the field and hobbyists. Making a costume includes many kinds of working methods, such as weaving the fabrics, making gatherings and lace as well as making headpieces. Many of the working methods are no longer used in the making of contemporary clothing and the skills required for making them would have disappeared, had it not been for the national costume tradition. Several open colleges and workers' institutes, regional Finnish Crafts Organizations and other organisations organise courses for making national costumes. The application was submitted by the Craft Museum of Finland/the National Costume Center of Finland, Föreningen Brage association, the Kalevala Women's Association and the Finnish Local Heritage Federation.

### **Handcrafted shoemaking**

In contemporary Finland, handcrafted shoes can be custom-made to the customer, either using the brand's existing collection or tailor-made to the customer. Professional artisans that handcraft shoes keep the shoemaking tradition alive and update the traditional techniques. The knowhow depends on the training provided by the artisan companies, while the research at universities supports it. The application was submitted by the Pirkanmaa design, arts and crafts association Modus ry, Tavastia Vocational College, the Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) and five shoe designers and shoemakers.

### **Korsnäs sweater**

The abundant patterns and bright colours of the Korsnäs sweater are crocheted and knitted from wool yarn. The tradition has remained uninterrupted for over 150 years in the municipality of Korsnäs. Individual handcraft enthusiasts make Korsnäs sweaters for themselves, and sweaters are also made to order. Usually, the craft is learned on a course. The tradition has also evolved over time. The Korsnäs sweater has a strong connection to local tradition and it is a factor that clearly affects the municipal identity. The application was submitted by the Korsnäs hembygdsförening association, the Österbottens hantverk handicraft association and the Municipality of Korsnäs.

### **Glass blowing**

Glass blowing has been a major method of glass making for over 2,000 years. Today, the only industrial glass producer in Finland is the Iittala glass factory. In addition, there are small glass foundries that use the mouth blowing process. Today, the tradition is transmitted in training as well as in active collaboration between old masters and young glass blowers. The application was submitted by several communities: the Finnish Glass Museum, the Friends of the Finnish Glass Museum, the Nuutajärvi Glass Village Culture Foundation, the Riihimäen Lasinpuhaltajakerho glass blowers' association, Aalto University, the School of

Arts, Design and Architecture, Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), the Tavastia Education Centre and the SASKY Municipal Education and Training Consortium.

### **Lace-making in Heinämaa village**

Heinämaa village in the municipality of Orimattila has long and special traditions in making lace. It is a handicraft method in which threads on wooden bobbins are weaved together by pinning them on a pillow using different kinds of strokes. Lacemakers are enthusiasts and artisans of different generations. Events and courses are organised in Heinämaa, and the theme has been covered in publications as well. The Heinämaa lace tradition is particularly important to the local identity. On the other hand, its future depends on just a handful of people. The application was submitted by the lacemakers' association Heinämaan Pitsinkutojat.

### **Rag rug weaving**

Rag rugs are weaved using a loom, with twine or flax yarn used as warp. Rag rugs give a new life to old, discarded textile materials. Handicraft and weaving enthusiasts, professional artisans and students of handicrafts weave rugs. Weaving rag rugs is also important from a communal point of view. Rugs are weaved in community colleges, schools and at home. This ecological and versatile tradition is particularly important in Finland. The application was submitted by the Finnish Crafts Organization.

### **Wall rug tradition in Vesilahti**

The wall rug is one of the textiles with the longest traditions in Finland. The municipality of Vesilahti in Southern Finland has been known for its wall rugs for centuries. The tradition is important in terms of the identity of the municipality. While the tradition of weaving rugs is nation-wide, in Vesilahti it has developed its own unique forms and patterns. The tradition is still alive, and wall rugs are passed down through the generations as heirlooms. The application was submitted by the crafts centre Vesilahden Taitokeskus, the municipal wall rug register of Vesilahti, the museum association Vesilahden Museoyhdistys and several individual wall rug makers.

## **Food traditions**

### **Baking traditional Eura twists**

Elected as the provincial delicacy of the province of Satakunta, the Eura twists have been an essential part of any banquet table for more than a hundred years. Today, volunteers bake several thousand twists at the Euran Pirtti cabin. In addition, people bake Eura twists at home and at home economics classes. Each baker has their own recipe for the twists, and earlier they even used to be considered a secret. The long tradition is still alive today. The application was submitted by the Cultural Services of the Municipality of Eura and the Kotiseutuyhdistys Euran Pirtti regional history society.

### **Kalakukko**

Kalakukko is a bread-like pie with a thick rye crust and a fish and pork filling. People bake kalakukko both at home and commercially, and kalakukko is available in different parts of Finland. The knowhow is passed on at home and in courses. The tradition has evolved in a creative manner and adapted to contemporary times. Kalakukko is a part of the regional identity in Savonia, as is manifest in the registration of kalakukko as a protected food name in the EU. The application was backed by a large group of applicants: the Kuopio Cultural History Museum, the Savonia dialect association Savon Kielen Seura, the association for the development of the Kuopio city centre Kuopion Kaupunkikeskustan kehittämisyhdistys ry, the association of women in farming and household economics Pohjois-Savon maa- ja kotitalousnaiset, the women's organisation Martat in Savonia, the municipal museum of Rautalampi / Peuran museosäätiö foundation and the Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo.



## **Beer culture**

Beer has an important role in the Finnish food and beverage culture. Beer culture is kept alive by ordinary people, several clubs and associations as well as small and large commercial breweries. The tradition of brewing home-brew sahti and beer is transmitted from one generation to the next, kept alive in various kinds of events and courses by giving information, in contests and festivals. The application was submitted by Finland's Beer Society, the Finnish beer consumers' union Olutliitto, the Finnish association of home brew society Suomen sahtiseura and the editorial staff of the OlutPosti beer magazine.

## **Games and playing**

### **Jukola Relay**

First organised in 1949, the Jukola Relay is the world's largest annual orienteering event. The venue changes every year, and the tradition is passed on to new volunteers in the organisation responsible for organising the relay. There are about 18,000 participants and up to 2,000 volunteer in the event every year. The application was submitted by the Kaukametsäläiset association and the Finnish Orienteering Federation.

### **Finnish skittles kyykkä**

Finnish skittles 'kyykkä' is a centuries old village game that many Finns are familiar with thanks to the novel Seven Brothers. Karelian societies, Finnish skittles societies and student organisations that play the game usually play once a week, and the organisations organise separate tournaments for their members. In the summer, events at a national level are organised every week around the country. In addition to traditional Finnish skittles, Finnish skittles championships are organised in pentathlon with the skittles arranged in the playing squares in five different ways. Otherwise the rules of the individual game apply. The future of Finnish skittles looks bright. The application was submitted by the Karelian society for education Karjalan Sivistysseura, Finnish Skittles Association, the Finnish Karelian League and the Finnish skittles association Oulun Akateeminen Mölökky- ja Kyykkäseura.

### **Playing in the snow**

Playing in the snow in many ways is still a living element of children's cultural heritage. Children make snowmen, snow lanterns, castles, animals and angels with their families, at day care and at school. The phenomenon is dependent on weather conditions and it evolves, lives and adapts according to the amount of snow. The phenomenon is a part of the Finns' northern identity and the snowy winters they have experienced as children in particular. Trends among young people and climate change affect the future of playing in the snow. The application was submitted by the Tuusula museum, the Ski Museum/Lahti City Museum and the association for traditional games Perinneleikit.

### **Playing mölkky**

Mölkky is a throwing game known to all Finns that is played at homes and summer cottages throughout Finland. The game rose to its current popularity and became a staple of every summer cottage in the 1990s. The idea is to use the throwing pin, called a 'mölkky,' to knock over the numbered pins. Mölkky is based on Finnish skittles. The tradition is young but it has rapidly gained popularity in Finland as well as in a few other countries as well. The application was submitted by the Finnish International Mölkky Association and the block league organisation Lahden Kortteliliiga.

### **Pesäpallo, Baseball in Finland**

Finnish baseball or pesäpallo has become a special Finnish game. Pesäpallo was developed by Mr. Tahko Pihkala in the early 1920s. The game is played all over the country and it has an important role in Finnish sports culture. Thanks to its diverse nature, pesäpallo has maintained its place in school curricula, which means that almost all Finns have some experience in it. The number of pesäpallo enthusiasts is high: more than 15,000 registered players, coaches and officials, and the spectator numbers are extremely high in comparison to the size of many of the facilities. The game itself and pesäpallo clubs that maintain the

tradition play a part in building local identities. The application was submitted by the Pesäpalloliitto association.

### **Playing skruuvi**

Skruuvi is a four-person card game based on whist, played only in Finland. The game has been played at the Helsinki Finnish Club ever since the club was founded in 1876, and the tradition is still very much alive. It is also played in other towns in small circles at clubs and societies. Courses, such as the Skruuviakatemia organised by the Helsinki Finnish Club, help pass on the tradition. The application was submitted by the Helsinki Finnish Club, Kuopion Klubi and Mikkelin Klubi clubs, Haminan skruuvikerho, Valkeakosken skruuvikerho, Valkeakosken skruuvarinnat, Lappeenrannan nuoret skruuvarit and Lääkäriskruuvarit skruuvi players' clubs.

### **Log driver competitions**

In the summer, several log driver competitions are held all over Finland, usually in connection with other summer events. Log driving is not practised as a profession anymore, but log driver traditions are presented in competitions ('tukkilaiskiset') and shows where enthusiasts from the field perform. The objectives of the competitions are to uphold the log driver tradition, which used to be an essential part of forest work, presenting the skills needed for log driving to an audience in the form of a competition, and maintaining the physical fitness levels of the practitioners. The number of participants in log driver competitions is fairly small. However, the events usually attract large audiences. The application was submitted by the Polar Circle village association Napapiirin kyläyhdistys ry, the Polar Circle hunting club Napapiirin Erä ry, the Juoksenki fishery association and three private persons.

## **Nature and the universe**

### **Wild greens foraging**

Wild greens foraging, meaning collecting and using wild vegetables and herbs, is a tradition thousands of years old that has survived and lives on in contemporary Finland. The skills to recognise, collect, handle and use wild vegetables in cooking and conserving them have traditionally been passed on within families, from parents and grandparents to children. Today, the tradition is promoted in courses, publications and web communities. The phenomenon has a vivid community of enthusiasts as well as the instruction and education provided by various organisations to back it up. The phenomenon keeps evolving in a creative manner and it has adapted to contemporary times. The application was submitted by two wild green instructors, four wild green advisors, the economic plant association Hyötykasviyhdistys, the Martha Organisation and the Swedish Martha Organisation of Finland, Finlands svenska Marthaförbund.

### **Everyman's rights**

Almost all Finns are familiar with everyman's rights or they at least know that they exist. Approximately half of all visits to nature are based on the use of everyman's rights, i.e. visiting an area owned by someone else. Everyman's rights enable access to nature – on waterways and into forests and idle land. Everyman's rights are a special tradition in Finland because they are still based on old customary law, not legislation. The tradition is passed on from one generation to the next when being amidst nature, in legislation, and in the education given by vocational and environmental educators and organisations. The application was submitted by Suomen Latu - The Outdoor Association of Finland, the Finnish Foundation for Environmental Education Suomen ympäristökasvatuksen Seura and the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation.

### **Traditional healing**

Traditional healing refers to healing practices and skills transmitted from one generation to the next that are based on tradition and experience. The practices include manual and nutritional treatments developed in order to maintain the vitality of the body. These include sauna bathing, massage and bone setting, cupping as well as nutrition that supports health and the use of wild vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants in particular. The tradition is transmitted within professional communities and in groups of enthusiasts. The

phenomenon has developed creatively and it has adapted to contemporary times. Traditional healing is a living tradition within a wide community. The application was submitted by the Kalevalainen kansanparannus -säätö foundation and Kansanlääkintäseura association for traditional healing.

### **Building and sailing on clinker boats**

The tradition of clinker boats has existed in Finland for centuries, and these boats are still a common sight on lakes and the sea. In a clinker-built boat, the lower inside lip of the upper plank overlaps slightly with the upper section of the lower plank. In their various forms, wooden boats have been an irreplaceable mode of transport and an essential element in the fishing tradition. Sailing on traditional boats as a hobby is often passed on from parents to their children. However, events and competitions are also important means of transmitting the tradition. Clinker boats are made by professional boatbuilders, active hobbyists and students in the field. In Finland, boatbuilding can still be studied in a few institutions, but the numbers of these institutions have seen a constant downward trend. Boatbuilding skills are passed on from one generation to the next, and the phenomenon has also evolved over the course of time. The two applications concerning the same phenomenon are approved together as one element to the National Inventory. The applications were submitted by a large group of operators: four museums, 20 associations and 15 private individuals.

### **Winter seine fishing in Lake Puruvesi**

In Lake Puruvesi in Southern Savonia, seine is employed in fishing vendace in the winter. The seine fishing in Lake Puruvesi is based on the exceptionally clear water in the lake. Seine fishing in the winter entails a wide oral tradition of hundreds of fishing grounds and traditions that are essential for the practice of the traditional profession. Winter seine fishing is a living tradition of the community in Lake Puruvesi, practiced by professional fishermen in 30 fishery associations. A significant proportion of the vendace consumed in Finland is caught in Lake Puruvesi. The tradition is transmitted further, and it has evolved and renewed itself. The application was submitted by the representatives of the following cooperatives: Puruveden kalasatama, Kesälahden kalasatama and the Snowchange Cooperative.

### **Picking mushrooms**

Nearly one in two Finns pick mushrooms. Recognising and using mushrooms are skills that have mostly been passed down the generations as oral tradition, and even today in Finland the majority of Finns have received their first lessons regarding mushrooms from their families or kin. Many organisations offer advice regarding mushrooms, and various operators offer courses. Mushroom picking also exists as a commercial activity. The tradition is alive and adaptable. The application was submitted by the Arktiset Aromit ry association, the Kuopio Natural History Museum, the mycological society in Northern Savonia (Pohjois-Savon sieniseura), the Finnish Mycological Society and the mycological society in Tampere (Tampereen sieniseura).

### **Finns and their relationship with forests**

The Finns' relationship with forests covers a wide range of activities and attitudes that may sometimes even be contradictory. All Finns have a relationship with forests. Many communities or groups share and maintain certain forest relationships. These include, for example, forestry professionals, nature entrepreneurs, environmental educators, campers, scouts, berry pickers, hunters and summer cabin owners. The view of the significance of forests is built through the tools of culture, upbringing and education. Families and upbringing have played a large role in passing on the traditions of roaming the forests and utilising them, and in keeping these traditions alive. The application was submitted by Lusto – the Finnish Forest Museum, the Finnish Forest Association, the Finnish Forest Centre, the Metsämiesten Säätö Foundation, the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), the Finnish Forest Industries association, the Guides and Scouts of Finland and Metsähallitus.

### **Knowhow regarding the Finnhorse**

The Finnhorse has played an important role in Finnish society and in securing the Finnish national economy. The Finnhorse also has significant cultural value. Horse enthusiasts and grooms, harness racing coaches, riders, social pedagogues, entrepreneurs in the tourism sector and event participants safeguard and

transmit the tradition. The knowhow and special skills related to the characteristics of the Finnhorse (such as harness racing and skills needed in handling workhorses) are transmitted from one generation to the next. The Finnhorse as a breed has the status of an indigenous breed. The application was submitted by the Finnhorse Association, the association for pony-sized Finnhorses Suomenpienhevosyhdistys, the Finnish workhorse association Suomen Työhevosseura and the Finnish trotting and breeding association Suomen Hippos.

### **Finnish Spitz and safeguarding the hunting tradition**

The Finnish Spitz is a breed of dog originating in Finland. For centuries it has accompanied Finns, providing essential assistance in hunting and as a guard and pet dog. The national representative of the breed is the Suomen Pystykorvajärjestö club that currently has about 7,500 members. The traditional form of hunting assisted by the Finnish Spitz is actively maintained in Finland. However, it is also widely known in the neighbouring areas. In addition to hunting, sports related to the Finnish Spitz also cover tests in bird and elk hunting techniques, dog shows and other forms of sports with dogs. The Finnish Spitz tradition is still mostly transmitted from parents or grandparents to children. The application was submitted by the Finnish Kennel Club, the Finnish hunters' association Suomen Metsästäjäliitto and the Suomen Pystykorvajärjestö breed club.

### **Tar burning in pits**

The history of tar making dates back thousands of years. The technique adapted to the conditions in Finland, tar burning in a pit, has a centuries long tradition that has been documented and studied. Today, the tar burning knowhow is cherished by private persons and families, societies, village associations and companies. Tar making is a handicraft even today. It can be estimated that tar burning in shows and within the operations of associations will continue as long as there are people who have the required knowhow. The application was submitted by the Kalliokosken-Venetjoen kyläyhdistys village association and the Eläköön terva tar appreciation society.

### **Fishing in the Tornionjoki rapids**

The centuries long fishing tradition in the lower Tornionjokilaakso river valley covers fishing whitefish and salmon using landing nets in the summer, river lamprey in the autumn and burbot in the winter. The living fishing culture also covers food culture and traditional events, such as the whitefish festival in late July to celebrate the whitefish run. Fishing also includes handicrafts, such as making the landing net as well as building and taking down the platforms (in Finnish, 'krenkku') for landing net fishing. Traditional fishing in the rapids is practiced by owners of a fishing licence for rapids, i.e. partners in the fishing company. The application was submitted by the whitefish fishing group of the Kukkolankosken osakaskunta company, the Korpikylän jako- ja kalastuskunta fishery association, the ProSiika whitefish association, the Kukkolan kyläyhdistys village association, the Meän Kukkola village association and the Tornionlaakson kesäsiika project.