

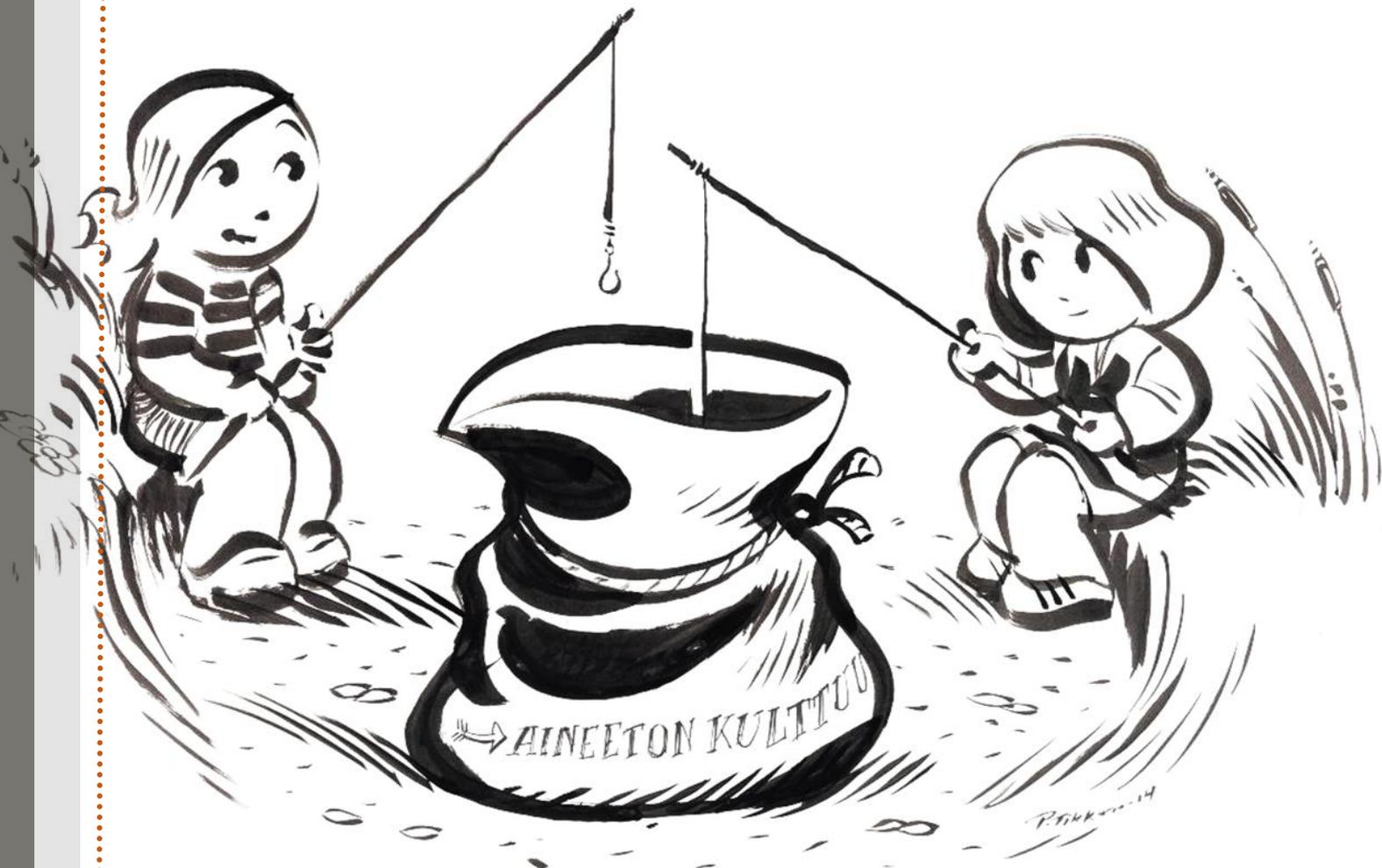
AINEETON KULTTUURIPERINTÖ

LIVING HERITAGE!



UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Plan for national implementation



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National Board of Antiquities 2015

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SUMMARY

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (later Convention) was ratified in Finland in May 2013. By the commission from the Ministry of Education and Culture, the National Board of Antiquities has prepared a plan for the national implementation of the Convention. The plan is based on broad research work, and on the interviews with stakeholder groups and the actors of the field. The principles of the national implementation of the Convention, as well as its central actors and their tasks, are described in the plan.

The purpose of the Convention is to advance the recognition and preservation of intangible cultural heritage in Finland. The spirit of the Convention presupposes that communities play a central role in the identification and definition of intangible culture heritage. This is why it is suggested that the national implementation be carried out as a networking activity, and that the participation of communities and stakeholder groups is emphasised.

The central actors in the implementation of the Convention are the Ministry of Education and Culture, the National Board of Antiquities, an expert group of intangible cultural heritage, and circles of intangible cultural heritage, assembled from multidisciplinary networks of actors.

The implementation of the Convention is carried out in three main processes, which are national coordination, national inventorying and international cooperation. The implementation of the Convention is guided by an action plan, written for each term of four years.

The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for **national coordination**, with the support of an expert group set by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The task entails the national organisation and support for the work of the circles of intangible cultural heritage, the communications relating to the implementation of the Convention and creating visibility for the Convention. The circles are responsible for communication regarding the Convention, and for the cooperation in their own specialist fields.

The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the **national inventorying of intangible cultural heritage**, with the support of the expert group set by the Ministry of Education and Culture, and in cooperation with the circles of intangible cultural heritage. The inventorying will be carried out on two levels. An open wiki-based inventory offers communities an opportunity to present their own intangible cultural heritage. The Ministry of Education and Culture decides which elements are included in the national inventory of intangible cultural heritage, based on suggestions from communities and the preparation by the National Board of Antiquities.

The Ministry of Education and Culture and the National Board of Antiquities, together, are responsible for **international cooperation** and the related national communications. The international cooperation seeks to utilise international networks for the exchange of information, expertise and experiences.

Important methods for safeguarding and preservation include training, education and research, as well as documentation. The implementation of the Convention in Finland should be seen broadly as measures which advance and secure the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and support the prerequisites of the communities to practice and transmit their living intangible cultural heritage from one generation to another. In the implementation, there should be an attempt to affect the strategies and agendas of different industries so that the perspectives that are essential to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage are taken into account.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003. The Convention was ratified in Finland in May 2013. The Ministry of Education and Culture granted the responsibility of the implementation of the Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to the National Board of Antiquities in the spring of 2014. In the preparatory stage Cupore, the Finnish Foundation for Cultural Policy Research, has acted as the partner in the preparation stage.

The implementation plan is based on the preparation process, where different stakeholder groups and actors have been interviewed. The implementation plan defines the general guidelines for the implementation, which shall be supplemented with the action plan for intangible cultural heritage.

The preparatory process has been carried out in the spirit of the Convention, which emphasises communities as the starting point for the activity and where safeguarding is seen as a broad and inclusive process. It is the responsibility of each State Party to create the most appropriate method for the implementation while respecting the spirit of the Convention. The international examples provide a guideline for how the Convention could be implemented.

Intangible cultural heritage refers to living heritage, present in the life of communities. It may be e.g. oral tradition (including language as a tool of intangible cultural heritage), performing art, practices of social life, rituals and ceremonies or knowledge, skills and practices related to nature and the universe. Tools and crafts, different forms of expression such as songs, poems, place-names and dances, or manifestations of sociocultural life like games, foods or cooking methods may be generated based on them. Intangible cultural heritage is generated through constant, living processes.

The Convention touches Finnish society and its organisations, penetrating communities, associations and governmental actors in the areas of practicing and transferring, documenting, researching and teaching of traditions. For this reason, the Convention for intangible cultural heritage has raised wide interest in Finland even before its ratification and now during the preparation for its implementation. In particular, the national inventorying of intangible cultural heritage and UNESCO's inventorying procedures for intangible cultural heritage have been an object of interest.

One of the starting points of the Convention is respecting diversity. Finland is a diverse country, and we all represent diversity by belonging to different groups, subcultures and communities. Diversity manifests in Finland through the national languages and different minorities (language and cultural minorities, ethnic minorities and groups of people with disabilities), as well as through different communities and regional special features. The starting point for the implementation is that the perspective of diversity is taken into account in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage.

The preparation work and the results of the implementation of the Convention on intangible cultural heritage are described in this implementation plan. First, the preparation process is elaborated upon and the principles of the Convention are presented. Next, the central actors in the implementation of the Convention are introduced, their roles and tasks defined, and the model for the implementation in Finland is presented. Additionally, the measures for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage are described. Finally, the procedures for the initiation of the implementation of the Convention are presented.

The implementation plan has been drawn by the Coordinator for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the National Board of Antiquities, Leena Marsio, and the work has been supported by Senior Advisor Eija Liukkonen and Development Director Carina Jaatinen.



2. PREPARATORY PROCESS

The National Board of Antiquities initiated the preparation work by commission from the Ministry of Education and Culture in the spring of 2014. The preparation work has entailed:

- interviews and group discussions in the field of intangible cultural heritage, both with experts and actors from the third sector
- research where the international implementation of the Convention and the views of communities and experts regarding the implementation of the Convention in Finland were examined
- communications and events in order to raise awareness of the Convention and its subject matter and to initiate national discussion
- meetings with international networks of experts, and creating networks

The Finnish Foundation for Cultural Policy Research, Cupore, has acted as a partner in the preparation stage regarding the research (04/2014 - 03/2015). In the Development Services of the National Board of Antiquities, the work has been prepared by the Coordinator of Intangible Cultural Heritage (06/2014 onwards).

Interviews with the field

In order to interview from the field of intangible cultural heritage, ten themed group discussions were organised, the topics of which were oral tradition, performing arts, practices of social life, nature and the universe, crafts, diversity. A discussion was also organised for the Sámi and Romani people as well as the Swedish-speaking population. The group discussions were directed towards both experts and actors from the third sector. Additionally, approximately thirty experts from different fields were interviewed. Over 70 people were interviewed from in the group discussions. A list of the people interviewed during the preparation process is attached to the plan.

The actors from the field of intangible cultural heritage have also been interviewed through two online surveys carried out by Cupore. Altogether, nearly 90 actors answered them. An expert group on intangible cultural heritage, set by the Ministry of Education and Culture, has also produced views for the preparation work.¹

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The research

The Finnish Foundation for Cultural Policy Research, Cupore, has carried out two studies to support the preparation work.

Comparative study *Intangible cultural heritage. Examples of the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention in selected countries under comparison* (2014)³ is an overview of the implementation of the Convention in 15 different countries. The measures which have been carried out in order to implement the Convention, and who the most important actors in the process have been in the chosen countries, were examined. Additionally, examples of the elements inscribed on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage are presented.

The comprehensive final report "*Living Intangible Cultural Heritage*"⁴ (2015) contains the analyses of the abovementioned online surveys as well as articles by experts, which elaborate on the analyses of the surveys and open up the definitions and terminology of the Convention. The final report also contains the results from the interviewing events organised by the National Board of Antiquities in 2014-2015. The implementation processes, administration, inventorying and the criteria for the inventorying, carried out in four countries interesting to Finland, have been analysed in the report.

Through the research, a foundation has been prepared for the Finnish model for the implementation of the Convention and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, as well as the increasing of the awareness of what intangible cultural heritage, belonging to the sphere of the Convention, could be in Finland. The research has produced points of comparison for the implementation of the Convention and raised important questions and experiences from other countries.

¹ Bulletin from the Ministry of Education and Culture 26th September 2014
http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Tiedotteet/2014/09/kulttuuriperinto.html?lang=fr&extra_locale=fi

² Bulletin from the Ministry of Education and Culture 26th September 2014
http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Tiedotteet/2014/09/kulttuuriperinto.html?lang=fr&extra_locale=fi

³ Marsio, Leena (2014) http://www.cupore.fi/verkkojulkaisut_24.php

⁴ Anna Kanerva ja Ritva Mitchell (toim.) 2015. *Elävä aineeton kulttuuriperintö. Hankkeen loppuraportti*. Cuporen verkkojulkaisuja 28. ISBN 978-952-5573-56-5, ISSN 1796-9263.
<http://www.cupore.fi/news15062015.php>

International networks

During the preparation process an international cooperation network has been put together by creating connections with parties responsible for the intangible cultural heritage in countries important to Finland. Along with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the National Board of Antiquities participated in the UNESCO General Conference on intangible cultural heritage in Paris in May 2014. Additionally, the representatives from the National Board of Antiquities and Cupore represented Finland as a member with an observer status in the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Paris in March 2014.

Communications

As a part of the preparations, the National Board of Antiquities has communicated in different ways on the Convention, its purpose and the preparations for its implementation. The goal of the communications has been to raise awareness of the Convention and to carry out the preparations in an open manner.

The website for intangible cultural heritage www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi was published in November 2014. The site presents the Convention and the preparations for its implementation in Finland. It serves as a communication channel in the implementation of the Convention. The site contains material in Finnish, Swedish and English.

The open seminar *Living tradition! The opening to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage*⁵ was organised at the Hall of Culture in Helsinki on 15th December 2014. Altogether, one hundred people from different fields and industries of intangible cultural heritage participated in the seminar.

The Convention and the preparation process relating to it have also been presented over the course of the year in several seminars, newspapers, online publications and the radio.

⁵ <http://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/fi/toimeenpano-suomessa/elava-perinne-seminaari>

3. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION

161 UNESCO member states, including all Nordic and Baltic countries, have now joined the Convention of the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention and the operational directives relating to it provide a framework for the implementation, but also⁶ *allow plenty of freedom for the national implementation of the Convention.*

The objective of the Convention is to advance the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, guarantee respect for the intangible cultural heritage of different communities, groups and individuals, to raise awareness about the significance of intangible cultural heritage on a local, national and international level, and, by those means, to reinforce mutual understanding and offer international cooperation and assistance.

The Convention provides a clear foundation of values for the realisation of the implementation. According to the Convention, intangible cultural heritage bears important significance as the most important incentive for cultural diversity and as a guarantee for sustainable development. Globalisation and social change not only create prerequisites for a new kind of inter-communal dialogue, but also bring serious threats relating to the weakening, disappearance and the destruction of intangible cultural heritage. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.

The Convention emphasises the central role of communities in the generation, safeguarding, maintenance and recreation of intangible cultural heritage and, by the same token, in cultural diversity and the advancement of human creativity. In the Convention, communities refer to groups of people who regard themselves as sharing common cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage does not exist as separate from the people who practice it. Communities are mentioned as a part of the Convention's objective: the Convention shall "*ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned*" (article 1).

⁶ UNESCO (2014). Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage. <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00026>

According to the Convention, the safeguarding measures, and the identification and definition of the traditions, shall always take place in cooperation with the communities in question and with their consent. The participation of the communities should be a central objective in all acts undertaken under the Convention. It is up to each State Party to assist the communities in question so that they may, with their knowledge, skills and resources, safeguard and administer their own intangible cultural heritage.



4. THE CENTRAL ACTORS IN THE FINNISH MODEL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION

The central actors in the implementation of the Convention on intangible cultural heritage are the Ministry of Education and Culture, the National Board of Antiquities, an expert group on intangible cultural heritage and circles of intangible cultural heritage formed of multidisciplinary networks of actors. Through the circles, the implementation reaches a wide field of actors of intangible cultural heritage who can be involved in the work.

4.1 Ministry of Education and Culture

Finland is a State Party in the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and responsible for the commitments of the Convention being met. The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible to UNESCO for the realisation and reporting on the Convention.

4.2 National Board of Antiquities

The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the implementation of the Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the national coordination, the national inventorying of intangible cultural heritage and international cooperation.

4.3 The expert group on intangible cultural heritage

The Ministry of Education and Culture has founded an expert group on intangible cultural heritage in September 2014. The group acts to support the implementation of the Convention and as experts in questions relating to intangible cultural heritage. The expert group operates in terms of four years.

The expert group drafts an action plan for the Convention on intangible cultural heritage for its term, in cooperation with the National Board of Antiquities. The group forms an interpretation of the concept of intangible cultural heritage and defines the criteria for national inventorying. The group gives a statement on the elements to be included in the inventory based on the preparation by the National Board of Antiquities. Additionally, the group's tasks include developing measures

for the recognition and documentation of the diversity of intangible cultural heritage, and the assessment of the societal effects of the Convention.

4.4 Circles of intangible cultural heritage

A national network of actors will be formed for the implementation of the Convention, with circles, formed sectorally and voluntarily, at its centre. They act as coordinating organs and hubs where the actors, from the traditions of each field, responsible for the practicing, transferring, teaching, researching and documenting can meet. This way, the implementation of the Convention may form bridges between different actors. The circles play a central role in drafting proposals from their own field for the national inventory as well as passing on information on the implementation of the Convention between the communities and the National Board of Antiquities, which is responsible for the implementation of the Convention.

The circles will be formed from representatives from traditional communities, organisations of the field, cultural memory organisations, universities and teaching organisations. Regional and geographical coverage as well as the diversity of society, cultures and languages will be endeavoured to be considered when forming the circles. Special attention shall be paid to minority cultures, and it shall be ensured that the diversity in society can also be seen in the composition of the circles. Clear divisions of responsibility and tasks will be agreed upon for the circles of intangible cultural heritage. As a starting point, actors whose area of operations entails intangible cultural heritage are sought for the circles. Organising the circles will be supported as is possible regarding travel expenses.

When defining the spheres of action of the circles, the areas of intangible cultural heritage named by UNESCO are considered (oral tradition; performing arts; social practices, celebrations and rituals; knowledge and practices regarding nature and the universe; crafts).

The tasks of the circles may include e.g.

- cooperation with a network in their own field, and the distribution of information regarding the Convention
- the preparation of the national inventorying in their own area of responsibility
- the identification of the phenomena of intangible cultural heritage, in cooperation with the field, for the purposes of the inventorying

- raising discussion on education and the development of skills
- raising the best practices which advance the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, and the generation and initiation of ideas for development projects
- activity in international networks in their own area of responsibility

The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the organisation and initiation of the network of circles, and the national coordination of the activity. The National Board of Antiquities seeks collaborators from different areas and fields of intangible cultural heritage for the circles. The circles may be started, and they may form through the needs of the field and the actors. From the parties, the activity of the circles requires long-term work and a committed partnership.



5. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION IN FINLAND

The national implementation of the Convention is carried out in three main processes, which include national coordination, national inventorying of intangible cultural heritage and international cooperation.

The inventorying will be carried out in two forms. An open, wiki-based inventory offers communities an opportunity to present their own intangible cultural heritage. The Ministry of Education and Culture decides which elements are included in the official national inventory, based on the suggestions from communities, the preparation by the National Board of Antiquities and the statements by the expert group.

5.1 National coordination

The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the national coordination of the implementation of the Convention. National coordination refers to the creation of the network of circles and the support of its activity, and the communication and distribution of information between different actors and parties. The coordination also entails monitoring and reporting.

The objective of the communication is to increase the visibility of intangible cultural heritage, to encourage people to appreciate cultural heritage and to communicate its significance within society. This also entails the increasing of the awareness of the UNESCO Convention and its role in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. The distribution of information and the increasing of awareness are the most important means of reaching and involving communities and citizens in the realisation of the Convention.

The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the communication required by the coordination and offers materials and information for the use of stakeholder groups and the media. Multimedia and multi-channelled communications support the availability and accessibility of intangible cultural heritage. Events and seminars will also be organised as a part of the communications. The communication is developed in cooperation and in interaction with a network of actors.

The National Board of Antiquities monitors the national discussion on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, and coordinates communication between

important parties. The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the reporting to the Ministry of Education and Culture about the national implementation as well as the international tasks required by the Convention.

5.2 The inventorying of intangible cultural heritage

National inventorying

The binding articles of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage stipulate that the national intangible cultural heritage be inventoried⁷. This means that the States Parties shall recognise and specify the different elements of intangible cultural heritage occurring in their territory in cooperation with communities, groups and community organisations. Drawing the national inventory/ inventories is the responsibility of the State Party, i.e. the State. The inventories shall be updated regularly. The Convention leaves the manner and the form in which the inventorying is carried out to the national discretion of the States. The number, size and the level of detail of the inventories are up to the State Party to decide.

Significance and objectives

The objective of the national inventories is to support communities in the preservation of living intangible cultural heritage. Simultaneously, the inventorying makes intangible cultural heritage visible, raises it to public discussion and makes it accessible to communities. In this way, the inventorying may increase communities' awareness of their own cultural heritage and its diversity as well as increase the appreciation for traditions and the voluntary preservation and practicing of cultural phenomena.

The inventorying may also be used to increase knowledge on phenomena and cultural characteristics that are not widely known. At its best, the inventorying raises the issue of cultural diversity and, by the same token, increases tolerance and supports culturally sustainable development.

⁷ The inventorying of intangible cultural heritage shall not be confused with the cataloguing or description carried out by cultural memory organisations. In several countries, different inventories in the field of intangible cultural heritage (e.g. folk tradition, museums, in the field of performing arts) have been assembled for the use of experts by anthropologists, ethnologists or professionals from cultural memory organisations. The inventories realised under the UNESCO Convention shall, however, be assembled in cooperation with communities.

Defining intangible cultural heritage and particularly inventorying it is a conscious process of adopting cultural heritage which reflects our values and objects of respect. The inventorying also entails known risks and open questions. At its worst, the inventorying narrows the idea of cultural heritage if the elements included in the inventory are emphasised at the expense of the diversity of cultural heritage. The inventorying also runs the risk of stagnating living cultural heritage. The work involved in the inventorying therefore requires broad discussion with the experts in the field of cultural heritage as well as communities.

The process of inventorying, which involves communities and individuals, is an important tool in the realisation of the objectives of the Convention on intangible cultural heritage which emphasise participation and involving. The most central advantage of the inventorying lies in the *process* of inventorying, not in the inventory itself. In particular, it should be taken into consideration that the inventorying of intangible cultural heritage is by its nature a long-term and dynamic process.

The criteria

The criteria by which the elements are included into the inventories is a central issue in the process of national inventorying. In their inventories, several States Parties adhere to ⁸ the criteria of UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage:

- An element is intangible cultural heritage in the manner defined in the 2nd article of the Convention.⁹
- The element shall advance the visibility of intangible cultural heritage and the awareness of its significance, and to encourage discussion and by those means reflect the global diversity of culture.
- Measures which may safeguard and advance the position of intangible cultural heritage shall be used in the safeguarding of the element.
- The element shall be proposed through the participation, as wide as possible, of a community, group or individuals. The participation has been notified before, and it has been done at the parties' own consent.

⁸ Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

⁹ The "intangible cultural heritage" refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development. UNESCO 2003, <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00006>

The research relating to the preparation work also examined the experts' views on the criteria. The following criteria, important to Finland, arose:

- The element represents intangible cultural heritage as defined in the UNESCO convention.
- Cultural heritage is recognised by a community and relates to the identity of the people and their understanding of themselves as members of their community.
- The element is communal and involving.
- The element comes across as living and transforming over generations.
- The element is common, shared heritage. The element has wide support from the community on a local, regional or national level, and/ or beyond national borders.
- Measures or requirements for the preservation or safeguarding are related to the element.

The measures

The inventorying of intangible cultural heritage is carried out on two levels. An involving, open, wiki-based inventory offers communities a platform on which to highlight their own intangible cultural heritage by means of a database. A national, official inventory is assembled based on the suggestions from communities, utilising the wiki-platform and the networks of circles of intangible cultural heritage. The expert group defines the national criteria for the inventorying and draws assessment practices which are based on the action plan for national intangible cultural heritage.

The National Board of Antiquities carries out a wiki-based electronic tool as support for the inventorying by which communities can make proposals and the phenomena can be presented. The National Board of Antiquities acts as the moderator and administrator for the wiki-platform. Using the wiki-platform, it is possible to present rich and diverse cultural heritage from individual phenomena to broad entities. The wiki-platform is actively communicated upon on social media and through other channels.

The wiki-inventory supports the process of national inventorying, but it also bears its own value from the perspective of the recognition and visibility of intangible cultural heritage. Here the principles of communality, involvement and crowdsourcing are of the utmost importance. The wiki-inventory also serves the

needs of monitoring and reporting as well as the openness and usability of information.

It is possible to make proposals from the wiki-inventory to the national inventory of intangible cultural heritage. Based on the preparation by the National Board of Antiquities and the expert group on intangible cultural heritage, the Ministry of Education and Culture decides on the elements included in the official national inventory, and the possible proposals made for UNESCO's lists of international intangible cultural heritage. The sectoral or thematic inventories, produced by the communities on their own or in cooperation, may be utilised in the drawing of the national inventory. The national inventory can be used to create visibility for the phenomena of intangible cultural heritage, but it does not mean new funding for the elements, for example.

Guidelines from the preparation work

- The inventoring concentrates on intangible cultural heritage identified by communities.
- The inventoring shall be conducted in close cooperation with communities.
- The inventoring concentrates on living cultural heritage, which has been transmitted from one generation to another.
- The national inventoring should be seen as a long-term process.
- The inventoring should take into account the diversity in society.
- Attention shall be paid to the transferring of skills and the changing nature of tradition.
- In terms of the national inventoring, a relationship between individual expressions of tradition and broader cultural phenomena shall be drawn.
- It is possible to proceed in the inventoring with the help of annual themes and focuses. The themes could include e.g. cultural heritage in the everyday life of communities and sustainable development.

Making national proposals for international lists

The international inventoring practices are defined in the Convention for intangible cultural heritage. They include the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, both of which are regularly updated. Additionally, the Convention

contains the Register of best safeguarding practices for intangible cultural heritage. The purpose of the lists and the register is to create visibility for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

Each State Party has the right to propose elements to be inscribed onto these lists and the register. The element shall meet the criteria set by UNESCO for intangible cultural heritage. It must also be included in the national inventory of intangible cultural heritage of the State or States proposing it.

Proposing national nominations for the international lists requires long-term preparation and broad national cooperation. It is possible to describe Finland's objectives and relationship to international lists in the action plan of intangible cultural heritage. The National Board of Antiquities is responsible for the national communication and coordination relating to the international inventorying.

The National Board of Antiquities prepares the nominations for the international lists of intangible cultural heritage, proposed by communities, and presents them to the expert group on intangible cultural heritage and onwards to the Ministry of Education and Culture for approval or rejection. The nominations may be national or multinational.

Guidelines from the preparation work

- The recognition of multinational cross-border traditions is encouraged.
- The special features of the Northern region and its relationship with nature shall be observed when considering the elements.
- The Register of best safeguarding practices, related to the Convention, offers an opportunity to increase the know-how on the preservation of intangible cultural heritage in Finland.

5.3 International cooperation

International cooperation entails the international networks involving the Convention on the one hand, and the expert cooperation and networking on the other hand. International cooperation seeks the utilisation of the international networks for the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experiences. The cooperation offers opportunities to present Finnish know-how and good practices relating to intangible cultural heritage. Acting in the cooperative network, regionally as well as globally, is important. Finland's objectives for the international cooperation are more closely defined in the action plan of intangible cultural heritage.

The Ministry of Education and Culture and the National Board of Antiquities follow the international implementation of the Convention. The Ministry and the National Board of Antiquities are responsible for the preparation and implementation work regarding the international cooperation as well as communications on a national level. The National Board of Antiquities acts as an expert for Finland in questions relating to the international implementation of the Convention.

Along with the UNESCO Convention for intangible cultural heritage, several other international conventions involving cultural heritage are involved in the implementation. Among UNESCO's conventions, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage¹⁰ (from 1972)¹¹ and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions¹² (from 2005¹³), in particular, contain several points of convergence with intangible cultural heritage. The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme¹⁴, on the other hand, is used to preserve the heritage of archives and libraries. Additionally, in its principles the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society¹⁵ (the so-called Faro Convention from 2005¹⁶) is very close to the Convention on intangible cultural heritage.

¹⁰ Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage
http://www.nba.fi/fi/ajankohtaista/kansainvalinen_toiminta/kansainvalisia_sopimuksia/maailmanperinto-sopimus

¹¹ Ratified by Finland in 1987

¹² http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Kansainvaliset_asiat/kansainvaliset_jaerjestoet/unesco_sopimukset/Liitteet/diversiteetti_FI.pdf

¹³ Ratified by Finland in 2005

¹⁴ Memory of the World <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/homepage/>

¹⁵ <http://faronsopimus.org/>

¹⁶ the ratification is prepared in Finland

6. THE METHODS OF SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

In the Convention on intangible cultural heritage, the word "*safeguarding*" is used instead of "*protection*," "*preservation*" or "*conservation*," which appear in other international conventions on cultural heritage. As a concept, "*safeguarding*" is dynamic and forward-looking. In the Finnish translation, this is referred to with the word "*preservation*," which as a concept is seen as rigid. Preservation may also wilt intangible cultural heritage, if it is thought that there is some "correct" form of tradition to which to keep. The Convention emphasises the changing nature of tradition, which lives in time. A tradition is something which "*is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history.*" The concepts of *preservation and guarding* can therefore be used alongside safeguarding. In the Convention, safeguarding refers to the maintaining of knowledge on traditions by means of practicing and transferring culture.

The bearers of tradition are at the centre of the preservation and sustaining of intangible cultural heritage. Society supports communities, associations and people familiar with traditions by various means. Additionally, in Finland there is a large and established infrastructure for e.g. education, research, cultural memory organisations and cultural institutions, which supports the preservation and transfer of intangible cultural heritage.

In the Convention, training, education and research, as well as documentation, are raised as important methods for the safeguarding and preservation of intangible cultural heritage. During the preparation work, the importance of these methods was recognised in the implementation of the Convention, also in the field of intangible cultural heritage, in Finland. The conclusion is that in the national implementation of the Convention the strategies and agendas of different sectors should be endeavoured to be influenced by communication and programmed work, so that the viewpoints crucial to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage are taken into account.

Even the Finnish Constitution states that national heritage is the responsibility of everyone (article 20). OIt also states that the cultural and societal needs of the Finnish-speaking and Swedish-speaking populations are provided on an equal basis, and that the Sámi as an indigenous group as well as the Romani and other groups have the right to maintain and develop their own language and culture (section 17). There is no special legislation on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Finland. However, during the ratification of the Convention it was seen that the current legislation on cultural heritage and language, education and the environment, as well as minority rights, enables the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Finland.

6.1 Training and education

A large portion of intangible cultural heritage is transmitted through dialogue or interaction in families or communities from one generation to another and beyond the generational lines. The transmission of heritage occurs mainly in the sphere of informal learning. The prerequisite for the transferring is that the community has the necessary ability to practice intangible cultural heritage and the will to transmit its skill, and by those means to safeguard the existence and continuity of intangible cultural heritage. Communities should be offered financial and informational support for the practice and transfer of tradition.

Formal education may support living cultural heritage and its transferring in different ways. The perspective of training and education, provided by the Convention, means highlighting the themes of intangible cultural heritage and securing education in fields related to it. It also means taking the issues of diversity and multilinguality into consideration. It is important to engage the communities, which bear the cultural heritage, in the development of education.

The Finnish education system supports the preservation and transferring of intangible cultural heritage. The education system, from early childhood education to higher education, is comprehensive and open to everyone. From the perspective of the implementation of the Convention, it is important that the education on cultural heritage is considered as a part of the national and regional curricula. Finnish basic education has an important role as the teacher and conveyor of several art and craft subjects and tradition. Schools offer opportunities for the maintenance of skills related to intangible cultural heritage. Additionally, vocational education is significant in terms of long-term transfer of skill and the maintenance of professional identity.

A broad and highly organised field operates outside the education system. Art education, basic education in art and the field of adult education, i.e. folk high schools, study centres and summer universities, do a great deal of work relating to intangible cultural heritage in the fields of music, dance, theatre and circus art, literary art, handicrafts and visual arts, for example. Several central organisations and thousands of culture and leisure associations operating in Finland are important actors in the transferring of living cultural heritage. In addition to organised activity, cultural heritage lives everywhere, such as amateur groups and online communities, for example.

Guidelines from the preparation

- The perspective of intangible cultural heritage shall be reinforced in the sector of training and education by taking it into consideration in curricula and educational policies. Teachers shall be given more activity readiness. The role of communities of cultural heritage should be reinforced in the development of training and education.
- The communities' prerequisites for the sustaining and transferring of cultural heritage should be supported by various means. In particular, attention should be paid to the preservation of skills and abilities.
- Special attention shall be paid to the support of the traditions of linguistic and cultural minorities, as well as endangered traditions.
- The role of intangible cultural heritage in the advancement of intercultural dialogue shall be reinforced.
- The mutual networking and projects of the education on intangible cultural heritage and the actors in the field of training shall be supported.

6.2 The research

The information generated by the research, regarding intangible cultural heritage, is important to the documentation and understanding of tradition. Additionally, researched information is required on how the mechanisms relating to intangible cultural heritage work, and how they and the safeguarding itself affect intangible heritage and the people living in its sphere of influence. The research should create information which assists with the responsible applications of cultural heritage, i.e. in practical activities in different societal contexts. The research may provide support in the creation of safeguarding programmes for endangered forms of intangible cultural heritage. In order for the documentation and research to be considered as safeguarding measures, the research shall be conducted in cooperation with the community in question. It shall also be directed at the transferring and continuous use of intangible cultural heritage.

The research activity is, in particular, the responsibility of universities and polytechnics. The research and documentation of intangible cultural heritage is increasingly conducted as online cooperation. Scientific associations advance research in their own fields and publish its results in their scientific publications and seminars, among others. In addition to universities and polytechnics, research relating to intangible cultural heritage is conducted by different cultural memory organisations and multidisciplinary community organisations.

Universities play an important role in the academic teaching and research of cultural heritage in several subjects. Especially the subjects of ethnology, folkloristics, anthropology, museology, cultural politics, cultural studies and folklore studies as well as art subjects are related to this. In addition to the subjects of cultural studies, linguistics is also important in the context of intangible cultural heritage. In terms of the official languages of our country, the Sámi language and culture, the Roma language and culture, and sign language are studied at the university level.

Guidelines from the preparation work

- The mutual networking of the actors of intangible cultural heritage shall be supported. The actors shall be urged to conduct research of the subject matter, even in a critical manner.
- The availability of information shall be improved and its usability increased. Traditional communities shall be considered generators of information and as partners, and the information relating to them shall return to the communities. The network platforms shall be utilised in this work.
- The social interaction and visibility of research regarding intangible cultural heritage shall be increased.
- The smaller university subjects relating to intangible cultural heritage shall be secured.
- Research activity in organisations supervised by the State shall be directed towards intangible cultural heritage.

6.3 Documentation

Cultural memory organisations have an important task in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage through the documentation and transferring of living tradition to the public at large. There is a comprehensive library, archive and museum organisation in Finland. Alongside them, national institutions which have special

tasks, such as the National Board of Antiquities/ the National Museum, the National Archives, the National Library, the Institute for the Languages of Finland, the National Audiovisual Institute, the Finnish Literature Society, the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland and the Finnish Broadcasting Company, are, for their part, responsible for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage for future generations. Actors from the third sector and private persons also play their own role in the documentation of intangible cultural heritage, which should, however, be supported more firmly under the Convention.

In the documentation of intangible cultural heritage it is important to observe the usability and the ensured preservation of information in electronic environments. Additionally, the material shall also be made available locally and through information networks. The principles of open information are highly suitable for the spirit of the Convention, and they should be applied in the transferring of information.

Utilising the methods of new technology and modern documentation provide cultural memory organisations with new types of opportunities and means of documenting intangible cultural heritage. The new methods provide communities with tools for participation.

From the perspective of the Convention on intangible cultural heritage, the greatest challenge lies in making the materials available for communities to utilise. Traditions themselves do not have an owner, but issues relating to copyright are involved in the utilising of traditions. The common systems and standards of cultural memory organisations may support the ease of the discovery of the materials, their availability and the ease of their long-term preservation.

Guidelines from the preparation work

- Cultural memory organisations should seek active, community-based activity.
- The mutual division of work of cultural memory organisations shall be defined and clarified in terms of intangible cultural heritage.
- The documentation work of cultural memory organisations shall be directed towards intangible cultural heritage alongside tangible cultural heritage. In addition to objects, attention shall be paid to the constant renewal and transfer of knowledge and skills, which are essential for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
- The retention of materials in possession of the third sector must be sought to be secured.
- It is possible to reinforce the perspective of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage through the mutual documentation projects of cultural memory organisations.

7. THE MEASURES OF THE INITIATION STAGE (2015-2017)

The implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is initiated with the following measures:

- The National Board of Antiquities prepares the action plan in cooperation with the expert group of intangible cultural heritage (2015).
- The National Board of Antiquities prepares and publishes the involving wiki-platform of intangible cultural heritage for the use of the circles and communities (2015-2016 /continuous)
- The National Board of Antiquities initiates the work of the circles of intangible cultural heritage and coordinates it (2015-2016/ continuous).
- The National Board of Antiquities prepares and initiates the drawing of the national inventory of intangible cultural heritage, together with the expert group of intangible cultural heritage, and in close cooperation with the communities of intangible cultural heritage (2015-2017), and maintains and updates the inventory (continuous).
- The National Board of Antiquities communicates on the Convention and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage by informing, organising events and seminars with partners, and by actively participating in national discussion (continuous).

8. APPENDIX

A list of people interviewed during the preparation process of the implementation of the Convention

Ahola Teemu, Vapriikki Museum Centre
 Al-Nawas Ahmed, The Culture for All Service
 Bjorgen Hildegunn, Arts Council, Norway
 Björkholm Johanna, Åbo Akademi University
 Blomerus Satu, Finnish National Board of Education
 Eskelinen Päivi, Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute
 Falk Eivind, Norwegian Crafts Institute, Norway
 Feldborg Dag, Norwegian Crafts Institute, Norway
 Friman-Korpela Sarita, National Advisory Board on Romani Affairs
 Grönfors Hilja, Musician
 Guttorm Anni, The National Museum of the Finnish Sámi, Siida
 Hahl Seija, The Craft Museum of Finland
 Hakala Pirkko, The National Board of Antiquities
 Hakola Eva-Maria, Arts Promotion Centre Finland
 Harvilahti Lauri, Finnish Literature Society
 Heikkilä Johanna, The Finnish Landrace Association, Maatiainen
 Heikkinen Minna, Preserving the Tradition of Youth Work
 Helavuori Hanna, Theatre Info Finland
 Helen Ismo, The Threshold Association, Kynnys
 Helsti Sisko, Volunteer
 Hesso Eija, Ikaalinen College of Crafts and Design
 Hietala Anu, The Finnish Association of Art Schools for Children and Young People
 Hakomäki Risto, The National Museum
 Holmberg Liisa, The Sámi Education Institute
 Huntus Antti, Arts Promotion Centre Finland
 Hupli Maija, Finnish Broadcasting Company
 Jakomaa Johanna, Satakunta Museum
 Japissan Teemu, Valo, Finnish Sports Confederation
 Joutsenlahti Riitta-Liisa, Central Committee of Folk Music and Dance
 Jussilainen Anna, Arts Promotion Centre Finland
 Kallio Elina, Helsinki City Museum
 Kallio Helena, Theatre Museum
 Karhunkorva Reetta, The Finnish Forest Museum, LUSTO
 Ketonen Hanna, The Finnish National Board of Education
 Kettula Suvi, Espoo City Museum
 Klemettinen Timo, The Association of Finnish Music Schools
 Korhonen Outi, Arts Promotion Centre Finland
 Koskijoki Maria, Helinä Rautavaara Museum
 Kostet Juhani, The National Board of Antiquities
 Kupiainen Reijo, University of Tampere
 Kuutma Kristin, University of Tartu, Estonia
 Kyläniemi Hanna, Provincial Museum of Lapland
 Laaksonen Leena, The Ministry of Education and Culture
 Laine Marja, The Finnish Association for Cultural Heritage Education
 Laiti Petteri, Suoma Sámi Daiddarsearvi Association
 Laukko Helena, The UN Association of Finland
 Linkola Inker-Anni, Sámi Archives

Linnovaara Kristina, The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland
 Lillhannus Åsa, Spelmansförbundet
 Linnapuomi Aura, The Culture for All Service
 Luukkonen Markus, Samova Storytelling Association
 Luutonen Marketta, The Finnish Crafts Organization
 Lämsä Hanna, The Finnish Association for Cultural Heritage Education
 Mattila Mirva, The Ministry of Education and Culture
 Maukonen Riitta, Skolt Sámi Cultural Foundation
 Melaranta Hanna-Kaisa, Varkaus Museum
 Metsänkylä Antti, The National Museum
 Miettinen Jukka, University of the Arts
 Mäkelä Johanna, CircusInfo Finland
 Mäkelä Johanna, University of Helsinki
 Naukkarinen Tiina, The Finnish Museum of the Deaf
 Nordström Annika, Institute for Language and Folklore, Sweden
 Nuorteva Jussi, National Archives of Finland
 Nyqvist Niklas, Institute of Finland - Swedish Traditional Music
 Näkkäljärvi Klemetti, Sámi Parliament
 Näkkäljärvi-Länsman Anna, Arts Promotion Centre Finland
 Orti-Berg Riitta, Sámi Parliament
 Paaskoski Leena, The Finnish Forest Museum, LUSTO
 Paqvalen Rita, The Culture for All Service
 Pelttonen Ulla-Maija, Finnish Literature Society
 Pieski Pentti, City-Sámit Association
 Pirttilahti Tiina, Finnish Romani Association
 Porila Kristiina, Estonian Folk Culture Centre, Estonia
 Pulkkinen Risto, University of Helsinki
 Puumalainen Erkki, Poptori Ltd
 Rantakaulio Timo, The Finnish Landrace Association, Maatiainen
 Rautiainen Anne, The Outdoor Association of Finland - Suomen Latu
 Rekola Sanna, Dance Info Finland
 Ruotsala Helena, University of Turku
 Rikkinen Anna, The Finnish Association of Designers, Ornamo
 Rinnevuori Mikko, Circus Helsinki
 Räisänen Riikka, University of Helsinki
 Saha Hannu, University of Tampere
 Salonen Päivi, The Ministry of Education and Culture
 Savolainen Jukka, Design Museum
 Savolainen Liisa, The National Library of Finland
 Sedergren Jari, National Audiovisual Institute
 Siivonen Katriina, University of Helsinki
 Sjöberg Annika, Institute for Language and Folklore, Sweden
 Stara Linnea, Svenska Teatern
 Stranden Marit, Norwegian centre for traditional music and dance, Norway
 Suomi Kirsi, Skolt Sámi Cultural Foundation
 Suutari Toni, Institute for the Languages of Finland
 Tuovinen Tapani, Metsähallitus
 Tähtinen Tuomo, Music Finland
 Valkonen Sari, the National Museum of the Finnish Sámi, Siida
 Valpola Anneli, The Friends of Finnish Handicraft
 Vanhatalo Riitta, The Finnish Local Heritage Federation
 Vilhonen Esa, Folklore Suomi Finland
 Vilkuna Janne, University of Jyväskylä
 Vanttinen Katri, Finnish Broadcasting Company
 Ylönen-Viiri Päivi, The Finnish Folk Music Association
 Åkerlund Roosa, active association member
 Åkerlund Tuula, Romano Missio
 Österlund-Pötsch Susanne, The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland
 Östman Jan-Ola, University of Helsinki