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ENFP Newsletter #9

Quarter-yearly Newsletter of the European Network of Focal Points for the UNESCO 2003 Convention. To share information and inspiration!

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August/September 2025

Upcoming Events

#ENFP

SAVE THE DATE: Upcoming general network meeting of the ENFP

The next ENFP network meeting will take place online on 5 November 2025 (10-12 am CET). Further details and the agenda will be shared soon.

ENFP Steering Committee

#ETHICS

Online event-series: Opening Reflections on Ethics in ICH Safeguarding

The ENFP launched an initiative in early 2025 to address complex ethical challenges in ICH safeguarding. This peer-learning process invites professionals across Europe to share experiences and approaches to navigate dilemmas such as informed consent, cultural appropriation, animal welfare, and commodification. It kicked off officially on the 8th of July with the presentation of a survey that presented real-world cases and questions, followed by peer exchange sessions. The upcoming three sessions would focus on animal welfare in nature-based practices, dialogue and

representation in heritage narratives, and tools for ethical dealing with these issues.

The first one is on **17 September**– *Animal welfare & nature-based ICH* ([Link to the meeting](#)). For more information on the initiative, visit the ENFP website: <https://enfp-ich.eu/ethics-in-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage>

Cristina Biasetto, FP Austria

Past Events

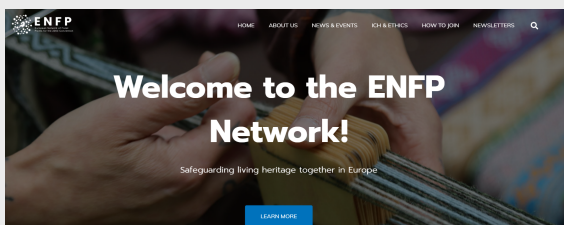
#ENFP

First general network meeting of the ENFP

On 14 May 2025, the ENFP held its first general network meeting of the year. Highlights included the introduction of the new Steering Committee, updates from UNESCO's Living Heritage Entity, the launch of peer learning sessions on ethics in ICH as well as insights from the April 2025 webinar on ICH and armed conflicts. Furthermore, the upcoming MONDIACULT 2025 conference and the campaign for a dedicated culture goal within the SDGs was discussed. Updates were also shared on the proposed UNESCO Category 2 Centre for ICH in Belgium and survey insights guiding ENFP's future priorities.

Read the full article: <https://enfp-ich.eu/highlights-of-the-enfp-network-meeting-14-may-2025/>

ENFP Steering Committee



#ICH + WH

The Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century (2025), Italy

#CONFERENCE

Second Conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies' Central and Eastern Europe Chapter Warsaw, Poland

The Second Conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies' Central and Eastern Europe Chapter took place at the University of Warsaw from August 27 to 29, 2025. This conference aimed to bring together scholars, practitioners, and students to engage in critical discussions on heritage issues pertinent to the Central and Eastern European context. For more information visit [Call for Papers](#)

Hanna Schreiber, UNESCO Chair, Facilitator, Poland



The second edition of the Naples Conference (4–6 June 2025) built on the 2023 event, promoting a holistic, human-centered approach to cultural heritage as a driver of sustainable social and economic development, aimed to address pressing challenges facing both tangible and intangible heritage and contribute to MONDIA CULT 2025. The conference sought to strengthen cross-border dialogue, encourage community participation in heritage protection, and integrate Indigenous knowledge into heritage management. It also highlighted good practices from the 2003 Convention that could be applied globally, and participants called for sharing more examples and open discussion. Key themes included active community involvement, integrating Indigenous knowledge, and ethical use of technology in heritage management. The conference stressed collaboration and mindful engagement with communities. The event provided valuable insights to inform future cultural heritage policies and management strategies. Further information here: <https://www.unesco.org/en/culture/naples-conference>

Hildegun Bjørgen, FP Norway



#SEMINAR

The Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH: Fundamentals, Pitfalls and Opportunities

What threatens our traditions? How and with whom can we safeguard them? And what exactly is ICH according to the 2003 Convention? From May 26–28, the Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové, in cooperation with the National Institute of Folk Culture and the Ministry of Culture, held a seminar for regional museum staff on the 2003 UNESCO Convention's approach to safeguarding ICH. Twenty-five participants deepened their knowledge and prepared for upcoming changes. A follow-up seminar on inventorying ICH will take

#YOUTH

YOUTH4HERITAGE – Rising Voices from Naples

On 5 June 2025, the historic Biblioteca di Castel Capuano hosted YOUTH4HERITAGE – Rising Voices from Naples, part of the UNESCO Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century. Organized by the Italian Ministry for Sport and Youth with support from the Department for Youth-Policies, and facilitated by the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law, the event gathered 33 young professionals from around the world. Through working groups on digital innovation, education, globalisation, and sustainability, participants explored how youth can drive the safeguarding and enhancement of cultural heritage.

Pier Luigi Petrillo, UNESCO Chair, Facilitator, Italy



#ECOLOGY

Living heritage, ecological sustainability and climate action: workshop report, Leuven

Can traditional irrigation, transhumance or water mills really point us toward a climate-smart future? That surprising connection emerged in Leuven, where CAG and KIEN gathered experts from ten countries to explore water, soil, and biodiversity through the lens of living heritage. The June 2025 workshop in Leuven explored how living heritage can support ecological sustainability and climate adaptation through examples from Europe showing heritage's role in biodiversity, groundwater preservation, and community empowerment. More details under:

<https://cagnet.be/s/en/page/workshop-report>

Susanne Bergwerff-Verburg, FP Netherlands

place at the National Agricultural Museum in Prague this autumn on the topic of inventorying ICH according to new methodological guidelines.

Jan Blazek, FP Czechia



#DIVERSITY

The intangible heritage of our multi-rooted society, Bregenz, Austria

On 12 June, the event “*The Intangible Heritage of Our Multi-Rooted Society*” explored community-centered approaches to intangible cultural heritage, such as participatory exhibitions and co-creation in museums. Discussions addressed inclusive narratives, intercultural networking, and power imbalances, stressing trust, empowerment, and heritage’s evolving nature. Summary (in German/English) and expert videos:

<https://www.unesco.at/ueber-uns/oesterreichische-unesco-kommission/news-oesterreichische-unesco-kommission/article/rueckblick-das-immaterielle-erbe-unserer-vielheimischen-gesellschaft>

Cristina Biasetto, FP Austria



#TRADITIONAL CRAFT

The 4th International Crafts Festival Took Place in Gavar, Armenia

On June 21-22, 2025, Gavar, Armenia, hosted the 4th International Crafts Festival, a key event for safeguarding and celebrating ICH.

Supported by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and organized by the Hovhannes Sharambeyan Museum of Folk Art with Gavar Municipality, this year’s theme was “Youth Creating Taste: Gastronomy and Crafts.” The festival transformed Gavar’s central square into a lively showcase of crafts and cuisine, featuring artisans from Armenia and countries including Greece, Croatia, Bulgaria, and Spain. Activities included master classes, cooking competitions, tours, and ethnomusic concerts. Watch the report here:

https://www.facebook.com/lurer1tv/videos/1254357473028534?locale=hy_AM

Naira Kilichyan, FP Armenia



Projects

#TRANSNATIONAL SAFEGUARDING

Whistled Language: Safeguarding Action Plan Revision Workshop and Visit of Silbo Gomero Practitioners From La Gomera, Spain

From June 17–19, 2025, a workshop in Giresun, Türkiye, focused on revising the safeguarding action plan for the “Whistled Language” element, listed as ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Two practitioners from La Gomera Island, Canary Islands— home to the “Silbo Gomero” whistled language inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List—visited Kuşköy Village, where Turkey’s whistled language is practiced. They exchanged skills, communicated in Turkish and Spanish whistles, and shared safeguarding experiences. The event included presentations by the La Gomera practitioners and fostered international cooperation between both communities.

Gokhan Kaynakci, FP Türkiye



#RESEARCH

Feast of Saint Agatha, Catania, Italy

In Catania, southern Italy, the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law at the University of Rome Unitelma Sapienza is actively supporting the community behind the Feast of Saint Agatha (Festa di Sant’Agata). This important religious and social event is one of Sicily’s most significant traditions, drawing thousands of participants each year in a strong expression of devotion and collective identity. Researchers from the UNESCO Chair collaborate closely with the community to facilitate knowledge exchange and intergenerational transmission, aiming to enhance both local awareness and the Feast’s visibility on the international stage.

#AUDIOVISUAL

Recent video and photo exhibition on Transhumance in Luxembourg

The Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg has recently released a video celebrating the living heritage of transhumance in the country. The IKI-Clip “Wanderschéiferei,” available with English subtitles [here](#) and French subtitles [here](#), features footage and interviews with practitioners of this tradition, which was inscribed on the Representative List in 2023. Transhumance involves the seasonal grazing of sheep across geographically separated areas throughout Luxembourg, guided by shepherd dogs. Links to the Ministry’s Social Media posts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Complementing the video, artist Liz Lambert’s photographic exhibition on transhumance is currently on display at the Centre national de l’audiovisuel: [details here](#).

Patrick Dondelinger, FP Luxembourg



#COLLABORATION

The Czech Ministries of Agriculture and Culture will jointly take care of ICH

On April 4, the Ministers of Agriculture and Culture signed a memorandum to enhance coordination in protecting agricultural ICH, including traditional farming and crafts. The National Institute of Folk Culture will handle UNESCO-related technical matters, while the National Agricultural Museum will oversee agricultural heritage on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture. Currently, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture, their contributory organisations and collaborators are preparing a revision of the list of ICH in the Czech Republic and preparing methodological guidelines.

Pier Luigi Petrillo, UNESCO Chair, Facilitator, Italy



#SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES

Nomination of the programme for the development of the Wallachian dance “odzemek” to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

A collaborative programme between dancers and the Wallachian Open Air Museum is successfully revitalizing the nearly extinct Wallachian odzemek dance through intergenerational transmission and strong community ties. This programme increased interest in the practice and made the dance a meaningful part of participants’ lives beyond the stage—offering personal growth, social connection, and leisure. Recognized as a good practice, the project aims to prepare a nomination for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices by March 2026 to share its methodology globally.

Jan Blazek, FP Czechia



for its management.

Jan Blazek, FP Czechia



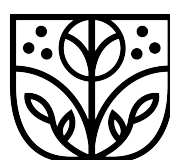
#LOGO

New Logo for the national Inventory of ICH in Austria

In early 2025, the Austrian Commission for UNESCO published a new Logo for entries on the national inventory for ICH. The new logo should help to raise awareness and recognizability of ICH among local communities and on a national level. More info:

<https://www.unesco.at/kultur/immaterielles-kulturerbe/artikel/article/neues-logo-fuer-das-immaterielle-kulturerbe-in-oesterreich-praesentiert>

Cristina Biasetto, FP Austria



**Immaterielles
Kulturerbe
in Österreich**

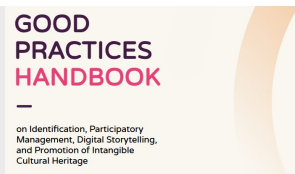
Publications



Museum and Folk Craftsmen: Safeguarding the Craftsmanship Tradition (2024) by Petru Vicol and Elena Cojocari



Europe's Elements on the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (2023) by Miroslav Hrdlička



A Good Practices Handbook on identification, participatory management, digital storytelling, and promotion of intangible cultural heritage (2024) by [HIGHRES](#)

Follow the work of the ENFP on the Internet:



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