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ENFP Newsletter #10

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

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January 2026

Dear members of the ENFP Network,

With the start of the New Year, we have the pleasure of presenting to you the new issue of the ENFP Newsletter. Including information from different parts of Europe, it highlights some of the most important recent and upcoming activities targeted at the implementation of UNESCO 2003 Convention in our region. Whilst **2025 yielded a range of important events**, among which also the launch of **FLAME** European Centre for the Safeguarding of Living Heritage, 2026 is welcomed with anticipation of the **European Heritage Days 2026**, an array of new projects and initiatives related to ICH safeguarding, and – not least, the preparation for the periodic reporting due next year. We strongly believe that in a world of enhancing turbulence and tensions, **our joint work in the care for the living heritage in Europe and around the world will have its say in strengthening the dialogue and stimulating multinational cooperation in the long run**. We rely on your input and submissions for the next issue, envisioned for spring 2026. Have a pleasant reading!

The ENFP Steering Committee

Upcoming Events

#ETHICS ICH

Invitation – Online Exchange on Circus Heritage and Animal Welfare

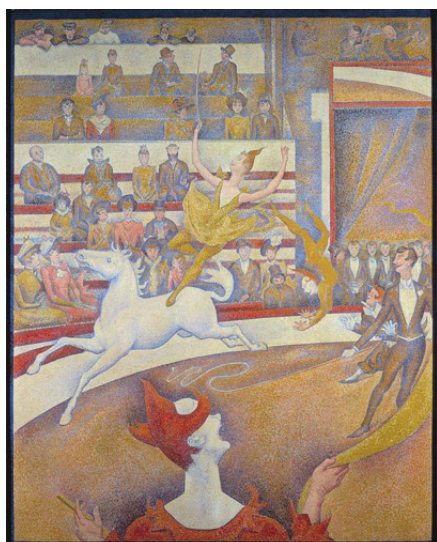
10 February 2026, 10:00–11:30 CET

In Flanders, the circus community is currently working on a file towards the Inventory of ICH. Within this process, **animal welfare** has emerged as an important point of attention. As this topic resonates across Europe, the organizers would like to hear how similar questions are addressed in other countries. They therefore want to organize an **informal online exchange session** open to all interested focal points and colleagues.

During the exchange, the aim is to share experiences on: legal frameworks, ethical considerations, recurring challenges, good practices, pitfalls and lessons learned.

All those interested to share experiences, to learn and discuss in an open, informal and safe setting, please note **10 February 2026 (10-11h30 CET)** in your calendar and send an email to chantal.bisschop@cagnet.be to receive the link to join online. More information: see <https://enfp-ich.eu/ethics-in-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage>

Mieke Witkamp (CEMPER - Center for Music and Performing Arts Heritage in Flanders) & Chantal Bisschop (CAG - Center For Agrarian History)



#NATIONAL INVENTORY #ENFP

Webinar on Inventories

Building on the positive experience of last year's

#CRAFTSMANSHIP

European Heritage Days 2026 – Heritage at Risk: Revive, Resist, Reimagine

The coming theme year of EHD gives again a great change to lift up ICH in the agendas on national and European level. Do contact your national EHD coordinator to see how you could make living heritage at risk visible through shared events and campaigns. More information:

<https://www.europeanheritagedays.com/Shared-Theme/Heritage-at-Risk>

Leena Marsio, FP Finland



#SERIES

New series: “Perspectives of Intangible Cultural Heritage”

The UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of Intangible Cultural Heritage (University of Tartu, Estonia) has launched a new series showcasing research and initiatives on intangible cultural heritage. Featuring lectures and discussions, the series aims to bring together scholars, students and practitioners working on and thinking about the category of intangible cultural heritage and related themes. The first session was held in November 2025. **Until May of 2026** there will be monthly events on different topics. Find more on: <https://kultuuriteadused.ut.ee/en/news/new-series-unesco-chair>

Kristiina Porila, UNESCO Chair, Estonia

webinars, ENFP is preparing a webinar on national inventories to be held in spring. The webinar will address how inventories are developed, the roles of CGIs in the inventorying process, the scope and impact of inventorying, and related topics. Further details, including the official call, will be circulated shortly.

ENFP / Mirela Hrovatin, facilitator, Croatia



Past Events

#INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

20 COM in New-Delhi, India

The [20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage \(20.COM\)](#) was held from 8 to 12 December in New Delhi, India. Hosted in the iconic Red Fort, the session brought together delegations, experts, communities, NGOs and observers from across the world. With more than 1,400 registered participants, this session marked the highest level of participation ever recorded for the Committee, clearly demonstrating the growing importance attributed by States Parties to living heritage and to the implementation of the 2003 Convention in an increasingly complex global context.

<https://enfp-ich.eu/20-com-key-highlights-from-new-delhi>

ENFP Steering Committee



#INVENTORY WORKSHOP

#FLAME

Development of the European Centre – FLAME

In recent months, important steps have been taken in the development of FLAME, the European Centre for the Safeguarding of Living Heritage, envisioned as a future UNESCO Category 2 Centre in Europe. The Centre is taking shape as **a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange and capacity-building in support of the 2003 Convention**. Two cross-cutting priorities guide its work: **inclusion**—promoting participatory, equitable and accessible safeguarding—and **impact**, strengthening and assessing the effects of safeguarding for communities and society. These developments were presented during [20.COM](#) in New Delhi and at the ICH NGO Forum Symposium on inclusion, confirming FLAME's emerging role.

<https://flamelivingheritage.org>

Arno Beunen, Jorijn Neyrinck, Océane Lesot,
FLAME



#INVENTORY UPDATE

ICH Inventorying Workshop – Prague, Czech Republic

On November 25 and 26, 2025, the National Institute of Folk Culture and the National Agricultural Museum organized a seminar in Prague on the inventorying of intangible cultural heritage. The event was supported by the Ministry of Culture and the Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové. This is the second in a series of regular training sessions led by experienced facilitators of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The topic was chosen in light of the recent revision of the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In addition to staff from the organizing and supporting institutions, representatives from institutions responsible for traditional folk culture and intangible cultural heritage also participated.

Jan Blazek, FP Czechia



ETHICS ICH

Ethics in the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

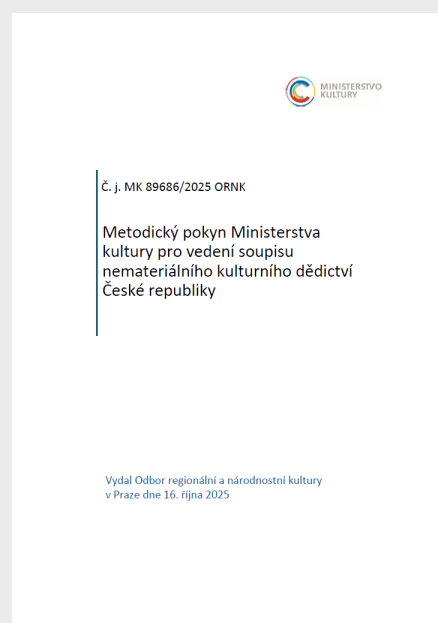
In November, the online series “**ICH and Ethical Issues**”, organized with and for the ENFP, came to a close. Across four sessions, members of the network and professionals working with the Convention exchanged on recurring ethical dilemmas in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The meetings provided a space to share concrete cases, express concerns, and explore possible approaches to addressing ethical challenges. Each session was documented and summarized, with the summaries shared with a wider audience. If you are interested in accessing these summaries, they are available upon request via the ENFP mailing address. An overview of all sessions can also be found here: <https://enfp-ich.eu/ethics-in-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage>

Cristina Biassetto, FP Austria

New list of ICH in the Czech Republic

On October 17, Intangible Cultural Heritage Day, the Ministry of Culture presented new methodological guidelines for maintaining the List of ICH of the Czech Republic. The document, published in September 2025, brings about a fundamental change in the system of caring for living traditions – it understands ICH in its entirety as part of the everyday life of society as a whole, not exclusively as an area of traditional folk culture. The new List of ICH of the Czech Republic, which replaces the original List of Intangible Assets of Traditional Folk Culture, makes an important step by involving also the Ministry of Agriculture in the system of caring for the living heritage. The cooperation between the two ministries is confirmed by the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of ICH, concluded in April 2025. The Ministry of Agriculture will participate in the management of intangible cultural heritage through the National Agricultural Museum.

Jan Blazek, FP Czechia





Projects

#SAFEGUARDING #WOMEN

Women's Education for Community Development

With financial support from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia and initiated by the "Arevatsin" Educational and Cultural NGO, the **"Arevatsin (Handwoven)"** program was implemented in Alaverdi, Odzun, and Akhtala (Lori region). Selected as a winner of the state grant competition for Safeguarding Programs of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the project aimed to support heritage transmission through cultural education and women's empowerment. One hundred women and children were trained in five traditional Armenian handicraft techniques, including weaving, embroidery, and felt-making. The program strengthened social cohesion, creative potential, and income opportunities, and concluded with an exhibition of selected works. See more information [here:](https://escs.am/am/news/31723)

<https://escs.am/am/news/31723>

Naira Kilichyan, FP Armenia

#VISIBILITY

New initiative of promoting ICH in France

The French Ministry of Culture has launched in 2025 an awareness campaign on ICH comprising the publication of a calendar of events, videos, pictures, and articles called "Vivre le patrimoine culturel immatériel":

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/thematiques/patrimoine-culturel-immateriel/vivre-le-patrimoine-culturel-immateriel>.

Lily Martinet, FP France



#SAFEGUARDING

New tools and models strengthen Nordic Musical Heritage

The **ICH North** project strengthened musical heritage in Northern Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Sápmi through community-based collaboration. Over three years, it connected local communities, museums, archives, educators, and cultural entrepreneurs, creating new networks and long-



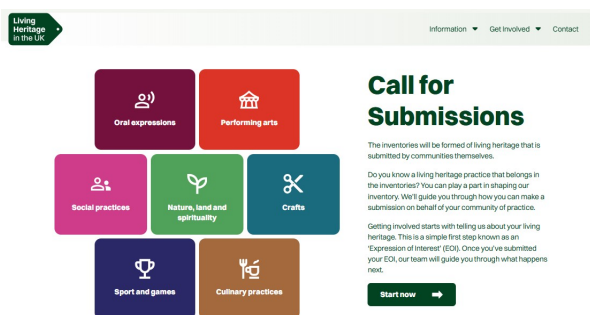
#NATIONAL INVENTORY

UK inventories launch call for submissions

The UK is creating inventories of living heritage through a public call for submissions, running from 5 December to 27 March. Due to the devolved government structure for culture within the UK, individual inventories will be created for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that will combine into the UK inventory.

Following a public consultation in 2025, the UK has expanded and amended the UNESCO domains and will use seven categories: oral expressions; social practices; performing arts; land, nature and spirituality; crafts; sports and games; and culinary practices. Further details about the criteria for the inventory, plus extensive guidance and the 'Expressions of Interest' already received are at www.livingheritage.unesco.org.uk

Phil Foxwood, FP UK



term partnerships. The project produced educational materials, digital tools, and inclusive practices that support bearers and raise the visibility of northern communities often overlooked in national and international contexts. Its freely available, scalable resources offer practical insights into safeguarding and revitalizing musical traditions and can be adapted for use in other regions worldwide. ICH North was funded by the EU Interreg Aurora programme. Explore the resources and the open-access final report: net.centria.fi/hanke/ich-north

Sara Kåll-Fröjdö, expert Finland

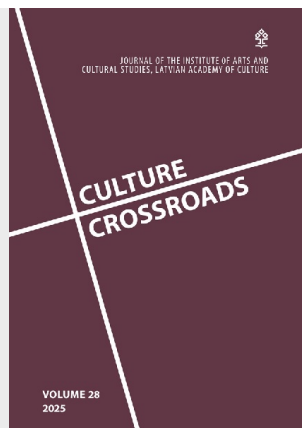


Publications



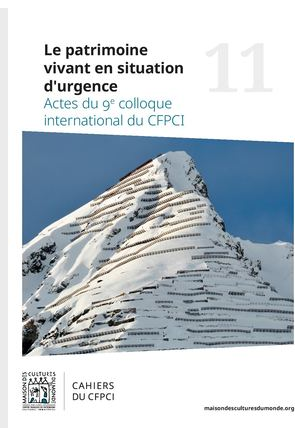
New tool for kids and families in Finland (Finland).

[Find the Document here.](#) as well as the [whole article here](#)



Special issue of the Culture Crossroads Journal on ICH

Selected papers from the international symposium “Naming / Norming: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)”: [Find it here](#)



ICH in emergencies from the French ICH Center (articles in French and English). [Find them here](#)



”WHERE DO LIPOVAN VEGETABLES COME FROM? The Traditional Agroecological System of Knowledge and Vegetable-Growing Practices in the Târgu Frumos Area”. [Abstract in English.](#) [Book in Romanian](#)

NEW ENTRIES IN NATIONAL INVENTORIES

AUSTRIA

[Six new entries in the national inventory](#)

- *The Thomasnikolo-procession in Gams*: A St. Thomas Day procession brings blessings to homes and ends with a village celebration.
- *Hunting of Saint George's*: A spring ritual on St. George's Eve marking the start of grazing season with protective chants.
- *Striezel-throwing in Stein im Jauntal*: Blessed bread loaves are thrown to people from a balcony as a symbol of protection and good fortune.
- *PreberShooting on lake Tamsweg*: Shooting competition where targets are hit by aiming at their reflection in a lake.
- *Tuntathlon* (Vienna): A playful street festival with humorous “sports” that question gender roles.
- *Chamoise tannery*: Traditional fish-oil tanning of wild animal hides, passed down in small family workshops.

Follow the work of the ENFP on the Internet:



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