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ENFP Newsletter #11

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

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May 2026

Dear members of the ENFP Network,

This year marks an important new phase in our activities within the framework of the UNESCO 2003 Convention, with the launch of the renewed **Periodic Reporting** system based on a single global submission framework and a four-year reporting cycle. More than ever, this process **calls for stronger collaboration, mutual support, and the sharing of experiences and methodologies across our network**. It also highlights the growing importance of creating spaces to meet, exchange ideas, and learn from one another.

As always, the newsletter remains one of the most valuable tools for sharing information within the ENFP community. Knowing more about each other's work is itself a powerful way of advancing safeguarding efforts. Here below, you will discover inspiring projects developed both nationally and through international cooperation, recent activities, publications, and upcoming events. We strongly believe that **exchanging experiences from the national and local levels is particularly important**, as this dimension of our work often remains less visible internationally despite being at the very heart of safeguarding practices on the ground. Have a pleasant reading!

The ENFP Steering Committee

ENFP General Meeting – 13 May 2026

ENFP Thematic Initiative on ICH
Inventorying in Europe – 20 May

On 13 May 2026, members of the ENFP Network gathered online for a meeting centered largely on preparations for the upcoming Periodic Reporting cycle, and look ahead to the 11th UNESCO General Assembly in Paris, and updates on several ongoing initiatives, such as the ENFP Ethics Initiative.

An important part of the discussion focused on the upcoming Periodic Reporting cycle and the need to better understand members' expectations and support needs. As at least one quarter of participants were completely new to the reporting exercise, discussions highlighted the importance of practical guidance, peer exchange, and structured cooperation within the ENFP Network. Participants also expressed a preference for more sustainable communication tools — such as email lists, forums, or Teams platforms — to ensure continuous dialogue among focal points and facilitators throughout the reporting process.

The recent ENFP meeting dedicated to ICH inventorying provided an important opportunity to better understand the diversity of inventorying systems currently implemented across Europe. The exchange was further enriched by a series of inspiring presentations from colleagues from Spain, the United Kingdom, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Finland, and Flanders–Belgium. Beyond the exchange of existing practices, the discussions also revealed several interconnected themes that members wish to explore further within the network, including the participation of communities and non-majority groups, strengthening local capacities, monitoring and follow-up after inscription, and the links between inventorying, sustainable development goals, and other policy sectors.

Upcoming Events

#STORYTELLING

Storytelling Marathon in Guadalajara, Spain

On 12-14 June 2026, the 35th edition of the famous Storytelling Marathon / Maratón de los Cuentos will take place in Guadalajara, Spain. Welcoming thousands of participants from all parts of the world, this 46 hours' event is a meeting point of storytellers from different countries to share their stories, demonstrate their skills, and engage the participants in lively practices of heritage transmission. A series of artistic events, presentations, and workshops accompany this major storytelling event, in a lively atmosphere of relishing the power that verbal traditions continue to hold in communities nowadays.

Link: www.maratondeloscuentos.org

Nikolai Vukov, Facilitator Bulgaria

#CRAFTSMANSHIP

ÚĽUV Master Craftsmen Days in Slovakia

On September 5–6, 2026, the 36th edition of the ÚĽUV Master Craftsmen Days will once again transform the city center of Bratislava into a vibrant craft square. Visitors can look forward to a market of master-crafted products, demonstrations of traditional techniques and popular creative workshops for children organized by the ÚĽUV School of Crafts – included in the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Barbora Morongova, FP Slovakia



#CONFERENCE

Important Heritage Conference in Croatia

On 24-26 May, 2026, Croatian Ethnological Society is hosting its annual conference on „Practices, Policies and Transformations of Heritage. “One of the themes is going to be the position and influence of experts on traditional culture, including issues of its heritagization, mediation, valorization, and promotion, especially in relation to the 2003 Convention. [More info here.](#)

Leena Marsio, FP Finland



Past Events

#MUSEUMS

ICH and Museums Congress in Germany

The Congress “ICH in a Museum Context: The Role of Agricultural Museums, Living History Sites and

#URBAN SPACE

Commemoration and Urban Spaces Seminar in Poland

On 13 April 2026, the UNESCO Chair on ICH in Public and Global Governance contributed to the

Archaeological Open-Air Museums” was organized by the International Association of Agricultural Museums at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lorsch Abbey (Germany), on 2–5 March 2026. The event focused on the role that museums dedicated to agricultural practices and rural life can play in safeguarding and promoting agricultural intangible cultural heritage. The congress brought together participants from numerous European countries and the United States, creating an important platform for international exchange on the relationship between museums, living heritage, and community-based safeguarding practices.

[More info here.](#)

Ioana Baskerville, FP Romania



#CAPACITYBUILDING

Capacity-building workshop on museums and ICH in Serbia

The workshop “Museums as Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Agents” was held in Belgrade on 15-17 April, 2026 as part of the Global Capacity-Building Programme. The workshop aimed to strengthen the role of museums as active stakeholders in safeguarding ICH in Serbia, in line with the 2003 UNESCO Convention. Particular emphasis was placed on inclusive and participatory approaches and community-based work with bearers of living heritage, and on the development of sustainable museum practices. The workshop was facilitated by Panayiota Andrianopoulou and Tamara Nikolić-Djerić and was organised in partnership with UNESCO Category 2 Centre for the Safeguarding of ICH in South-Eastern Europe in Sofia and the Centre for ICH of Serbia at the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade, with the

international seminar “Rethinking Commemoration in Urban Spaces,” organized within the World Cities Culture Forum Leadership Exchange Programme. The event explored how commemorative practices in urban environments relate to intangible cultural heritage, public memory, and participatory governance. It brought together city representatives, researchers, and cultural practitioners to reflect on evolving forms of remembrance in contemporary cities. [More info here.](#)

Julia Krzesicka-Haberko, research assistant at UNESCO Chair on ICH in Public and Global Governance, Poland



#LECTURE SERIES

“Perspectives of ICH” Lecture Series in Estonia

The UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of ICH (University of Tartu, Estonia) has just finished the first season of the series “Perspectives of 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. Webpage of the series:

<https://kultuuriteadused.ut.ee/en/content/series-unesco-chair>

If you wish to receive information about the next season as well as other activities of the UNESCO Chair, send an e-mail to unesco.chair@ut.ee

Kristiina Porila, UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of ICH, University of Tartu, Estonia

support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia.

[More info here.](#)

Danijela Filipović, FP Serbia



#LANGUAGE

Seminar on Language and ICH in Poland

On the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance co-organized on 21 May 2026 an international seminar “Language as a Vehicle of Intangible Cultural Heritage,” together with the Centre for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity at the University of Warsaw. Bringing together researchers and practitioners, the seminar focused on the role of language as a key carrier of ICH, addressing issues related to minority languages, cultural diversity, and new technologies.

[More info here.](#)

Julia Krzesicka-Haberko, research assistant at UNESCO Chair on ICH in Public and Global Governance, Poland



#GLASSMAKING

Symposium and Roundtable on Handcrafted Glassmaking in Slovakia

On 14 May 2026 a multidisciplinary symposium and roundtable “Archaeology, History, and the Present of Handcrafted Glassmaking” was held in Slovakia. The event was dedicated to professional discussion on archaeological finds, the history of glass, and contemporary glassmaking, celebrating the tradition and craftsmanship of handmade glass production in Slovakia. It offered a unique opportunity to meet experts, researchers, and creators who contribute to the preservation and further development of this ICH element. [More info here.](#)

Barbora Morongova, FP Slovakia



#ICH IN CRISIS

Safeguarding Living Heritage in Times of Displacement: International Roundtable

The international roundtable “How to Protect Cultural Rights in Motion? Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage amid Displacement and Migration” (27 April 2026) brought together experts from Romania, Ukraine, Portugal, to discuss the protection of living heritage in contexts of crisis, migration, and displacement. Organized by



#EMBROIDERY

Workshop on Kozara embroidery – Bosnia & Herzegovina

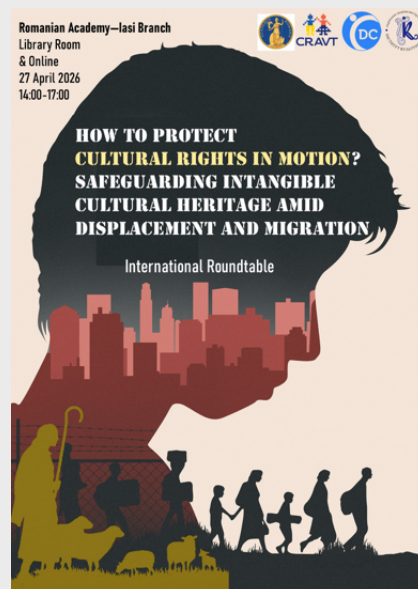
In 2025, the Association for the Safeguarding of Tradition Prijedor organized a workshop on Kozara embroidery, with the aim of safeguarding and promoting this important traditional craft, which is on UNESCO Representative list. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the basic techniques of Kozara embroidery, characteristic ornaments, the symbolism of motifs, and the ways in which this embroidery was used in traditional clothing and everyday life. Through practical work and discussions with experienced instructors, participants developed an awareness of the importance of preserving old crafts and handmade traditions as an essential part of the cultural identity of our region.

Anka Raič, Facilitator Bosnia & Herzegovina



institutions from Romania and Ukraine active in the field of intangible cultural heritage, the event explored how cultural rights can offer meaningful frameworks for safeguarding communities and their living traditions during periods of social disruption and mobility, addressing topics such as emergency safeguarding, diaspora heritage, transhumance. [More info here.](#)

Ioana Baskerville, FP Romania



#DIGITAL AGE

Heritage Lectures in Bosnia & Herzegovina

In May 2026, heritage lectures in Mostar were delivered by Dr. Amareswar Galla and Dr. Sushree Sangita Mohanty. The activity was held in collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy of SUM Mostar. The lectures discussed the future of museum narratives and the ethics of digital mediation in heritage studies, opening thus new perspectives on how to safeguard and present ICH in the digital age.

Anka Raič, Facilitator Bosnia & Herzegovina



Projects

#TRANSMISSION DIASPORA

ICH Transmission Program Implemented in Armenia

With the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, the NGO “Association of Healthcare and Assistance to Older People” is implementing the “Threads of Memory” program. Its aim is to safeguard and transmit the ICH in Armenia by promoting the social inclusion of elderly women and strengthening intergenerational and intercultural ties with young members of the Armenian Diaspora. Led by the experienced embroiderer Armine Khachatryan, the program brings together older and younger generations, and Armenian Diaspora from different countries around the world, in vivid transmission of traditional knowledge and skills in embroidery, carpet weaving, and cultural values in Armenia.

Naira Kilichyan, FP Armenia



#STORYTELLING

ANCESTOR Project: A Net to Catch European Stories and Tales from the Oral tradition

With support from “Creative Europe” Programme of the European Commission, a new project focused on storytelling as living heritage was initiated in 2026. Stepping upon the European Network of Storytelling Sites and Towns (ENSST), ANCESTOR Project involves as partners associations and research centers from Spain, Slovakia, Italy, Latvia, and Bulgaria, in a mission to facilitate the safeguarding and promoting verbal traditions in contemporary world. The project pays special attention to ICH transmission among youth, immigrants, and disabled people, and involves a range of cultural and educational activities – trainings, seminars, storytelling workshops, etc. The project's kick-off meeting was held in Sofia at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Nikolai Vukov, Facilitator, Bulgaria



#PHOTO

Wikimedia ICH Photo Contest in Austria

Since 2023 the Austrian Commission collaborates with the National Wikipedia entity. One principal common activity is the annual photo contest held by Wikimedia Austria. Every year, pictures of the category of “Intangible Heritage” have been selected and awarded. This initiative greatly supports documentation efforts of different practices around Austria.

Cristina Biasetto, FP Austria



#FESTIVAL

European Route of Heritage Folklore Festivals in Bosnia & Herzegovina

Activities are underway to promote the European Route of Heritage Folklore Festivals project and to build a web portal that will display places where certain customs are practiced with a calendar of events, where the inheritors present their elements of ICH. This is a project to promote a new type of cultural tourism offer for the EU area, in which the part for BiH is fully serviced by the Society for the Digitization of Traditional Cultural Heritage (Society for DTCH) accredited in 2022.

Anka Raič, Facilitator Bosnia & Herzegovina



#LANGUAGE #MINORITIES

Minority Languages Project in Estonia

#LANDSCAPE

New Report: First landscape Analysis of living heritage in Flanders- Belgium

In March 2026 a landscape analysis of ICH in Flanders was published. This report presents, for the first time, an overview of ICH communities underpinned by quantitative research and data. The survey was commissioned by the Department of Culture, Youth, and Media and carried out by Workshop intangible heritage (ngo). The Landscape Analysis Report outlines who the heritage communities are, how they are organized, the thematic areas and geographic scales in which they are active, and the needs and challenges they face in safeguarding their practices. The next step will be to further look into these results and present to the Minister of Culture proposals for further sustainable support and policy development for safeguarding ICH. Read the publication [here](#) (in Dutch)

Sophie Muyllaert and Jorijn Neyrinck, FP and Facilitator, Belgium



#CRAFTSMANSHIP

“Rings in Water” Project on Traditional Crafts in Slovakia

In 2026 the Centre for Folk art Production in Bratislava, Slovakia, opened “Rings in Water” – international competition that initiates and supports the creation of new designer products inspired by traditional craft. The event enabled a dialogue about traditional values, how they are safeguarded and how they appear in contemporary craft, applied art and design. Link:

<https://uluv.sk/en/events/rings-in-water-2026/>

Barbora Morongova, FP Slovakia

The UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of ICH (University of Tartu, Estonia) has just finished an international research project on minoritized languages in Europe. Resources developed in this project are available here: <https://www.riseupproject.eu/results/>. They include a digital toolkit, a language map, language resources, exhibition, workshop recordings etc.

Kristiina Porila, UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of ICH, University of Tartu, Estonia



#ICH IN CONFLICT

Project on Museum Reflection of Sensitive Cultural Heritage

Following the successful training workshop “Interpretation of Sensitive Cultural Heritage” in 2025, the activities on the project “GUERRE: WWI Digital Museum for the management of sensitive cultural heritage” continue. The project is supported by the European Commission and is targeted at the establishment of digital museum space for reflecting sensitive cultural heritage related to the First World War in Southeastern Europe. The project encompasses a range of practices and heritage forms (songs, music, art, etc.) and highlights their importance for communities suffering military conflicts. It shows the viability of traumatic heritage across decades, but also the challenges for reflecting these in a digital museum.

Nikolai Vukov, Facilitator, Bulgaria



#MIGRATION

Migration, Security, and ICH Project in Estonia

The UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of ICH (University of Tartu, Estonia) has just started an international research project about migrants' experiences of securitization. The ongoing dramatic changes in the security landscape in the Baltic Sea region have resulted in national membership being increasingly securitized, meaning that it is perceived as a security issue rather than as part of regular politics. [More info here.](#)

Kristiina Porila, UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of ICH, University of Tartu, Estonia

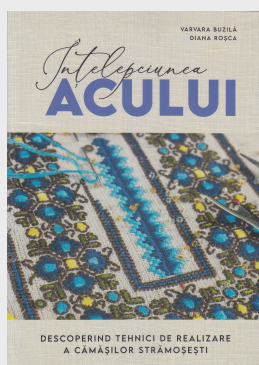




Publications



“TARTUFI, PRŠUT, SUPA”. Truffles, prosciutto, soup - a recent history of Istrian gastronomy. Tanja Kocković Zaborski, 2026, (Croatia). [More info here.](#)



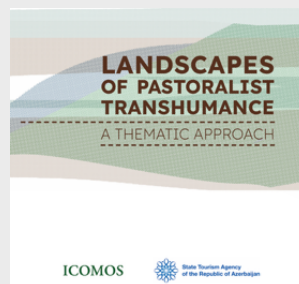
“Înțelepciunea

ARTICLE

Where is ‘democracy’ in ‘the most democratic heritage treaty’? An investigation of the 2003 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention. Krzesicka-Haberko, J., & Schreiber, H. International Journal of Heritage Studies, 2026. [Link to article here.](#)



“Volejú me spievarko” Song



Landscapes of Pastoralist Transhumance: A thematic Approach. ed. Rusudan Mirzikashvili et al., ICOMOS, 2026. [More info here.](#)



“Remeslo so značkou” – on the history of Centre For Folk Art Production in



Traditional crafts as intangible cultural heritage: sharing experience and good practices, Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO, 2026. [More info here.](#)

acului.” Wisdom of the needle.
Discovering techniques of making ancestors' blouses.
Varvara Buzilă,
Diana Roșca, 2026
(Moldova/Romania).

Collection – They Call Me a Singer.
Mária Brdárska,
Janoška-Alžbeta
Lukáčová (Slovakia)
[More info here.](#)

Bratislava. Zuzana
Dedík Šidlíková.
2025. [More info here.](#)

NEW ENTRIES IN NATIONAL INVENTORIES

AUSTRIA

Four new entries on national inventory in 2026: Esperanto culture in Austria, The Pinzgau world of legends: storytelling tradition, narrative style, and storytellers, Use and transmission of Braille, Goldsmithing

Link to new entries: <https://www.unesco.at/presse/artikel/article/vier-neue-eintragungen-im-nationalen-verzeichnis-des-immateriellen-kulturerbes>

SLOVAKIA

New elements (inscribed in 2025) are: Singing at dawn in Hrušov, Decoration of čilejkár women's clothing, Ox-drawn carts at Sihlianska planina, Traditional shepherding, Handmade glass production, Bobbin lace from Gemer, Steam railway heritage, Easter eggs decorated with a wax batik technique using a tube, Čipkárskô (Lace-making). The ceremony will take place on the 25 May 2026.

Link to new elements: <https://www.ludovakultura.sk/en/ich-lists-slovakia/representative-list-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-slovakia/elements-included-in-the-representative-list-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-slovakia/>

Follow the work of the ENFP on the Internet:



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