

Capacity-Building Seminar with International Participation
IDENTIFICATION AND INVENTORYING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL
HERITAGE AS A POWERFUL FACTOR OF ITS SAFEGUARDING

*To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO Convention for the
Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)*

March 25-26, 2013
Minsk, the Republic of Belarus

RECOMMENDATIONS

PREAMBLE

We, the participants of the Capacity-Building Seminar IDENTIFICATION AND INVENTORYING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A POWERFUL FACTOR OF ITS SAFEGUARDING, which was held on March 25-26, 2013 in Minsk (Belarus), **recognizing and reinforcing** the fundamental principles of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; **admitting the importance** of sharing the national experience in its safeguarding at the bilateral and multilateral levels, including actions with the support of UNESCO and other appropriate international and regional organizations; **acknowledging** the challenges and issues related to the life support of the intangible cultural heritage and its preservation for future generations; **recognizing the need and the importance** of the identification and inventory of intangible cultural heritage (hereinafter, ICH) as an effective factor for its further safeguarding, suggest the following RECOMMENDATIONS concerning mainly the creation of an effective system for ICH protection and use, and also the role of the government, NGOs and the practicing communities themselves in building its capacity and providing for its life needs.

1. Legislation and Governance

1.1. To continue the practice of implementing the key provisions of the 2003 Convention by means of the national legislation and to make appropriate provisions in the new Code of Laws on Culture of Belarus, which is currently being elaborated, including:

- 1.1.1. securing the rights of the ICH practitioners through establishing their legal status and associated privileges;
- 1.1.2. establishing the National ICH Safeguarding Committee under the Ministry of Culture, which shall coordinate ICH safeguarding activities, in particular identifying nominations to be inscribed on the State List of the Historical and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Belarus, the preparation and submission of nominations to UNESCO, the issues of monitoring and liability for ICH;
- 1.1.3. establishing an ICH monitoring and protection system at the national and regional levels;
- 1.1.4. securing the legal status and government funding for the National ICH Inventory of Belarus;
- 1.1.5. granting the Berahinya Festival, which presents the best practice for safeguarding of ICH, an international status and secure it by a special provision in the legislation;

- 1.1.6. developing a network marketing model for the effective interaction among the regions and the center, state and non-governmental organizations in safeguarding the ICH;
- 1.2. to develop and adopt a state program for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;
- 1.3. to step up the nomination process at the international level and create a system for the preparation and submission of applications for being inscribed on the international ICH lists;
- 1.4. to include measures to preserve intangible cultural heritage into regional innovation programs;

2. Raising Public Awareness of ICH

- 2.1. In order to ensure the Belarusian public's broad awareness of the values of the intangible cultural heritage:
 - 2.1.1. to offer media to engage in a broad dialogue on safeguarding the ICH, providing for its the vital needs and adapting it to the circumstances of modern life;
 - 2.1.2. to offer the Belaruski Videocenter and the Belarusfilm, National Film Studio, to develop and implement an ICH videodocumenting program by means of employing their technical capacity and potential;
 - 2.1.3. to offer the National State TV and Radio Company to create a series of programs on Belarus' ICH, highlighting its importance for the formation of the national identity and education of future generations;
 - 2.1. 4. to translate into Belarusian and publish on the Zhyvaya Spadchyna Belarusi (the Living Heritage of Belarus) website examples of world best practices of safeguarding ICH, building up on the potential and channels of UNESCO;
 - 2.1.5. to request that the Ministry of Culture and the Sports and Tourism Ministry develop and implement a series of joint programs to support local communities that safeguard ICH.

3. Involving communities and groups in the processes of safeguarding and using ICH

- 3.1. To develop a mechanism for involving ICH practitioners in the process of implementation of the state policy for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including its identification and inventory, as well as its preservation and promotion activities.

4. Building up the educational potential of ICH practitioners (communities, groups, individuals), and curators (state organizations and NGOs)

- 4.1. To develop mechanisms for increasing the capacity of the community representatives (practitioners) and curators (representatives of organizations in charge of safeguarding ICH) to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities and upgrade their education;
- 4.2. to combine online courses and capacity building training for community representatives (practitioners) and curators (representatives of organizations in charge of safeguarding ICH) in order to enhance their skills and educational potential;
- 4.3. To design special training programs, including mentoring, tailored to the needs of the community representatives to enable them to develop financially sound, autonomous and commercially viable projects.

5. International cooperation

5.1. To foster international cooperation and partnership networks, exchange of practices, study tours and trainings for the representatives of the communities, NGOs, ICH safeguarding experts to upgrade their education and build capacity for protection and use of the ICH.

The Seminar participants express their gratitude to UNESCO and the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, the Institute of Culture of Belarus, the National Library of Belarus for organizing and conducting the seminar.

The participants consider it expedient to submit these recommendations to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, and also to the regional and local authorities in charge of culture.

The participants of the seminar call upon all stakeholders, including UNESCO and non-governmental organizations that deal with safeguarding cultural heritage, to adopt the recommendations by the Capacity-Building Seminar with International Participation IDENTIFICATION AND INVENTORYING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A POWERFUL FACTOR OF ITS SAFEGUARDING and render practical assistance to ensure their implementation.