

PRESS RELEASE

Capacity-Building Seminar with International Participation IDENTIFICATION AND INVENTORYING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERIATGE 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**

The capacity-Building Seminar IDENTIFICATION AND INVENTORYING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERIATGE AS A POWERFUL FACTOR OF ITS SAFEGUARDING was held on March 25-26, 2013 in Minsk (Belarus).

The seminar was conducted in the framework of a long-term project on the establishing of the National inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Belarus that is under implementation with the consultative and financial support of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

The project aims the safeguarding and promotion of the living heritage of Belarus particularly through the promotion and implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003); promoting a crucial role of cultural diversity and cultural heritage for sustainable development in Belarus.

The main goal of the seminar was sharing the best practices of identification and inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage of neighboring countries of Belarus and the CIS countries; a discussion of possible challenges and problems associated with these processes, as well as their possible solutions; an assessment of the role of local communities in the inventorying and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage .

The program of the seminar included:

- Presentations by experts from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus of their experiences of the inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Discussion Panels on:

1) Challenges and issues related to the practice of identification and inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage;

2) The role of communities and bearers and the extent of their involvement in the process of inventorying and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

- Development of Recommendations.

Other partners in the preparation and organization of the seminar were the National Library of Belarus, Research Center of the Belarusian Culture, Language and Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Belarusian Committee of the International Council of Museums" ICOM ".

Participants of the seminar were representatives of the regional structures of Belarus responsible for inventorying and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, as well as invited experts from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan.