

## Proposal: European Network of Focal Points for the 2003 Convention (ENFP)

The UNESCO training of Periodic Reporting has been the first opportunity for all designated focal points from Europe to come together in one event. This time has been valuable for us all to share experiences, to get to know each other and learn more, both as one group and divided into regional sub-groups. The experience clearly shows Europe as a region would benefit from closer networking among the focal points. At the same time, developing regional networks could be an inspiring approach for the future of periodic reporting under the Convention globally.

Therefore, we propose to launch an informal European Network of Focal Points for the 2003 Convention (ENFP) in UNESCO Group I and II countries. The network could share ideas and good practices, and learn from each other in order to find better and innovative ways for safeguarding ICH in our countries.

As a starting point we could share our emails and be connected through a mailing list. The list could be used to share information on e.g. events, publications and projects that are accessible to colleagues in the European level. Representing Italy and Finland, we can also organize a first online event on 25th May 2021 (2 p.m. – Paris time) to discuss a network in more detail.

### Things to consider

- The need for more discussion on the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention at national, regional and international levels, with an emphasis on intersectoral and participatory approaches;
- The support provided by the Secretariat, for example in building capacity within States Parties;
- The need to share ideas about the new format for Periodic Reporting and the role of Focal Points; and
- The need to adapt and respond to the current challenging situation due to the Pandemic.

### Main purposes of the network could be as follows:

1. Contribute to the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention at national and regional levels.
2. Encourage dialogue, exchange of expertise, international and intercultural cooperation in the region.
3. Consolidate the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention by supporting existing networks (including of ICH Facilitators, ICH NGO Forum and existing sub-regional networks).
4. Promote peer to peer learning and comparative approaches for the implementation of UNESCO 2003 Convention and the design of related cultural policies.
5. Find synergies with initiatives and instruments at European level, for example those related to the work of European Union, Council of Europe and other regional actors.
6. Contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in the field of ICH.

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