

living HERITAGE

Intangible Cultural Heritage

ACTION PLAN FOR
2019-2022



Finnish Heritage Agency

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INTRODUCTION

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage¹ (hereinafter referred to as the Convention) was adopted in 2003 at the UNESCO General Conference. The implementation of the Convention is supplemented by operational directives³, which are updated regularly. The importance of the Convention is widely recognised around the world, and 178 countries have already ratified the Convention. Finland ratified it in 2013, and the Finnish Heritage Agency is responsible for its implementation at national level.

The aim of the Convention is to promote the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of communities, groups and individuals and raise awareness of the importance of living heritage. The Convention emphasises the role of communities, the importance of the transmission of traditions, promoting cultural diversity and sustainable development.

The Finnish Heritage Agency has previously published a plan for the national implementation of the Convention, commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Culture⁴, and a related action plan for the years 2016–2018⁵. This action plan covers the years 2019–2022. Action plans are drawn up for a fixed term to specify the topical goals and tasks of the implementation plan. If necessary, an action plan can be updated during its term. UNESCO's⁶ overall results framework was approved by the General Assembly of State Parties to the Convention in the summer of 2018. It has been used in preparing the action plan. In addition to this, an online survey was held in the spring of 2019 in order to draw up the action plan; a total of 64 different organisations, as well as private individuals, responded to the survey. In accordance with the Ministry of Education and Culture's appointment decision, the action plan has been prepared as part of the work by the advisory group on intangible cultural heritage. This action plan was drawn up to describe and outline the work related to the UNESCO 2003 Convention in Finland. It also describes how the goals of the Convention will be met at national level. The action plan maps the role of parties operating in the broad field of intangible cultural heritage, states the measures that have been taken so far and defines the goals for the implementation period 2019–2022.

The action plan defines the roles of the parties in relation to implementing the Convention. Inventing living heritage and the related goals are discussed in more detail in Part Two. With regard to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, the focus is on raising awareness; political, legal and administrative measures; transmitting traditions and education; recording and documentation; and research. The plan also specifies goals and measures related to international cooperation.

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- 1 The Finnish Government (2013) The Finnish Government's statute on the implementation of the Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/sopimukset/sopsteksti/2013/20130047>.
- 2 UNESCO (2003) Text of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention>.
- 3 UNESCO (2018) Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage <https://ich.unesco.org/en/directives>.
- 4 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/assets/national-plan-2015.pdf>.
- 5 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/assets/ICH-Action-plan.pdf>.
- 6 <https://ich.unesco.org/en/overall-results-framework-00984>.



The Roma songs are living, oral tradition of the Finnish Roma people. In the picture: *Hilja Grönfors trio*.



The Kaustinen folk fiddling tradition has lived from one generation to another for centuries in the communities in Kaustinen. In 2020, Finland nominates the Kaustinen folk fiddling tradition for inscription into UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

ACTORS

The Ministry of Education and Culture

Finland is a State Party to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and responsible for the commitments of the Convention being met. In Finland, the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the realisation of and reporting on the Convention to Unesco.

The Finnish Heritage Agency

In Finland, the national implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of the Finnish Heritage Agency. The national implementation includes national coordination, the national inventorying of intangible cultural heritage and, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, international cooperation. The Finnish Heritage Agency is responsible for communication related to the Convention at national level.

The Finnish Heritage Agency has a Senior Advisor responsible for coordinating the Convention. In addition to this, the Finnish Heritage Agency prepares for the implementation of the action plan within the boundaries imposed by its budget framework. In 2015–2018, the Agency’s contribution amounted to approximately 0.2 person-years of official work.

The Finnish Heritage Agency distributes discretionary grants for cooperation and development projects⁷ in accordance with the Convention. The aim of the grant is to promote the implementation of the Convention, increase awareness of it and broaden the opportunities of communities to participate with and transmit their heritage.

The advisory group on intangible cultural heritage

The Ministry of Education and Culture has appointed the second advisory group of its kind on intangible cultural heritage⁸ for the 2018–2022 term. The group acts to support the implementation of the Convention and as experts in questions relating to intangible cultural heritage. It meets 2–3 times per year.

The group is tasked with developing methods for recognising the diversity of the different forms of intangible cultural heritage and recording them, promoting good practices in safeguarding and assessing the role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society.

7 <https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/avustukset/avustukset-aineettoman-kulttuuriperinnon-sopimuksen-mukaisiin-yhteistyö-ja-kehittämishankkeisiin-1>.

8 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/en/sopimus-suomessa/asiantuntijaryhm%C3%A4t>.

Accredited NGOs

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with recognised expertise in the field of intangible cultural heritage may request accreditation⁹, i.e. an advisory role, from the General Assembly of the Convention. The accredited organisations contribute to the implementation of the Convention from the perspective of civic society and support implementation at national and international levels. In early 2020, there are a total of 176 accredited organisations. The Finnish Folk Music Institute is the first accredited organisation in Finland.

The Finnish Heritage Agency cooperates with the accredited organisations. The organisations transmit information on the work of NGOs in national and international fields and provide expert assistance in their own field to other intangible cultural heritage actors. An accredited organisation resources its own activities as an advisory organisation. The Finnish Heritage Agency can support projects by accredited organisations with government grants.

Circles of living heritage

Circles of living heritage support the work of the Finnish Heritage Agency in implementing the UNESCO Convention on a voluntary basis. The circles are multidisciplinary networks of actors, through which it is possible to interact with communities, NGOs, museums and other organisations in the field of living heritage. Four circles have been established in total: one in crafts, nature, folk dance and folk music and oral tradition. There are over 70 NGOs, museums, institutes and other organisations represented in these circles.

The Finnish Heritage Agency is responsible for coordinating the activities of the circles at national level. In addition to this, each circle has an organisation responsible for its coordination. A wide variety of community members representing each field participate in the circles, and they are open to new actors. In supplementing the circles, due consideration is given to social, cultural and linguistic diversity as well as minority cultures.

The operating model of the circles is a tool that can be used for different aspects of intangible cultural heritage, in large or small communities. The circles make it possible for communities and practitioners of traditions to participate actively in implementing the UNESCO Convention. The Finnish Heritage Agency participates in the costs of the circles' activities. If needed, the Finnish Heritage Agency advises other, independently created field- or group-specific circles.

9 <https://ich.unesco.org/en/accreditation-of-ngos-00192>.

INVENTORYING

The UNESCO Convention obligates the State Parties to inventory intangible cultural heritage. The inventories reflect the diversity of intangible cultural heritage and contribute to its safeguarding. The community-oriented inventorying process aims to be inclusive, respect diversity, and support safeguarding by communities and groups. Inventorying supports activities related to living heritage in different communities by making this heritage publicly visible.

The inventorying of intangible cultural heritage is carried out on two levels in Finland. The participatory and continuously supplemented Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage¹⁰ offers communities a platform for presenting their own intangible cultural heritage. Nominations for inclusion in the Finnish National Inventory of Living Heritage can be submitted every other year. It is also possible for the elements listed in the National Inventory to be nominated later for inscription on UNESCO's international lists of intangible cultural heritage.

The objective for the term is to increase people's awareness of the Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage by means of communication and encourage communities to use the inventories to make their intangible cultural heritage visible. The aim is to increase the number of *good practices* in particular.

The participatory Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage was opened in February 2016. By February 2020, more than 175 elements of living heritage from 240 different communities in five separate languages have been added to the Wiki-inventory. The Wiki-based inventorying provides communities with an open platform through which they can highlight their own intangible cultural heritage, ranging from individual local phenomena to large-scale national elements.

In addition to this, the Wiki-inventory is used to collect *good practices*, meaning projects, tools and operating models that have been found to be effective in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Proposals for the Wiki can be submitted by communities, NGOs and other groups, who will also be responsible for the content of their proposals. The Finnish Heritage Agency serves as the moderator and administrator of the platform, and has the right to request additions and clarifications to proposed texts and, if necessary, delete inappropriate additions.

Communities can nominate their living heritage element from the Wiki-inventory for inclusion in the National Inventory of Living Heritage.¹¹ The Ministry of Education and Culture decides the elements included in the National Inventory after a proposal by the Finnish Heritage Agency. The advisory group of intangible heritage supports the Agency in the preparation work. The first

10 <https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/>.

11 https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/wiki/EI%C3%A4v%C3%A4n_perinn%C3%B6n_kansallinen_luettelo/en.



A Savonian delight Kalakukko is also made all around Finland.



Foraging for wild greens and herbs, i.e. horta hunting, is a tradition dating back thousands of years. It lives its heydays, along with mushroom- and berry-picking.

52 elements¹² were nominated for inclusion in the National Inventory in 2017. The most recent round of nominations was at the end of 2019. The circles of living heritage and their networks are encouraged to be active in adding elements to the national inventory.

It is possible for elements listed in the National Inventory to be nominated later for inscription in UNESCO's international lists of intangible cultural heritage. The Ministry of Education and Culture decides on the Finnish nominations submitted to UNESCO after the proposal of the Finnish Heritage Agency and the advisory group. Elements not included in the national inventory can also be nominated for inclusion in UNESCO's Register of Good Safeguarding Practices for intangible cultural heritage.

The first Finnish nominations for inscription on UNESCO's representative Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage concern sauna culture in Finland (decision expected in December 2020) and the Kaustinen fiddle tradition (decision expected in December 2021). Finland is also participating in a multinational nomination related to the Nordic clinkerboat tradition. Supported by the advisory group, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish Heritage Agency will draw up an outline of measures for the following nominations during 2020. The work will take the national focus areas of the Convention and UNESCO's guidelines concerning the diversity of the elements into account. Nomination for inscription in the list is also considered with regard to the resources available.

The measures:

- The Finnish Heritage Agency raises awareness of the Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage with communication in different languages.
- The Finnish Heritage Agency encourages new communities, including minorities, to use the inventories to make their own living heritage visible and to work with safeguarding. The aim is to increase the proportion of *good practices* in particular.
- The Finnish Heritage Agency uses its cooperation networks extensively in raising awareness of the inventories in different fields, at both national and the local level, in cooperation with parties such as the regions, municipalities, local heritage associations and the Finnish Local Heritage Federation.
- The Finnish Heritage Agency raises actors' awareness of UNESCO's international lists. During the term, the progress of the first two nominations in UNESCO is monitored. The desired number of elements for Finland is outlined; the number meets both the national criteria as well as UNESCO's policies.

12 https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/wiki/El%C3%A4v%C3%A4n_perinn%C3%B6n_kansallinen_luettelo/valitut/en.

SAFEGUARDING OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

A key concept in the Convention is ‘safeguarding,’ which is dynamic and forward-looking as a concept. The Convention emphasises the changing nature of tradition, which lives in time. A tradition is something that “is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history.”¹³ In the Convention, safeguarding refers to the maintaining of knowledge on traditions by means of practising and transferring culture. The bearers of tradition are at the centre of the safeguarding and transmission of intangible cultural heritage. The state supports communities, associations and people involved in traditions by various means within the framework of its resources. In safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, accessibility and equality are key values. This action plan highlights measures that can be used to promote the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the work on implementing the Convention.

Raising awareness and communication

Communication related to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is based on the communications plan updated in April 2019. The Finnish Heritage Agency is responsible for the communications required by the coordination and communicates about international cooperation together with the Ministry of Education and Culture. The circles are responsible for the communication about their own activities in cooperation with the Finnish Heritage Agency.

The communications emphasise the diversity of intangible cultural heritage, the different elements and the importance of safeguarding. Communications take into account the diversity of the recipients and cooperation parties as well as various minority groups in particular, including the Sámi as an indigenous people. Communications emphasise accessibility, meaning that information is offered through multiple channels and made available in multiple languages. In the communications plan, the core messages are stated as follows:

1. Invitation to join: All messages invite the recipients to learn more about the topic, identify living heritage in their environment and participate actively in the safeguarding process.
2. Activities: The communications emphasise doing things and participating actively. For instance, the wiki-inventory and the living heritage circles offer concrete opportunities for participation.

¹³ The Finnish Government (2013) The Finnish Government’s statute on the implementation of the Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/sopimukset/sopsteksti/2013/20130047>.



Sauna bathing is a dear and a well-know tradition to Finns. The first element Finland nominated for inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage was Finnish sauna tradition.



Mölkky is a parlour game, known by all Finns. The name of the game is that the players need both skills and luck if they wish to win.

3. Communities: The intangible cultural heritage lives in different kinds of groups and communities, and only the communities and individuals themselves can define its manifestations or significance. Implementing the Convention makes the work of the communities and individuals operating in the field visible.

The Finnish Heritage Agency continuously updates the website on intangible cultural heritage¹⁴ it maintains. The updates on the 'Elävä perintö' (Living Heritage) Facebook page¹⁵ reach several hundred, sometimes even thousands of people every day. On social media, one of the key means of maintaining the uniformity of communication is making use of the hashtag #elävaperintö (#livingheritage) in tweets.

The speeches held during cooperation seminars organised by the Finnish Heritage Agency shall be recorded and made available on the 'Elävä perintö' (Living heritage) YouTube channel¹⁶. By the end of 2019, a total of 25 seminars have been held, and the nearly 200 170 videos on the seminars have already reached more than 38,000 views.

Field-specific living heritage online publications are published as a part of the activities of the circles. So far, 'Itsetekemisen perinne – käsityöt ja elävä aineeton kulttuuriperintö' (2017) on the tradition of crafts, making things and living intangible cultural heritage as well as 'Elossa – luonto ja elävä kulttuuriperintö' (2017) on nature and living heritage have been published.

The measures

1. The Finnish Heritage Agency produces communication materials related to the UNESCO Convention and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in different languages and disseminates it widely for the use of the media and the actors in the field. Living heritage circles, accredited organisations and the parties included in the inventories also act as messengers.
2. The Finnish Heritage Agency supports the opportunity of communities to participate actively in the implementation of the Convention by organising regional and field-specific seminars and events. The events aim to highlight the diversity of society and take the different language groups into account.
3. Together with the circles and accredited NGOs the Finnish Heritage Agency coordinates accessible network meetings that increase cooperation between the actors in the field and deepen expertise related to safeguarding.
4. The Finnish Heritage Agency highlights the ethical guidelines¹⁷ drawn up by UNESCO in different contexts and raises awareness about them.

14 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/en/>.

15 <https://www.facebook.com/elavaperinto/>.

16 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/en/unesco-convention>.

17 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/fi/unescon-sopimus>.

5. During 2019, the Finnish Heritage Agency draws up the Wheel Chart of Sustainability and Intangible Cultural Heritage¹⁸ in cooperation with the Arts Promotion Centre Finland and other interest groups and promotes it worldwide.
6. The Finnish Heritage Agency develops models and methods in cooperation with cultural memory organisations on raising awareness of intangible cultural heritage in their own field or specialty in regions and municipalities. The perspectives of minorities are also taken into account.
7. The Finnish Heritage Agency and the circles develop the work at living heritage clinics at events and with different kinds of communities. The clinic method is disseminated for the use of other actors, too, and a method guide for holding a living heritage clinic is created.
8. The Finnish Heritage Agency implements a communication campaign in connection with the nomination of the first international element, in which the work of skilled practitioners of living heritage is publicised, taking diversity into account.

Increasing the role of living heritage in the society

The goal of the Convention is to ensure that the importance of intangible cultural heritage for people and communities is recognised by the different parts of society in the development work. It is important that the participation of communities, groups and individuals in the work on cultural heritage is widely enabled in a way that safeguards their self-esteem and mutual respect. Cultural policy, education policy and the legal and administrative programs and plans of other fields as well as their implementation shall reflect the diversity of the intangible cultural heritage, human rights, and the right to participate in defining the cultural heritage and its use that starts at individual level. Everyone shall also have the right to position themselves outside the jointly defined cultural heritage.

Intangible cultural heritage has only recently emerged as a term in Finnish legislation. The new Municipal Cultural Activities Act (166/2019) urges municipalities to promote the use and preservation of cultural heritage as well as activities that support and develop local identity. In the motivation for the act (HE 195 /2018 vp),¹⁹ intangible cultural heritage has also been included within the scope of cultural heritage.

“In this act, cultural heritage refers to both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Among other things, tangible cultural heritage includes objects, works of art, photographs, documentation of natural sciences and documents, and the built environments, ancient relics and landscapes included in the cultural environment. Intangible cultural heritage includes but is not limited to oral tradition, performing arts and customs as well as skills, knowledge and

18 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/en/article/kestavan-kehityksen-kompassi-ja-aineeton-kulttuuriperinto>.

19 HE1952018 vp https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/HallituksenEsitys/Sivut/HE_195+2018.aspx.

practices. Preserving and using cultural heritage refers to safeguarding the local cultural heritage and tradition, raising awareness about it, and its availability. Cultural heritage could also be used as a resource in local development and the innovation of new creative activities. Supporting the local identity and local community work could consist of, for example, the activities of local museums or other ways of preserving, using and transmitting the local tradition to others, as well as the civic activity of the residents.”

The act opens up new possibilities for intangible cultural heritage actors and also challenges municipalities to take living heritage into account and support it even more strongly in their work. Raising the awareness of municipalities about the intangible cultural heritage both locally and at national level is justified.

The Government Programme of Prime Minister Antti Rinne/Sanna Marin²⁰ states in the section on youth, culture and sport that it will “make sure that intangible cultural heritage is safeguarded.” In addition to this, the plan for drawing up a cultural heritage strategy included in the Government Programme opens up possibilities for its part to define the societal importance of intangible cultural heritage.

The Finnish Heritage Agency continues the work, in which tools and methods are created for different actors in society to work with the intangible cultural heritage on a practical level, too. In the cooperation with different actors, models, tools and concrete examples of how to do work related to the intangible cultural heritage together with the practitioners of the tradition while respecting everyone’s right to cultural self-definition and in compliance with sustainable development.

The measures:

- 1.** During the term of the programme, the Finnish Heritage Agency raises awareness of the intangible cultural heritage in municipalities in cooperation with municipal actors.
- 2.** With regard to government grants, the Finnish Heritage Agency investigates opportunities for additional funding for intangible cultural heritage as a part of implementing the Government Programme.
- 3.** The Finnish Heritage Agency actively highlights the role of intangible cultural heritage when preparing the new cultural heritage strategy.
- 4.** In cooperation with actors from different fields, the Finnish Heritage Agency creates targeted models and methods for different cultural actors, taking minorities into account.

20 Programme of Prime Minister Antti Rinne’s Government 6 June 2019: INCLUSIVE AND COMPETENT FINLAND – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society. <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161664>.

Education and transmission

The transmission of tradition and its continuous development is critical for ensuring the vitality of intangible cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage is mostly transmitted in families or communities through interaction between people. As the world and the society change, the ways of transmitting tradition are in a flux. Intangible cultural heritage is transmitted not only through education and leisure activities, but also in online communities, for example. Thanks to technology, the different forms of living heritage around the world are within our reach.

The prerequisite for transmitting the tradition is that the community has the necessary ability to practice intangible cultural heritage as well as the will to transmit its skill to the next generations and other interested parties, and by those means to safeguard the existence and continuity of intangible cultural heritage. The practitioners of a tradition should be offered financial and informational support for the practice and transfer of tradition to the next generations.

Educational institutions can support living cultural heritage and its transfer in different ways. The perspective of training and education, provided by the Convention, means highlighting the themes of intangible cultural heritage at different levels of education and securing education in fields related to it. It also means taking the issues of diversity and multilinguality into consideration. The key is that the communities and practitioners of tradition who carry the cultural heritage are involved in developing education on their tradition. From the perspective of the implementation of the Convention, it is important that cultural heritage is taken into account as a part of the curriculum for early childhood education and care, basic education and general upper secondary school as well as local curricula. Basic education plays an important role in teaching many artistic and practical subjects as well as transmitting traditions and ensuring the vitality of cultural heritage. In addition to this, the topics of living heritage often cross subject borders. Schools offer opportunities for the maintenance of skills related to intangible cultural heritage. Additionally, vocational education is significant in terms of long-term transfer of skill and the maintenance of professional identity. The materials on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage intended for educational institutions must be increased and developed further.

By supporting and developing new and existing forms of cooperation between cultural memory organisations, educational institutions and practitioners of tradition, the expertise related to intangible cultural heritage can be strengthened on both sides and the awareness children and young people have of intangible cultural heritage can be enriched. The knowledge of teachers and educators on intangible cultural heritage should be increased as a part of basic and continuing education. Study modules on intangible cultural heritage should be created for education in universities of applied sciences; the study modules would deepen practical expertise on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage implemented in cultural organisations and cultural memory organisations. Study modules on intangible cultural heritage should also be included in the

OSK Lumimuutos, 2017



Vendaces are fished with a winter seine i.a. in Puruvesi, Southern Savonia.

Lissu Rossi



Everyman's rights enable mushroom-picking and exploiting all other things the forests offer in Finland.



Conferment of Master's Degrees is organized in four universities in Finland, and various festivities are included in the tradition.



Watching the Declaration of Christmas Peace in Turku from the television or on the spot in the Old Great Square is part of the Christmas Eve routine's for many Finns.

curricula of art education institutions. The first Finnish example is the ‘Aineeton kulttuuriperintö’ (Intangible cultural heritage) online course offered by the Centria University of Applied Sciences in Kokkola, Finland.²¹

A broad and highly organised field operates outside the education system. Educational institutions offering basic education in art as well as other art education actors and the field of adult education, i.e. folk high schools, study centres and summer universities, do a great deal of work relating to intangible cultural heritage in the fields of music, dance, theatre and circus art, literary art, handicrafts and visual arts, for example. Several central organisations and thousands of culture and leisure associations operating in Finland are important actors in the transmission of living cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage also lives in groups of enthusiasts and online communities.

During the term, the visibility of content related to intangible cultural heritage is promoted in education and training. In addition to this, the mutual networking of communities, institutions and practitioners of tradition related to the topic is facilitated. The Finnish Heritage Agency shall engage in close cooperation with the actors operating in this field for the purpose of organising events and seminars, for example.

The website opi.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi²² is used to highlight the importance of intangible cultural heritage, encourage schools to discuss the issue and inspire children and young people to consider their own cultural heritage and learn more about the practitioners of tradition in their own region. The website was developed in cooperation with the Association of Cultural Heritage Education in Finland, and it was launched in 2018. The website is available in Finnish and Swedish.

Cultural Education Plans²³ are one way to bring intangible cultural heritage closer to children and young people while also committing the municipality to joining. By drawing up a Cultural Education Plan, municipalities can support systematic, goal-oriented cultural education that progresses by grade and applies to all children and young people in the municipality. The plan supports the realisation of the cultural rights of children and young people, i.e. receiving skills, knowledge and experiences related to art, culture and cultural heritage as a part of their school day. At the moment, more than half of Finns live in an area with a Cultural Education Plan.

The measures:

1. The Finnish Heritage Agency and the Association of Cultural Heritage Education in Finland continue to expand the website opi.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi in Finnish and

21 <https://campusonline.fi/en/course/aineeton-kulttuuriperinto/>.

22 <https://opi.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/fi/>.

23 <http://kulttuurikasvatussuunnitelma.fi/en/>.

in Swedish and promote it with actors in the education and training sector through media and events. The material on different fields on the learning material site is supplemented together with the circles of living heritage.

2. The participation of children and young people in particular in considering living heritage and the production of related materials is strengthened. The Finnish Heritage Agency encourages schools to produce ‘Meidän perintö’ (Our Heritage) articles for the²⁴ Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage. The inclusion of minority languages and cultures is taken into account.
3. The Finnish Heritage Agency supports municipalities and local actors (organisations and cultural memory organisations) in including intangible cultural heritage topics in their work and activities, in cooperation with the Finnish Association for Cultural Heritage Education, the Finnish Local Heritage Federation and other organisations.
4. During the term, the Finnish Heritage Agency organises at least one UNESCO-certified intangible cultural heritage training course for interest groups in the field, especially the communities behind the elements of the national inventory. Increasing the capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is a special goal.
5. The Finnish Heritage Agency supports intangible cultural heritage development and cooperation projects with discretionary government grants.²⁵

Documentation

Cultural memory organisations have an important task in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage through the documentation and transmission of living tradition to the public at large. There is a comprehensive library, archive and museum sector in Finland. Alongside them, national institutions that have special tasks, such as the Finnish Heritage Agency/the National Museum, the National Archives, the National Library, the Institute for the Languages of Finland, the National Audiovisual Institute, the Finnish Literature Society, the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland and the Finnish Broadcasting Company. They are, for their part, responsible for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage for future generations. Actors from the third sector and private persons also play their own role in the documentation of intangible cultural heritage, which should, however, be supported more firmly with the help of the Convention.

In the documentation of intangible cultural heritage, it is important to observe the accessibility and usability and the ensured preservation of information in electronic environments. Additionally, the material shall also be made available locally and through information networks in accordance with the principles of open data.

24 https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/wiki/Meid%C3%A4n_perint%C3%B6/en.

25 <https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/avustukset/avustukset-aineettoman-kulttuuriperinnon-sopimuksen-mukaisiin-yhteisty-ja-kehittamishankkeisiin-1>.

The Convention encourages museums and archives to develop their work on intangible cultural heritage in parallel with documenting historical materials into cultural heritage activities that take place in the present and affects the future already in itself. This can be done as a part of contemporary documentation, for example. The voluntary participation of people and respecting human rights are necessary in this kind of work. The TAKO cooperation by Finnish museums²⁶ offers opportunities to develop work on contemporary documentation and cooperation between museums with regard to intangible cultural heritage, too.

The work of museums and other cultural memory organisations is supported by developing tools and improving instructions. It is important to take intangible cultural heritage in all its diversity into account in the strategy and policy programmes of museums.

Utilising the methods of new technology and modern documentation provides cultural memory organisations with new types of opportunities and means of documenting intangible cultural heritage, too. The new methods offer means for organisations to participate and a way for cultural memory organisations to act as a part of the process of safeguarding the vitality of living heritage.

In connection with the work on recording and documenting intangible cultural heritage, attention must be paid to the availability and usability of documentation on one hand, and the protection of privacy and the right of people to define their own cultural existence themselves on an individual level on the other hand. Traditions themselves do not have an owner, but issues relating to copyright are involved in presenting and utilising traditions. The common systems and standards of cultural memory organisations may support the ease of the discovery of the materials, their availability, usability and long-term preservation.

The objective for the term is to strengthen the perspective of intangible cultural heritage in the work of cultural memory organisations (museums, archives and libraries) and to incorporate the documentation of intangible cultural heritage into their standard operation.

The measures

1. The Finnish Heritage Agency takes cultural memory organisations into account as a key partner in issues such as communications and organising events.
2. The participation of memory organisations in the activities of the circles and the inventorying is ensured. In practice, memory organisations can, for example, organise inventorying and train personnel whose work involves intangible cultural heritage on how to document materials. The Finnish Heritage Agency steers the circles to collabo-

26 TAKO is an acquisitions, documentation and collection collaboration network for professionally managed Finnish museums
<https://www.museovirasto.fi/en/museoalan-kehittaaminen/tyokalut-ja-verkostot/tako>.

rate with memory organisations and the TAKO network in matters related to recording and documentation.

3. The Finnish Heritage Agency collaborates with the TAKO network of professional Finnish museums for the purpose of raising awareness of intangible cultural heritage by means of communications and organising events.
4. During the term, the expertise of the museum field in recording intangible cultural heritage via events and publications is deepened. Good Finnish examples are highlighted and international experiences are utilised in the *ICH and Museums* project in particular²⁷.
5. The resources of museum work related to intangible cultural heritage are strengthened. The Finnish Heritage Agency awards several different types of grants²⁸ to professional and other kinds of museums for projects related to intangible cultural heritage.

Research

The objective for the term is to strengthen networks in the field of research, university education related to intangible cultural heritage and relevant networks, and to seek opportunities for cooperation. Research cooperation prioritises critical and analytical research and the freedom of choosing the subjects of the research.

The information generated by the research, regarding intangible cultural heritage, is important to the documentation and understanding of tradition as a part of the life of people and communities. Additionally, researched information is required on how the mechanisms relating to intangible cultural heritage work, and how they and the safeguarding itself affect intangible heritage and the people and nature living in its sphere of influence. The research should create information that assists with the responsible applications of cultural heritage, i.e. in practical activities in different societal contexts. The research may provide support in the creation of safeguarding programmes for endangered forms of intangible cultural heritage. In order for the documentation and research to be considered safeguarding measures, the research shall be conducted in cooperation with the community in question. It shall also be directed at the transfer and continuous use of intangible cultural heritage. The research results shall be open and available for the use of communities. The research may include intangible cultural heritage co-creation processes together with communities. In that case, a responsible approach that respects the self-definition of the participants is especially important.

27 <https://www.ichandmuseums.eu/en>.

28 <https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/avustukset>.



Clinker boats have been indispensable means for transportation in the land of thousand lakes. Finland is participating in the Nordic application concerning the clinker boat tradition nominated for inscription into UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.



Ryas have been made in Finland from the 15th century, and still nowadays they carry a significance as various utility articles and decoration.

The research activity is, in particular, the responsibility of universities and universities of applied sciences. In addition to universities and universities of applied sciences, research relating to intangible cultural heritage is conducted by different cultural memory organisations and multi-disciplinary community organisations. Research projects, researchers, research institutes and scientific associations also cooperate with archives in gathering intangible cultural heritage. In that case, the gathered material is stored in the archive for research purposes in a broader sense.

Universities play an important role in the academic teaching and research of intangible cultural heritage in a range of subjects. In particular the subjects of ethnology, folkloristics, anthropology, museology, cultural politics, cultural studies, cultural heritage studies and folklore studies as well as art subjects are related to this. In addition to the subjects of cultural studies, linguistics is also important in the context of intangible cultural heritage. In terms of the official languages of our country, the Sámi language and culture, the Roma language and culture, and sign language are studied at university level.

Measures:

- The Finnish Heritage Agency cooperates with university subjects working with intangible cultural heritage. This cooperation can consist of theses, traineeships in higher education institutions, collaborative preparation of course content, research seminars and cooperation in research and development projects.
- The aim is to incorporate research information in the inventorying. For example, in the wiki-inventory the Finnish Heritage Agency instructs communities to use the research information produced in various fields as information sources, while at the same time steering new audiences to discover this information.
- Educational institutions are encouraged to use the wiki-inventory as well as video recordings of seminars²⁹ related to the Convention as teaching and research materials. In addition to this, educational institutions are encouraged to cooperate with local communities or ones related to the field in order to supplement the inventories.
- The Finnish Heritage Agency encourages the circles to include actors carrying out research in their own field in their activities. Awareness of current research related to intangible cultural heritage in Finland and internationally is raised by transmitting information via different channels.
- The Finnish Heritage Agency and the advisory group of ICH do their part to promote an UNESCO Chair³⁰ on intangible cultural heritage in Finland.

29 Elävä perintö Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLHQsHT247LhZ242CeX8HtA>.
30 <https://en.unesco.org/unitwin-unesco-chairs-programme>.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International cooperation is an important part of implementing the Convention. The goal is that the State Parties of the Convention work together to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. This may be done through different kinds of projects, programmes and multinational nomination processes. The parties shall engage in international networking and institutional cooperation.

The Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Heritage Agency monitor the international implementation of the Convention. The Finnish Heritage Agency acts as an expert for Finland in matters relating to the international implementation of the Convention.

The objective for the term is to increase the international cooperation conducted for the purpose of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. This means supporting international networking between actors, facilitating active cooperation between actors involved in the implementation of other international conventions related to cultural heritage and increasing expertise regarding matters related to the international implementation of the Convention.

During the term, the Finnish Heritage Agency aims to share information, expertise and experiences in international networks. This type of cooperation offers opportunities to present Finnish know-how and good practices relating to intangible cultural heritage. As such, it is crucial that Finland participates in the activities of the cooperative network regionally as well as globally. The annual meetings of the coordinators of the Convention in the Nordic countries are an example of this. During the previous term, Finland received a lot of good visibility via the Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage, and it has been presented in several different countries. In addition to this, Finland has played an active role in the development of the Convention's Overall Results Framework³¹ in two different expert meetings.

Supporting networking

The objective for the term is to support international networking between the actors in the field for the purpose of promoting the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. A particular aim is that in the Nordic countries and the Baltic states, the organisations involved in the implementation of the Convention are aware of each other's processes and engage in active exchange of experiences. The international cooperation between communities and NGOs is strengthened and existing networks become more international. This cooperation can include the preparation of joint international nominations or the sharing of good safeguarding practices, for exam-

31 <https://ich.unesco.org/en/overall-results-framework-00984>.

ple. A good example of this is the website Nordic Safeguarding Practices³², where Finnish NGOs among other Nordics created a platform to share these practises. In 2019, the Nordic-Baltic Intangible Heritage Network³³ was established in Finland; Finnish organisations in the field are encouraged to join its activities to put the experiences into practice and strengthen cooperation.

During the term, the development of international cooperation focuses particularly on increasing cooperation between the Nordic countries and the Baltic states. A three-day international conference “Living Heritage in the Nordic countries”³⁴ was held in Finland in the autumn of 2019 with 160 participants from 12 different countries.

From a regional perspective, one important form of cooperation is the multinational nomination of elements for inscription in UNESCO’s lists of intangible cultural heritage. Countries in the Nordic and Baltic regions have many shared traditions, and UNESCO encourages State Parties to nominate elements for inscription jointly. Multinational nominations can help to build closer relations, develop new kinds of project activities and share good safeguarding practices. At the same time, multinational nominations can increase the visibility of intangible cultural heritage in all the countries involved. The first joint nomination Nordic clinkerboat traditions includes all Nordic countries and has been submitted to UNESCO in the spring of 2020.

Synergy between international conventions

The implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage also concerns a number of other international cultural heritage conventions. Among UNESCO’s conventions, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage³⁵ (so-called World Heritage Convention from 1972) in particular is closely related to the Convention on intangible cultural heritage. In addition to this, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions³⁶ (from 2005) also contains several points of convergence with intangible cultural heritage. The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme³⁷, on the other hand, is intended to preserve the heritage of archives and libraries. In addition to this, in 2017 Finland ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society³⁸ (also known as the Faro Convention), which increases the importance of participation by communities for its part. The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe³⁹ (from 2000) is also closely connected to intangible cultural heritage related to nature in particular; Finland ratified it in 2006.

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32 <https://www.hanaholmen.fi/event/living-heritage-in-the-nordic-countries/>.
33 <http://www.kansanmusiikki-instituutti.fi/toiminta/nordic-baltic-ich-network/>.
34 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/en/event/living-heritage-in-the-nordic-countries>.
35 <https://www.museovirasto.fi/en/about-us/international-activities/world-heritage-in-finland>.
36 https://www.finlex.fi/fi/sopimukset/sopsteksti/2007/20070017/20070017_2.
37 <https://www.maaailmanmuisti.fi/index.php?page=frontpage>.
38 <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/sopimukset/sopsteksti/2018/20180050>.
39 <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/sopimukset/sopsteksti/2006/20060014>.

Cooperation at UNESCO level

Over the course of the term, expertise in matters related to the international implementation of the Convention is increased. The related international cooperation includes participation in the operations of the organs of the UNESCO Convention. The implementation of Finland's UNESCO policy is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and other ministries as well as the Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OECD and UNESCO. Finland is a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO for 2018–2021.

In regard to intangible cultural heritage, Finland participates in the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage every other year. In addition to this, Finland participates as an observer in the annual meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention. During the term, Finland actively participates in other expert meetings within the framework of its resources.

The country-specific reports sent to UNESCO are drawn up every six years. Finland will report to UNESCO in 2021 at the same time with other European countries.

The measures:

1. In late 2019, the Finnish Heritage Agency organises the international cooperation seminar *Intangible Heritage in the Nordic countries*⁴⁰.
2. Good safeguarding practices are also disseminated internationally. For its part, the Finnish Heritage Agency raises awareness of the website *Nordic Safeguarding Practices* by having new examples from Finland translated for and published on the site.
3. The Finnish Heritage Agency monitors the activities of the Nordic and Baltic ICH network.
4. The Finnish Heritage Agency provides expert assistance concerning multinational nominations for inscription in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The decisions on Finnish participation in multinational nominations are made on a case-by-case basis by the Ministry of Education and Culture based on a proposal of the Finnish Heritage Agency, supported by the advisory board on ICH. The Finnish Heritage Agency cooperates closely with accredited NGOs and provides expert help in connection with accreditation.

40 <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/fi/tapahtuma/living-heritage-in-the-nordic-countries>.

