

**December 2017**

Working Group Research meeting in Korea focused on identifying and inventorying of ICH.

The mini symposium of the ICH-NGO Forum Working Group on research took place on Wednesday, 6 December 2017, during the Intergovernmental Committee meeting in Jeju, South-Korea. The lively meeting, chaired by coordinator Albert van der Zeijden, drew much attention from researchers and heritage workers alike, accredited as NGOs to this convention. Already during the capacity building workshop of the NGOs the role of the researchers was discussed. Valentina Zingari introduced the concept of 'collobrative' or 'participatory' research as an interesting topic which might be discussed during a next meeting of the Working Group Research.

The topic of the mini-symposium was the identification and inventorying of intangible cultural heritage, and the possible dilemmas it might raise. There were inspiring presentations by Lluís Garcia Petit, Dag Feldborg and Antoine Gauthier. Starting from specific case studies Lluís Garcia Petit mentioned some of the challenges the UNESCO convention might pose when inventorying ICH. An ICH inventory should be about living traditions, recognized by communities, but how can you verify these criteria and for instance measure the transmission from generation to generation? Researchers could be very helpful to address such questions.

Dag Feldborg explored the concept of 'heritage bearer' and how to give it a more clear and workable definition. His suggestion: A bearer is a 'Member of an community who recognizes, reproduces, transmits, transforms, creates and forms a certain culture.' What makes his suggestion valuable is that apart from the role of practitioner it also includes different roles such as 'creator' (most active in transforming and changing social practices) and 'custodian' (someone taking care safeguarding a specific element of ICH ).

Last but not least there was a talk of Antoine Gauthier. His talk was about how to Measure and Monitor ICH Safeguarding and what Framework, Indicators, and Outcomes could be relevant for this. On this topic Antoine recently published a book that you can access by way of the following link: <http://patrimoinevivant.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Etat-des-lieux-du-patrimoine-immateriel-2e-edition.pdf>

**More information about the Working Group Research:**

The Working Group Research was established in Windhoek, Namibia, in 2015. Its aim is to encourage exchange of knowledge and information among the members of the ICH-NGO Forum and strengthening the cooperation between the heritage workers in the field and the researchers. Working Group Meetings always take place during the General Assembly and Intergovernmental Committee Meetings, where members of the ICH-NGO Forum can present topics which they have researched or want to discuss.

Members of the Working Group Research include: Albert van der Zeijden, Egil Bakka, Ananya Bhattacharya, Chiara Bortolotto, Naila Cerabasic, Y.H. Chishi, Nihal Kadioglu Çevik, Harriet Deacon, Dag Feldborg, Antoine Gauthier, Hanhee Hahm, Martin Andrade Pérez, Lluís Garcia Petit, Saifur Rashid, Hanna Schreiber, Laurier Turgeon, N. Urtnasan, Valentina Zingari  
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