

The role of NGOs and Safeguarding experiences

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As Intangible Cultural Heritage practices is connected to individuals, groups and communities, reflections over the NGOs role and experiences from the field will be an important part of the implementation of the convention. The NGOs work in the field, in the communities and with individuals, practitioners and bearers. I believe that by creating platforms for sharing experiences from the field we can learn from each other, improve our performance, our work, and our methodology. In my presentation I will in particular present two examples that I know quite well:

The first one is the accredited NGOs online journal #HeritageAlive, for which I have been the editor-in-Chief since 2012. Second, I will mention the new Nordic site <https://www.nordicsafeguardingpractices.org/> which is one of the outcomes of the network with Nordic NGO representatives, working in the field of ICH.

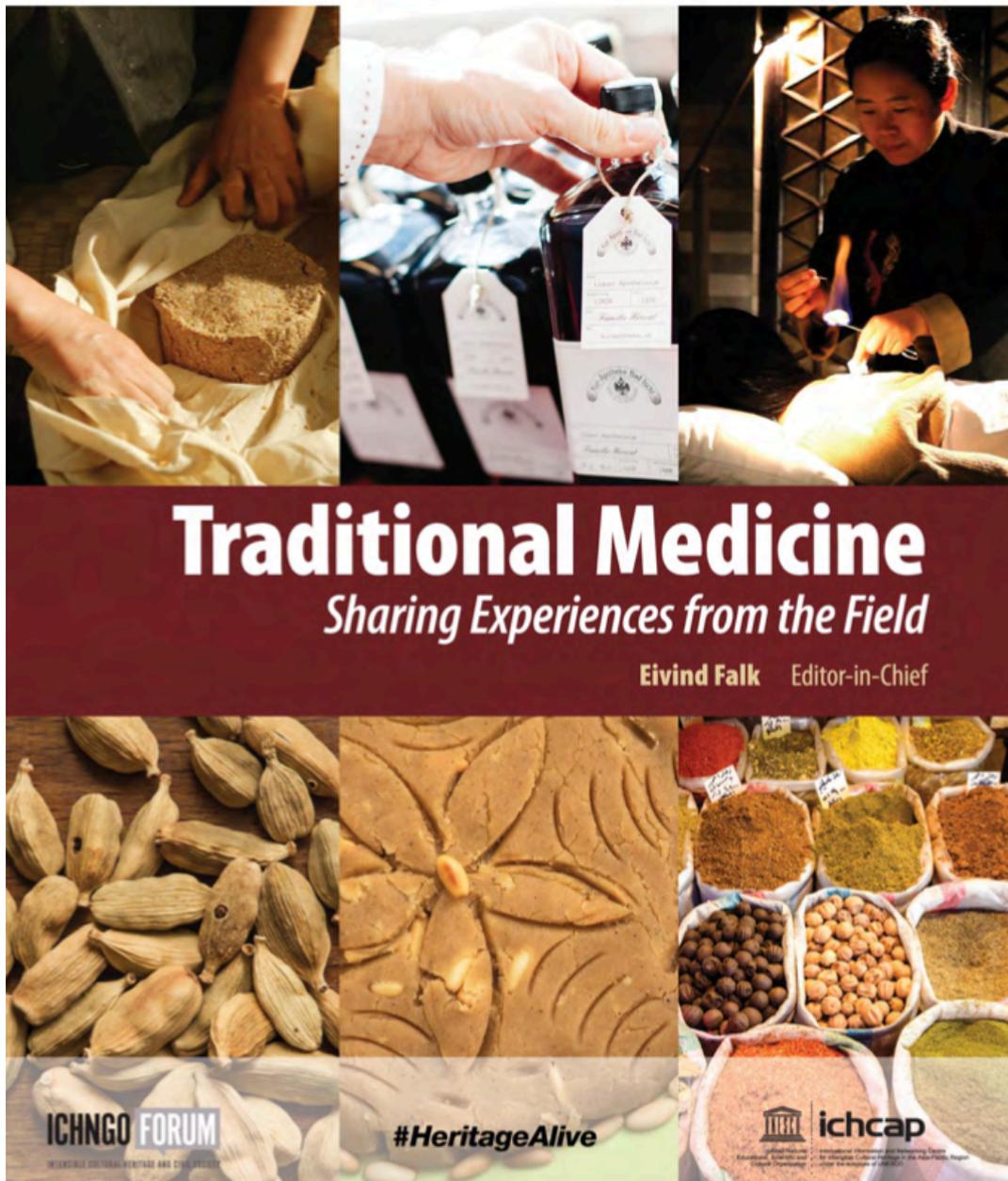
At the 10.COM in Baku, 2012 the #HeritageAlive was established as an online journal where accredited NGOs could share their experiences from the field. Both good and bad experiences. Since then several articles have been shared, from different parts of the world, covering different domains. In this work the Editorial board have played an active role, with dedicated board members contributing from all over the world.



From the Editorial Board Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia.

In 2016 at the 11.COM in Addis Ababa, we made a breakthrough. In a meeting with ICHCAP¹ we decided to join our forces in order to publish a book on Traditional Medicine. The response from the NGOs was wonderful, and we received articles, 16 in total, from all over the world, with different perspectives. The cooperation resulted in the publication; *Traditional Medicine, Sharing experiences from the field*, which was presented and celebrated at #HeritageAlive Symposium on Jeju Island at the 12.COM. In Jeju the Editorial board discussed the possibilities for making a new book, and we discussed possible topics, as woodcarving and traditional food.

LIVING HERITAGE SERIES



¹ International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO

#HeritageAlive's first publication on paper was a book on Traditional Medicine

In November 2018 we had a new meeting with ICHCAP and formally agreed to join our forces again in order to publish a new book to be launched in 2019 at the 14.COM. The theme of this publication will be *Traditional food*. The response among the NGOs has been overwhelming and we have so far received 9 articles covering different parts of the world.

The main purpose of the website **Nordic Safeguarding Practices** is to present Good practices in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the Nordic region. Contributing countries are: Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Greenland, Norway. The territories Faroe Island and Åland have also reserved place on the site.

☰ Nordic Safeguarding Practices

Sharing intangible cultural heritage

Nordic Safeguarding Practices

Good practices from:

DENMARK >

FINLAND >

GREENLAND >

ICELAND >

NORWAY >

SWEDEN >



The vision of Nordic Safeguarding Practices is to generate synergies in wider and wider circles and facilitate processes of communication between different levels of stakeholders. The site also acts as a push factor in countries and territories where the implementation process has dropped behind. Åland islands i.e. considers using this site as an alternative to a national register of good practices.

Good practices are about thinking in a new way, breaking boundaries, finding new ways and new partners to cooperate with in the spirit of the Convention. As NGOs we play a crucial role in the implementing of the convention. We are, so to say *mindin the gap* between the community and practitioners on one side, and the State parties on the other.