

Contribution of the Working group capacity-building to the ICH-NGO symposium of Sunday 24 November on the role of accredited NGOs in the Implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention

The role of NGOs in capacity-building

Capacity-building at all levels from the State Parties to individuals is important for the implementation of the 2003 Convention. The limiting factors for implementing the 2003 Convention and developing good safeguarding plans are, in addition to the funding of safeguarding measures, the competence of stakeholders and their level of understanding of the possibilities and pitfalls of the 2003 Convention¹ (Duvellé 2014). The UNESCO 2003 Convention Intergovernmental Committee Meeting 12.COM (ITH/16/11.COM/5) from 28th November until 2nd of December in Addis Ababa already stressed the importance of the expanding reach and effectiveness of the global capacity-building programme of the UNESCO 2003 Convention and appreciation of the regular review, adaptation and enrichment of its content and format to respond effectively to major implementation challenges at the national, or in some cases regional level.

A working group of capacity-building was established in Windhoek, Namibia, in 2015. The next year in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, the UNESCO capacity-building program and its materials were presented by UNESCO secretariat (the material is open to all by registration: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/capacity-building>). Furthermore, experiences were shared in the working group: a nordic experience of a new concept was presented, training of trainers with UNESCO facilitators to make instructors to implement the convention based on case study discussions, and a Canadian experience on community inventorying.

In 2017, the ICH NGO forum organized the first global capacity-building 3-day workshop training for more than 70 participants of accredited NGOs in Jeju (Republic of Korea, supported by Indonesia and Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation). The workshop built a higher level of understanding of the 2003 Convention and its mechanisms, and had fruitful discussions on the diverse roles of the accredited NGOs. One of the outcomes of the workshop was to initiate regional working groups, who had their first discussions to share experience and find ways to develop network cooperations, relationships and capacities in the regions (<http://www.ichngoforum.org/regional-working-groups>).

The general idea of setting up ICH NGO forum capacity-building workshops, is to install a strategy for increasing involvement of accredited NGOs in the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention at the national and (sub)regional levels through capacity-building. The specific goal of capacity-building initiative targeted at accredited ICH NGOs, is to train within the coming years a group of accredited NGOs in every region of the world, that can thereafter take forward a role on outreach and regional network building towards a larger audience amongst NGOs and, more largely, civil society organizations in their respective regions.

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¹ Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-setting Work of the Culture Sector, Report of the evaluation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage IOS/EVS/PI/129 REV. (October 2013), <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002230/223095e.pdf> (retrieved 10 March 2017), Duvellé, Cécilie 2014. A decade of implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Challenges and perspectives. *Ethnologies Intangible Cultural Heritage* 36 (1-2): 27-46.