

New working group established during the Intergovernmental Committee Meeting in Windhoek (november 2015)

The working group Research:

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In the Operational Directives research and documentation are presented as of great importance, especially in connection with generating safeguarding measures and creating favourable conditions for such measures. The Committee encourages research on and evaluation of the effectiveness of safeguarding measures included in the programmes, projects and activities that it has selected and shall promote international cooperation in such research and evaluation. From a critical heritage perspective research should also include reflection on various aspects of safeguarding, the workings of the convention and the role of different stakeholders, including state parties, communities, researchers and the NGOs themselves. Also themes like sustainability, commercialization, migration and diversity and ethics are important topics for us as heritage workers.

The ICH-NGO Forum is composed of NGOs working in the field of safeguarding. As workers in the field we have invaluable experience in working with the convention. On the other hand we have the so-called ICH Researchers group, composed of researchers loosely organized in the context of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies, which brings out a regular newsletter which reports on recent publications on intangible heritage. In the past this group also organized conferences and publications.

Quite a few of the Forum members are also member of the ICH-Researchers group. The ICH-Forum working group Research wants to facilitate more exchange and also more cooperation, perhaps even working together in specific research programmes or in organizing joint conferences. The working group research aims at a more regular exchange and cooperation with the researchers.

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Members of WG: Albert van der Zeijden (Dutch Center for Intangible Heritage), Naila Cerabasic (International Council for Traditional Music), Ananya Bhattacharya (Banglanatak.com), Norov Urtnasan (Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO), Liu Chang (International Organisation of Heritage Studies), Lluís Garcia Petit (ENS de l'Associacionisme Cultural Català), Dag Feldborg (Norwegian Craft Institute), Egil Bakka (Department of Music, NTNU)

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