

Working Group Research: Action Plan for 2024

The long-term goal of the Working Group Research is to generate spaces to discuss relevant topics related to research in the field of ICH, map the expertise of the ICH-NGO Forum members and develop an internal communication channel related to NGO's research.

The Mission Statement 2020-2025 of the WG research is:

- Foster knowledge exchange, information sharing and promote wide accessibility of the outcomes of research findings among the members of the ICH NGO Forum.
- Promote collaborative research on topics relevant to bearers, practitioners, institutions and other stakeholders, offering support in safeguarding processes.
- Strengthen the cooperation between different stakeholders taking part in safeguarding processes.

During the Working Group Research meetings in **December 2023** and **February 2024** a reflection was held on the work done in the past decade, and on the various possible and interesting options to focus and outreach our work on in the future. It was decided to work on new issues through setting up thematic groups within the research group. Formats for sharing the work can vary: contributing to the Forum's symposium, online resources, webinars, etc.

The following areas have been highlighted for 2024:

- To continue the work on the subject and the web dossier **ICH and Sustainable Tourism**;
- to create a new Working Group **on participatory methodologies in safeguarding living heritage**;
- to explore the interest among NGOs to (re-connect to an earlier focus 5 years ago and to) work on the subject of **ICH in urban contexts**

1. Working Group on ICH and sustainable tourism

The group has been working on fostering a lively learning network on the subject of ICH and sustainable tourism, through the medium of the Web Dossier. The group will further enrich it and outreach it through:

Collaborations:

- Partnership with Sorbonne Université Paris 1:
A group of Master's students led by Francesca Cominelli and Séverine Cachat work on new examples from the field to be included in the dossier, and at the same time work on the methodologies used. They work on collecting cases from several parts of the world.
- ICH Sustainable Tourism Forum in Jeonju
Planned event in Korea in September, where some colleagues involved in the web dossier will be participating on invitation by the organizers (CICS, city of Jeonju)
- ICH Journeys:
A Creative Europe project bringing together 5 NGOs/UNESCO Listed ICH/ countries on the subject of ICH and sustainable tourism with Thomas Moore University as lead partner. There is a strong link with the ICH NGO Forum and the Web Dossier because the NGOs involved are members of the Forum, and also Martin Andrade Perez has been invited to be member of the ThinkTank: it will be interesting to make the links with the Webdossier throughout the process (pilots on sustainable ICH Tourism, developing methodologies,...).

Development and dissemination:

- Set up an open call for people/organisation/communities who want to share their examples concerning ICH and tourism. This requires the creation of a procedure to receive and evaluate proposals (proposal: with peer review - 2 or 3 people from our WG to look at proposals and work on them).
- ICH dialogues:
Organisation of one-hour discussions with people working in and outside the ICH field. So far there are 3 Dialogues programmed (with Halle M. Butvin (18/03/2024); Kaat de Ridder (26/04/2024); Constanza Fidelbo (03/10/2024)). The dialogues will then be put online on the YouTube page and insights integrated into the Web Dossier. The members are invited to propose speakers for the Dialogues.
- Updated information on the Forum website
- Translation of the Web Dossier into Spanish and Korean

Persons in charge for coordination:

Martin Andrade; Jorijn Neyrinck; Ananya Bhattacharya; Halle M. Butvin.

2. Creation of a new Working Group on participatory and community-based methodologies for safeguarding intangible heritage

The participation of non-state actors, including local communities, in heritage governance has recently become an important topic in international cultural policy, as reflected in the 2022 Mondiacult Declaration on [Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development](#) and the International Law Association's 2022 [Report on Participation in Global Heritage Governance](#). While community participation, a major innovation and challenge of the 2003 Intangible Heritage Convention, is often contested, negotiated and questioned in different contexts, a working group on methodology could subsequently **facilitate action on the ground and help in developing critical and constructing reflections, while contributing to the work on safeguarding ICH.**

The aim of this WG research initiative is **to examine how heritage NGOs in different parts of the world have or could develop appropriate tools for enabling local, community-driven safeguarding actions in the face of social, economic and environmental concerns.** With a focus on grassroots methods and community-based approaches (ranging from collaborative documentation and research methods to crowdsourcing, processes of local-level governance, safeguarding plans, citizen science, community arts/ curation), this initiative aims **to examine and reflect on ways in which local communities and NGOs safeguard living heritage and in so doing respond to global and local, social, economic and environmental challenges.**

The RWG will conduct a **scoping exercise** to map and assess how ICH NGO Forum members perceive their roles as facilitators of community-driven heritage actions and support a series of **collaborative research activities with the aim of identifying and developing further appropriate tools and methodologies.** These research activities will include **online workshops** and interactions to highlight ways in which heritage NGOs respond to the issue of participation of local communities and seek to highlight the practical experiences of heritage professionals, as well as the perspectives, needs and experiences of local/ICH communities, groups and individuals.

This would be a **cross-cutting reflection** on methodology in working with ICH communities for sustainable development (which includes tourism, climate change, or other topics). This subject offers the possibility of working partly with the material and experiences we already have and approaching it from a different angle: that of methodology and the challenges of participatory methodologies in building sustainable process of safeguarding ICH, including documentation, research, governance, and cooperation issues.

Possible Research Outputs

- Database of good practices/safeguarding experiences
- Edited volume/ journal special issues
- Organisation of "Dialogues" giving visibility to the experiences of the network
- Series of community-based/ NGOs podcasts

Steps:

- Circulate a call for interest among members and NGOs inviting colleagues to share experiences, identify local challenges and current attitudes to participatory methodologies.

- Creation of a position paper initially to set up projects and priorities for the year to help identify the key points to work on (Valentina Lapicciarella Zingari; Marilena Alivizatou)

Persons in charge for coordination:

Marilena Alivizatou; Valentina Lapicciarella Zingari; Joanne Orr; Dafvid Hermansson; Carley Williams

3. Governance of the WG Research

Call for people to join the coordination group of the Research WG

At global level, the WG coordination team was made up of 6 members in 2023. For 2024 some have to step back as they now have other responsibilities. An open invitation is distributed for candidates, open for candidatures until 15 March

Steps:

- An email sent to inform all members for possible application

Persons in charge for coordination:

Martin Andrade; Jorijn Neyrinck; Jana Ambrózová; Valentina Lapicciarella Zingari.