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Safeguarding Living Heritage in Urban Contexts

Capacity-Building Workshop in Europe

12-13 October | Antwerp, Belgium

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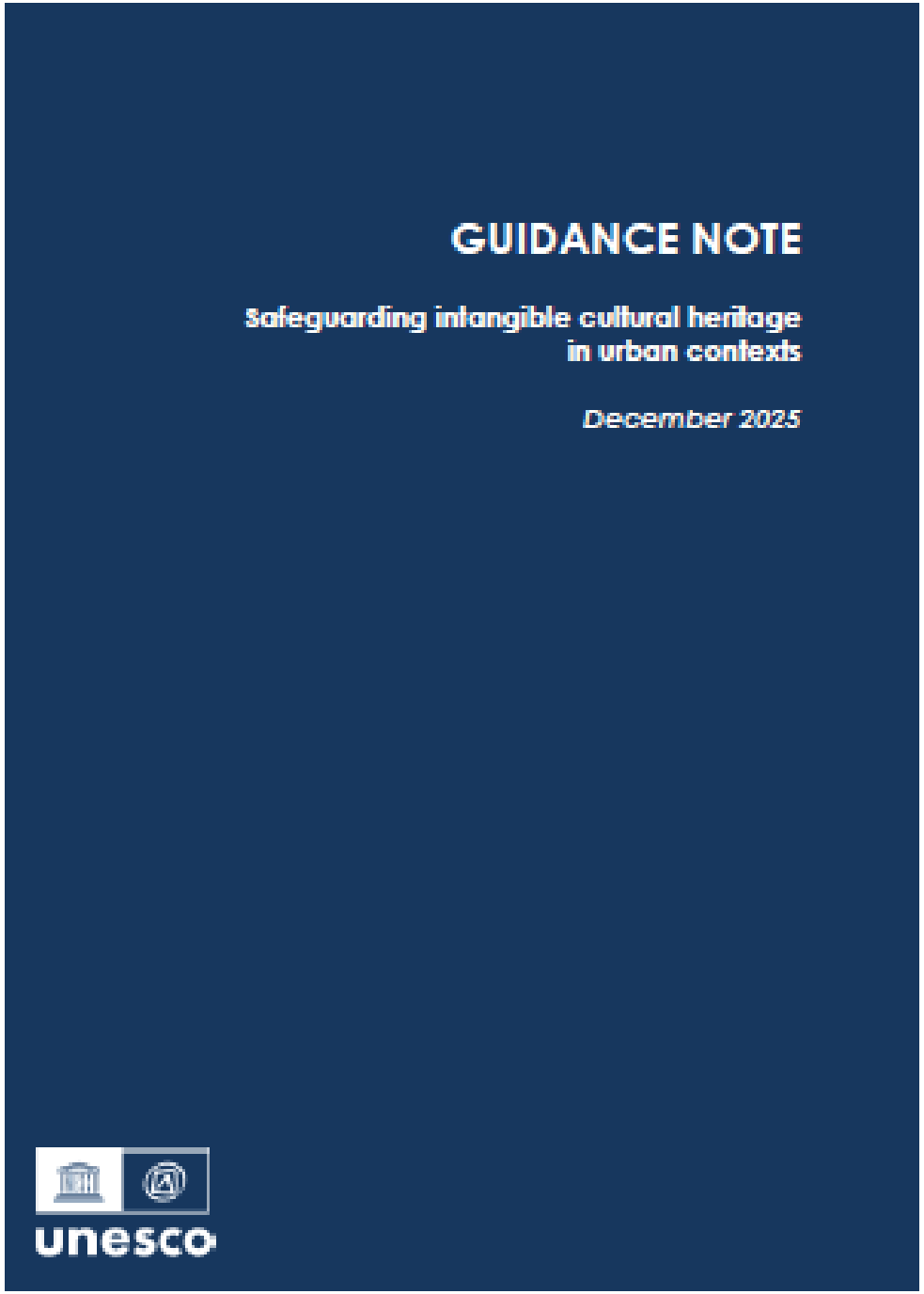
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unesco Chair on Critical Heritage Studies and Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

Guidance Note on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts



Overall aim of the Guidance Note

To strengthen dialogue and knowledge among different stakeholders in intangible cultural heritage and urban planning, while deepening their knowledge of the relationship between the two fields.

Introduction to the Guidance Note

Living heritage:

- Intertwined with the processes of urban development and planning.
- Fragile in the face of inadequate or unsuitable urban planning provisions.
- Contributes positively to urban ways of life, social cohesion, better living conditions.



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Introduction – UNESCO instruments

The **UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** encourages States Parties to recognize the importance and strengthen the role of intangible cultural heritage as a driver and guarantee of sustainable development. (Chapter VI Operational Guidelines)



Introduction – UNESCO instruments

The **UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention** recalls the importance of ‘adopting a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes’ (Article 5).

The **Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape** (UNESCO, 2011) proposes a vision in which urban development and heritage conservation complement each other.

Introduction – UNESCO instruments

The **UNESCO Creative Cities Network** promotes cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

Most of the eight creative fields: architecture, crafts and folk art, design, film, gastronomy, literature, media arts and music, are intrinsically related to intangible cultural heritage domains.

Introduction – Other instruments UN System

The **2030 Sustainable Development Goal** (SDG) 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities recalls the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage for sustainable development.

Target 11.4 aims to ‘strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage’.

New Urban Agenda
World Charter for the Right to the City
Urban Plannning for City Leaders
International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning

Introduction – Key Concepts

Sustainable urban development

‘the spatial manifestation of urban development processes that creates a built environment with norms, institutions and governance systems enabling individuals, households and societies to maximise their potential and optimize a vast range of services’ (UN-Habitat, 2015).

Urban planning includes the design and regulation of uses of spaces and their physical forms (built and natural), encompassing proposed economic functions, resource and environmental conservation strategies, and zoning areas.

Introduction – Key Concepts

An **urban plan** is a technical document for districts, cities or regions to create a broad, long-term vision for future spatial organization, land uses, and a course of action for the built environment.



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Introduction – Key Concepts

Urban planning is usually composed of multiple and inter-connected layers or structures.

There are 4 main structures:

- **Ecological structure**
- **Functional structure**
- **Socioeconomic structure**
- **Built heritage structure**

Introduction – Key Actions

For the integration of safeguarding measures for intangible cultural heritage into urban development policies and planning:

A. Setting a vision for the integration of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding into urban plans and for urban sustainable development

B. Effective coordination and participation

C. Identifying benefits and risks in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

D. Mapping and characterization of intangible cultural heritage

E. Capacity-building, awareness-raising and networking

Introduction – Key Actions

A. Setting a vision for the integration of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding into urban plans and for urban sustainable development

Key planning areas

Historical areas, peri-urban and rural areas, buildings of interest, public spaces and facilities, urban ecosystems, natural heritage and ecological and transport corridors.

Effective coordination between the cultural and urban planning sectors

Is required to ensure a balance between new infrastructure/amenities and the requirements of living heritage safeguarding.

Introduction – Key Actions

Relationship between tangible and intangible cultural heritage
Urban planning can facilitate and strengthen this relationship

Two-way relationship between intangible cultural heritage and sustainable urban development. Living heritage can contribute to the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. In turn, sustainable urban development can support the viability of living heritage and the communities concerned.

Linking intangible cultural heritage to urban planning structures
Identifying the main components of these structures that relate to or influence ICH elements.

Introduction – Key Actions

B. Effective coordination and participation

Effective coordination between the cultural and planning sectors

Through the creation of a consultative body or a coordination mechanism.

Key responsibility for the incorporation of ICH in urban planning

National and local authorities, sectoral institutions, as well as relevant subnational departments.

Key actors for integrating living heritage in planning

Localised agencies, institutions and organisations, associations, as well as private sector and civil society entities, along with communities. Academic institutions and technical specialists should also participate.

Introduction – Key Actions

C. Identifying benefits and risks in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

The **identification of benefits and risks** should be carried out with the participation of communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Risks may include any type of process or change in an urban, peri-urban or related rural area that may disrupt the viability of the element concerned and which may need to be anticipated and addressed for safeguarding purposes.

Benefits refer to positive social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts, among others, that can result from the practice and viability of an element of intangible cultural heritage.

Introduction – Key Actions

D. Mapping and characterization of intangible cultural heritage

The Identification, mapping and documentation of intangible cultural heritage elements should be done with the participation of communities, relevant non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and other relevant stakeholders.

The elaboration of **community-based inventories** is key as is the understanding of the **spatial dimension of living heritage** and the cultural attributes of a place.

Introduction – Key Actions

E. Capacity-building, awareness-raising and networking

The Guidance Note recalls the need to **raise awareness among**:

Urban planners about the value of intangible cultural heritage so that its safeguarding is considered an added value for urban development.

Intangible cultural heritage experts about how sustainable urban development strengthens the safeguarding of living heritage.

Introduction – Key Actions

E. Capacity-building, awareness-raising and networking

Capacity-building and awareness raising activities and research

Use of Digital tools

Exchange of good practices, case studies and experiences

Assistance to States Parties and international organizations

Thank you

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