Intangible Cultural Heritage Finland – Policy and Practise

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The 2003 Convention in Finland

- ratified in 2013
- Finnish Heritage Agency responsible for the implementation in the national level (250 staff members, also the National Museum)
- Under the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Advisory Board for ICH appointed by the Ministry (15 members)
- Tools to work with intangible cultural heritage!



Photo: Tivoli Seiterä

Map
Our heritage

Categories

Festivities and practices
Music and dance
Performing arts
Oral traditions
Crafts
Food traditions
Games and playing
Nature and the universe
Good practices

Participate

Instructions
Add an element
Add a good practice
Upload file

The National Inventory

About
Inventory

WIKI-INVENTORY FOR LIVING HERITAGE

This site shows examples of living heritage in Finland. Our living cultural heritage is being identified and documented as part of UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The page's content is produced by communities and maintained by the Finnish Heritage Agency.

Join us in making intangible cultural heritage visible, and add elements to the wiki-inventory. Let's work together, safeguard our heritage, and ensure that it is passed on.

Come and contribute!

National Inventory of Living Heritage



















Bottom-up safeguarding with the Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage

- **250 examples from over 400 communities** around the country - articles in six languages
- 100 000 visits from 150 countries in 2024
- 1-3 page texts, gateway to other information
- Map: regions and municipalities
- MediaWiki
- Communities produce and are responsible for the content, the Agency moderating

Photos: Jan Erik Paadar, Seinäjoen tangomarkkinat, Kulumu







National Inventory for Living Heritage

- 86 elements in the National inventory
- Peer reviews
- Open calls every three years – next in the spring of 2026
- preparation by the Agency and the advisory group, decision by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Inscriptions on the **UNESCO ICH lists**
  - Saunaculture in Finland (2020)
  - Kaustinen fiddle playing (2021)
  - Nordic Clinkerboat traditions (2021)
  - Knowhow on Handmade glass (2023)
  - Torne River Dipnet Fishing (2026? with Sweden)

Photos: Jarno Saarela, Sauli Heikkilä, Lauri Oino

- Building clinker boats
- Chainsaw Carving
- Construction of a roundpole fence
- Dyeing with natural dyes
- Glassmaking Tradition
- Goldsmith's work
- Knitting
- Knitting tikkuröijy sweaters from Hailuoto
- Making a Korsnäs sweater
- Making national costumes
- Making of Tommi knives
- Manufacture of pine splint basket from hand-split splints
- Rag rug weaving
- Rauma lace-making
- Ryijy (Rya) tradition
- Sami handicrafts tradition
- Wooden boat repair

Wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi







Kuvat: Riikka Räisänen , Gunnar Bäckman

CIRCLES OF LIVING HERITAGE

- over 150 NGOs, museums, institutes and other organizations
- communities from each field practicing, transferring, teaching, researching and documenting
- organizing seminars, events and workshops, creating partnerships and projects, promoting inventory work
- Four circles have been established: **crafts, nature, folk dance and folk music and oral traditions (+ sauna, clinkerboats)**



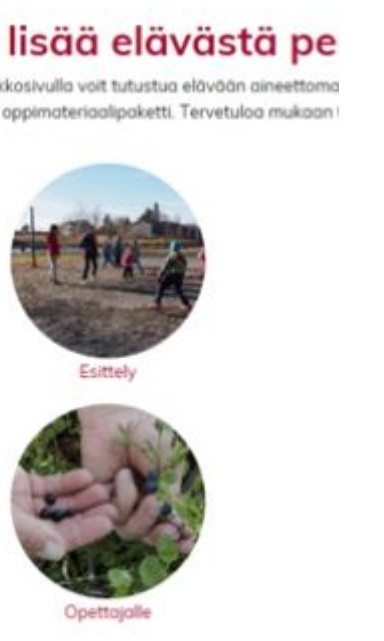


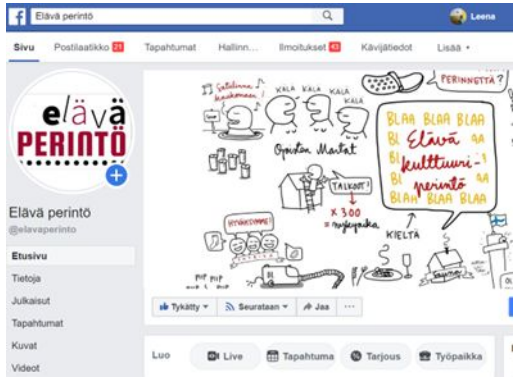


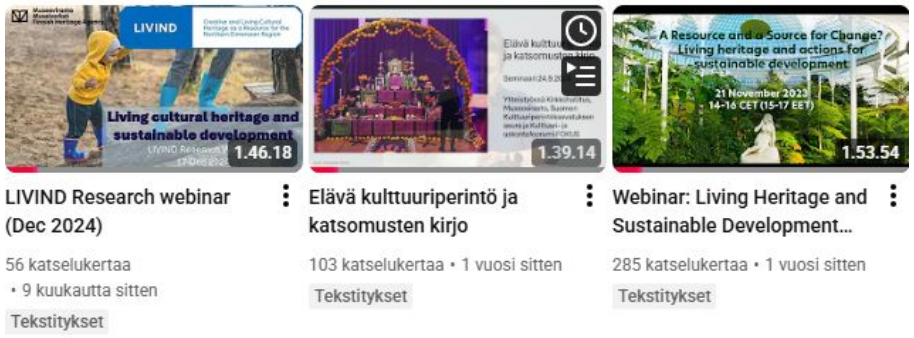
Photos : Leena Marsio

Communications

- Events: seminars, webinars, workshops
- Opi.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi > website for teachers and schools
- Facebok Elävä perintö > 2000 followers
- Youtube elävä perintö > 240 videos of various events, over 200 000 views
- Newsletter 2-3 times per year











Action plan for 2024-2028 (58 pages)

1. CULTURAL HERITAGE AS THE BASIS OF SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY
2. FOUNDATIONS OF SAFEGUARDING ICH
3. ICH IS SAFEGUARDED BY A WIDE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS
4. LIVING HERITAGE AS PART OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING AS GUARDIANS OF LH
6. RESEARCH SUPPORTING SAFEGUARDING
7. VISIBILITY AND DIVERSITY OF LH
8. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION STRENGTHENS THE SAFEGUARDING OF LIVING HERITAGE



Periodic reporting to UNESCO

- Extensive reporting to UNESCO every 6 years – all Europe reporting at the same time
- Finland sent its first report in 2022
- FHA and the Center for Cultural Policy Research Cupore
- Extensive hearing of communities and institutions: A total of 206 actors and organisations responded to the Agency's four different questionnaires, 188 people participated in nine workshops. In addition, 74 municipalities replied to the survey.
- Next report in 2028



We LOVE Tools!

Intangible Cultural Heritage: Wheel chart of sustainability

How to use the Wheel Chart of Sustainability

1. **Choose** a living heritage phenomenon or activity that interests you.
2. **Look** at the topics on the edge of the outer sleeve.
3. **Choose** an interesting topic and explore the questions.
   Try to be open-minded and avoid obvious answers.
4. **Explore** as many topics as you like. What are the new thoughts (1-3) you could put into practice?

Tip! *You can also create new questions that you think are important.*





elävä PERINTÖ
INSPIRAATIOKORTIT





LIVIND 2021–24

Creative and Living Cultural Heritage as a Resource for the Northern Dimension Region



Led by the Finnish Heritage Agency, 2021–24

Mainly funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Total budget of ca. 463.000 euros.

9 North European partner countries

- Nordic and Baltic countries, Poland
- Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture; Sami Council

Webinars and workshops

- Hundreds of participants, 36+ countries

20 Pilot projects

- Tested practices on increasing sustainability in living heritage.

Research Papers and a Policy Brief

- Analysing the state of sustainability in the field of living heritage.
- Pointing out Key Challenges and Policy Recommendations.

LIVIND.fi – Online Platform

Find project results, free open materials available in English for all.

ICH in national policies and Acts

Cultural Heritage Strategy (2023-2030)
CH seen in a holistic view: it is everywhere and is part of everyone's life. Cultural heritage can be tangible, intangible, or digital, or it can relate to cultural or natural environments.

Cultural Policy Report (2025)
CH as a basis for the

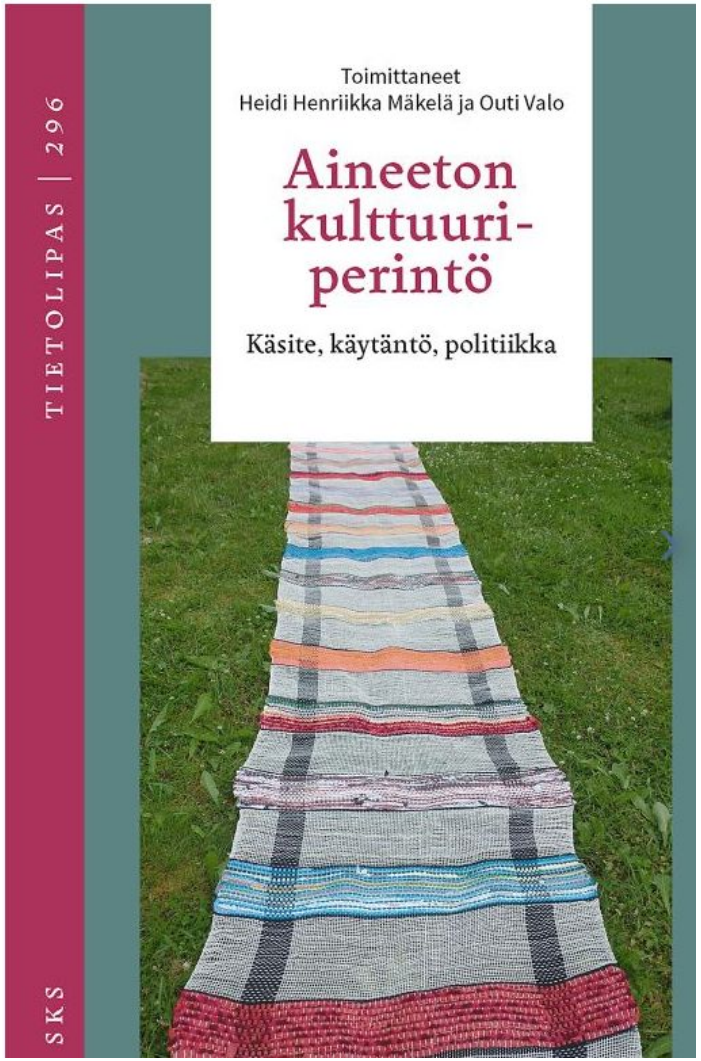
The Museum Act (314/2019) states that the task of regional and national specialized museums include the preservation of tangible, intangible, and digital cultural heritage and promoting its accessibility.

The Act on Municipal Cultural Activities (166/2019) encourages municipalities to promote the maintenance and use of cultural heritage, as well as activities that support and develop local identity. > intangible and tangible cultural heritage.



Aineeton kulttuuriperintö: käsite, käytäntö, politiikka (2025)

- The first comprehensive academic publication on ICH in in Finland!
- Published by the Finnish Literature Society (SKS)
- 16 articles (most peer-reviewed) 420 pages
- The authors of the work come from various areas of research and the field of ICHin Finland.
- examines the history and future of ICH from a multidisciplinary perspective, both in Finnish and international contexts.
- aimed at researchers, students, and practitioners in the cultural sector.
- Open Access on the website of SKS



Nordic and Baltic ICH Network

- **The aim of the network is to share good practices on community involvement in a broad context.**
  The informal network envisions regular meetings open to all stakeholders and domains working in the spirit of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- **Focus:** communities and NGOs working with ICH communities
- **Homepage:**
  https://safeguardingpractices.com/the-nordic-and-baltic-network-on-intangible-cultural-heritage/
- **Communication channels:**
  - Facebook group (506 members)
  - Google group
- **Activities and achievements:**
  - Webinars
  - Expert exchange programme
  - Awareness-raising initiatives
  - Various collaborative projects



NORDIC AND BALTIC
ICH NETWORK

The role of the NGOs in the framework of the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH

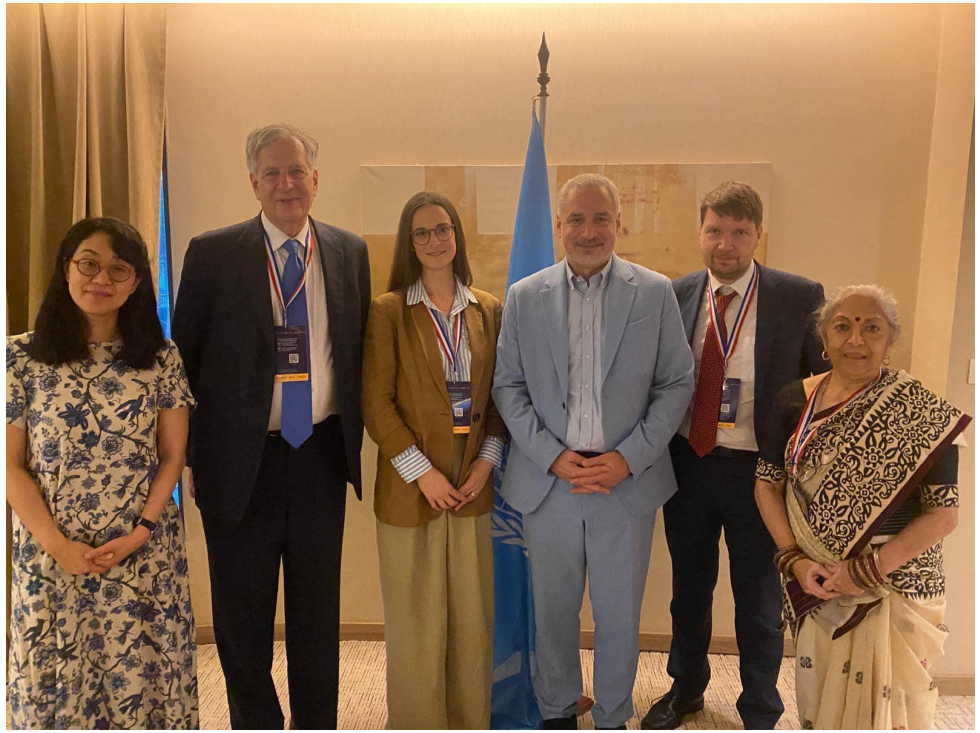
- Accredited NGOs provide advisory services to the Committee. Today, their most visible role is to serve as members of the Evaluation Body.
- Benefits of being accredited include:
  - Being part of a global network of NGOs working to safeguard ICH
  - Staying informed about safeguarding initiatives and projects around the world
  - Attending UNESCO meetings and engaging with the actors of the Convention and the global ICH safeguarding community
  - Having opportunities to participate in symposia, conferences, workshops, and other activities organized by the ICH NGO Forum



ICHNGO FORUM

The ICH NGO Forum – Forum des ONG du PCI

- The 264 accredited NGOs are grouped within the ICH NGO Forum. **(Finnish Folkmusic Institute and Taitoliitto from Finland)**
- It serves as a platform for communication, networking, exchange, and cooperation among accredited NGOs.
- The Forum regularly organizes conferences, symposia, and other activities related to the safeguarding of ICH, both throughout the year and during Committee meetings.
- Its governing body is the Executive Committee, composed of six NGOs.
- Most activities are carried out through thematic working groups.



ICHNGO FORUM

Kiitos! Tack! Dankjewel! Thank you!





www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/en

Wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi

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Finnish Heritage Agency

Photos : Hagit Ben-Yaakov, Interkult, Rosamaria Bolom