ICH INVENTORY IN LATVIA: EXPERIENCE RECONSIDERED

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Important ICH activities in Latvia 2004-2007


- Adoption of the Law on Song and Dance Festivals, *Saeima*, June 16, 2005,

- Elaboration of the Conception of the ICH Inventory Working Principles, working group at the Ministry of Culture, Jan.- Apr. 2006

- Regional and local seminar series on UNESCO Convention and ICH inventory concept, Ministry of Culture and Latvian National Centre for Traditional and Performing Arts  Jan.-March 2006


- Ongoing collaborative project “Digital map of culture”, Ministry of Culture, since Nov. 2006

- Research/pilot project “ICH in Liepna parish”, Ministry of Culture, Latvian Academy of Culture, Liepna local government, started Janv. 2007
Who is the suitable and capable body for drawing ICH inventories?

- Board of ICH Experts, Ministry of Culture

- Latvian National Centre for Traditional and Performing Arts, Ministry of Culture (National ICH inventory)

- “Digital Map of Culture” (www.kulturaskarte.lv) (local inventories)
Should the process be arranged top-down or bottom-up? (1)

Ministry of Culture

ICH Inventory

Board of ICH Experts, Ministry of Culture

Variant 1

Latvian National Centre for Traditional and Performing Arts (Coordinator of the ICH Inventory, 5 regional coordinators)

Applications from communities, NGO’s, local institutions

Conception of the ICH Inventory Working Principles

Variant 2

Ministry of Culture (Coordinator of the ICH Inventory)

Documentation of ICH manifestations: government order to research institutions
Should the process be arranged top-down or bottom-up? (2)

**Kuldīga case**  
(a bottom-up pilot project)

Conclusion: without top-down assistance local communities might be unable to identify ICH and promote its representation in the ICH Inventory

**Liepna case**  
(a pilot project combining bottom-up and top-down perspectives)

Presumption: local initiative combined with professional research/management assistance might be an optimal model for drawing up ICH inventories
How to secure community involvement?

- lack of information
- low prestige of the ICH idea in society
- insufficient education in the sphere of ICH at all levels of society involved
- concept of ICH unclear
- lack of institutional, personal and financial resources

What is the role of individuals and human factor in general?

Ilga Leimane: the bearer of the local singing traditions, *Suiti* cultural region. Leader of the folklore ensemble “Suitu sievas”

Ruta Cibule. Head of the Culture Department, Balvi District Council. State Inspector-in-Chief, Ministry of Culture.
What is the relation between national and local inventories? (1)

**National**: the most vivid and characteristic ICH manifestations that significantly contribute to the formation of national culture as a whole and that are suitable for the international representation of Latvian ICH.

**Local**: ICH manifestations that are disseminated and recognized within confines of a local community and that are regarded as a part of their cultural heritage by a community, a group or (sometimes) separate individuals.

Conception of the ICH Inventory Working Principles
What is the relation between national and local inventories? (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National ICH inventory</th>
<th>Local ICH inventories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of ICH Experts → Latvian National Centre for Traditional and Performing Arts</td>
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</tbody>
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- Exclusive
- Symbolic
- Inclusive
- Informative
How to resolve the contradiction of particularities and universalities on local, national and international level?

Suiti singers

Mangalsala fishermen