



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# Workshop

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## Report: Survey Results

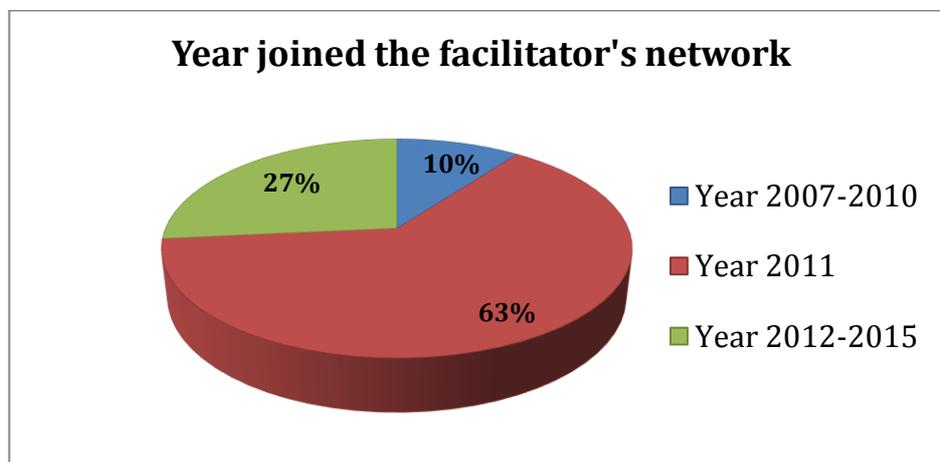
### Introduction

In the context of the UNESCO global strategy for strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section designed and distributed an anonymous online survey in English, French and Spanish to members of its global facilitators' network. The objective of the survey was to collect information relative to members' experience using the network and the effects that their membership has had on both implementing the capacity-building programme and their activities outside the immediate scope of the capacity-building programme. Furthermore, the survey aimed to understand the ways the capacity-building programme and its facilitators' network might be further developed in the future. In what follows, this report provides an overview of the respondents' characteristics followed by a review of frequently recurring topics or themes as they pertain to the following three survey objectives:

- The relevance and efficiency of the facilitators' network for the implementation of the capacity-building programme;
- The effects that membership in the network has had on the roles and activities of facilitators related to implementing the Convention outside the immediate scope of the capacity-building programme; and
- Ideas and suggestions for the future development of the capacity-building programme and its facilitators' network.

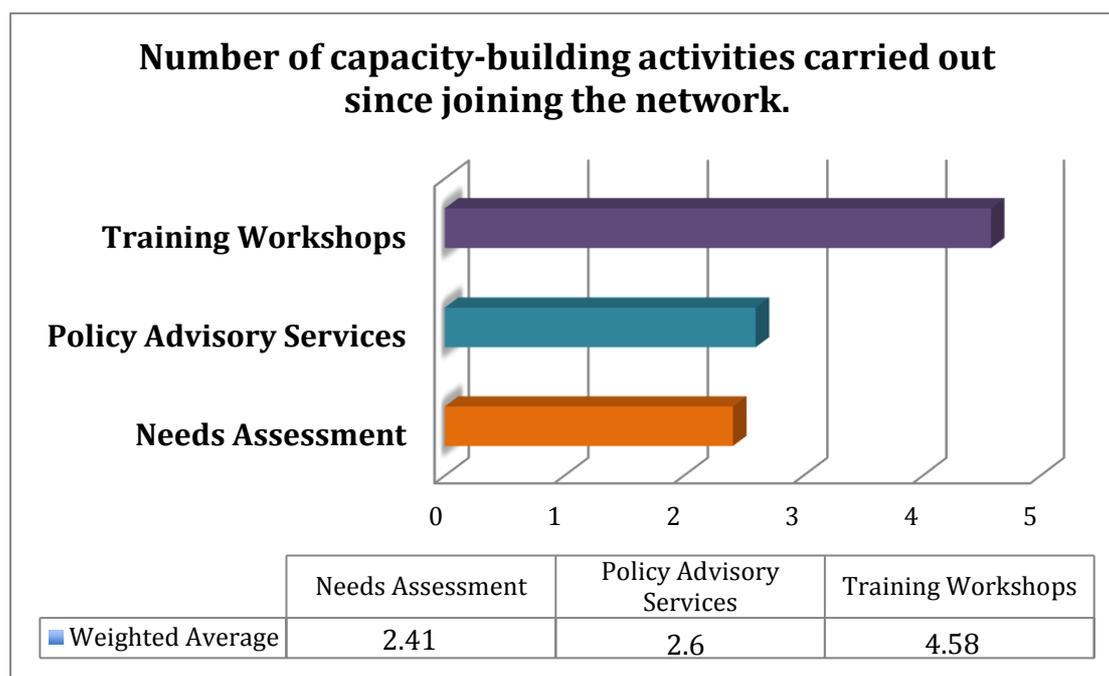
### Respondent Characteristics

A total of 50 facilitators responded to the survey. Well over half of the respondents joined the network in 2011, while another third joined since then. A few respondents reported joining the network prior to 2011.



Facilitators who responded to the survey have worked across all regions, with a fairly even distribution. In addition, responses to the survey, in terms of perspectives from the different regions, did not vary significantly. Rather, common themes emerged irrespective of the regions the facilitators had mostly worked in.

Finally, the facilitators who responded to the survey have, on average, a considerable amount of experience in carrying out capacity-building activities, particularly training workshops (a weighted average of 4.58). Many facilitators have, however, also provided policy advisory services (a weighted average of 2.6) and/or have carried out needs assessments (a weighted average of 2.41).



Overall, the facilitators who responded to the survey have, on the most part, been a member of the network for 5 years or more, and have carried out a number of training workshops and other capacity-building activities, across different regions of the world.

**Objective 1: The relevance and efficiency of the facilitator’s network for the implementation of the capacity-building program.**

Independent of when they joined the network, the regions they have mainly worked in, or the number of capacity-building activities they have carried out, facilitators report that the network added value to their work in implementing the capacity-building program. Common themes that emerge in this regard include the use of the network for **networking, knowledge sharing and information gathering, learning from comparative experiences**, and simply **moral support**. In what follows, these themes are examined more closely, with specific examples.

**Networking:**

Many respondents felt that the network provides a basis for forming interconnections and a set of contacts useful for carrying out ICH workshops and other capacity-building activities. As a result of connections made through the network, facilitators were able to arrange to meet at UNESCO meetings or sessions of the Committee,

which in turn helped them to keep abreast of progress in implementing the capacity-building programme around the world and exchange experiences in this regard. However, others saw a yet-underdeveloped potential in terms of exchange and networking, commenting that the network lacks structure and its 'functioning is not formalized'. Some believe additional online forums and mailing lists would make the network more relevant.

#### **Knowledge Sharing and Information Gathering:**

A number of facilitators report that the network provides a base for sharing experiences, from logistical help to content development and new approaches and techniques for facilitation. Many have both provided information, advice and guidance to others, and used the latter for help with workshops, policy guidelines and needs assessment. That said, some facilitators thought that opportunities for exchange within the network were limited.

Some respondents found the facilitators forum online particularly useful in preparation toward workshops. Others found the network useful in building a better understanding of ICH frameworks and concepts, international and national ICH policy making and implementation, and the importance of communities leading ICH safeguarding projects. One facilitator also mentioned having access to helpful and diverse audio-visual materials.

Facilitators generally saw the network as a reputable source of information, with the potential to assure that they are guided by the same tenets and principles as fellow facilitators and were thus applying a shared understanding of issues in implementing their capacity-building work.

#### **Learning from Comparative Experiences:**

A number of facilitators commented that the wealth of experiences from different regions of the world available through the network provided perspective and improved their ability to reflect on the challenges, problems and situations specific to their own countries. Along these lines, some felt that regional comparisons (e.g. with the Arab States) were particularly useful; comparative discussions at international conferences made through the network enhanced their ability to implement the capacity-building program. Vice versa, a better understanding of how ICH is understood in different regions has enabled some facilitators to speak about ICH in contexts different than their own and has given them a broader perspective. Similarly, other facilitators commented that increased knowledge of different situations provided them with a greater breadth of examples to use when facilitating.

#### **A few relevant quotes:**

*'Membership in the network allows privileged access to decision-makers in national institutions, with the possibility of influencing policies for safeguarding the ICH. The exchanges within the network also give access to different national experiences in the same region to identify similar problems. In general, the exchange of experiences between network facilitators enriches my work in the field of ICH.'*

*'Indeed, my participation in this network allowed me to formalize my knowledge in the field of intangible cultural heritage and to integrate a systemic and comprehensive approach in the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. It has furthermore ensured an intellectual monitoring of activities and discovery of the diversity of approaches and methods'*

*'My knowledge and understanding of the Convention and the advantages and challenges of its implementation have been strengthened through the network and has better allowed me to accompany communities in their efforts to safeguard their*

*expressions of the ICH. As part of the network of facilitators, I have had access to a number of examples of safeguard measures and experiences, useful as much for the pedagogical materials as for research carried out in preparation of the workshops, not to mention the experiences shared by my facilitating colleagues. This wealth of information has been very useful in the design of safeguard strategies for the community expressions of ICH in my country'.*

**Objective 2: The effects that membership in the network had on the roles and activities of facilitators related to implementing the Convention outside the immediate scope of the capacity-building programme.**

Membership in the network has had an effect on the roles and activities of facilitators related to implementing the Convention outside the immediate scope of the capacity-building programme. This has been particularly true in terms of **lending “legitimacy”** to their roles, **opportunities for collaborative activities**, and **“spillover” effects** of membership into their roles and work.

**Lending “legitimacy”:**

More specifically, several facilitators commented that belonging to the network gave them **greater professional legitimacy and credibility** in the field. Others, however, noted that membership in the network was at times difficult to manage when working in areas where international organizations are highly criticized or when working in the public sector where objectives differed in contrast to those of the Convention.

**Opportunities for collaborative activities:**

Thanks to connections made within the network, **a number of facilitators have worked together** outside the immediate scope of the capacity-building programme on activities related to the implementation of the Convention. They have been involved in activities such as preparing and submitting files for ICH and periodic reporting, developing training modules for a national inventory, as well as broader research and consulting activities related to implementing the Convention. One facilitator collaborated with members of the facilitators' network to develop ICH legislation. Others looked to the network in seeking participants for international conferences, visiting experts, or authors for publications specialized in the field of ICH, notably the Convention. Such collaboration has encouraged some facilitators to become more active in the field of ICH. Others mentioned that they found collaboration with other facilitators outside the network particularly satisfying and productive, often thanks to being able to work within specific cultural contexts and related linguistic specificities.

**“Spillover” effects:**

A number of facilitators commented that membership in the network and experience within the capacity-building programme **“spilled-over” into their own roles and activities**. Some mentioned their academic research, publishing, and university-level teaching, while others reported consulting activities, such in integrating concepts from the Convention into the safeguarding strategies and publications of the Ministry of Culture. Other facilitators, who work in areas directly involved in the management of ICH in their countries, spoke to the utility of using what they have learned in the training workshop and participation in the network, in their own work, such as training managers in ICH or re-conceptualizing the ICH projects of local cultural organizations. Members of the network have delivered presentations at universities and NGOs about ICH and the practices of its safeguarding, as well as have been involved in committees on policies related to the implementation of the 2003 Convention on regional and national levels. Facilitators suggested that involvement

in the activities of other stakeholders can be extremely beneficial and is potentially a strong resource of the capacity-building programme.

**A few relevant quotes:**

*'The network has helped me to better advise private organizations, local governments and the authorities of the Ministry of Culture of my country, in all matters related to the management of the ICH in our territory, through the guidelines of the 2003 Convention and thanks to the sharing of experiences of my colleagues in the network. It also has helped me in interactions with various stakeholders in my country with regard to the implementation of the Convention, and in the preparation of community-based inventories, to be carried out in several of our provinces. Although there is work to be done, the latter has led to greater open-mindedness in terms of respect and appreciation for ICH elements and related activities.'*

*'Membership in the network has translated into opportunities to meet and exchange extremely important experiences with other members of the region, which has translated into a distinct need to take this collaboration and apply it outside the network. For example, as part of the annual activities carried out in my local work, we have organized seven international colloquia on intangible heritage and implementation of the Convention in which at least 4 facilitators from the region have participated as speakers. We also have the printed publication of these papers and other contributions for a periodical publication on Cultural Heritage, which is building a specialized collection on the subject'*

**Objective 3: Ideas and suggestions for the future development of the capacity building programme and its facilitators' network**

Respondents had a number of ideas and suggestions for the future development of the capacity building programme and its facilitator's network, which can be divided into three categories: **practical suggestions**, **concrete ideas**, and **thematic considerations**. In what follows, these categories will be examined and specific examples of themes that emerged in each will be presented.

**Practical Suggestions:**

Respondents to the survey had a number of specific practical suggestions and comments for the future development of the capacity-building programme and its facilitators network.

A number of facilitators commented, for example, that they experienced **language** issues in countries with other working languages in which the materials are available, and suggested taking steps to ascertain whether concepts are being accurately translated when an interpreter is needed.

Many facilitators made suggestions relative to the **selection of participants**, which most felt needed to be done very carefully. Some felt that making sure local organizers understand the approach and/or purposes of the workshops would help provide a representative group of participants. Several respondents thought that widening the field of participants to include not those from the culture sector alone, but also those from other sectors would be helpful (e.g. education, forestry, rural development, etc.) and might lead to new avenues of partnership. Others felt that heritage authorities sometimes had a particular agenda going in to capacity-building workshops (e.g. nomination of a particular element as a symbol of the nation) and that some groups, (e.g. community representatives, elected representatives, associations, researchers, students, journalists, women etc.) were marginalized or under-represented in state heritage initiatives, the planning of safeguarding activities,

and participation during workshops. Many suggested that there should be continuity between training workshops in terms of participants, as well as stressed the importance of the needs assessment being well done so as to get the workshop off on the right foot.

Respondents commented that additional **time** would be helpful to effectively adapt the materials and approaches to local situations, gather full background information on the participants, and effectively organize fieldwork activities. Also relative to time, some facilitators note that setting aside a week of time for a workshop is difficult for some participants and can pose a problem for participation. In addition to time constraints, other facilitators noted space constraints, with one respondent suggesting that workshops might take place in the context of a community's own setting, so as to better experience their cultural realities.

### **Concrete Ideas:**

Facilitators who responded to the survey also had a number of **concrete ideas** for the development of the capacity-building programme and the facilitators' network.

For example, many respondents felt it would be enriching and productive to create opportunities for facilitators to meet either once every two years, annually, or more often. Some suggested that such **meeting(s)** should aim to bring together facilitators from a variety of regions to discuss how to improve the capacity building programme, others thought such meetings should focus on a particular region/language, yet others suggested bringing facilitators together for thematic or methodological workshops, or simply to hear more about other facilitators' experiences. Some felt that meetings should focus on training facilitators on new materials, helping not only to reinforce the knowledge of facilitators but also to increase contact among them.

Many respondents also felt it would be useful to have some sort of **follow up** on the results of facilitation; how or if any follow-up activities had been carried out by local authorities or in the national context.

Some suggested that there needs to be a stronger nexus between theory and practice, pointing to a loss of **momentum** between capacity building workshops and the slow process of implementation. Several facilitators stressed that producing tangible results linked to the capacity building programme might aid in providing greater **continuity** in implementing the Convention, other suggested that for interest to be maintained, less time needs to pass between training (when interest is aroused) and activities related to the object of the training. It was also felt that greater momentum might be facilitated by less time between the training of trainers and actually conducting training with participants. Facilitators also felt that training workshops should be embedded in long-term programmes with mechanisms geared towards guaranteeing continuity so as to assure the efficacy of the training.

On a different note, some respondents thought the **role of facilitators** might be expanded, for example to the elaboration of requests for international assistance or providing other practical assistance, or even redefined, such as including more monitoring activities and regular interactions with relevant stakeholders, or participating in review progress in between the six years of periodic reporting. Some felt that the competencies and skills of the facilitators are under-utilised and might be tapped to better account for the sometimes differing perspectives of State Parties and UNESCO. Others suggested that facilitators should not be limited to a specific geographic region(s). Re-assignment or rotation of facilitators would, some suggest, serve to develop skills and knowledge while enhancing an appreciation of cultures outside of their geographic zones. Such interaction (either within or across regions) might also allow for a crossing of experiences between different communities, not

only through facilitators, but also through networks of NGOs, associations, and representatives of certain communities themselves.

**Strengthening and devising networks:** more than one respondent suggested that devising a mechanism for facilitators to form regional networks would enhance experience-sharing, learning, and support within common/regional locations. Similarly, other facilitators proposed establishing national nuclei of facilitators, who are regularly updated and trained. Other respondents suggested strengthening the online platform, in such a way as to better share training practices from which other colleagues can benefit. In addition, some suggested a sharing of (anonymous) briefings of the final reports produced by facilitators by the end of each workshop. Others thought that the facilitators' network would benefit from a more formal structure.

Some respondents suggested that there should be put in place a **monitoring and evaluation of facilitators** themselves, with a continual reflection on the number of qualified facilitators, how up to date they are on the materials, and assessments of the need to recruit new, and more, facilitators.

### **Thematic Considerations:**

Finally, a number of respondents placed an emphasis on **different thematic considerations** they thought were important moving forward in the future development of the capacity-building programme. First, a number of respondents mentioned the importance of an increased reflection on regional/national perspectives within the network as well as how they relate to broader international trends, theoretical concepts and policies. A back and forth between different thematic and geographic levels was seen as having the potential to make the network and the programme more dynamic. Others felt that thematic meetings should be proposed outside the regional framework, focusing on broader issues, processes, and objectives.

Second, while noting that new themes have visibly been taken into account in the texts of the Convention and in the Operational Directives, such as ICH and gender and ICH and sustainable development, a number of facilitators suggested mobilizing resources for capacity building particularly on emerging ICH **themes** such as: ICH in times of disaster, ICH during conflict/wars, ICH in situations of urgency/at-risk ICH, ICH and youth, and ICH and migration. Some facilitators suggested that there be a reflection on the ways that ICH can be safeguarded and sustained by its inclusion in development projects - not only income producing projects, but in education, health care, agriculture, customary legal systems, etc. Other thematic areas mentioned by respondents include reflections and approaches to 'authenticity' and intellectual property rights. Several respondents mentioned including a thematic area on social media and new technologies of communication, and factoring ICH into contemporary cultural manifestations. One facilitator suggested creating a workshop module on "preparing international assistance" after the manner of the one for preparing nominations, with a particular emphasis on drafting the request for a financial assistance of less than US\$100,000, with the aim of encouraging States Parties to submit more requests. Finally, several respondents suggested delving more deeply into multinational and trans-border cooperation in ICH safeguarding.

Third, various respondents thought that **less emphasis should be placed on nominations** and more on the objectives of the 2003 Convention (particularly safeguarding the ICH, awareness-raising, the importance of community-led safeguarding), constructing national inventories, and enabling and empowering community stakeholders.

Finally, several facilitators mentioned that they felt that the capacity building materials and programme, as well as the facilitators' network were sometimes overtaken by a western perspective, where the **voices of non-western participants** and leaders were not heard loudly enough. There was a call for a continued reflection on perspective to this regard and an awareness of any potential discrimination or bias.

**A few relevant quotes:**

*'It would be enriching and productive to create opportunities for facilitators of different regions to meet and discuss how to improve the capacity building programme, notably how to ensure follow-up activities by local authorities'.*

*'There could be envisioned regular annual or bi-annual meetings of the network members for sharing experience and enhancing the joint work together. Another possibility would be to develop and work together on common projects directly focused on the safeguarding of ICH, addressing a wide circle of stakeholders for collaboration in such activities. The existing practices of involving facilitators in network meetings and workshops, and regularly submitted information about relevant activities, has been very positive so far and certainly needs to continue'.*

*'Basically, I think that there should be more possibilities to follow the results of the facilitation. After the work is done, normally we don't know how the country and its institutions developed the activities'.*

*'I think we have had enough materials on the legal and bureaucratic aspects of the Convention, but ironically we have not put enough emphasis safeguarding which is the spirit and ultimate aim of the Convention. In all the countries that I have conducted training workshops, governments are keen to spend their limited resources on nominating their living, well-known, mainstream, beautiful, officially recognised ICH to the Representative List. I have not seen efforts to address living heritage that is in danger. It is time to develop a new direction in the training activities that focus on raising awareness about safeguarding heritage that is endangered, difficult, belonging to minorities, challenging, and explore ideas and practices to safeguard them. As an example, the training could focus on working on a specific site as a pilot safeguarding project that involves practitioners and government official, researchers, NGOs etc. to work together using the same methodology as an ethnographic research, but with practical solutions. The project should be long-term, from studying the site, creating rapport and trust, learning the values of the elements from the community point of view, develop a plan, and execute the plan over a long period of time, not less than 2-3 years, then monitoring how it develops, and assessing its preliminary impacts. It should be designed as a learning experience that is hands-on, concrete, situated in context, realistic, and addressing the dynamics of living heritage'.*