

CONCEPT NOTE

The UNESCO training of Periodic Reporting during the year 2021 was the first opportunity for all designated focal points from Europe to come together in one event. This time has been valuable for us all to share experiences, to get to know each other and learn more, both as one group and divided into regional sub-groups. The experience clearly showed that Europe as a region would benefit from closer networking among the focal points. At the same time, developing regional networks could be an inspiring approach for the future of periodic reporting under the Convention globally.

In April 2021 the European Network of Focal Points for the 2003 Convention (ENFP) was launched for the UNESCO Group I and II countries. The proposal was launched in the UNESCO training on periodic reporting by focal points in Italy and Finland and was received with great interest and joy by tens of countries in the region, included in UNESCO Group I and II countries.

On the 25th May and 4th April the first online events were organised to discuss the network in more detail. Also UNESCO /LHE Regional Coordinator of the UNESCO 2003 Convention was present in both events. Examples from other European networks related to the work on the UNESCO 2003 Convention were provided in order to learn more and to inspire to develop a network for the focal points. Thoughts and suggestions from participants were collected through an online platform.

The work of the ENFP has started in the middle of crisis in Europe: first the pandemic and then state of emergency after attacks to Ukraine. These conditions invite us now more than ever to collaborate and share ideas, experiences and challenges. Culture, ICH, dialogue and peace are at the centre of international issues.

The main purposes of the network:

1. Contribute to the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention at national and regional levels.
2. Encourage dialogue, exchange of expertise, international and intercultural cooperation in the region.
3. Consolidate the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention by supporting existing networks (including of ICH Facilitators, ICH NGO Forum and existing sub-regional networks).
4. Promote peer to peer learning and comparative approaches for the implementation of UNESCO 2003 Convention and the design of related cultural policies.

5. Find synergies with initiatives and instruments at European level, for example those related to the work of European Union, Council of Europe and other regional actors.
6. Contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in the field of ICH.

A survey was launched in March 2022 for all network members (approximately 100 persons in 45 countries) in order to hear more on the recent thoughts of the network. 105 people had opened the survey and 23 replies were received before the end of the deadline. Through the survey the ENFP has been able to gather more insights for its future work: for its purpose, communication methods, forms of participation and themes for future events.

The steering committee of the ENFP

Ioana Baskerville, FP, Romania
Eszter Csonka-Takac, FP, Hungary
Mirela Hrovatin, FP, Croatia
Naira Kilichyan, FP, Armenia
Leena Marsio, FP, Finland
Jorijn Neyrinck, facilitator, Belgium
Elena Sinibaldi, FP, Italy
Benedetta Ubertazzi, facilitator, Italy
Nikolai Vukov, facilitator, Bulgaria

The steering committee has had two meetings so far: on the 11th May and 15th June 2022. The memos of the meetings are shared with the ENFP network.

European Network of Focal Points for the 2003 Convention (ENFP)
Side Meeting at UNESCO Headquarter in Paris
Wednesday 6th July at 14.00-15.00 p.m. Room VI

Welcome Coffee 13.40 p.m.

PROGRAMME

Chairs: Elena Sinibaldi (Italy) and Leena Marsio (Finland)

- 14.15** Greetings from UNESCO/ Living Heritage Entity
- 14.20** Presentation of the work of the ENFP
- 14.30** Discussion of the roles of the ENFP
- 14.40** Networking with colleagues
- 15.00** Conclusions

The Welcome Coffee is kindly offered
by the Italian Ministry of Culture