Unit 49

Hand-out 2:

Typical Elements of a national ich inventory

**Ordering principles**: This is often ordered according to the five domains of ICH in the Convention as follows:

* oral expressions and language as a vehicle for ICH
* performing arts
* social practices, rituals and festive events
* knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
* traditional craftsmanship

Additional, local-specific categories may be added: traditional games, culinary arts, local knowledge, traditional technology, traditional textiles, traditional dress. etc.

**Criteria for inclusion** often include the following:

* It falls within the defiinition of an ICH element under Article 2 of the Convention and/or national legislation
* It is related to one or more of the ICH domains (listed for inventory-making)
* There are living exponents and bearer communities of the traditions
* Historical continuity or ‘rootedness in the past’ (e.g. practised by at least 2-3 generations)
* Local recognition or ‘rootedness in place’ (strongly related to local communities and places)
* Communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize it as forming part of their heritage
* Passed on from generation to generation with continued vitality of transmission within the community
* It belongs to a specific category of people (e.g. minorities, ethnic groups etc.)
* Clear and prior, informed consent of the bearers and their participant community (supported by documentation)
* The availability of safeguarding measures/a safeguarding plan for the elements
* it is in conformity with international human rights standards

**Format and content**:Inventory forms usually contain several fields to be filled and data collected during further field research on the elements is recorded on these. Typical information required here would include:

(a) Identification of the element and its geographic location:

* + category/domain of element
  + name and role/function of concerned person, community of group
  + location of element (possibly including ethnic territorial indicators)

(b) Description of the element and its space:

* + periodicity of its enactment/performance
  + place of enactment
  + associated tangible elements
  + materials used
  + any products
  + modes of transmission

(c) Justification for inscription and patrimonial value:

* + significance for the community
  + outcomes and advantages associated with its practice

(d) Historical information, i.e. general and specific history of:

* + the community, group or individual
  + the form of expression
  + the cultural space

(e) Viability, risks and safeguarding measures taken

(f) Technical information (dates and place of investigation, date of inventorying, name(s) of investigator(s) etc.)

If the element contains sensitive information, access to the data may be restricted.