

RESULTS OF THE 2022 UNESCO SURVEY ON SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN URBAN CONTEXTS

Unit 1. Linking intangible cultural heritage and sustainable urban development



BACKGROUND

Within the context of the UNESCO's thematic initiative on intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts, a survey was launched in September 2022 to gather input from stakeholders involved in urban planning and intangible cultural heritage. The goal was to identify key issues and challenges in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban settings. The survey provides data to understand the importance of incorporating intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in urban planning processes.

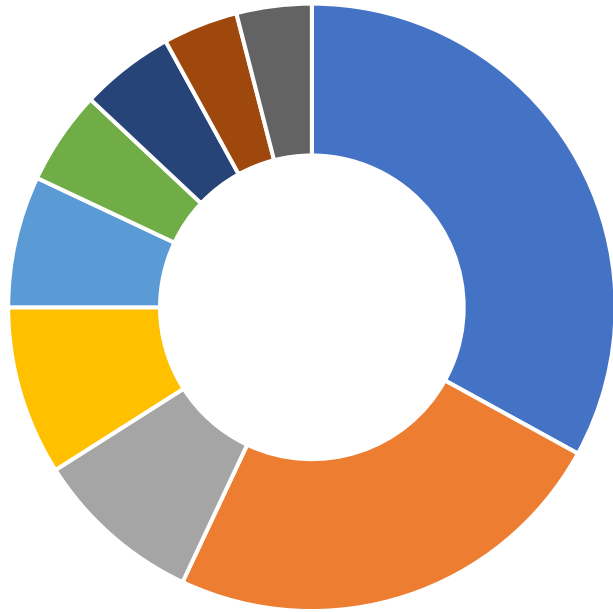


SURVEY - GENERAL INFORMATION

- The survey provides data to understand the importance of incorporating intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in urban planning processes.
- 64 responses from 39 countries and more than 50 cities.
- Geographical distribution of responses: 41% Europe and North America, 25% from Asia and the Pacific, 17% from Latin America and the Caribbean, 14% from Africa and 3% from the Arab States
- 63 responses from intangible cultural heritage stakeholders and 1 from Urban Planning.



THREATS TO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN URBAN CONTEXTS

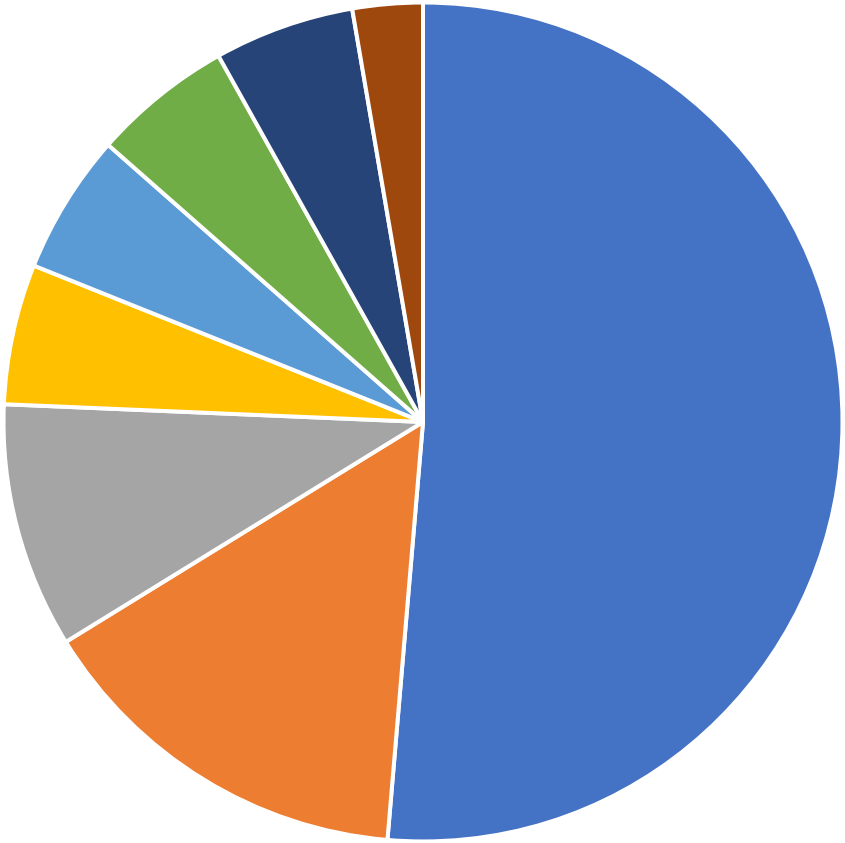


- Rapid urbanization 33%
- Destruction or changes in cultural spaces 24%
- Unemployment or low income 9%
- Consumerism, armed conflict 9%
- Lack of public spaces 7%
- Globalization 5%
- New technologies 5%
- Migration 4%
- Climate change and natural disasters 4%



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BENEFITS OF SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN URBAN CONTEXTS



- Social cohesion and sense of identity 38%
- Sustainable livelihoods 11%
- Intergenerational communication 7%
- Protection of local economies 4%
- Intra and intercommunity tolerance 4%
- Informal social support structures 4%
- Urban rural integration 4%
- Environmental protection 2%

BENEFITS OF SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN URBAN CONTEXTS

Other responses such as "urban rehabilitation" and "risk preparedness", which are objectives usually considered in urban planning processes, were less selected by respondents, which may be partly due to the fact that almost all of the respondents are involved in the cultural sector, not in planning.



ISSUES TO INTEGRATE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE INTO URBAN PLANS

- Lack of knowledge of urban planners about the field of intangible cultural heritage and its associated benefits.
- Lack of knowledge of intangible cultural heritage experts on urban planning concepts.
- Lack of adequate legislation and policies to ensure the inclusion of intangible cultural heritage in urban plans.
- Tensions between urban development and the protection of historical and cultural heritage.
- Adoption of urban planning frameworks that do not reflect local sociocultural aspects.
- Local government priorities in the face of limited financial resources.

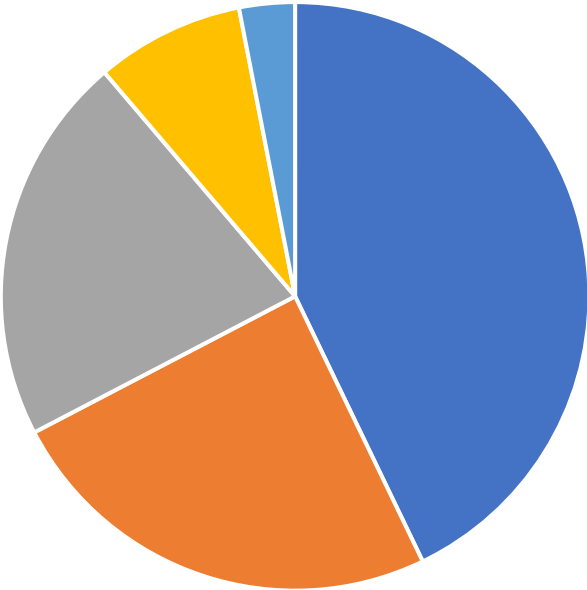
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Examples of relationships between built environments and cultural practices that could be taken into account in urban planning:

- Cultural practices that take place in public spaces, parks and ecosystems such as lakes and riverbanks, religious spaces such as mosques and churches, and various public facilities such as museums and performance halls.
- "Historic centers" are key environments for intangible cultural heritage, as are the streets for processions and festivals.



KEY AREAS FOR INTEGRATING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN URBAN PLANNING



- Historic and built heritage areas 42%
- Public spaces 24%
- Public facilities 21%
- Residential areas 8%
- Ecological corridors 3%



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MECHANISMS FOR INCLUDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN URBAN PLANNING

40% indicated that they did not know any type, which shows the novelty of the subject and the need to integrate the fields of intangible cultural heritage and urban planning.

Type of mechanisms mentioned:

1

- Legislative and regulatory frameworks (e.g., laws on safeguarding of cultural practices).

2

- Need to involve local communities and intangible cultural heritage stakeholders in planning processes.

3

- Awareness raising, intangible cultural heritage coalition building and multisectoral coordination.

LESSONS FROM REGIONAL EXPERIENCES

- ✓ The experiences highlight historical and cultural heritage and the existence and use of public spaces as key planning areas for integrating intangible cultural heritage into urban plans.
- ✓ This is consistent with one of the main threats identified for the practice and continuity of intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts, which is the intervention or physical modification of public spaces where practices such as local fairs for local trade and crafts are traditionally expressed.
- ✓ A key component to consider when defining a methodology for integrating intangible cultural heritage into urban planning is the relationship between cultural heritage and the creative industries. For example, parks and gardens could be used as a musical platform and public squares as bazaars for local trade and crafts.
- ✓ To clearly understand the importance of public spaces for intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, better coordination between planning and cultural heritage authorities is needed.

LESSONS FROM REGIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Community participation in efforts to integrate intangible cultural heritage into urban planning is essential to ensure integration. For this reason, roundtables and workshops should be held with owners, government, designers/architects and other relevant stakeholders, as well as public meetings/consultations to gather feedback from communities.
- Strengthen local capacities to achieve urban plans with an integrated vision.
- Conduct participatory planning processes, in conjunction with the governmental entities responsible for cultural heritage and with interested communities.