

**Regional seminar**  
**“Principles and Experiences of Drawing up ICH Inventories in Europe”**

May 14-15 2007, Tallinn, Estonia

**ICH INVENTORY IN LATVIA: EXPERIENCE RECONSIDERED**

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## **Important ICH activities in Latvia 2004-2007**

- Ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, *Saeima*, Dec. 16 2004
- 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
- Research project “Problems in the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latvia”, Latvian Academy of Culture, Sept.-Dec. 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



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## Who is the suitable and capable body for drawing ICH inventories?

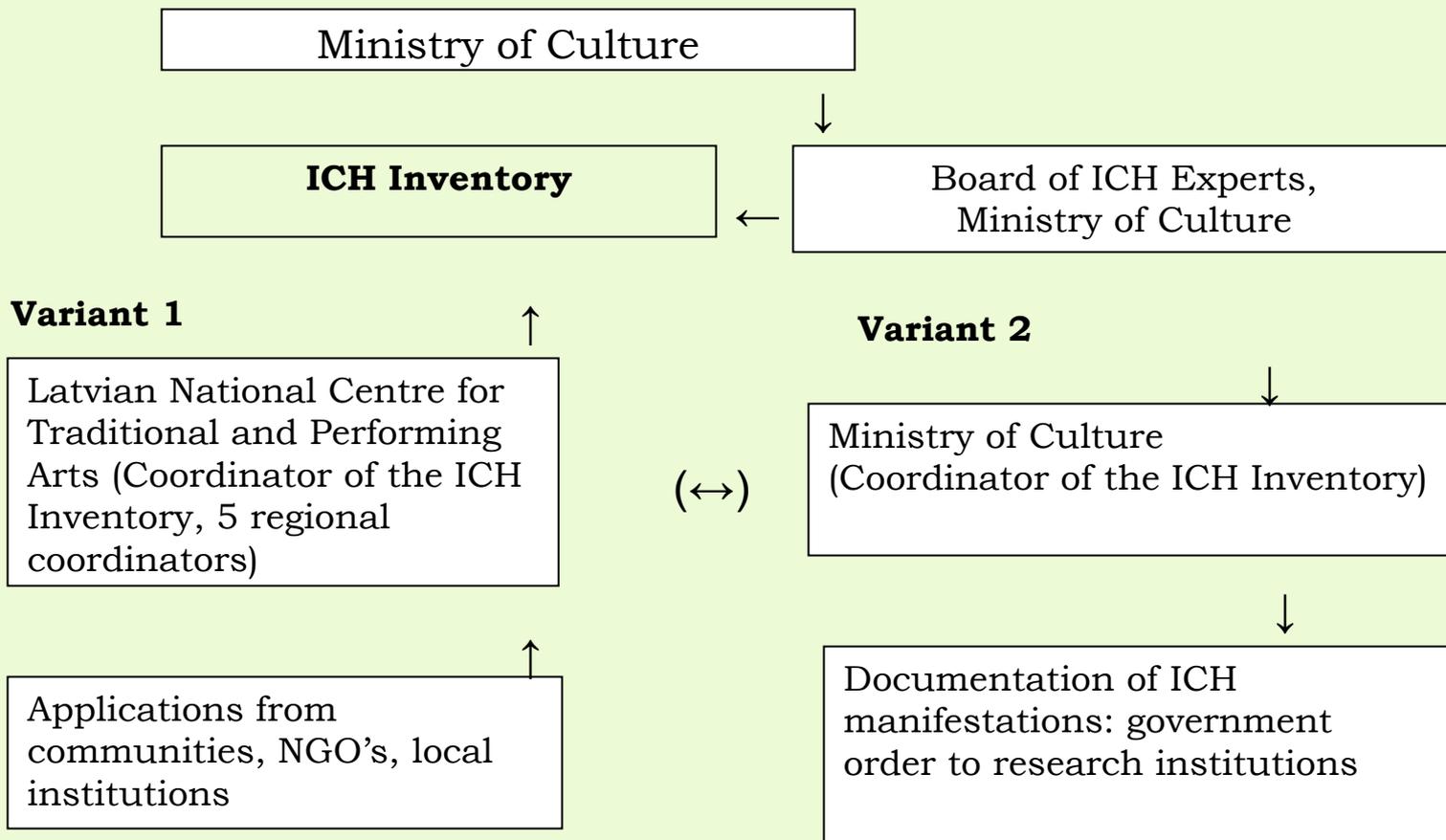
- Board of ICH Experts, Ministry of Culture
- Latvian National Centre for Traditional and Performing Arts, Ministry of Culture (National ICH inventory)
- “Digital Map of Culture” ([www.kulturaskarte.lv](http://www.kulturaskarte.lv)) (local inventories)



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# Should the process be arranged top-down or bottom-up? (1)



Conception of the ICH Inventory Working Principles



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## 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



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## 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

Laķe, Anda and Vaivade, Anita. *Problems in the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latvia*. (Presentation of the research results). Latvian Academy of Culture, 2006-2007



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## 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.



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## 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



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## What is the relation between national and local inventories? (2)

### National ICH inventory

Board of ICH Experts → Latvian  
National Centre for Traditional and  
Performing Arts

- Exclusive
- Symbolic

### Local ICH inventories

“Digital Map of Culture”  
([www.kulturaskarte.lv](http://www.kulturaskarte.lv))

- Inclusive
- Informative



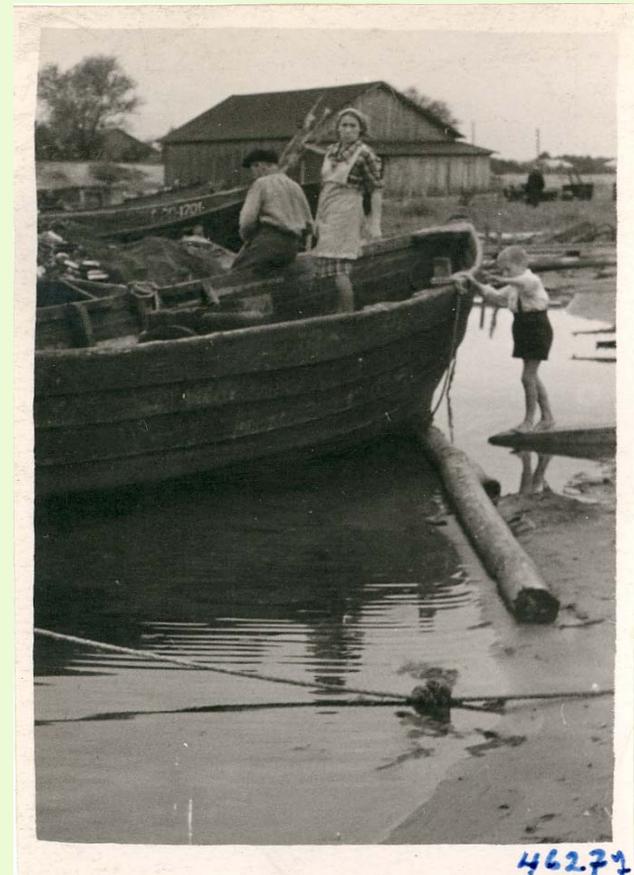
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# How to resolve the contradiction of particularities and universalities on local, national and international level?



*Suiti* singers



Mangaļsala fishermen



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