

13th Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage

*“Safeguarding ICH at local level: governance frameworks
and community engagement”*

Cremona, Italy 16-18 June 2019



CONCEPT NOTE



Cremona
COMUNE DI CREMONA



CULTURAL DISTRICT OF
VIOLIN MAKING
— CREMONA —

Background

The South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) was established in 2007 by UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in order to support the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the region. Annual meetings of the network took place so far in Arbanasi, Bulgaria (2007); Safranbolu, Turkey (2008); Zagreb, Croatia (2009); Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Romania (2010); Belgrade, Serbia (2011); Athens, Greece (2012); Sofia, Bulgaria (2013); Limassol, Cyprus (2014); Venice, Italy (2015); Supetar, Croatia (2016); Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017); and Ljubljana, Slovenia (2018).

These meetings contributed to enhance a common understanding of opportunities and challenges linked to the safeguarding of the ICH as a key asset of South-East European cultural diversity, promoting the sharing of knowledge and good practices on national measures to implement the Convention, and serving as a platform to develop regional and cross-border cooperation.

The 13th annual meeting is hosted by the City of Cremona, Italy, and organized by UNESCO (Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the Living Heritage Entity), thanks to the generous support of the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe (Category 2 Centre operating under the auspices of UNESCO, based in Sofia, Bulgaria).

Objectives

The meeting will provide participants with an opportunity to develop their institutional and operational capacities on ICH-related policy frameworks for safeguarding, with special focus on the engagement of local community actors. To this end, the programme combines presentations with workshop discussions and group exercises led by technical facilitators, taking the [“Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona”](#) (inscribed in 2012 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity) as case-study, while encouraging participants to share their respective experiences at country level.

In addition, the meeting is an opportunity to discuss and advance cooperation on intangible cultural heritage with and among Member States and other relevant partners in South-East Europe, confirming the importance of intangible cultural heritage as a mainspring for dialogue, integration and sustainable development in the region.

Participants

Experts are invited to participate in representation of ministries of culture and/or other relevant authorities from the Member States covered by the geographical mandate of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria, Croatia; Greece; Montenegro; North Macedonia; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Serbia; Slovenia; and Turkey; plus Italy as the host country).

Working language

The meeting's working language is English.

Conference venue and accommodation

The meeting will take place on 16-18 June 2019 in Cremona, at different venues (addresses will be communicated in due time before the meeting, together with the final programme).

Participants will lodge at [Design Hotel Delle Arti](#) (Via Geremia Bonomelli, 8), at walking distance from all meeting venues.

Transportation from/to airport in Italy, hotel lodging (limited to B&B service and excluding extras, for one person per country) as well as meals for the duration of the meeting will be provided by the organizers for registered participants.

General Information

The average temperature in Cremona during June is between 15° C and 28° C, with 8 average rainy days and 77% average humidity.

Time: CEST = GMT+01.00 h

Currency: Euro

Contacts

Mr. Matteo Rosati, Programme Specialist, Culture Unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe / Tel: + 39 041 260 15 35 - Email: m.rosati@unesco.org

Ms. Laura De Stefani, Programme Assistant, Culture Unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe / Tel: + 39 041 260 15 36 - Email: l.destefani@unesco.org

Ms. Nadya Ilieva, Expert, Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe / Tel: + 35 092 444 37 40 - Email: n.ilieva@unesco-centerbg.org

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1 - Sunday, 16 June <i>Venue: Auditorium Giovanni Arvedi, Violin Museum</i>	
Time	Session
17:15	Registration
18:00	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gianluca Galimberti, Mayor of Cremona • Alberto Bonisoli, Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities (<i>t.b.c.</i>) • Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe • Iliyana Rousseva, Programme officer, Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe <p>Presentation of the meeting's programme and facilitators</p> <p>Presentation of participants</p>
19:15	Attendance at technical audition of historical instruments (Violin museum)
20.15	Cocktail and buffet dinner
Day 2 - Monday, 17 June <i>Venue: Palazzo Raimondi, Department of Musicology, University of Pavia</i>	
9:15	<p>Session 1: Latest developments in the life of the 2003 Convention</p> <p>Key-note presentation: latest development in the life of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (<i>Helena Drobna, Programme Specialist, Living Heritage Entity, UNESCO</i>)</p> <p>Q&As - discussion</p>
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	<p>Session 2: improving governance and policy frameworks for ICH safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key-note presentation by the workshop facilitators (<i>Harriet Deacon; Benedetta Ubertazzi</i>) • Group-work • Discussion
13:00	Lunch break

14:30	<p>Session 3: engaging communities in defining and implementing safeguarding measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key-note presentation by the workshop facilitators (<i>Harriet Deacon; Benedetta Ubertazzi</i>) • Group-work • Discussion
17:00	Cultural Programme: visit to Palazzo Raimondi
20:30	Dinner (restaurant Il Violino)
<p>Day 3 - Tuesday, 18 June <i>Venue: Palazzo Pallavicino, "Antonio Stradivari" Institute of Higher Education</i></p>	
09:00	<p>Session 4 - Case-study: Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona Presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Elena Sinibaldi</i>, Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, Focal Point for the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage • <i>Agostina Lavagnino</i>, Lombardy Region, Officer in Charge for Ethnographic and Social History Archive – Directorate General Autonomy and Culture • <i>Chiara Bondioni</i>, City of Cremona, Cultural District Coordinator <p>Q&As - discussion</p>
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	<p>Session 4 (continued) Presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Davide Sora and Annamaria Menta</i>, Violinmakers in Cremona • <i>Fabio Antonacci</i>, researcher, Polytechnic University of Milan <p>Q&As - discussion</p>
12:00	<p>Session 5: Group Work Facilitators: <i>Harriet Deacon; Benedetta Ubertazzi</i></p>
13:00	Lunch break
14:30	<p>Session 5 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work (continued) • Presentation of results and discussion
17:00	Conclusion and final remarks
17:30	Cultural Programme. Tour of Cremona
20:30	Final Dinner (Locanda Torriani)

Annex I

Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona: Presentation of the workshop's case study

“Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona” is highly renowned for its traditional process of fashioning and restoring violins, violas, cellos and contrabasses. Violin-makers attend a specialized school, based on a close teacher-pupil relationship, before being apprenticed in a local workshop, where they continue to master and perfect their techniques – a never-ending process. Each violin-maker constructs from three to six instruments per year, shaping and assembling more than 70 pieces of wood around an inner mould by hand, according to the different acoustic response of each piece. No two violins are alike. Every part of the instrument is made of a specific wood, carefully selected and naturally seasoned. No semi-industrial or industrial materials are used.

Craftsmanship requires a high level of creativity: the craftsperson has to adapt general rules and personal knowledge to every instrument. Cremonese violin-makers, represented by two associations, are deeply convinced that sharing their knowledge is fundamental to the growth of their craftsmanship. Dialogue with musicians is essential to understand their needs. Violin making is fundamental to the identity of Cremona, its citizens, and plays a fundamental role in its social and cultural practices, rituals and events.

“Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona” was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2012 (the UNESCO Representative List). The inscription occurred with the free prior and informed consent of the Antonio Stradivari Violin Museum Foundation; the "Antonio Stradivari" Institute of Higher Education; Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage of the University of Pavia; Province of Cremona; National Confederation of Handicrafts and Small and Medium Enterprise (CAN) of Cremona; the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Handicraft and Agriculture of Cremona; Consorzio Liutai Antonio Stradivari; Associazione Liutaria Italiana; and some Cremonese citizens.

Before its inscription in the UNESCO Representative List, the element was included in the Italian National Inventory of cultural heritage of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities - Central Institute for Cataloguing and Documentation, with the involvement of community members. The Archive of Ethnography and Social History of Lombardy Region included the element in its REIL local inventory. These inventorying activities were carried out with the widest involvement of relevant community members.

From 2012 until 2018, several safeguarding measures were adopted with the community widest participation and consent and with the support of local, regional and national institutions. All of this happened under the technical coordination role of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (the Italian Ministry), which carries out active consultation and collaboration mechanisms in line with the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted in Paris on 17 of October 2003 (the Convention) and its Operating Directives.

In 2015, the Cultural District of Violin Making (the Cultural District) was established.

The Cultural District is financially supported by Fondazione Cariplo and the Arvedi - Buschini Foundation and the Lombardy Region. The Municipality of Cremona, the Antonio Stradivari Violin Museum Foundation (the Museum), the “Antonio Stradivari” Institute of Higher Education (the Stradivari Institute), Polytechnic University of Milan, University of Pavia, Cr.Forma, and 74 Cremonese violinmakers participate in the Cultural District.

The Municipality of Cremona uses the Cultural District as a vehicle through which to represent the community and manage the safeguarding efforts for “Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona”. Through the Cultural District, the Municipality of Cremona coordinates projects in the city relating to education, training and research in music and violin making. The Cultural District supports the link between the generation of scientific knowledge in academia and the practice of the intangible cultural heritage (ICH). People in Cremona actively participate in the Cultural District. In this way, the Cultural District facilitates both the community’s transmission of knowledge from generation to generation and the creation of new forms of know-how that are deeply grounded in this tradition. The Cultural District supports the collective character of the practice of Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona and its sustainable social, economic, and environmental development to the benefit of the entire community. This fosters the development of creative solutions in the context of a deep economic crisis, and supports the community in building strong relationships at the local and global levels; staying rooted in the local territory but at the same time benefiting from communicating with the world.

The Cultural District, as the overarching representative of the community, meets periodically to monitor the performance of safeguarding projects and agree on implementation methods. The Cultural District plans activities and coordinates communication strategies, particularly international communication strategies. A technical group (comprising the Conservator of the Museum and the scientific managers of research laboratories, coordinated by the Municipality of Cremona) was set up within the Cultural District to assist in the annual planning of activities concerning research, innovation and the enhancement of the violin-making heritage. The consultation and guidance body for the Cultural District is the Board of Governance of Violin Making, which promotes violinmaking and strengthens the role of violinmaking as a driving force of cultural and socio-economic development in Cremona. In addition to the members of the Cultural District, the Chamber of Commerce, CNA, Confartigianato, Consorzio Liutai, Academia Cremonensis, CremonaFiere, also participate in this board.

Besides the Cultural District, other safeguarding measures developed so far include valorisation and awareness raising initiatives, such as the institution of the Museum. The Museum helps safeguarding living heritage associated with violin making in Cremona, working alongside its practitioners to promote the visibility, viability and transmission of this ICH.

Educational initiatives were also carried out. Among the formal education safeguarding, in 2016, the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage at the University of Pavia offered the first single-cycle master's degree in Conservation and restoration of cultural heritage (class LMR/02) qualifying for the profession of Restorer of Cultural Heritage: Professionalizing Training Course n. 6 (Musical instruments, instruments and scientific and technical instruments). In the same year, the Polytechnic University of Milan introduced a 2-year master’s program in Music and Acoustic Engineering.

Among the non-formal education safeguarding measures, in 2013 two scientific laboratories were established at the Museum, to develop a 'widespread laboratory system' of non-formal education for community members. The laboratories provide information to the Cremonese violinmaking community, contributing to safeguarding and enhancing the ICH. The first laboratory was the University of Pavia's Arvedi Laboratory of non-invasive diagnostics, which studies the material consistency of instruments conserved at the Museum through advanced non-invasive diagnostic techniques. The aim of these experiments is to obtain information on the historical materials used by the great masters, Antonio Stradivari and Andrea Amati. The second laboratory was the Polytechnic University of Milan's Musical Acoustics Laboratory. This laboratory works closely with the Arvedi Laboratory with a focus on improving the quality of acoustic musical instruments as well as listening environments. The Laboratory features a rendering room, a vibro-acoustic analysis laboratory, a control room and an open space for software development and data management.

In addition, in 2018/2019 the Cultural District coordinated two important projects: 'ANIMA' and 'TARLO'. (i) 'ANIMA' employs a scientific method to study the aspects of the timbre of the instrument during each relevant phase of construction. This project was born out of a specific need expressed by a group of professional Cremonese violinmakers and has created a direct dialogue between the violinmakers and the university Laboratories inside the Museum. The project has many useful applications for luthiers, including identifying which of the many variables defining the geography of a violin are relevant to the success of the instrument and identifying the parameters necessary to define the optimal characteristics of the various materials. The results obtained from ANIMA will be available not only to the scientific community but also to the old and new violinmakers who are, and will become, the keepers of the ancient tradition but who are also drivers of innovation and progress. (ii) 'TARLO' (2019) is an applied research project that uses a scientific method to take measurements and evaluate the timbre of instruments that have already been constructed. TARLO was developed collaboratively by the Municipality of Cremona, the Cultural District, the Museum, the Stradivari Institute, 5 technical experts and a musician. TARLO aims to scientifically validate the material being developed at the Institute and to involve master luthiers in the collaborative activity.

In 2018, building on its work with the Cultural District, the Municipality of Cremona applied to the Italian Ministry for a grant within the national funding programme (call) for safeguarding elements inscribed in the UNESCO Lists. The call provides financial support for the development of management and safeguarding plans related to UNESCO-listed heritage, through cooperation between communities and institutions at the local, national and international level. The call is based on the Italian Statute 20/02/2006 n. 77 "Special measures for the protection and management of Italian sites of cultural and natural interest included in the UNESCO World Heritage List" (Statute 2006/77), which was extended in 2017 to include elements inscribed in the UNESCO ICH Lists and Register related to the 2003 Convention (through Statute n. 44 of 8 March 2017 – Statute 2017/44).

To apply for the grant, the Cremonese violin makers community established an agreement to recognize the Municipality as the "referent body" for implementing heritage management plans for safeguarding the "Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona". In the application, the Municipality of Cremona proposed a project named

“La materia e il suono. Il saper fare liutario cremonese tra tradizione, musica e scienza” (The matter and the sound. Traditional Violin Craftsmanship in Cremona between tradition, music and science). The project’s main objective is to develop a safeguarding plan to strengthen the inclusive governance system founded by the Cultural District. The Municipality of Cremona is both the submitting subject and the benefitting subject. The person technically responsible for the project is Ms Chiara Bondioni, of the Cultural District. The project explores the specific cultural, artistic, historical, environmental, scientific and technical problems relating to the Italian UNESCO-listed elements, including the development of safeguarding plans. The project also aims at consolidating and increasing the dialogue between artisans and knowledge centres through awareness-raising, training and applied research, which benefit the community. In particular, the project protects the tradition from production practices of musical instruments related to the element that are not based on traditional know-how, and that may weaken the community and local systems. In order to do so, the project also seeks to develop a formalised, innovative governance system, in close consultation with the Ministry of culture. This system should include the entire community, be transferable to other elements, and conduce to national and international valorisation and promotion. Above all, the system should develop a safeguarding plan with effective actions to safeguard and transmit the element.

In 2019, the Italian Ministry awarded funding to this project (applications are evaluated by a technical commission, instituted under the Statute 77/2006), in the amount of 100,000 EUR, which corresponds to the highest possible grant that the call may provide, and which matched the application’s request. After validation by the Court of Auditors, the related Legislative decree was published on the website of the Ministry, entering into force.

Thanks to the Ministry’s grant, some of the activities for the development of the safeguarding plan have been already initiated, namely those related to the ANIMA and TARLO projects and those concerning the reinforcement of a multi-level, inclusive and representative governance system of the element.