

# Living Heritage in TVET and Higher Education

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the South- East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage

Belgrade, Serbia, 22-23 June 2023

### CONCEPT NOTE

with Final Agenda

## Background

The **South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** was established in 2007 under the auspices of UNESCO, to support the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) in the region. Previous annual meetings of the network took place in Arbanasi, Bulgaria (2007); Safranbolu, Türkiye (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); Ljubljana, Slovenia (2018); Cremona, Italy (2019); online (2020 and 2021); and, Sofia, Bulgaria (2022).

The meetings are primarily aimed at representatives of ministries of culture and/or other competent bodies for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in the Member States under the purview of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Türkiye. Experts representing relevant authorities from Austria and Italy are also invited as observers.

The Network aims to enhance a common understanding of opportunities and challenges linked to the safeguarding of the living heritage as a key asset of South-East European cultural diversity, serving as a regional platform for sharing knowledge and good practice. Since 2018, the annual meetings introduced a capacity-building approach on specific subjects and progressively extended attendance to other relevant experts from the region, to contribute more effectively to the advancement of living heritage safeguarding.

## Introduction to the meeting

This year, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage, organised from 22-23 June in **Belgrade, Serbia**, will be hosted by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia and organised by UNESCO with the support of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe (based in Sofia, Bulgaria).

Building on the subject and outcomes of the previous annual meeting in 2022, the proposed theme for this year is **intangible cultural heritage and education** with a special focus on **Technical and vocational education and training (TVET)** and on **higher education**.

As this year marks the **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2003 Convention** for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the meeting will also offer the opportunity to reflect on the progress so far achieved in the region, the priorities ahead, and the activities planned in the participating countries to celebrate the anniversary.

The intersectoral programme on [Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education](#) is a UNESCO initiative that recognises the mutually reinforcing relationship between living heritage and quality education. On the one hand, education plays an important and valuable role in ensuring the viability, continuity and transmission of intangible cultural heritage from generation to generation, thus contributing to its safeguarding. On the other hand, intangible cultural heritage can provide context-specific content and pedagogy for education programmes and thus acts as leverage to increase the quality of education and improve learning outcomes.

This intersectoral programme also supports the integration of living heritage in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as depicted in the Indicator 6 of the overall results framework of the Convention (“extent to which post-secondary education supports the practice and transmission of ICH as well as study of its social, cultural and other dimensions”). Integrating both can contribute to developing the knowledge and skills of young people for their future role in professional life and provide decent work while contributing to recognising the importance of this heritage and to safeguarding it. Thanks to UNESCO’s intersectoral work, the role of ICH in education and its importance to achieve SDGs, and notably SDG 4, is nowadays better understood.

Under the capacity-building programme of the 2003 Convention, UNESCO also supports networking with tertiary education institutions, which play an important role in training future decision-makers, planners and administrators to work in the field of safeguarding living heritage and can be key actors in capacity building.

Against this background, this year’s Annual Meeting will offer the opportunity to share and reflect upon experiences across South-East Europe and beyond, and to discuss measures to better integrate education about and with ICH in curricula development and reform within TVET and higher education, for the mutual benefit of both ICH safeguarding and achieving quality education for all.

## Objectives

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network aims to:

- share knowledge and experiences in integrating living heritage into TVET and higher education from both the operational and policy perspectives, inspiring

new initiatives;

- support regional networking and cooperation for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

## Working language

The working language of the meeting is English. Translation to Serbian will be provided.

## Venues

Participants requesting hotel accommodation in Belgrade will lodge at [Belgrade Art Hotel](#), Knez Mihailova 27, Belgrade.

The welcome reception on 21 June will take place at the [Ethnographic Museum](#) in Belgrade, Studentski trg 13.

The meeting on 22 and 23 June will take place at [Jugoslovenska kinoteka](#) (Yugoslav Film Archive), Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade.

The dinner on 22 June will take place at Restaurant [Tri šešira](#), Skadarska 29, Belgrade.

## Contacts

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## Tentative agenda

<b>Wednesday, 21 June 2023</b> <b>(Ethnographic Museum, Studentski trg 13, Belgrade)</b>	
18:00	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stanko Blagojević, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation and European Integrations in the field of Culture, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia</li> <li>- Sinisa Sesum, Head, Antenna in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe</li> </ul> <p>2003-2023: 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage – presentation by Bora Dimitrijević, President of the National Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Serbia</p> <p>Welcome Reception</p>

<b>Thursday, 22 June 2023</b> <b>(Jugoslovenska kinoteka, Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade)</b>	
<b>Morning session</b>	
9:30	Registration of participants
10:00	<p>Opening Speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Danijela Vanušić, Assistant Minister for Protection of Cultural Heritage and Digitization, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia</li> <li>- Matteo Rosati, Officer-in-Charge, Culture Unit and Programme Officer for Intersectoral Action, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe</li> <li>- Irena Todorova, Director, Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe</li> </ul>
10:20	<p>Intangible Cultural Heritage in higher education and TVET</p> <p>Presentation by Susanne Schnuttgen, Chief, Capacity Building and Heritage Policy Unit, UNESCO Living Heritage Entity (<i>online</i>)</p>
10:45	<p>Integrating culture into technical and vocational education and training</p> <p>Keynote speech by Madlen Serban, Secretary General, National Commission of Romania for UNESCO (<i>online</i>)</p>
11:15	Break
11:30	Presentations by representatives of participating countries
12:30	Lunch

<b>Afternoon session</b>	
14:00	Presentations by representatives of participating countries (continued)
15:00	Break
15:30	Discussion
16.00	Visit to the Manak's House <sup>1</sup> (Gavrila Principa 5, Belgrade) – presentation of trainings, courses and workshops for traditional crafts
18.00	Free time
19:30	Joint dinner at "Tri šešira" (Skadarska 29, Belgrade)

<b>Friday, 23 June 2023 (Jugoslovenska kinoteka, Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade)</b>	
<b>Morning session</b>	
9:30	Recap from Day 1
9:40	Intangible Cultural Heritage in higher education Keynote speech by Ahmet Erman Aral, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Formal and Informal Education, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University Presentation by Danijel Sinani, Professor, Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
10:20	Presentations by representatives of participating countries
11:20	Break
11:50	Presentations by representatives of participating countries (continued)
12:50	Wrap-up
13:00	Lunch

<sup>1</sup> Manak's House, governed by the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade, hosts and exhibits the legacy collection bequeathed by Hristifor Crnilović, painter and researcher of folk culture. This monument of culture is located in the Belgrade Neighborhood of Savamala is one of the rare preserved examples of old Balkan architecture. Trainings and courses for traditional crafts are being held there in the last 20 years: pottery, weaving, hand papermaking, graphics, embroidery, felting etc.

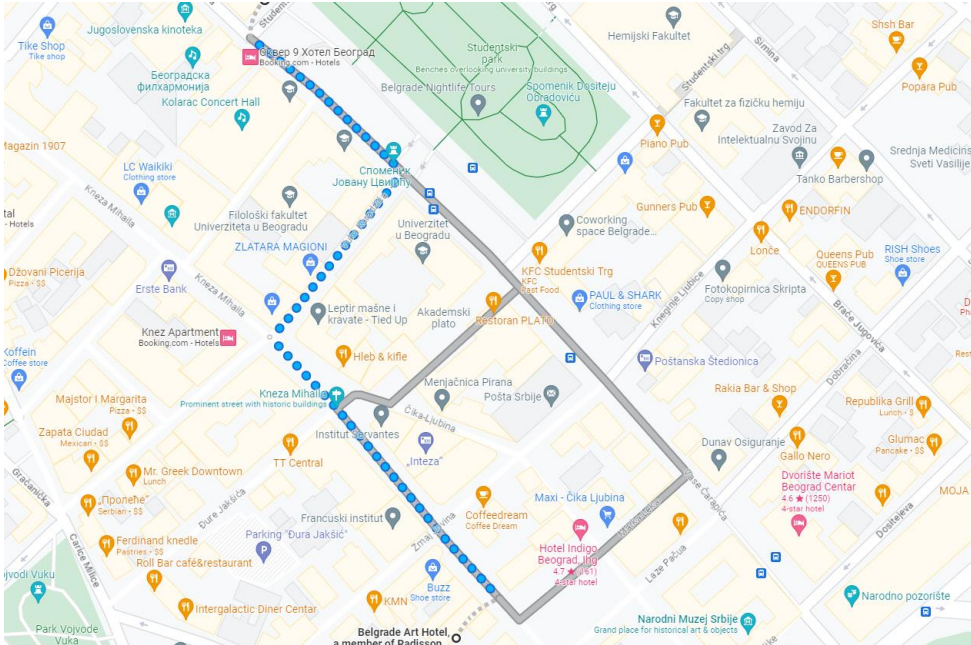
<b>Afternoon session</b>	
14:15	Latest developments in the life of the Convention – Presentation by Helena Drobna and Mathilde Crochet, UNESCO Living Heritage Entity ( <i>online</i> )
14:30	Presentations by representatives of participating countries
15:30	Break
15:45	Presentations by representatives of participating countries (continued)
16:45	Conclusions
17:00	End of works



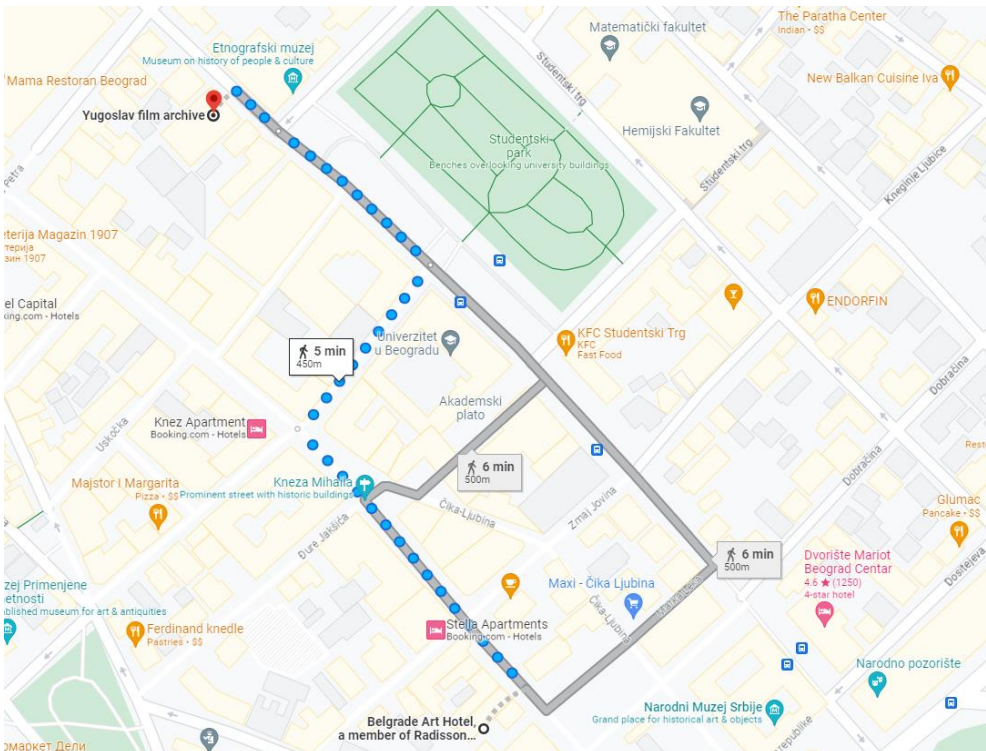
## Directions

All main venues of the meeting are located in the centre of Belgrade, at walking distance.

From Belgrade Art Hotel to the Ethnographic Museum:

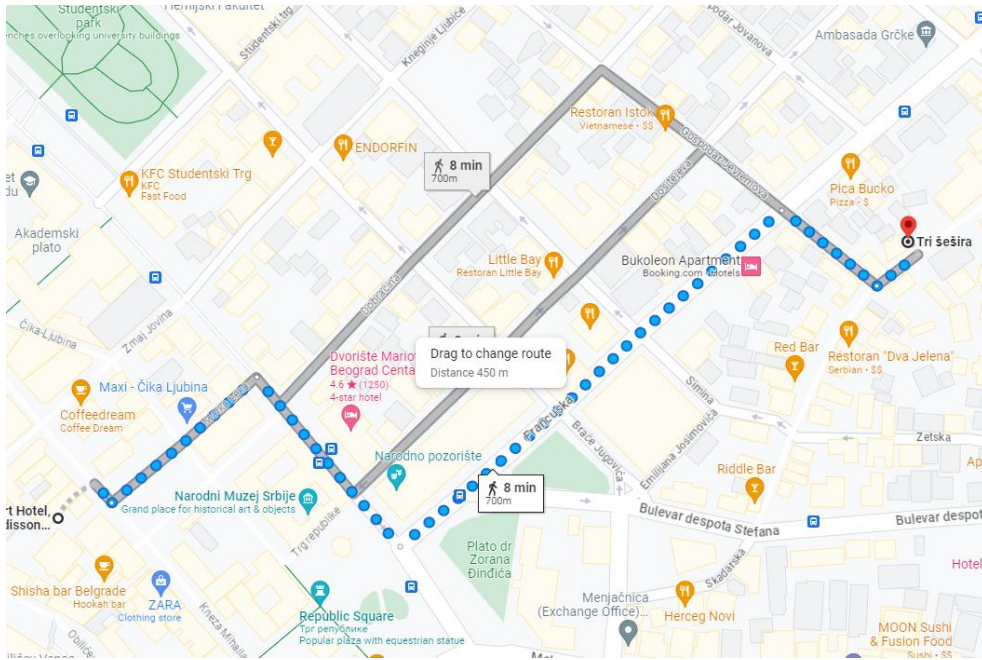


From Belgrade Art Hotel to Jugoslovenska Kinoteka:



From Belgrade Art Hotel to Restaurant “Tri šešira”:





## Annex: a thematic note on intangible cultural heritage and formal & non-formal education

Education plays a key role in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage from generation to generation, intending safeguarding as a dynamic process that allows communities to adapt their practices in response to environmental and social changes.

The transmission of intangible cultural heritage has long been a form of socio-cultural and ecological informal education as communities and parents offer children a variety of learning opportunities and experiences embedded in cultures, communities and social groups. Living heritage provides a cultural, epistemic and experiential basis for education and learning processes. Therefore, modes and methods of transmission and safeguarding that are recognised and used by communities can be strengthened through formal and non-formal educational programs.

At the same time, intangible cultural heritage can offer context-specific content and learning methods thus providing high-quality education that is relevant to the learner, as we can use socially embedded knowledge and experience to better grasp and retain new concepts. This relevance also involves fostering an appreciation of cultural diversity for sustainable living, global citizenship, and peace. Students can learn to understand and appreciate the living heritage of others as well as their own, especially in culturally or socially diverse school environments. In this regard, living heritage constitutes a valuable resource contributing to achieving (among other SDGs) Sustainable Development Goal 4, 'ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong opportunities for all', and specifically target 4.7, 'the appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development'.

Formal and non-formal education programmes (including TVET) can foster respect for intangible cultural heritage and provide new spaces to ensure its transmission to future generations. Reinforcing the transmission of intangible cultural heritage through such education programmes constitutes a broad social approach to safeguarding that can have many short- and long-term learning benefits. Apart from contributing to the safeguarding and to achieving quality education, bringing living heritage and education together cultivates respect and appreciation for diversity and creates a space for everyone to become an agent in the learning and safeguarding processes. In our globalised world, education paired with intangible cultural heritage can help learners feel confident in their abilities to navigate through the complexity of modernity which, in itself, may generate anxiety and a sense of powerlessness. It helps young people, especially, explore their identity while it strengthens intergenerational dialogue and explores solutions to global environmental problems by raising awareness about local approaches to sustainably managing natural resources, preventing land erosion or natural disasters, protecting biodiversity and building resilience.

Intangible cultural heritage can also improve learning outcomes by providing cross-curricular context-specific content which can be used at all stages of learning, whether it be teaching *about* or teaching *with* intangible cultural heritage. In teaching *about* living heritage, the main focus is on utilising living heritage in general or an intangible cultural heritage element in particular as the focal point of teaching linked to a variety of educational subjects. Teaching *with* intangible cultural heritage focuses on using intangible cultural heritage elements themselves as learning vectors and pedagogical tools integrated within subjects of the curriculum, whether they are already included in the formal curriculum or whether they are used to serve its aims and objectives.

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and intangible cultural heritage (ICH) safeguarding have the potential to empower individuals, groups and communities. TVET plays a key role in developing the knowledge and skills of young people for their future roles in professional life and in their community and society. Similarly, living heritage involves the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and skills that help young people to practice their living heritage, find their place in their communities, and can provide decent work. Similarly, living heritage can provide knowledge, values, skills, and practical experiences for TVET, e.g. certain modes of transmitting intangible heritage, such as from master to apprentice, are already embedded in TVET programmes. Some domains of intangible cultural heritage, such as performing arts and traditional crafts can be easily linked with skills development in TVET. TVET can play a role in developing self-respect for and among traditional craftspeople and performers. It can also contribute support to craftspeople and performers in developing practical economic, management, and entrepreneurial skills so that they can be conscious actors in a market of which they are already part. Likewise, developing formal qualifications can be a means for non-specialists to understand the dedication and the training that is needed for traditional craftspeople and performers to continue the transmission of their practice and the high-quality work it represents. However, mobilising living heritage in formal programmes and qualifications also raises questions about relevant methodologies, approaches, and assessments to avoid decontextualising and ensure respect for the customary laws and organisations of this living heritage.

## References

[Living Heritage and Education](#)

[UNESCO initiative on Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education](#)

[UNESCO-UNEVOC Virtual Library](#)

[UNESCO-UNEVOC Virtual conference “Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through TVET”](#)

[Living Heritage and Education, online Training of Trainers course: Course Orientation and Program Outline](#)

[Teaching and Learning with Living Heritage, a Resource Kit for Teachers](#)

[Preparing teachers for global citizenship education: a template](#)

[Animation series: Teaching and Learning with Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific](#)

[Education for Sustainable Development Goals: learning objectives](#)

[Schools in action, global citizens for sustainable development: a guide for teachers](#)