



UNESCO Chair

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University of Rome

Intangible Cultural Heritage
and Comparative Law



The role of the NGOs for the 2003 UNESCO Convention

Experiences, Evolution and Challenges

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Implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of ICH
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The UNESCO Convention: a turning point for a Cultural Anthropologist at work with communities - in the Field



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

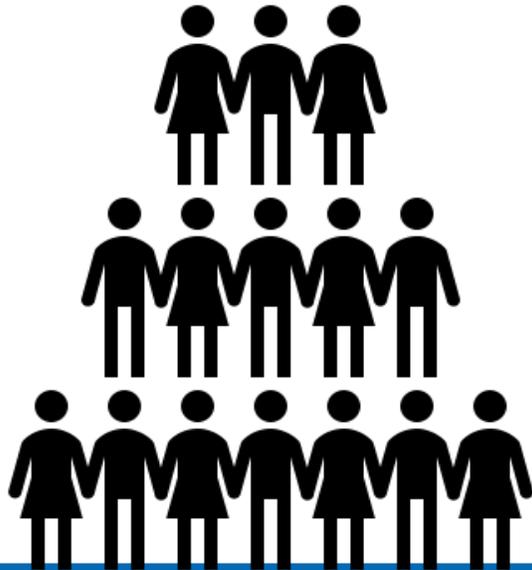
For the purposes of this Convention

1. The “intangible cultural heritage” means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

A community-based definition of heritage, close to the anthropological sensitivity

The Art. 2 of the Convention

Communities, groups and individuals at the center of the stage



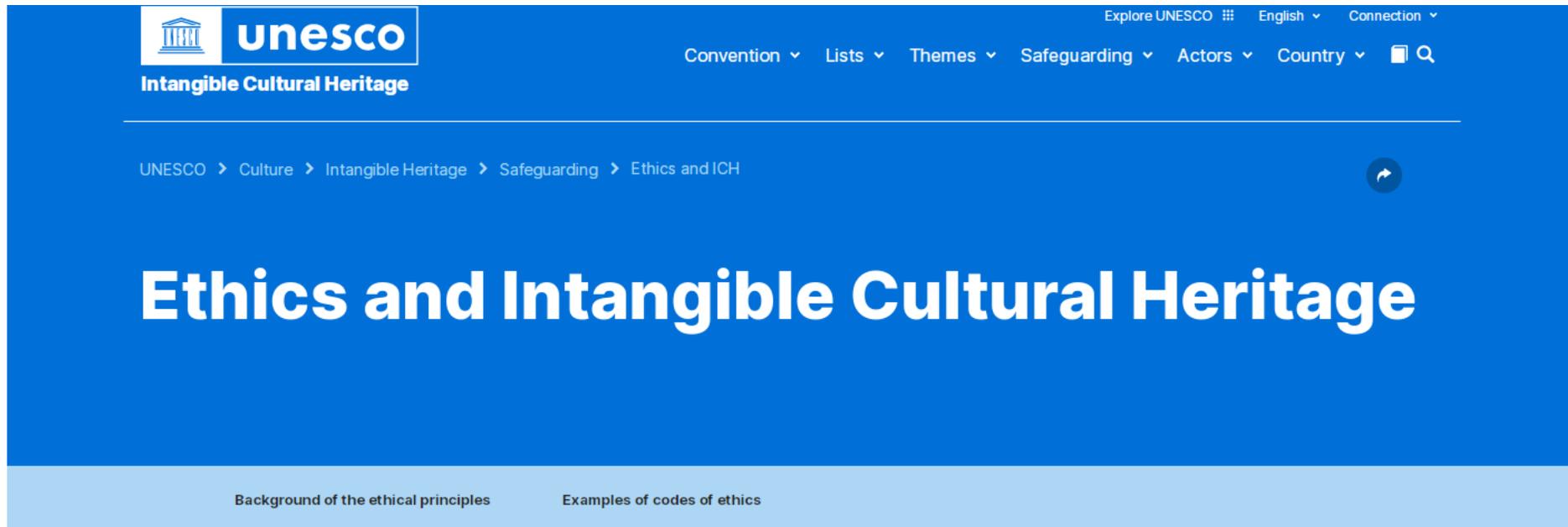
Meet the concrete needs of cultural communities:

- Need to feel as actors of cultural choices in the global world
- Need for juridical reference to assert rights
- Need to respect one's sens of identity and continuity
- Claim for Institutional Recognition

A convention, several tools

The 12 Principles of Ethics

The right to cultural expression



The screenshot shows the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage website. The header includes the UNESCO logo and navigation menus for 'Convention', 'Lists', 'Themes', 'Safeguarding', 'Actors', and 'Country'. The breadcrumb trail reads: UNESCO > Culture > Intangible Heritage > Safeguarding > Ethics and ICH. The main heading is 'Ethics and Intangible Cultural Heritage'. Below the heading are two tabs: 'Background of the ethical principles' and 'Examples of codes of ethics'.

Ethics refers to norms of conduct regarding acceptable and unacceptable behaviours within a society or community – not necessarily from a legal perspective, but from a human or cultural perspective. Much of the discussion and literature on ethics in living heritage safeguarding relates to situations where non-community members carrying out research or data collection encounter problematic issues relating to disrespect, exploitation or misrepresentations arising from their work. Ethical concerns are, however, not restricted to the role of outsiders and concern all involved in safeguarding activities.

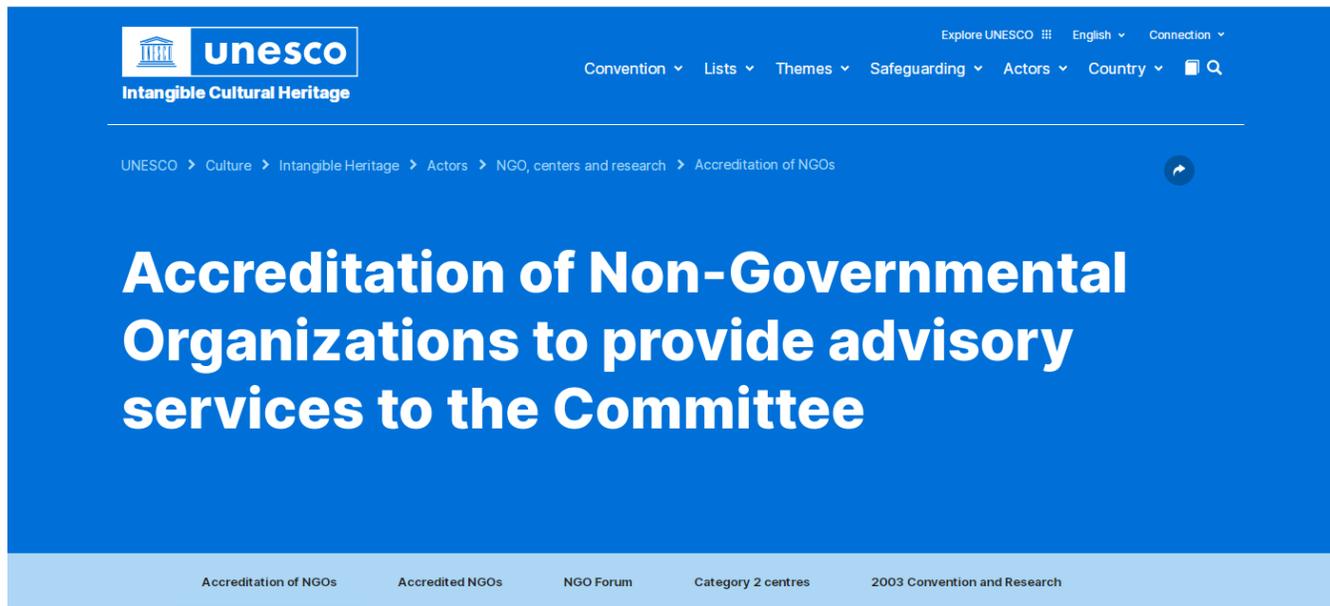
Following an [expert meeting](#) held in Valencia, Spain, in March-April 2015, the Intergovernmental Committee addressed those concerns and endorsed, at its [tenth session](#) in Windhoek, Namibia, from 30 November to 4 December 2015, the **following twelve ethical principles** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage ([Decision](#)



Several Actors involved in the Heritage-making process

Art.9 – Operational Directives Chapter 3 – III.2

A specific process for the Accreditation of NGOs



The screenshot shows the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage website. The header includes the UNESCO logo and navigation menus for Convention, Lists, Themes, Safeguarding, Actors, and Country. The breadcrumb trail reads: UNESCO > Culture > Intangible Heritage > Actors > NGO, centers and research > Accreditation of NGOs. The main heading is "Accreditation of Non-Governmental Organizations to provide advisory services to the Committee". A navigation bar at the bottom lists: Accreditation of NGOs, Accredited NGOs, NGO Forum, Category 2 centres, and 2003 Convention and Research.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that meet the criteria for accreditation set out in [paragraph 91](#) of the Operational Directives may request to be accredited by the General Assembly to provide advisory services to the Committee.

- Organisations actives at **the local and national level**, whose role is strategical in safeguarding ICH
- Organisations actives at the **international level**, able to provide the advisory services and using the working languages of the Convention

The NGOs accreditation system: a tool for empowerment

The case of SIMBDEA

Italian Society for Museum and Heritage Anthropology

A **cultural association** finds in the UNESCO normative a bridge to connect to the **planetary challenges of the (community-based) heritage-making process**, reinforcing its mission at the national level

The case of AGA

The Ancient Games Association

A **community of practice** that found in the Convention an **instrument to reinforce its action from a local dimension of players to a leading role** of many small communities and local groups in search of recognition – reinforcing its mission at the national and international level

Abu Dhabi 2009 : the ICH NGO FORUM born

Since 2009:

The Annual Statements of NGOs

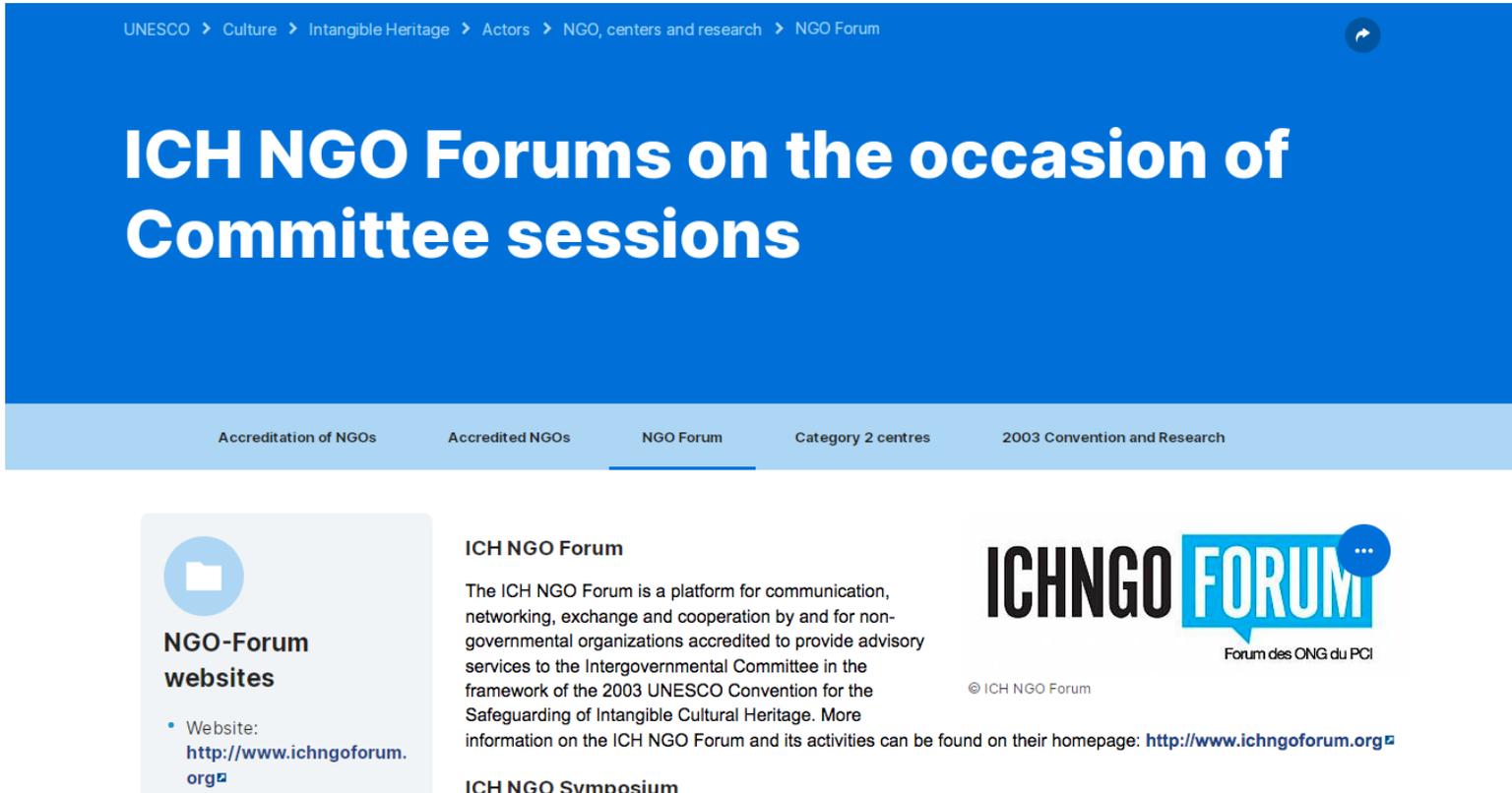
2012 - First Symposium and creation of thematic working groups

Heritage Alive

Working Group Research

2017-2019 – NGOs Capacity Building Workshop in Jeju - South Korea and Bogotá – Colombia

The NGO Forum in the Website of the Convention



UNESCO > Culture > Intangible Heritage > Actors > NGO, centers and research > NGO Forum

ICH NGO Forums on the occasion of Committee sessions

Accreditation of NGOs Accredited NGOs **NGO Forum** Category 2 centres 2003 Convention and Research

NGO-Forum websites

- Website: <http://www.ichngoforum.org>

ICH NGO Forum

The ICH NGO Forum is a platform for communication, networking, exchange and cooperation by and for non-governmental organizations accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee in the framework of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. More information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities can be found on their homepage: <http://www.ichngoforum.org>

ICH NGO Symposium

ICHNGO FORUM
Forum des ONG du PCI

© ICH NGO Forum

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Networking: some European Project, as the IMP project

**MUSEUMS AND INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**TOWARDS A THIRD SPACE
IN THE HERITAGE SECTOR**

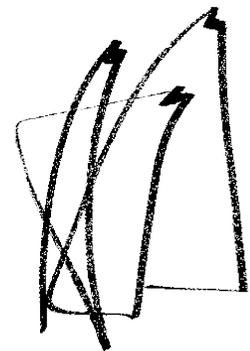
A COMPANION TO DISCOVER
TRANSFORMATIVE HERITAGE
PRACTICES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

TAMARA NIKOLIĆ ĐERIĆ
JORIJN NEYRINCK
EVELINE SEGHERS
EVDOKIA TSAKIRIDIS



Understanding the role of NGOs. The SIMBDEA case

- 2013. Organization of a major international meeting in Milan: "The intangible heritage between communities, research and institutions"
- 2015. Signature of a memorandum of understanding with AGA, for common activities in favor of ICH
- 2015. Signature of a memorandum of understanding with UNPLI, and the decision to create an Italian network of accredited NGOs, formalized in Paris in 2019
- 2016. Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Florence - Department of Education, for the organization of training courses on ICH for sustainable development - Heritage-s, involving several ICH NGOs.
- 2017-2019. Development of the IMP project - Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museum Project - Creative Europe - with a network of accredited NGOs from Belgium, Netherlands and France.



simbdea

Understanding the role of the NGOs. The AGA case

- 2015. Organization of the first meetings to analyze the core activities of the association as ICH good safeguarding practices, with the direct contribution of members of the NGO Forum and international experts
- 2016. Organization of the first international symposium "Tocatì, a shared heritage". With the active participation of a network of communities of practice in dialogue with local, regional and national institutions (Ministry of Culture), accredited NGOs and experts
- 2017. Launch of a multinational application process to the Register of Good Practices for the safeguarding of ICH - Article 18 of the Convention
- 2017-2022. Organization of national meetings of the network of local communities and institutions - "The Days of Intangible" - moments of training, co-planning of activities, capacity building
- 2016-2022. Annual organization of the international Symposium "Tocatì a Shared Heritage" during the Tocatì Festival – bringing together a wide network of communities and institutions.



Networking: an ongoing international process

Thursday 27 October 2022, the Working Group Research of the NGO Forum presents an important result of its work, with the **web dossier "Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development"**, coordinated by the Belgian NGO Workshop Intangible Heritage (WIE), which includes case studies from Europe, as the Tocati programme



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ICHNGO FORUM website. The header is dark blue with the logo 'ICHNGO FORUM' on the left and navigation links: 'About us', 'NGO: Document', 'New: Steering Committee', 'Dossier on ICH and sustainable tourism', 'Working Groups of the ICH NGO Forum', 'Regional Working Groups', '#HeritageAI', and 'Newslett'. There are also social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, and a search icon. The main content area features a large image of a desert landscape with camels and riders. The title 'Web Dossier on Intangible Cultural Heritage and sustainable tourism' is prominently displayed in white text. Below the title, a welcome message reads: 'Welcome to this web dossier, designed to help you explore benefits and challenges when intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and tourism meet, and to develop sustainable living heritage tourism.' At the bottom, a dark blue footer contains a list of navigation links: 'Introduction', 'Basic Concepts', 'Why and How', 'Reads', 'First steps', 'Examples', 'Resources', and 'Credits'.



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Thank you for your attention!

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