

Ethical Principles for the Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding

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Abbr.:

ICH – Intangible Cultural Heritage

12 Ethical Principles for the **Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding adopted at the 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee in Namibia in 2015 (30 November – 4 December, Decisions 10.COM 15.a).**

As an additional instrument of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, of Operational Guidelines on its implementation and national legislative acts, the Ethical Principles should serve as a basis for the development of specific Codes of Ethics and tools adapted to local and thematic conditions.

1. Communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals should have the primary role in safeguarding their own intangible cultural heritage.



Kacjaryna Pančenja, Pahost village, Žytkavičy Rajon (Zhytkavichy District)

2. The right of communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals to continue the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills necessary to ensure the viability of the intangible cultural heritage should be recognized and respected.



Ščjepavaja bird talisman, Byaroza District

3. Mutual respect as well as a respect for and mutual appreciation of intangible cultural heritage, should prevail in interactions between States and between communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals.



Rite “Sula”, the next day after Easter (Pascha)
Markaviči village, Homel Region (Gomel Region)

4. All interactions with the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals who create, safeguard, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage should be characterized by transparent collaboration, dialogue, negotiation and consultation, and contingent upon their free, prior, sustained and informed consent.

5. Access of communities, groups and individuals to the instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural and natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage should be ensured, including in situations of armed conflict. Customary practices governing access to intangible cultural heritage should be fully respected, even where these may limit broader public access.



Holy Stone, Kramjanec village, Lahoyk District

6. Each community, group or individual should assess the value of its own intangible cultural heritage and this intangible cultural heritage should **not be subject to external judgments of value or worth.**



“Stone Girl”,
Danileviči village, Lyelchytsy District



Transfer of a Candle on St. Michael's Day
(21 November)
Vjaljacičy village, Barysaw District

7. The communities, groups and individuals who create intangible cultural heritage should benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from such heritage, and particularly from its use, research, documentation, promotion or adaptation by members of the communities or others.

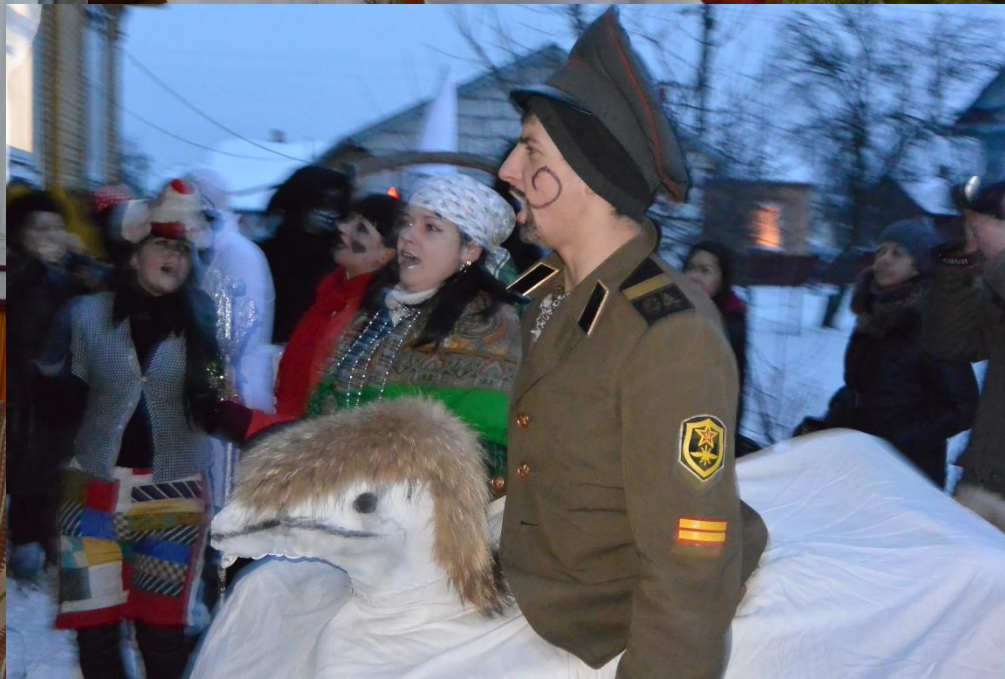


Polish researchers working during the SEA expedition (Students' Ethnographic Association), Chavusy District

8. The dynamic and living nature of intangible cultural heritage should be continuously respected. Authenticity and exclusivity should not constitute concerns and obstacles in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

Kaljadavanne (close to caroling) in Davyd-Haradok, Stolin District, 13 January 2017

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Kaljadavanne (close to caroling) in Davyd-Haradok, Stolin District, 13 January 2017

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Kaljadavanne (close to caroling) in Davyd-Haradok, Stolin District

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Kaljadavanne (close to caroling) in Hrodna, December 2017 - January 2018

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9. Communities, groups, local, national and transnational organizations and individuals should carefully assess the direct and indirect, short-term and long-term, potential and definitive **impact** of any action that may affect the viability of intangible cultural heritage or the communities who practise it.

Kaljadnyja “Cary” (Tsars)

Semežava, Kapyl District



10. Communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals should play a significant role in determining what constitutes threats to their intangible cultural heritage including the decontextualization, commodification and misrepresentation of it and in deciding how to prevent and mitigate such threats.

11. Cultural diversity and the identities of communities, groups and individuals should be fully respected. In the respect of values recognized by communities, groups and individuals and sensitivity to cultural norms, specific attention to gender equality, youth involvement and respect for ethnic identities should be included in the design and implementation of safeguarding measures.



Sapotskin Pascha Eggs

12. The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is of **general interest to humanity** and should therefore be undertaken through cooperation among bilateral, sub regional, regional and international parties; nevertheless, communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals should never be alienated from their own intangible cultural heritage.



Thank you for your attention!!!