

Global capacity-building programme Facilitators network

Who we are

The facilitators' network is a dedicated and competent partner for countries and stakeholders that seek guidance and training for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, in full respect of the principles of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and UNESCO's mandate for peacebuilding and sustainable development.

This network supports countries to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and harness its potential for sustainable development, while promoting broad public knowledge and support for the Convention.

Our mission

The mission of the network is to support the strengthening of capacities worldwide for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in dynamic and evolving contexts. UNESCO initially established the network of facilitators in 2011 to support capacity-building initiatives for the implementation of the 2003 Convention and it has since developed to be a strong actor in the international intangible cultural heritage field.

The network is a global community of practice able to respond effectively to emerging capacity-building needs and challenges. On the one hand, the network provides a vital resource of knowledge and experience that all stakeholders can turn to when requesting training and advisory support for the effective implementation of the Convention. On the other hand, it provides network members with the necessary support to equip and empower them to play their different roles as facilitators, mediators, trainers or advisors, effectively.

What we do

The network aims to:

1. Strengthen institutional and human capacities at both country and sub-regional levels to safeguard intangible cultural heritage in line with the principles of the 2003 Convention;
2. Foster the integration of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage into development plans, programmes and policies;
3. Contribute to the development of the global capacity-building strategy, its content, methods and tools;
4. Develop a community of practice by sharing experiences and providing opportunities to reinforce a learning network.

How we do it

The objectives of the network are realised through the following working modalities:

1. Providing training and support to stakeholders at various levels on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage under the 2003 Convention, adapting the content and methods of the global capacity-building programme
2. Advising and supporting countries to integrate the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into their development policies, plans and programmes at all levels
3. Reinforcing partnerships for the implementation of the Convention with a range of actors at country, (sub) regional and international level, including other UN agencies
4. Undertaking needs assessments in countries to identify capacity-building needs for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage
5. Contributing to the development of the capacity-building strategy, in particular through the elaboration of training materials
6. Assisting the UNESCO Secretariat to address evolving thematic issues
7. Building relationships with other network members to strengthen learning and share experiences on different capacity-building approaches for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage
8. Contributing to the monitoring of the capacity-building programme at regional/country/multinational level, with a view to the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the programme

Participation in the network

Members of the network have diverse profiles and experiences, but in general have:

- Experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage
- Knowledge of the Convention, its key concepts and mechanisms
- Capacity to work in diverse contexts
- Availability to conduct training workshops
- Proficiency in the UN working languages (English or French) and one or more other languages
- Strong communication skills to work with local stakeholders and other key partners

Our values

In their work at all levels, facilitators are guided by the following core values:

- **Impartial**, working for the interests of the Convention
- **Peacebuilding**, based on the four pillars of justice, equality, sustainable development and dialogue/understanding
- **Independence**, working in their individual capacity, not as representatives of national governments or other groups
- **Integrity**, while respecting the Convention's Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
- **Consultative**, advisory in nature and respecting national sovereignty
- **Facilitation**, active listeners with the ability to empathize and help others to do what they want to do better