

# Finland and the UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Tiina Merisalo  
Director General



**e/ä/v/ä**  
**PERINTÖ**  
Unescon yleissopimus  
aineettoman kulttuuriperinnön  
suojaamisesta



# The 2003 Convention in Finland

- Finnish Heritage Agency responsible for the implementation since 2013
- a full-time coordinator (senior adviser) since 2014
- Extensive network among actors in all of the ICH fields among NGOs, museums and other institutions (Circles of Living Heritage)
- Numerous seminars, webinars, workshops, events every year
- A lot media attention through the years, especially on inventorying and UNESCO inscriptions (Sauna culture, Kaustinen fiddle playing, Nordic Clinkerboat traditions)



# Bottom-up safeguarding with the Wiki-inventory for Living Heritage

- MediaWiki with so far 240 examples from over 400 communities around the country in six languages
- 100 000 visits from 150 countries in 2022
- 1-2 page texts, gateway to other information
- Map: regions and municipalities
- Communities produce and are responsible for the content, the Agency moderating
- Constantly evolving platform

[Wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi](https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi)





**HOW LIVING HERITAGE CAN SUPPORT ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?**

1. Recognising issues concerning people in vulnerable positions in living heritage safeguarding work.

2. Traditional, sustainable methods, knowledge and skills in farming and food production.

3. The positive impacts of living heritage on people's health and well-being.

4. Openness, equality and quality in transferring living heritage and related knowledge and skills.

5. Equality in practising and safeguarding living heritage.

6. Living heritage relating to the access and use of water; sustainable traditions of cleanliness.

7. Traditional knowledge and skills relating to sustainable energy use and production.

8. Living heritage as source of sustainable economic growth and decent work.

9. Traditional knowledge and skills of sustainable building and repairing and related techniques.

17. International contracts and partnerships supporting cooperation for living heritage safeguarding and sustainable development.

16. Just and responsible institutions supporting peaceful living heritage safeguarding; community consent and participatory methods.

15. Sustainable living heritage related to living in/close to and of nature and forests; traditional methods, knowledge, skills,

14. Sustainable living heritage related to living at and of water systems; traditional methods, knowledge, skills.

13. Living heritage supporting climate action; traditional knowledge and skills related to preparing against risk weather.

12. Traditional knowledge and skills related to sustainable making and production, consumption, and circular economy.

11. Living heritage in urban planning and village and neighbourhood activities.

10. Recognising cultural diversity and indigenous peoples in safeguarding living heritage.