

Guidelines: attending IMP Mechelen (BE) as a member of the expert group?

Thank you for your interest in participating in one of the five International conferences that will be organized in the context of the [Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums Project \(IMP\)](#).

To each one of these five meetings, **three museum professionals from every participating country - The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, France and Belgium - are invited to join a two-day event.** This means that during every event, a group of 15 international museum professionals will be invited to share their expertise and experiences on working with Intangible Cultural Heritage, in relation to a certain 'key challenge' (see below) in an Expert Group, and by doing so, contribute to the knowledge development in the combined fields of Intangible Cultural Heritage & Museums.

In this document, you will find some more background information about IMP, on the format of the two-day events, on what is expected from participants to the Expert Groups, and you will read about what you will get in return for your participation!

The Intangible Cultural Heritage & Museums Project

IMP wants to inspire museum professionals to engage more profoundly with the principles of the [2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) (ICH) in their current day museum policy and practice.

Together with the participants to its events, IMP aspires to build the capacities of museum-professionals and -experts as to ensure that (members of) ICH-communities, -groups or individual ICH-practitioners can find a well informed and capable partner in museums that can support them in their safeguarding efforts, without having to omit their own aims, roles and functions as a museum.

To achieve these goals – among others – **five International conferences** and **Expert meetings** will be organized (one in each of the five project partner countries: The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium). They are a series of capacity building events with two-day programs and are focused on cross disciplinary peer learning, developing professionals skills and tools, and they create international networking opportunities for its participants.

Format & objectives of the Conferences and Expert meetings

Objectives are:

- to raise awareness about ICH
- to provide inspiration on the possibilities of integrating the participatory and future-oriented ICH-paradigm in museum contexts
- to stimulate reflection and develop expert and practical knowledge on how to implement ICH in museums.

These objectives will be achieved through plenary sessions, discussions, workshops, etc. during the five two-day events.

Every event is split up into 2 separate days. Participating to the Expert Group means that you engage yourself to participate to both of these days:

DAY 1: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

- The International conference will provide the ca. 85 participants a general insight in the workings of the 2003 Convention, through plenary introductory lectures, inspiring examples, workshops, Q&A-moments with ICH-practitioners.

For whom?

- Museum and heritage professionals from the country hosting the International conference can attend the International conference through open subscription.
- Participants to the Expert Group are expected to attend the International conference as well.

DAY 2: EXPERT MEETING

- During the Expert meeting the participants of the Expert Group are invited to introduce their "inspiring example" (see below), take part in advanced workshops, participate in a discussion, and exchange their experiences on ICH and museums, in relation to a 'key challenge'. Five of them will be invited to present their "inspiring example" on ICH and museums (see below) on the day of the Conference.
- The Expert meetings are organized on the basis of a selection of key challenges that are at the intersection of contemporary ICH- and museum-practice. These

challenges are: diversity, participation, urbanised society, innovation and cultural policies (see scheme on p. 3-4 for more info on the scope of these challenges).

For whom?

- Participation to the Expert group is open to museum professionals who have experience working with intangible cultural heritage, in relation to the key challenge of that specific event.
- Information on how to apply is provided below.

Dates and locations of the International conferences and Expert meetings

Key challenge	Host country / location	Dates
ICH-museums-diversity	The Netherlands (Rotterdam) Rotterdam Museum	07.11.2017: International conference 08.11.2017: Expert meeting
ICH-museums-participation	Italy (Palermo) Museo internazionale delle marionette Antonio Pasqualino	27.02.2018: International conference 28.02.2018: Expert meeting
ICH-museums-urbanised society	Switzerland (Bern) Alpine Museum	25.09.2018: International conference 26.09.2018: Expert meeting
ICH-museums-innovation	France (Aubusson) Cité internationale de la tapisserie	05.02.2019: International conference 06.02.2019: Expert meeting
ICH-museums-cultural policies	Belgium (Mechelen) LAMOT / Hof van Buysleyden	07.05.2019: International conference 08.05.2019: Expert meeting

Central questions and scope of the key challenges

The central questions that inform the Expert meetings are: Does the ICH-paradigm offer museums innovative approaches that can help tackle the following challenges? And how can capacities be built to tackle these challenges? What tools can be developed that can help museums in implementing ICH in their policies and practices? The scope of each challenge is refined in a call for proposals.

SCOPE OF THE CHALLENGES	
DIVERSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ (Super)diversity in society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does a museum respond to the challenges provided by the current (super)diverse society and what are the innovative approaches provided by the ICH-paradigm that can help tackle these challenges? ○ In a competitive and often conflictual context, can museums with their presentations, activities and programs contribute to new forms of consensus and dialogue in the process of heritage making? ○ Evolving identities ○ Controversial heritage
PARTICIPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ How can museums involve members of ICH-communities, -groups or individual ICH-practitioners, cultural associations and volunteers (from museum policy to overall museum practice) in a sustainable and long-term manner? ➢ The dialogue between museum professionals and ICH-communities, -groups and individual ICH-practitioners: renegotiating roles, emerging conflicts of power, experimenting compromises in the process of heritage making.

	<p>(NOTE: Participation (of members of ICH-communities or -groups and individual ICH-practitioners) being a central and inherent feature of the UNESCO 2003 Convention, will be an underlying transversal theme in all of the Contact Sessions.)</p> <p>CALL FOR PROPOSALS: https://www.ichandmuseums.eu/en/call-for-proposals-palermo (deadline: 20.12/2017)</p>
URBANISED SOCIETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ How can museums relate to current-day societal developments e.g. in the field of city development, economics, welfare, agriculture, et cetera and what possibilities does the ICH-paradigm provide towards developing sustainable relationships between and across the different sectors involved? ➢ ICH in urban vs. rural settings <p>CALL FOR PROPOSALS: https://www.ichandmuseums.eu/private/en/pages/edit?id=1439&token=dc22r7b4u (deadline 07.05.2018)</p>
INNOVATION	<p>What are the (possible) roles of museums with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Intangible Culture heritage being a source for (scientific, technical...) innovation; ➢ Innovating Intangible Cultural Heritage practices (e.g. religious ICH-practices). <p>CALL FOR PROPOSALS: https://www.ichandmuseums.eu/en/call-for-proposals-imp-aubusson (deadline 09.11.2018)</p>
CULTURAL POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ National/regional/local governmental policies on cultural heritage are the backdrop against which museum work is implemented in practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the effect of different cultural policies in the five project partner countries on museum policy relating to ICH in that country? - What can be learned from comparing these different approaches? What are the (innovative) mechanisms being developed from the side of (national/regional/local) government policy; or museum policy? - What governmental or museum policy commitments are necessary in order to be able to develop sustainable ICH&Museums-practices? ➢ ICH & funding. <p>CALL FOR PROPOSALS: https://www.ichandmuseums.eu/en/call-for-proposals-mechelen</p>

Why should I want to attend an International conference & Expert meeting as a member of an Expert Group?

- You get the opportunity to feature your own “inspiring example” on Intangible Cultural Heritage – focused on one of the key challenges – online on the project website and live during the International conference or the Expert meeting at one of the five events.
- You get the opportunity to share your experiences on working with Intangible Cultural Heritage and to exchange knowledge with peers from The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland France and Belgium.

- You get the opportunity to contribute to knowledge development in the combined fields of Intangible Cultural Heritage & Museums.
- You get the opportunity to contribute to the development of an 'ICH&Museums toolbox': a collection of inspirational and pragmatic methodological tools that will support museums in engaging with intangible cultural heritage.
- You get the opportunity to participate to a two-day international meeting in one of the participating countries (either The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, France or Belgium) and expand your international network.

How can I attend?

Who can participate in an Expert Group?

- Staff members from museums (ranging from curators, educators and public workers, to directors, to collection management staff or staff working with communities or volunteers, et cetera) that have affinity with the challenge of the specific event they are applying for and that have recently finished or initiated an inspiring project/practice/example on ICH (see below).
- Next to museum staff, also other museum-professionals or -experts that meet the requirements for participation (described below) can be invited. For example former museum staff, national/regional/local government staff (e.g. policy makers), independent experts, scholars, et cetera.
- As mentioned higher, participating to the Expert Group means that you would be expected to participate to both the International conference (DAY 1) and the Expert meeting (DAY 2).
- Participation to the Expert Group is limited to 3 people from every project partner country per two-day event. So, in total, seventy five museum professionals, from the five partner countries will be able to participate in the Expert groups.
- It's important that the participants to the Expert Group have a certain degree of expertise in relation to ICH and the key challenge of the event. That is why you will be asked to elaborate on an "inspiring example" on ICH, in relation to one of the key challenges, that you have initiated in the context of your museum work. If the number of applications would exceed the capacity of the groups, the Steering Group members will make a selection out of the applications.

How to submit an "inspiring example"?

- Applying to participate in the Expert Group during one of the five two-day events means that you submit an "inspiring example" on ICH, that relates to the key challenge under scrutiny during this event:

DIVERSITY

Submitting an inspiring example on intangible cultural heritage, that is concerned with the challenge of diversity, means that you apply for participating in the International conference & Expert meeting in The Netherlands (07&08.11.2017)

PARTICIPATION

Submitting an inspiring example on intangible cultural heritage, that is concerned with the challenge of participation, means that you apply for participating in the International Conference & Expert meeting in Italy (27&28.02.2018)

URBANISED SOCIETY

Submitting an inspiring example on intangible cultural heritage, that is concerned with the challenge of urbanised society, means that you apply for participating in the International Conference & Expert meeting in Switzerland (25&26.09.2018)

Innovation

Submitting an inspiring example on intangible cultural heritage, that is concerned

with the challenge of innovation, means that you apply for participation in the International Conference & Expert meeting in France (05&06.02.2019)

CULTURAL POLICIES

Submitting an inspiring example on intangible cultural heritage, that is concerned with the challenge of cultural policies, means that you apply for participation in the International Conference & Expert meeting in Belgium (07&08.05.2019)

- Your application goes via a digital form: <https://ichandmuseums.eu/en/events/detail/expert-meeting-intangible-cultural-heritage-museums-and-cultural-policies#tab-subscribetothevent> (= form for the Mechelen-meeting).

Guidelines regarding the “inspiring examples”

Submissions are considered “inspiring examples”, if they interpret “Intangible Cultural Heritage” according to the definition given in the 2003 Unesco Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage:

[...] the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts 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. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.’

The “intangible cultural heritage” (...) is manifested inter alia in the following domains:

- (a) oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;
- (b) performing arts;
- (c) social practices, rituals and festive events;
- (d) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- (e) traditional craftsmanship.¹

- This implies that the active participation of the ‘ICH-practitioners’ – communities, groups, and individual practitioners – is highly desired/ highly recommended.
- Inspiring examples of museum projects, practices or programs do not necessarily have to be ‘completed’. The Steering Group also welcomes “inspiring ideas” for future projects/programs/activities on ICH, however, they should already be relatively concrete.
- Inspiring examples of museum projects or practices should be innovative.
- Not only official ‘museums’ can submit inspiring examples. Other types of organisations – concerned with museal tasks of collecting and presenting cultural heritage, are also welcome to submit their “inspiring examples”.

¹ UNESCO, [Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) (Paris 2003) p. 2.

What will be expected from me?

Applying to participate in one of the five two-day events, means that you – once you are invited to participate by the Steering Group – commit to:

- read a position paper in preparation of the International conference & Expert meeting
- prepare and give a presentation on the “inspiring example” that you have submit
- actively participate in working groups and discussions during the International conference & Expert meeting.
- provide extensive feedback on the International conference & Expert meeting afterwards

Practical information

What does participating in an International conference & Expert meeting cost?

Participating to an International conference & Expert Meeting is free of charge:

Costs covered by The ICH&Museums Project	
Accommodation	- Hotel arrangements for 3 nights will be arranged for you.
Travel	- <u>International travel, by airplane or train (economy class):</u> to and from the country hosting the two-day event. - <u>Public transport</u> (train, tram, bus, subway) from your place of residence to the airport or the railway station. - <u>Public transport</u> (train, tram, bus, subway): in the country hosting the two-day event: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ from airport or railway station to the city hosting the event, and back○ to and from the hotel to the host museum
Catering	- At DAY 1: breakfast-lunch-diner - At DAY 2: breakfast-lunch-diner - At day +1: breakfast

Questions?

Feel free to contact the IMP project coordinator – Kia Tsakiridis from Werkplaats Immaterieel erfgoed – if you have any questions:

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