

Capacity Building Atelier – Slovenia D.T4.2.1 Report

Capacity Building Atelier Strengthening Local Communities

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) becomes increasingly recognized and popular phenomenon ever since it was highlighted by the *Convention for the safeguarding intangible cultural heritage* in 2003, which equated its importance with traditionally more established tangible heritage. However, it depends more on its bearers than unmovable cultural heritage or museum objects. The bearers, consisting of communities, groups and individuals, transmit it to the next generations and recreate it as a response to their environment, nature and history. In doing so, they face many challenges such as disappearance of knowledge and the decline of skills among younger generations, the excessive commercialization of practices and the appropriation of its results. They are therefore looking for ways to preserve, protect and promote their heritage. Capacity-building ateliers in France, Italy and Slovenia are activities helping selected local communities in their endeavours to do it, providing required knowledge and connecting them with decision-makers.

In Slovenia, capacity-building atelier was organized as a 4-day event from the 23rd to the 26th May 2018 at the Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana. It targeted local communities of the RAGOR's pilot action as well as other stakeholders from the Gorenjska region. It started with a national round table on the development potentials of cultural heritage and its inscription in the national registry of ICH. The Coordinator for the safeguarding of the ICH in Slovenia presented the procedure to inscribe ICH into register as well as consequences of inscription. Leaders of the WP T4 presented cases of food practices from different parts of Slovenia. The discussion focused on potential elements for inscription and was linked to food tasting of local culinary heritage prepared by local association of rural women.



Association of rural women from the Municipality of Kranjska Gora presented food typical for this region (Photo: Jasna Fakin Bajec, 23rd May 2018).

The next two days were dedicated to the experts and decision-makers. Besides ZRC SAZU, the co-organizers of the event were Slovene Ethnological Association, Croatian Ethnological Association, Slovene Ethnographic Museum and Slovene Alpine Museum. The event was part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and its honorary sponsor was Slovenian National Commission for Unesco. The speakers at the official opening were the representatives of the Ministry of Culture (the representative of the Unesco's office was missing due to health reasons), Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Slovene Alpine Museum, Slovene and Croatian Ethnological Associations as well as of major stakeholders from the Alpine space: Alpine Convention (general secretary Markus Reiterer, representative of the Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning Blanka Bartol) and Alpfoodway project leader Cassiano Luminati. Afterwards, the event focused on presentation of various cases from Slovenia and Croatia where local communities and museums safeguard, transmit and promote ICH, including by its inscription into national or world Unesco's lists.

Heritage experts – 45 altogether – discussed the main challenges, opportunities and obstacles of the use of heritage for development of places. The discussions were divided into the following sessions: ICH between experts, communities and decision-makers; safeguarding and interpretation of heritage and awareness-raising activities; ICH and museums; and ICH between the field and registries. At the last day, the participants attended a study visit dedicated to the beekeeping heritage.

The event connected the experts in the field of ICH who discussed issues of safeguarding, promoting and utilizing heritage. It linked local community to local museum and set up the basis for future collaboration. It informed local decision-makers of the potentials of ICH for the development of the area and of the ongoing activities of stakeholders dealing with ICH.



Director of the Slovene Alpine Museum at the opening ceremony (Photo: Jasna Fakin Bajec, 24th May 2018).