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Safeguarding and enhancing intangible cultural heritage in Europe

Reply to Recommendation¹: Recommendation 2148 (2019)
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers has carefully examined Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 2148 \(2019\)](#) on “Safeguarding and enhancing intangible cultural heritage in Europe”. It has brought it to the attention of the governments of member States and forwarded it to the entities concerned.²
2. The Committee of Ministers recognises the fundamental role that culture and heritage play in upholding democratic values and building citizenship, as well as in furthering crucial processes of community building, inclusion and management of diversity. It considers that the Council of Europe instruments and programmes, including the European Cultural Convention, the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (CETS No. 199, Faro Convention), the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century (Strategy 21), the Council of Europe Cultural Routes Programme, the European Heritage Days and the European Heritage Network (HEREIN) offer an excellent framework for cultural heritage preservation standards and policies in Europe, as underlined by the Assembly.
3. It takes due note of the Assembly’s recommendations and it acknowledges the benefits of developing a policy vision in the area of intangible cultural heritage and making better use of cultural and heritage resources to meet the growing mobility and migration challenges, while drawing on Council of Europe standards and tools.
4. The Committee of Ministers welcomes the idea of more interactivity, where possible, between the culture, heritage, education and youth sectors of the Council of Europe on finding innovative ways of interlinking intangible cultural heritage with the process of building democratic citizenship. The European Heritage Days are an example of the implementation of such interactivity.
5. It also takes note of the interest in further developing models and methods of participatory governance based on Council of Europe standards to help set up community participation in this area. Among practical tools which can be useful here, the Committee of Ministers underlines collection of good practices and making them available to member States and other interested players at different levels. It welcomes the initiative of the publication in June 2019, as part of the French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, of a compendium of good practices based on Strategy 21. It encourages wide dissemination of this tool.
6. Lastly, concerning co-operation with UNESCO and the European Union, the Committee welcomes further enhancement including regarding the Faro Convention and Strategy 21. This applies particularly in connection with the work of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape, including the exchange of information and use of information systems, shared application of work methodologies and running existing Joint Projects in areas of common interest and developing new ones.

1. Adopted at the 1357th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (16 October 2019).

2. Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

