

## **The Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage ( UNESCO, 2003)**

The term 'cultural heritage' has changed content considerably in recent decades, and does not end at monuments and objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.

150 States have joined the **UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage( 2003)** and the countries agree, through its acceptance, to adopt a general policy aimed at highlighting the protection and function of this heritage in society.

In conformity with the Convention, Each State Party shall draw up, inventories of this heritage present in its territory. A Committee, upon the proposal of the States Parties concerned, shall establish, keep up to date and publish a List which demonstrates the diversity of this heritage:

### **1.List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding**

#### **Wooden movable-type printing of China**

At present, only eleven people over 50 years of age remain who have mastered the whole set of techniques. If not safeguarded, this traditional practice will soon disappear.

### **Mongolian practices of worshipping sacred sites**

These practices build a sense of solidarity and are based on the belief in the existence of invisible deities of the sky, earth, mountains and natural surroundings.

The worship is in danger due to different reasons such as rapid globalization, urbanization and the operations of mining companies in the area.

## **2.Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**

### **Momoeria, Kozani area (W. Macedonia) Greece, 2016**

Dancers, actors and musicians can be seen performing in village streets and visiting people's homes to celebrate the coming of the new year. The practice is mainly to wish the community prosperity and good harvests. It symbolizes part of the community's cultural identity and helps to build social integration.

### **Tinian marble craftsmanship, Greece, 2015**

The art of extracting and processing marble in the island of Tinos holds a particular place from antiquity to the present.

The highly skilled vernacular craftsmen, applying longstanding traditions, exploited with sensibility the marble whether they working on the churches and houses decoration, the marble springs, the relief doorways, the famous fanlights in the houses, the crafts for daily needs or the unique relief tombstones in the cemeteries.

Marble-carving workshops produce a range of traditional

motifs, patterns and symbols such as cypress trees, flowers, disc-suns, birds and ships. These draw from and perpetuate a shared symbolic system of religious, magical and oral traditions. The craftsmen are influenced by different periods and styles such as Byzantine, Venetian, Baroque, Neoclassical.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century the workshops were expanding around Greece and abroad and renowned Tiniian sculptors, such as Giannoulis Halepas, Dimitris Fillipotis had dealt with many projects like the royal palace, the University, the Academy.

This strong tradition continues till today, enhanced by the operation of School of Fine Arts.

Tinos could be defined as “an open-air museum of traditional marble sculpture”.

### **Rebetiko, Greece, 2017**

Songs contain invaluable references to the customs, practices and traditions of a particular way of life, but above all the practice is a living musical tradition with a strong symbolic, ideological and artistic character.

### **FOOD HERITAGE**

With sustainable development gaining momentum as a priority of UNESCO heritage policies, an increasing number of food-related nominations are being inscribed on the lists. I will present some examples of this booming phenomenon:

## **Mediterranean diet -2013**

*Cyprus, Croatia, Spain, Greece, Italy, Morocco and Portugal*

The Mediterranean diet involves a set of skills, knowledge, rituals, symbols and traditions concerning crops, harvesting, fishing, breeding animals, conservation, cooking and particularly eating together which is the foundation of the cultural identity and continuity of communities .

It emphasizes values of hospitality, intercultural dialogue and creativity, and a way of life guided by respect for diversity. It plays a vital role in cultural spaces, festivals and celebrations, bringing together people of all ages, conditions and social classes.

It includes the craftsmanship and production of traditional vessels for the transport, preservation and consumption of food.

Markets also play a key role as spaces for cultivating and transmitting the Mediterranean diet during the daily practice of exchange, agreement and mutual respect.

## **Know-how of cultivating mastic on the island of Chios**

### **Greece, 2014**

Mastic is an aromatic resin obtained from the mastic tree (*pistacia lentiscus*). The first mention of actual mastic 'tears' was by Hippocrates who used mastic for the prevention of digestive problems, colds and as a breath freshener.

At present, there are twenty-four mastic villages on the

island of Chios, which have been dedicated to the cultivation and production of mastic throughout the year.

From July, an incision is made in the skin of the bark and main branches with an iron tool. Once the mastic has solidified, the larger 'tears' first, wash them and place them in wooden boxes in a cool place.

Older members of the community are responsible for transmitting the techniques to younger generations. The culture of mastic represents a comprehensive social event and is also an occasion for collective memory through the narration of old tales and stories.

### **The gastronomic meal of the French**

Emphasizes the pleasure of taste, the balance between human beings and the products of nature. It also strengthens social ties.

### **Traditional Mexican cuisine**

A cultural model comprising farming, ritual practices, age-old skills, culinary techniques and community customs and manners.

### **The art of the Neapolitan "Pizzaiuolo"**

A living link for the communities concerned, comprises four different phases relating to the preparation of the dough and its baking in a wood-fired oven. Nowadays about 3,000 Pizzaiuoli live and perform in Naples.

### **Turkish coffee**

combines special preparation and techniques with a rich communal traditional culture. The tradition itself is a symbol of hospitality, friendship, and entertainment that permeates all walks of life.

While fragile, intangible cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalization. An understanding of different communities helps with intercultural dialogue, and encourages mutual respect for other ways of life.

Hellen Methodiou

Archaeologist