Traditionally handmade objects can inspire innovation and sustainable development. With the project ‘Handmade in Brugge’ we realise a series of initiatives to develop a sustainable environment for crafts within a city context. Opportunities are provided to the mastership of local craftspeople, with room for experimentation and contemporary approaches integrating the past. Traditionally handmade cooperation with social services among handicraftspeople. MAI (Maatschappelijk Ambachtelijk Instelling), 2012-2016. www.handmadeinbrugge.be

How can a government support individual ICH masters, such as craftsmen and performance artists, in safeguarding their professional knowhow? The project ‘Living Human Treasures’ conducted interviews with these masters, identifying their challenges and needs. Supplementary, international experiences with LHT-programs were compared and researched. This research resulted in the memorandum, ‘Virtuoos Vlaanderen’, which contains concrete policy recommendations for the development of an LHT-program in Flanders. The publication was presented at an international conference in Brussels on 21 November 2014, and it is expected to be implemented in the near future. www.livinghumantreasures.be

• expertise and information
• methodological advice
• coaching and training
• project cooperation (national & international)

Alongside the research and the policy recommendations, the online publication ‘A Future for Crafts’ offers practical advice on how to safeguard crafts. It is free for download, with chapters on crafts and sustainability, what makes crafts sustainable, acting in synergy, the subject of crafts, the urban craft space, the craft production. www.futureforcrafts.org

UN-TOUCHABLE is an awareness-raising and educational project on the safeguarding of ICH. The project targets the general public and young people in particular. It consists of an interactive exhibition exploring the life of a traditional game. Questions and quotes indicate different points of view and related information on the safeguarding of Ki Ba and the UNESCO 2003 Convention. The project was set up as an exchange and capacity building project in South Africa (2008-2009). www.un-touchable.be
Tapis plein is a Centre of expertise for heritage participation and ICH in Flanders. We test and develop methodologies, raise awareness and provide advice on cultural heritage participation. Our driving force is the social value of (intangible) cultural heritage. Committed to the idea of cultural heritage as a common good, we seek to stimulate the participatory approach to heritage in society. Active dialogue, empowerment of groups and communities, cultural diversity, equitable and sustainable development are what we take on in our initiatives and methods.

How can people be actively involved and participate in the safeguarding of cultural heritage? Furthermore, how can practices, rooted in our cultural heritage, thrive within contemporary society? These are the basic questions that we strive to address. We develop know-how for methodological challenges and topics such as ICH-community participation, mediation & brokerage, transmission, as well as sustainable ICH tourism. ICH offices, Living Human Treasures and so forth.

The tapis plein team acts as cultural brokers in relation to the safeguarding of ICH. Building bridges is what we do: making connections and translations amongst the government, NGO’s, institutions and ICH communities and groups.

We moderate the general website and database on ICH in Flanders - www.immaterieelerfgoed.be. This digital tool assembles safeguarding measures, visualises ICH in Flanders and supports the network. The information is gathered and uploaded in a participatory manner, by the ICH-bearers themselves. The website is a network initiative, in collaboration with the Flemish Government, FARO, LECA, Het Firmament, Resonant, CAG, ETWIE and tapis plein.

We share our expertise with you

Our target group has also supported us in developing organizations and communities in relation to heritage participation and ICH. Our target group is heritage professionals and activists, the Flemish Government, the government of Flanders, the ICH bearers, the Flemish Network for Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Flemish Network of Intangible Cultural Heritage. We are active within EU frameworks and (inter)national networks.

We strive for the constant development and growth of expertise on safeguarding ICH, developing and supporting an ICH network in Flanders. We operate in close collaboration with thematic Flemish centres of expertise e.g. on crafts, performing arts, music, etc.

We aim to develop the tapis plein website into a digital platform for ICH in Flanders.
Who are we?

Tapis Plein is a Centre of Expertise for heritage participation and ICH in Flanders. We test and develop methodologies, raise awareness and provide advice on cultural heritage participation. Our driving force is the social value of (intangible) cultural heritage. Commitment to the idea of cultural heritage as a common good, and seek to stimulate the participatory approach to heritage in society. Active dialogue, empowerment of groups and communities, cultural diversity, equitable and sustainable development are what we take on with our initiatives and methods.

What do we do?

We develop expertise

How people are actively involved and participate in the safeguarding of cultural heritage? Furthermore, how can practices, rooted in our cultural heritage, thrive within contemporary society? These are the basic questions that we strive to address. We develop know-how for methodological challenges and topics such as: ICH-community participation, national knowledge transmission, education, as well as intangible ICH tourism. Tapis Plein offers Living Human Souvenirs – an educational initiative – to continuously train in innovative heritage field practices, make new connections, create different perspectives and initiate inspiring approaches.

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We share our expertise with you

Our expertise allows us to develop and advise organisations and communities in relation to heritage participation and ICH. We share developed expertise and reflections in a variety of ways. We provide advisory and coaching, training, dialogue, information gathering and ICH forums, establish experimental projects, design and design cultural kits and cultural spaces. We are active within Flanders and (international) networks.

How do we operate?

The tapis plein team acts as cultural brokers in relation to the safeguarding of ICH. Building bridges is what we do: making connections and translations amongst the government, NGOs, communities and groups. Our ultimate mission is to strengthen networks and cooperation, sustain and internationalise, and foster reciprocal arrangements.

We strive for the constant development and growth of expertise on safeguarding ICH, developing and supporting an ICH network in Flanders. We operate in close collaboration with thematic Flemish centres of expertise e.g. on crafts, Performing Arts, etc., as well as with the Flemish Government and FARO (the Flemish Interface Centre for Cultural Heritage).

Tapis Plein also engages in international networks of people and organisations active in the ICH field. As such, we contribute to the organisation and coordination of the international ICH NGO Forum.

Our team is available to give talks, workshops and provide advice and coaching, training, dialogue, information gathering and ICH forums, establish experimental projects, design and design cultural kits and cultural spaces. We are active within Flanders and (international) networks.
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What do we do?

Our team works on the following topics:

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- The tapis plein team acts as cultural brokers in relation to the safeguarding of ICH. Building bridges is what we do: making connections and translations amongst the government, NGO’s, institutions and ICH communities and groups. We commit ourselves to strengthening networks and cooperation, nationally and internationally, sectorial and trans-sectorial.

- We moderate the general website and database on ICH in Flanders - www.immaterieelerfgoed.be. This digital tool assembles safeguarding measures, visualises ICH in Flanders and supports the network. The information is gathered and uploaded in a participatory manner, by the ICH-bearers themselves. The website is a network initiative, in collaboration with the Flemish Government, FARO, LECA, Het Firmament, Resonant, CAG, ETWIE and tapis plein.

- We develop expertise in a digital platform for ICH in Flanders...
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What do we do?

Our work is oriented to the active involvement and participation in the safeguarding of cultural heritage. Furthermore, how can practices, rooted in our cultural heritage, thrive within contemporary society? These are the basic questions that we strive to address. We develop know-how for methodological challenges and topics such as ICH-community participation, mediation & brokerage, transmission, as well as sustainable ICH tourism - ICH & ethics, Living Human Treasures, and so forth. With our initiatives, we continuously strive to develop innovative heritage (best) practices, make new connections, create different perspectives and initiate inspiring approaches.

How do we operate?

The tapis plein team acts as cultural brokers in relation to the safeguarding of ICH. Building bridges is what we do: making connections and translations amongst the government, NGO’s, institutions and ICH communities and groups. We act as a link between different cultural heritage bearers and stakeholders in the region and the whole of Flanders. We are active within (trans-)sectorial and (inter)national networks.

We share our expertise with you

Our expertise reaches beyond tapis plein’s organisations and communities. To facilitate heritage participation and ICH, the team also visits centres of expertise and institutions in a variety of ways. We provide advice and coaching, training, advice on funding opportunities and ICH tourism, establish experimental projects, detect and share original cases and concrete models. We are active within several national and international networks.

We strive for the constant development and growth of expertise on safeguarding ICH, developing and supporting an ICH network in Flanders. We operate in close collaboration with the Flemish Centre of expertise for ICH, as well as the Flemish Government and FARO (the Flemish Interface Centre for Cultural Heritage).

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Handmade in Brugge (2012-2016)

Traditions can inspire innovation and sustainable development. With the project ‘Handmade in Brugge’ we realise a series of initiatives to develop a sustainable environment for crafts within a city context. Opportunities are provided to the mastership of local craftspeople, with room for experimentation and contemporary approaches integrating the past. The project is realised in close cooperation with civil society actors (craftspeople, NGO’s …) and the city government (economy, tourism …).

www.handmadeinbrugge.be

Living Human Treasures (2012-2014)

How can a government support individual ICH masters, such as craftsmen and performance artists, in safeguarding their professional knowhow? The project ‘Living Human Treasures’ conducted interviews with these masters, identifying their challenges and needs. Supplementary, international experiences with LHT-programs were compared and researched. This research resulted in the memorandum, ‘Virtuoos Vlaanderen’, which contains concrete policy recommendations for the development of an LHT-program in Flanders. The publication was presented at an international conference in Brussels on 21 November, 2014, and it is expected to be implemented in the near future.

www.livinghumantreasures.be

Tapis plein is an online publication on the safeguarding of crafts. It targets the general public and young people in particular. It consists of an interactive exhibition adopting the form of a popular traditional game. Questions and quotes indicate different points of view and related information on the safeguarding of crafts and the UNESCO 2003 Convention is given. The project travelled through Flanders (2006-2008) and has also been set up as an exchange and capacity-building project in South Africa (2008-2009).

www.un-touchable.be

Contact us for information and consultancy on ICH and participation:

Team: Jorijn Neyrinck (director; ICH and participation), Floortje Vantomme (ICH and participation), Kia Tsakiridis (ICH), Ellen Janssens (www.immaterieelcultuurSite.be); Evi De Smet (graphic design), Ellen Vanhoolst and Cevet Hobbeib (Handmade in Brugge).

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www.tapisplein.be

UN-TOUCHABLE is an awareness-raising and educational project on the safeguarding of ICH. The project targets the general public and young people in particular. It consists of an interactive exhibition adopting the form of a traditional game. Questions and quotes indicate different points of view and related information on the safeguarding of crafts and the UNESCO 2003 Convention is given. The project is realised in cooperation with civil society actors (craftspeople, NGO’s …) and the city government (economy, tourism …).

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The online publication collates five years of accumulated practical and policy experience with the safeguarding of crafts by tapis plein, exploring ways to make crafts future-proof and socially better embedded. The publication offers inspiration for policy-makers, craftsmen, heritage workers, designers, entrepreneurs … for actions that can make crafts future proof and socially more embedded.

www.futureforcrafts.org
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With the support of the Flemish Government and the city of Bruges

The online publication collates five years of accumulated practical and policy experience with the safeguarding of crafts by tapis plein, exploring a future for crafts. It looks at the challenges that constitute the fundamental need for the projects discussed, and the challenges that constitute the fundamental need for the projects discussed, and the UNESCO 2003 Convention. The publication offers inspiration for policy-makers, craftsmen, heritage workers, designers, entrepreneurs … for actions that can make future craft and ICH viable and sustainable.

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• …

The online publication collects five years of accumulated practical and policy experience with the safeguarding of crafts by tapis plein, supporting a future for crafts. It looks at the challenges that contemporary conservation faces, as outlined in the 2003 UNESCO Convention. The publication offers inspiration for policy makers, craftsmen, heritage workers, designers, entrepreneurs … for actions that can make crafts future proof and socially better embedded.

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