

tapis plein



Centre of expertise for
heritage participation & Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)
Flanders (Belgium)

★ 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. 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 with our initiatives and methods.



TAPIS PLEIN ...

- *was founded in 2003*
- *is recognised and supported by the Flemish Government as a Centre of Expertise for heritage participation & ICH*
- *is active as chair and member of the commission for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Flanders since 2008, as well as in the Dutch National Commission for the ICH Inventory*
- *has been awarded the Flemish Culture Award for Cultural Heritage in 2011*
- *is accredited by UNESCO 5.COM in 2010 and by the General Assembly in 2012 as expert organisation within the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)*
- *is active in the organisation of the ICH NGO Forum since 2012 (www.ichngoforum.org)*

★ WHAT DO WE DO?

We develop expertise

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, education, 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.

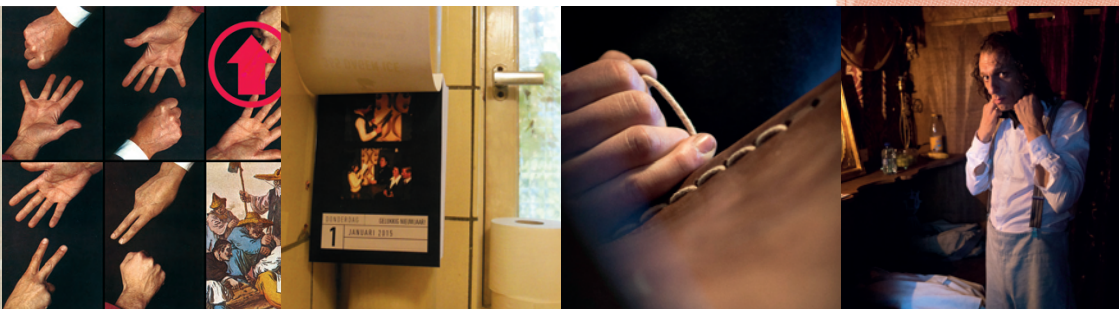


We share our expertise with you

Our tapis plein team offers support to (heritage) organisations and communities in relation to heritage participation and ICH. We share our developed expertise and reflections in a variety of ways. We provide advice and coaching, training, offer inspiring methodologies and 'DIY'-formats, establish experimental projects, detect and divulge original cases and examples, and more. We are active within (trans-)sectorial and (inter)national 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, NGO's, institutions and ICH communities and groups. We commit ourselves to strengthening networks and cooperation, nationally and internationally, sectorial and trans-sectorial.



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, and so forth) and with a broad network of local heritage units, 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. (www.ichngoforum.org)

★ WWW.IMMATERIEELERFGOED.BE

a digital platform for ICH in Flanders

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.



➡ HANDMADE IN BRUGGE' (2012-2016)

Tradition 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, 'Virtuoso's 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

➡ UN-TOUCHABLE (2006-2009)

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 exposition adopting the form of a popular traditional game. Questions and quotes indicate different points of view and related information on the safeguarding of ICH 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



➡ ONLINE PUBLICATION: A FUTURE FOR CRAFTS

The online publication collates five years of accumulated practical and policy experience with the safeguarding of crafts by tapis plein, expressing a vision on a future for crafts. In the book the challenges that contemporary craftsmen deal with, are linked to the UNESCO 2003 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.

www.futureforcrafts.org

★ CONTACT

Contact us for information and consultancy on ICH and participation:

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



Team: Jorijn Neyrinck (director; ICH and participation), Floortje Vantomme (ICH and participation);
Kia Tsakiridis (ICH); Ellen Janssens (www.immaterieelerfgoed.be); Evi De Smet (graphic design)
Ellen Vandenbulcke and Greet Roosbeek (Handmade in Brugge).



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