

**Proposal by the Finnish Heritage Agency to the Ministry of Education and Culture on elements to be inscribed on the National Inventory of Living Heritage in 2023**

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003 at the UNESCO General Conference. Finland ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2013. The Finnish Heritage Agency is responsible for the implementation of the Convention in Finland.

The aim of the convention is to promote the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of various communities, groups, and individuals, and increase awareness of the significance of intangible cultural heritage. The convention emphasizes the transmission of traditions, cultural diversity, and people's participation in cultural heritage.

The UNESCO Convention also includes creating an inventory or inventories of intangible cultural heritage at both the national and international levels. Inventorying is a tool for identifying, describing, and disseminating information about living traditions.

In Finland, the compilation of the inventory was started in 2016 with the launch of the Wiki-inventory of Living Heritage, where communities can freely enter submissions on living heritage that is meaningful to them. So far, the platform has attracted roughly 240 submissions written by 240 communities in six different languages. The Wiki-inventory is a continuously updated information resource on living heritage in Finland. The platform is moderated by the Finnish Heritage Agency.

It is possible to apply from the Wiki-inventory to the National Inventory of Living Heritage. Previous application rounds were organized in 2017 and 2020. The third round, which was recently held, was open from January 26 to March 15, 2023. A total of 41 applications were submitted by the deadline. Of these, 28 applications passed the technical review conducted by the Finnish Heritage Agency. An open commenting round for communities and experts operating in the field of living heritage was held from March 22 to April 4, 2023. Comments were received from 51 sources, including seven different organizations and individuals.

The Advisory group on intangible cultural heritage discussed the applications in their meetings on March 14 and March 28, 2023. Applications were evaluated based on the criteria of UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as well as detailed national criteria. The Finnish Heritage Agency's proposal is based on the expert group's recommendations.

The National Inventory is updated periodically, and the next application round will be held no earlier than 2025. Suggestions can be made from the National Inventory to the international lists of intangible cultural heritage maintained by UNESCO. In this context, the supporting communities have the opportunity to express their interest to the Finnish Heritage Agency through a separate application. The last application round was arranged in 2018, and no decisions have been made regarding the next round. The Ministry of Education and Culture makes decisions on which proposals to send to UNESCO based on the recommendations from the Finnish Heritage Agency and the Advisory group on intangible cultural heritage.

The Finnish Heritage Agency proposes that the attached 22 elements be approved to complement the National Inventory of Living Heritage.

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## **Kainuun peilikäs**

Kainuu peilikäs is an uneven weft-tied shaggy coverlet, which is made especially in the Kainuu region. The weaving tradition of peilikäs is passed on, for example, in the teaching of cloth weaving at Kainuu adult education centre and in traditional handicraft courses. The motif of the peilikäs is seen in many situations as an iconic symbol of Kainuu and is used in graphics and handicraft products made with other techniques. The tradition has been recorded and studied in various projects. Presented by Kalevalaiset naiset ry of Kajaani and Kainuu museum.

## **Goldsmith's work**

Goldsmiths and jewellers practice goldsmithing in Finland. The Finnish Goldsmith Association has more than 800 members. Education in the field is offered at 11 different educational institutions, and apprenticeship trainings are also important in passing on the tradition. The concern, however, is the shortening of the training period, which means that there is not enough time to accumulate knowledge. The Finnish Museum of Horology Kruunu stores tangible and intangible cultural heritage related to the watch and jewelry industries. Tradition is experiencing a strong change in the digitalization of the world and with globalization. The presenters are the Finnish Goldsmith Association and the Finnish Museum of Horology Kruunu.

## **Dyeing with natural dyes**

Handicraft enthusiasts in different parts of Finland practice dyeing with natural dyes. Handicraft entrepreneurs and artists also dye with natural dyes and thus utilize skill in their activities. Today, dyeing with natural dyes is practiced in many different ways. The art of dyeing has been passed down from generation to generation as a largely oral heritage, but instructions on good dye plants and dyeing recipes have also been written down and published in books, magazine articles and recipe booklets. Today, the tradition is transmitted largely through various courses, websites and social media. Dyeing with natural dyes is a living heritage whose popularity is growing. The presenters are Värjärikilta ry, the Craft Museum of Finland and the the Finnish Colour Association SVY ry.

## **Chainsaw carving**

Chainsaw carving has developed in the 1970s as a hobby for loggers with the development of light hand saws. Nowadays, chainsaw carving is a hobby of many ages, both men and women participate. Many sculptors have taken the chainsaw as a tool for making their art. Learning the tradition takes place by following the activities of experienced carvers and by participating in the competitions and courses of the sport. The operation is active at the national and international level. The tradition lives and develops. The tradition has been recorded in the ITE art collection of the Association for Rural Culture and Education and in Finna. Presented by the Association for Rural Culture and Education. Presenters are Association for Rural Culture and Education, Veistäjät ry, the ITE art support association - ITE ry and Vaara-Karjala cultural association ry

## **Knitting**

Knitting is a particularly vibrant tradition in Finland and, according to recent studies, the most popular craft hobby. Knitting is taught in educational institutions of different levels of education: primary school, basic art education, liberal adult education and counselling in local and remote courses, as well as among enthusiasts. Social media plays an important role in spreading patterns and instructions among hobbyists. Finnish museums have stored a wide range of knitting and related photographic material, audio-visual material and information related to knitting, as well as archival material and literature. Presented by the Finnish Crafts Organization Taito ry, The Finnish Association of Adult Education Centres KoL ry, Korsnäs Hembygdsförening r.f., Käsityö verkossa ry, the Craft Museum of Finland, the Helsinki City Library, and the Tampere Lutheran Parishes.

### **Wooden boat renovation**

There are tens of thousands of wooden boats of different ages in Finland. The majority of wooden boat owners repair their boats themselves, you can also have repairs done by wood boat carvers. Maintaining and repairing a wooden boat includes many different techniques and work steps. Many different parties organize wooden boat repair courses. However, the wooden boat industry is threatened by a decrease in active users, because other materials attract people with their ease of maintenance. On the other hand, the use of natural materials and the repair of the old bring out aspects of sustainable development. The methods and tradition of wooden boat repair have been recorded in publications and videos. The presenters are Tradition centrum Kuggom, Suomen puuveneilijät ry, Suomen puuveneveistäjät ry and Mahogany Yacht Society.

### **Making a shingle basket from railed shingles**

Traditional shingle baskets are made from pine sapwood by pulling shingles by hand, which are woven into different shaped baskets for everyday use. The manufacture of baskets has decreased and commercial sales are now in the hands of a few experts. The biggest problem is the lack of close-grained old trees. Finnish museums have stored a large number of baskets made from traditionally woven shingles, but know-how should also be stored. It is also hoped that the tradition will be renewed in the direction of more sustainable materials. Presented by five practitioners of tradition, the Craft Museum of Finland, the City Museum of Kankaanpää and the museums of Miehikkälä.

### **Rauma lace-making**

Lace-making has a centuries-old tradition in Rauma and is a significant part of the local cultural heritage. Living tradition can be seen in the city in many ways. The tradition is passed on in families, associations and through courses. The future of the tradition looks good. There is a lot of activity around the lace tradition, e.g. Rauma Lace Week. Rauma Museum is responsible for recording the Rauma lace-making tradition. Presenters Nyplääjät ry, Lace centrum Emelia ry and Rauma museum.

### **Construction of a post-and-rail fence**

Post-and-rail fences are part of the traditional cultural landscape. Post-and-rail fence is built from pairs of sticks set up on the ground at regular intervals, and between them diagonally horizontal fences as a wall. However, only a small number of people in Finland know the technique anymore, and the transfer of the

tradition is solely dependent on different kinds of talk. The tradition has been recorded in publications, articles written and videos made. The presenters are the Rural Women's Advisory Organization, Rural Women's Advisory Organization of the Etelä-Savo and two practitioners of the tradition.

### **Celebrating Chile's Independence Day in Finland**

Chile's Independence Day, "el Dieciocho", has been celebrated in Finland among Chileans living here since 1973, when the first refugees arrived in Finland. The party is called Ramada or Fonda and certain foods, dances, games and music are essential in the celebration. Today, the tradition is practiced by hundreds of people from Chile and other Latin American countries, as well as people with connections to the Chilean community. The tradition is considered an important addition to the national list in terms of cultural diversity. The politics of the celebration are pondered, but on the other hand, the celebration is meaningful precisely for the community of Chileans. Presenters are Cultural Chile Finlandia ry, the Embassy of Chile in Finland and the working group "50 years in Finland".

### **Mexican Day of the Dead in Finland**

The Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) is a Mexican indigenous holiday recognized worldwide. It is celebrated annually in different parts of Finland among hundreds of Mexicans, and the tradition is passed on, especially in the family circle. Altars are a central part of the practice of tradition, and the different elements of the altar have many different meanings. Cultural ownership and the human rights situation of minorities in Mexico spark discussion. However, the tradition has been accepted into the UNESCO list and the Mexican community wants to add the tradition to National Inventory of Finland. In addition, the functioning of museums as builders of altars raises the question of whether it is a living heritage. However, altars are always built with communities and at the same time it is a sign to the community that cultural heritage is valued. Presenters are the Finland-Mexico association, Jaranas del Norte, Helinä Rautavaara Museum, Askelten Palo ry, Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry and Rosamaría Bolom.

### **Orthodox procession tradition**

In Orthodox churches and monasteries, hundreds of processions of the cross are organized every year, even covering long distances. Many of these are annual and locally highly anticipated events. In the procession, a certain distance is travelled carrying a lantern, a cross, church flags, the gospel and icons. Anyone, regardless of religion, can participate in the procession. The application is extensive and well prepared. Attention is drawn to the fact that the text emphasizes the ecumenical nature of the event, and it is part of a sustainable pilgrimage culture. Presenters are the Finnish Orthodox Church, RIISA Orthodox Church Museum of Finland, Ortodoksisten nuorten liitto ONL ry, Filantropia ry, Valamo Monastery and Lintula Monastery, as well as the Orthodox parishes of Helsinki, Southeast Finland, Turku, Kuopio, Taipale, Saimaa, Jyväskylä, Northern Finland and Tampere.

### **Bee**

Bees (talkoot) are a centuries-old form of voluntary work in Finland and an important part of Finnish folklore. Bees are organized by a huge range of different associations, organizations and individuals. Every year, countless sports, music and cultural events and various projects are carried out with the help of workers. Bees are characterized by the gathering of a certain community, working together, and keeping

the participators together. The application is well prepared, but more communities are needed as background communities. Presented by Satakunta Museum (Talkoot project).

### **South Ostrobothnian two-line accordion playing**

Known as a folk instrument, the two-line accordion is a popular instrument, especially in the Southern Ostrobothnia region. The instrument is played all over Finland, but the compositions played with it are largely based on folk tunes recorded from the Southern Ostrobothnia region. There are professionals and hobbyists of all ages and learning to play is based on the master-journeyman learning method typical of folk musician. South Ostrobothnian accordion music has been published as sheet music and recordings by individual players as well as performing groups and ensembles for several decades. The tradition has been recorded in the collections of the Finnish Folk Music Institute. Presenters are Eteläpohjalaiset Spelit, Kansanmusiikkiyhdistys ry, Alavuden Kaksiriviset ry, Finnish Folk Music Association, Kaustinen Folk Music Institute and Mäntyharjun Huuliharpistit ry.

### **Playing the harmonica folk music style**

Finnish harmonica folk music style playing is similar to accordion playing. A harpist simultaneously plays the melody and the chord accompaniment, i.e. the string accompaniment. The playing is practiced by active players as well as by more occasional hobbyists. The Folk Music Institute has recorded the tradition. Traditional folk music style harmonica playing has clearly decreased in recent years, and after an active period lasting twenty years, it has declined. Presenters are Eteläpohjalaiset Spelit, Folk Music Society, Finnish Folk Music Association, Kansanmusiikkiyhdistys ry, Mäntyharjun Huuliharpistit ry and Suomen Huuliharpistit ry.

### **Folk partner dance and dance music**

Folk-style partner dance refers to dance forms based on tradition, which are danced lively and spontaneously, freely modified. Dance genres include, for example, mazurka, polka, waltz, sottiisi, polska, hambo and jenkka. Today, the tradition is practiced by hundreds of people, both organized and in smaller private communities. A relatively large number of folk dances have been recorded since the 19th century. In Finland, efforts are made to educate children and young people in folk music and folk dance through national camps, events and hobby groups. There have been many projects in the field in recent years. Presented by Raakaa Tradia ry, Nordic Dance ry, the Finnish Youth Association, Perinnearkku ry, Rällä ry and Northern-Ostrobothnia Folk Music Society ry.

### **Miniature game or figurine hobby culture**

Figurine hobby culture includes building, painting and collecting game characters, playing with the characters, getting to know the backstories and worlds of the games, and various designs. There are thousands of miniature or figure game enthusiasts in Finland. Several different game events are organized every year, with game tournaments, painting competitions and workshops. The hobby of miniature games mainly includes painting and collecting the hobbyists' own figures, as well as photographing the figures and publishing the pictures on websites or social media services. The hobby culture of miniature games has managed to adapt over the years along with technological development, utilizing, for example, the

internet, social media and the possibilities of 3D printing. There is a debate about whether the tradition spans generations, and whether the phenomenon's short history is a problem. On the other hand, the tradition is linked, for example, to tin warriors. Presented by Blood Bowl Finland ry, Chaosboyz, Cold Tones Society, Etelä-Karjalan Miniatyyrikilta ry, Figure Fellows ry, Figuprojektien vertaisryhmä – hobby community, Gemigabok, Hyvinkää-Uusimaa Blood Bowl League (HUBBLE,) Ironsleet, Jyväskylä Miniature Gaming ry, Kuopio Figupelaajat KuoFi ry, Mordheim community / Tuomas Pirinen, Nopat ja Taktiikka ry, Pöllökarhut ry - Pori Pöytäpeliseura, Rovaniemi Figupelaajat ry, Stadin Strategit and the Finnish Game Museum.

### **Skolornas Stafettkarnevalen**

Stafettkarnevalen is a relay competition in which schoolchildren from Finnish-Swedish schools participate from all over Finland. The event has grown strongly in the last decades and annually activates more than 10,000 children and young people to participate. Around 200 volunteers are also needed to organize the event. The event was documented by Svenska Yle. The Sports Museum is responsible for the older material. Since 2019, in cooperation with the Paralympic Committee, a relay has been organized also for students in wheelchairs and visually impaired students. The tradition is a great example of a tradition that young people themselves consider important. Presented by Svenska Finlands Skolidrottsförbund rf and Stafettkarnevalen.

### **Finnish cattle and the tradition of livestock husbandry**

Finnish cattle is a collective name for eastern, western and northern Finnish cattle. Suomenkarja ry currently has around 60 members. Livestock husbandry traditions of Finnish cattle still include a lot of traditions and know-how related to animal care and human-animal relationships. Today, Finnish cattle breeders also act as entrepreneurs, offering e.g. farm tourism activities or other animal-assisted activities. Information related to livestock husbandry, feeding and breeding is stored in various archives of the agricultural administration, as well as in the archives of, for example, individual farms and agricultural educational institutions. In addition, in various traditional gatherings, announcements have been organized about livestock and related memories. Working group as presenter: Director of the Livestock Sector, PhD Mervi Honkatukia, Osteologist, docent, PhD Auli Bläuer, History researcher, PhD Hilja Solala.

### **Timber floating tradition**

Timber floating has been an important method of transporting timber from forests to factories by water in Finland. Timber floating skills are not much needed for forest work anymore, but the tradition lives on in log driver shows and competitions with the of hundreds of enthusiasts and a few associations. In addition, the summer events of many village society present timber floating and log driver skills to the public. The biggest threat to tradition is the destruction of floating buildings and fairways so that they cannot be used for events. Finnish Forest Museum Lusto has recorded the tradition. Project activities have also emerged. The timber floating tradition is a multi-generational, living and communal activity. The timber rafting tradition has recently been accepted as a multinational destination on the UNESCO list. Presented by Suomen Uittoperinneyhdistys ry, Pielinen-Karjalan Tukkilaiset ry, Evijärvisseura ry, Pirkka-Hämeen Jätkäperinneyhdistys ry and Jarmo Alasiurua.

## **Blood cupping**

In blood cupping, the cupping cups are placed on the cleaned skin at the trigger or acupoint. Cupping includes sauna, showering and washing. In Finland, cupping is practiced by trained cuppers. Native Finns and also, to an increasing extent, immigrants are solid users of blood cupping. Practitioners of the tradition work in swimming pools, spas, public sauna facilities and as private practitioners. The tradition is safeguarded with appropriate training and regulation. The National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health Valvira supervises the sector. The tradition has been recorded in writing and in a few museums. In particular, the debate arises as to whether it is appropriate for cupping to be a separate target, as it can already be found in traditional treatments, which can be found in the National Inventory. The presenters are Suomen Kupparit and Saunaterapeutit ry.

## **Särätradition of Lemi**

Lemi's särä is a traditional dish made from roast lamb, potato and salt. The salted meats are placed in a baking tray on top of alder sticks to roast in a hot oven and finally half-cooked potatoes are added to make it. In South Karelia, in Lemi, särä has been part of the food culture of the farm owners throughout history. Home District Association of Lemi and tourism operators have created a thriving business since the 1970s. The tradition of eating särä lives on in Lemi and among the people of Lemi, but its preparation in the traditional way in a wooden tray in a baking oven is fading. There is not much recording and archiving of traditions. In social media, the särä tradition gains publicity and keeps the tradition on display and alive. Presented by the Home District Association.



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