Policies and implemented tools for digitization of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Gorenjska region, Slovenia

Barbara Rupar, Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska
Presentation of the Gorenjska region

Area: 2,137 km² (11% of Slovenia)
Population: 203,654 (10% of Slovenia)
Population density: 95 people/km² (Slovenia: 102/km²)


National public service for the protection of intangible cultural heritage is performed by:
- Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- National and authorized museums
- Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage
Intangible cultural heritage

  • A term “living cultural heritage” is used

• Act Amending the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (May 2016)
  • A term “living” cultural heritage is replaced by “intangible” cultural heritage
  • Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is designated by law:

Slovene Ethnographic Museum
(performing the task since 2011)
Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

As a public service for the protection of intangible cultural heritage, the Slovene Ethnographic Museum performs the following tasks:

• Identifying, documenting, studying, evaluating and interpreting intangible heritage,
• Coordinating and proposing inclusion into the **Register of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**, 
• Advising its carriers on preservation,
• Preparing proposals for the proclamation of the intangible heritage of special importance,
• Coordinating the intangible heritage safeguarding work of national and authorized museums and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, etc.
Register of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

= a technical list of intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Slovenia

- Proposals for inclusion are drawn up by the Coordinator
- Maintained by the Ministry of Culture
- Began to emerge in 2008 when the first unit was entered
- The 2nd unit was entered in 2012
- Now, the Register is regularly updated

Currently lists 58 units of Slovene intangible heritage (14 October 2017)
Register currently lists 58 units, **18 units of intangible cultural heritage for Gorenjska**

- 5 characteristic solely for Gorenjska region or a part of Gorenjska and
- 13 that are pan-Slovene or characteristic for more regions, including Gorenjska

**REGISTERED UNITS**

- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe: 2
- Oral traditions and expressions: 0
- Performing arts: 3
- Social practices, rituals and festive events: 4
- Traditional craftsmanship: 9

Data: Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 14 October 2017
Intangible Cultural Heritage of Gorenjska

Photos: Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 16 October 2017
Digitization of Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **Digitization is a priority** of the Ministry of Culture, the latter strongly encourages institutions which are in public service to digitize

- **Slovene Ethnographic Museum**
  - *Register of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*: ensures the fundamental safeguarding (!)
  - *FILM*

The Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage produces films about intangible cultural heritage, and at the same time encourages local communities to document their own heritage.

Films are in the expansion:
- they are a mandatory part of the nomination on the UNESCO lists and also
- recommended for the Slovenian Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Basic guideline: To show as directly as possible the phenomenon of intangible cultural heritage and its bearers

- Films that contextualize the heritage (place it in space, time, and social environment), not advertise it
- Approach of ethnographic or documentary films, opposed to tourism and promotional categories
- Documenting the bearers of heritage that carry out an activity, its visual and sound image, and the environment where the activity takes place
- Display of the importance of heritage for the community, knowledge transfer and the challenges
- Informative and 5-10 minutes long
Škofja Loka Passion Play

The 1st unit inscribed in the Register in 2008

In 2012 declared as intangible cultural heritage of special national importance

Photo: Jana Jocif
In 2016 the 1st Slovenian entry on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
Škofja Loka Museum

- **NEW Permanent Exhibition**: Škofja Loka Passion Play, part I

- Contemporary installation of traditional content

- Exhibition of photographic and film material, selected objects and photographs by Tomaž Lunder:
  - Film collage (video essay)
  - Photographs
  - Digitized manuscript codex

- The exhibition will be supplemented with a second part in the second half of 2020 and will be introduced to visitors of the Škofja Loka Passion Play performance in 2021.
NEXTO - a smart travel companion through cultural experiences

• NEXTO application (App Store, Google Play)
• Interactive guide: Romuald’s (Passion) tour
• Close cooperation between the private sector and public local institutions – including the bearer of the heritage (Škofja Loka Municipality)
Basic safeguarding (!)

Audio-visual representation and documentation of intangible cultural heritage is an important part of its protection

How much?

Heritage safeguarding, protection, preservation, revival

Protection vs. promotion

Audio-visual documentation and characteristic video presentations

Raising awareness
(within local communities and beyond)

Transmitting heritage to younger generations
(first contact with a certain unit)
Thank you for your attention!

Prepared by:

Barbara Rupar

Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska, BSC Kranj

www.bsc-kranj.si
barbara.rupar@bsc-kranj.si