Sweden’s Candidature for the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee 2020
Sweden’s candidature for the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is supported by the other Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway).

What are Sweden’s key priorities in relation to the Convention?

• **Promotion of the conditions for civil society’s engagement and participation in the work related to the Convention**
Without practitioners, there can be no intangible cultural heritage. Therefore, the engagement of practitioners and civil society is crucial for the survival of intangible cultural heritage. Sweden wants to promote and strengthen the ability of civil society to transmit intangible cultural heritage and contribute to the work with the Convention.

• **Promotion of the exchange of experience between countries to safeguard intangible cultural heritage**
Traditions and practices share many similarities in different parts of the world. But they can also vary greatly. Either way, we can learn a lot from one another. Sweden wants to promote the exchange of experience on methods for transmitting and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage for coming generations.

• **Promotion of the diversity of intangible cultural heritage**
Sweden wants to raise awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage and highlight its diversity throughout the world. To improve representativeness, Sweden particularly welcomes projects from countries that are in need of capacity-building measures.

• **Safeguarding expert knowledge**
Experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage have a central role in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee. Sweden wants to strengthen the role of experts at UNESCO and particularly emphasises that decisions should be based on expert knowledge.
Sweden – one of UNESCO’s largest donors of voluntary funds

Since 2013, Sweden has gradually increased its financial cooperation with UNESCO. In 2018–2022, Sweden will invest USD 135 million in UNESCO, mainly in flexible multi-year funding. As a result, Sweden is now one of UNESCO’s largest donors of voluntary funds. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage received nearly USD 52 000 through a voluntary contribution from Sweden in 2019.
Implementing the Convention in Sweden

Sweden has a solid base of knowledge, methods and experience, founded on its long tradition of documentation, research, organisation and transmission in the area of intangible cultural heritage.

For the national implementation of the Convention, Sweden has developed a successful national organisation focused on cooperation and the participation of civil society. This work is coordinated by a government agency, the Institute for Language and Folklore.

Sweden’s national inventory features a broad range of intangible cultural heritage in Sweden, and is continuously expanded, following proposals from organisations and the general public. As a result of targeted initiatives, minority groups have become more involved in work on the inventory.

To promote the exchange of experience on methods for transmitting intangible cultural heritage, Sweden has contributed to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices under the Convention. The ‘Land of Legends’ (Sagobygden) was adopted into the Register in 2018.