



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of Intangible Cultural Heritage

“Perspectives of Intangible Cultural Heritage” Lecture series

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The LIVIND Project: Goals and Results of a Collaborative Project on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development

Being a major topic of international debates for several decades, sustainable development, following the now classic definition,¹ ensures that we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, balancing economic growth, environmental protection, and social well-being. In 2015, 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² ensuring that sustainability remains at the forefront of political discussions, policies, and programmes. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, steps have been taken to incorporate it into existing frameworks on culture in general and intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in particular.

However, although the connection between ICH and sustainable development has been addressed by policies both on the international and national levels, the potential of ICH as a resource for sustainable development in the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture countries³ is yet to be fully realised. With this in mind, the international project LIVIND brought together stakeholders from public administration, civil society, academia, and the private sector from Denmark (including Greenland and Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland (including Åland Islands), Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, and Sweden, aiming to raise awareness, provide capacity building, foster networking, and support the transfer of global ideas into local actions through pilot projects.

Taking some distance from the project, which ended in 2024, this lecture will reflect on it within a broader context, bringing in a managerial perspective from Leena Marsio, who oversaw the project as a Senior Advisor of the Finnish Heritage Agency, and a research perspective from Siarhieĭ Makarevich, who, as a member of the project’s research team, approached LIVIND as a fieldwork site to analyse evolving connections between ICH and sustainable development in the region. Drawing on the project’s intentions, actions, and outcomes, the speakers will

¹ World Commission on Environment and Development. 1987. *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>.

² United Nations. n.d. “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” United Nations. Accessed February 16, 2026. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>.

³ Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture. n.d. “Who We Are: NDPC.” Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture. Accessed February 16, 2026. <https://ndpculture.org/ndpc>.

explore the opportunities and challenges that project-based activities at the intersection of ICH safeguarding and sustainable development entail.

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