

The Intangible Cultural Heritage of Bulgaria: Policies, Practices, Carriers

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(Summary)

The author discusses issues related to the intangible cultural heritage in Bulgaria, confronting different types of institutions: institutions authorized to carry out the national policy, study and preserve the heritage, popularize the cultural traditions and their carriers. The intangible cultural heritage is viewed in the context of its relationship to the concept of folklore in Bulgaria as well as the policies regarding the safeguarding of traditional values. The critical view towards the contemporary national cultural policy is focused on the unresolved issues of the program “Living human treasures – Bulgaria” and the problems resulting from its implementation. The position of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at BAS is highlighted in relation to the academic provision of the activities on safeguarding of cultural heritage. The arguments are illustrated through a specific example from the National representative list of ICH – L. Dobrevska enlisted as a *living human treasure* in Bulgaria in the sphere of “traditional storytelling” in 2010.

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