

Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Effect of the Mirror and Something More

Mila Santova

(Summary)

The paper finds grounds in the provisions of UNESCO *Convention* of 2003 *for the Safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage* (ICH), which point out the **identification** of the elements of ICH (Art. 11b) as the first and initial possible step among the diverse activities and cultural policies that need to be undertaken by each state in its efforts towards safeguarding. The identification precedes the creation of an Inventory. The duty for drawing up the Inventories (Art. 12) is yet the only explicit specification in the text of the Convention that indicates the specific procedures for safeguarding ICH in the different countries.

Based on the Bulgarian experience, the paper makes the assumption that the elements, involved in the Inventory, establish a framework that determines (through its establishment) the notion of cultural heritage in the intangible realm. The function of modeling the framework parameters corresponds well with what is termed nowadays as policies of heritage construction. Thus, although it relates to a particular cultural reality, the “effect of the mirror” discussed in the paper article does not reflex it literally.

Mila Santova

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies

with Ethnographic Museum – BAS

Acad. Georgi Bonchev Str., bl. 6

1113 Sofia, BULGARIA

mila_santova@yahoo.com