

## **Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: Problems and Interpretations**

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(Summary)

The article is focused on three important aspects of intangible cultural heritage: the designation of *intangible cultural heritage* and the meanings imparted to it; the spheres of cultural activity within its scope, and the safeguarding measures which are implemented by the state. On the basis of the definitions and statements from UNESCO's 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, I offer an overview of the situation in Bulgaria: the growing usage of the new concept and the different contents attributed to it; the substantial discrepancies between the essence of intangible cultural heritage and the popular notions about it; some of the state's cultural policies regarding the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage; and the increased media focus on these issues. In the analysis of the current situation, I draw on my comprehension and experience as a researcher and as an expert involved in the implementation of some of the state cultural policies in this sphere.

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