**SIEF Congress 2023**

**Cultural Heritage and Property Working Group (WG) Business Meeting**

Thursday, June 8, 19.00-20.00 (Brno time)

In Person: Room B2.42 (changed to B2.43 due to another session running over time), Building B, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Arna Nováka 1

Online: [https://nomadit-co-uk.zoom.us/j/87432496897?pwd=bGN5WURVaTNrZUx0Y3JDSnFrOFlpUT09](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnomadit-co-uk.zoom.us%2Fj%2F87432496897%3Fpwd%3DbGN5WURVaTNrZUx0Y3JDSnFrOFlpUT09&data=05%7C01%7Ccarley.williams%40abdn.ac.uk%7C65b1035a5765432bc4d308db61413bc6%7C8c2b19ad5f9c49d490773ec3cfc52b3f%7C0%7C0%7C638210705030135627%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PiAhVeEyTXBVWGFKY6O91HsycH%2BED%2B%2BHTiaTowW6YQs%3D&reserved=0)

**Board Members in attendance:**

Robert Baron, Co-chair

Carley Williams, Co-chair & Secretary

Alessandro Testa

Katriina Siivonen

Helmut Groschwitz

Ioana Baskerville

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 (Brno time) and greetings were exchanged. WG members attended both in person and on Zoom

An overview of the WG’s activities from 2021-23 was facilitated by the co-chairs:

I . 2022 WG Sponsored Conference

Alessandro Testa reported about the conference: ***Religion, Cultural Heritage, and Social Change in Central-Eastern Europe***, which was co-sponsored by the WG and held from4-5 July 2022 in Warsaw. It was attended by around 40 participants from multiple countries. Support from SIEF of €800 was provided through the WG funding.

**II. UNESCO related activities**

1. SIEF was represented as an Accredited Non-Governmental Organization at the following UNESCO meetings – by Robert Baron as the representative of SIEF on the ICH NGO Forum Executive Board, and by individual WG Board and general members in their States Party Delegations and as NGO representatives:
   1. the 16th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 13–18 December 2021 (online)
   2. the 9th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention in Paris, France, 5–7 July 2022
   3. the 17th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 28 November – 3 December 2022.
   4. and at the activities of the ICH NGO Forum, parallel to all three UNESCO meetings.
2. WG Co-Chair Robert Baron was re-elected, as the representative of SIEF as an international NGO, to the Steering Committee of the ICH NGO Forum. The ICH NGO Forum brings together NGOs accredited to the UNESCO 2003 Convention (SIEF became re-accredited to the Convention in 2018). After this term on the board, ‘international’ NGOs will no longer have the opportunity to be elected, but a SIEF representative could still be eligible for election from the region encompassing Western Europe and North America.
3. Several WG members participated in the Global Reflection on the Listing Mechanisms of the UNESCO 2003 Convention, contributing to the expert meetings which took place between 2018–2022.

During the Sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee, it was decided to launch a separate reflection to explore the full potential of Article 18 of the Convention, to explore how to share good safeguarding experiences of living heritage more broadly and how to bring to the fore the voices of communities and their aspirations for safeguarding their living heritage. Several WG members were invited to participate in the initial group of experts from all regional groups of the world who met in Stockholm, Sweden 19–21 April 2023.

This meeting will be followed by a discussion among the Open-ended intergovernmental working group 4–6 July 2023 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, to which SIEF has been invited as an accredited NGO. Sophie Elpers and Robert Baron will attend.

More details on the Article 18 Reflection will be available online as the discussions evolve: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/reflection-on-a-broader-implementation-of-article-18-01302>

1. During our AGM, the WG received an update about the Article 18 Reflection from individuals in the WG who are directly involved via their State Parties. It is of interest to all of us as ethnologist and folklorists working in the field of ICH, as it will potentially have an impact on the groups/communities we work with and our research interests.

* Suggestions and ideas being explored include an online platform to facilitate communities/groups on the ground engaging more directly with resources for the Convention, and with other communities/groups and NGOs. Recommendations from the first meeting will be discussed in July, to go forward to the Intergovernmental Committee, which is the governing body of the 2003 ICH Convention.

1. To mark 2003 as the 20th anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, all stakeholders are encouraged to join the celebration by organising events and activities that showcase the diversity and richness of living heritage and to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding ICH.
2. Members of WG and Board had a discussion in Spring 2023 with the Living Heritage Entity of the UNESCO ICH Secretariat regarding SIEF involvement and interactions with UNESCO. We discussed how SIEF could contribute to UNESCO activities which include higher education and ICH in museums. The ICH Secretariat will be sending SIEF requests for proposals for projects of the Secretariat.

**III. Upcoming/Future WG Meetings and Other Events/Activities**

1. The co-chairs provided an update from the meeting of the WG Chairs with the SIEF President and Executive Vice-President on 7 June 2023. The WG Chairs meeting was a good opportunity to share ideas, experiences, and opportunities amongst WGs:
   * Discussion of how to build cohesion within working groups.
   * How to encourage cross-collaboration between WGs so we can break out of our WG bubbles at SIEF, including through jointly organized conferences and projects.
   * Consideration about other roles on WG Boards beyond Co-Chairs & Secretary.
   * SIEF funding of 800 euros is available again to all WGs for conferences and other activities. The application form will be available soon.
   * SIEF can help publicize our activities beyond our WGs to help facilitate cross-group interactions.
2. WG Activities in 2024 and 2025 – ideas welcomed for the next CHP co-sponsored conference in 2024 and other WG activities:
   * The Archives WG approached us to do a joint conference. They will provide a proposed topic.
   * A WG member suggested a conference involving problematizing the term and concept of “heritage”.
   * A WG member suggested exploring other methods to facilitate communication and collaboration within the WG, such as a year-round platform, since there are many projects, publications, research projects and conferences carried out by our WG members.
3. The WG members were reminded to share recent publications, research projects, initiatives, convenings and other relevant activities, which can be communicated through our list serv and web page as well as a new communication platform.

IV. “Unfestschrift” in honor of Regina Bendix

“Reading Matters”, an “Unfestschrift” for WG member Regina Bendix, was published by Göttingen University Press. A number of WG members contributed to the volume, which includes consists of “readings” referring to publications, media productions or artistic expressions that had an impact on the contributors. It is available in print and online at <https://univerlag.uni-goettingen.de/handle/3/isbn-978-3-86395-584-7>

**V. WG Board Election**

WG members attending the meeting were asked if they would like to stand for election to the WG board or nominate another member. By consensus, they agreed that the current WG board should be re-elected to continue in their current roles.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:05.