



# Intangible Cultural Heritage under Pressure

Fringe Event  
to the European  
Culture Forum

Thu, 7 Dec 2017  
7 - 10 pm

Superstudio  
Via Tortona, 27  
20144 Milan

Moderation: Máiréad Nic Craith

[www.ifa.de](http://www.ifa.de)  
[www.eunicglobal.eu](http://www.eunicglobal.eu)

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- Prof Francesco Francioni  
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Rights and Director of the Law Academy,  
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- Dr Filomena Sousa  
Researcher, MI/Portuguese Foundation for  
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The significance of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is waning in an age of commodification and neo-liberal market developments. This includes traditional dances, knowledge systems, musical performance and the arts, which are handed down from one generation to the next. Natsuko Akagawa, Francesco Francioni and Filomena Sousa will share their insights on local experiences and current international developments in protecting intangible cultural heritage. They will also initiate a public debate on ways of filling potential gaps in existing safeguarding mechanisms.

Background: Within the framework of cultural heritage, intangible goods and knowledge often goes unmentioned, or is undermined in the light of dominant discourses and treatment of commonly acknowledged material cultural goods. In that sense, entire peoples with their indigenous knowledge and minority issues are not afforded equal treatment, which prevents intergenerational transmission and the adequate protection of practices, rituals and oral traditions. Overall, this highlights a form of fragility and vulnerability that, in a broader sense, also jeopardises intercultural dialogue and mutual respect for other ways of life. Interdisciplinary problem-solving mechanisms are thus required to find legislative and political ways of helping to ensure that cultural diversity is not only respected but also maintained and protected.

The talk will be organised and presented by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture).