

Timber Rafting –on the way to the Intangible Heritage of Humanity

The application process for inscription on the cultural heritage lists –
the experience of local authorities and bearers

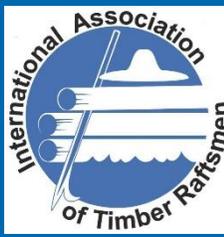
Dr. Frank Thiel

President of the International Association of Timber-Raftsmen

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CULTURAL HERITAGE:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
UNIEJÓW, 10 May 2022



Topics

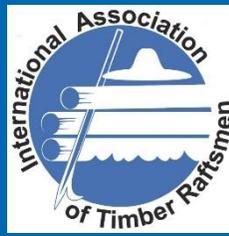


- 1. Who We Are?**
- 2. The Beginning**
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- 4. Shared Benefits for Local Timber Rafting Associations and Authorities**
- 5. Contribution to Ensuring Awareness and to Encouraging Dialogue about Cultural Heritage of the Region**
- 6. Social Functions and Local Identity**
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1. Who We Are?

Timber Rafters and Timber Rafting...



Vorařství (in Czech)
Flößerei (in German)
Plostnieku amata prasmes (in Latvian)
Flisactwo (in Polish)
La Maderada (in Spanish)
Raiera (in Catalan)

Timber rafting is traditional knowledge and skills on the construction and navigating the rafts on midland waters. The practice includes constructing wooden rafts, transporting logs, and knowledge of nature and its elements.

Although there is no uniform rule for the selection of timber, preparation for the assembly, binding, and navigation, all rafters share a similar lifestyle, specific vocabulary, and habits passed down from generation to generation over the centuries.

Timber rafting originated in the Middle Ages when rafts were used to transport logs, firewood, goods, and people using natural water flows. In the middle of the 20th century the commercial importance ended in a lot of countries in Europe.

1. Who We Are?

Timber Rafters and Timber Rafting...

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Raiers (in Catalan)

Today in Europe, 8.500 timber rafters as members of the IATR safeguarding this old craftsmanship and passed the skills to the next generations, as a living heritage.

In order to strengthen local identity and attachment to the regional traditions, also the history of timber rafting and its social and economic importance for the regions is being communicated.





2. The Beginning

In the 1990s, first discussions on the topic of timber rafting and World Heritage.

In the 2000s, further discussions, e.g. in Muldenberg in 2006 or in La Pobla de Segur in 2012.

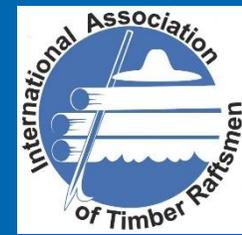
Only with the inscription in the national cultural heritage lists could the international process be initiated.

(The photos used in this presentation are private sources, from Facebook or websites of the associations.)

Àngel Portet hat ein Album geteilt.
2. Juli · 🌐

9 years ago, we started officially the way to Unesco, in La Pobla de Segur, with the participation of a lot of our associations members of IATR [International Timber-Raftsmen Association](#) and supported by [Lluís Puig Gordi](#) member of the Catalan Government. Someone thought it was an utopia, others believed in a possible dream.
Today it's closer than ever with the leading of our Polish raftsmen friends and also of our new international president [Frank Thiel](#)

Übersetzung anzeigen



International Timber-Raftsmen Association hat 6 neue Fotos zu dem Album „Presentació Cultural raiera a l'Unesco (Fotos Jordi Farrús)“ hinzugefügt.



Friends of Timber-Rafting



Bractwo Flisackie w Ulanowie
 5 Tage · 🌐

Dobre informacje napłynęły do nas z Ministerstwa Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego!!!. Nasze piękne Tradycje Flisackie coraz bliżej wpisu na Listę Niematerialnego Dziedzictwa Kulturowego UNESCO. Rozpoczął się ostatni etap sprawdzania wniosku. Przewidywany termin wpisu to grudzień 2022r. O wpis aplikują również Austria, Czechy, Niemcy, Łotwa i Hiszpania.. Bractwo Flisackie jako wiodący depozytariusz polskich Tradycji Flisackich odegrało znaczącą rolę przy procedurze wpisu. Konferencja w Ulanowie której byliśmy organizatorami rozpoczęła

2. The Beginning



In 2019, the first multinational conference took place in Ulanow (Poland). Representatives of the five countries Austria, Czechia, Germany, Latvia and Poland founded a working group. Since 2020, Spain has been involved in the work on the nomination.

Our multinational working group with timber rafting associations, representatives of the UNESCO commissions and ministries of culture from these six countries worked on the joint nomination for almost three years. The Polish Ministry of Culture took over the coordination.



3. The Final Process



At the end of March 2021, Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Spain submitted a joint proposal to UNESCO in Paris to nominate timber rafting as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The main requirement was to provide evidence of how the intangible cultural heritage of timber rafting is being further developed as a living craft and passed on to future generations.

It was also necessary to explain what is done in the associations for identity-forming, broad public relations work and what conservation measures are practised to safeguard this heritage by these associations, but also by local and governmental authorities.

 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 Intangible Cultural Heritage	Representative List Original: English
CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE Seventeenth session 2022 Nomination file no. 01866 for inscription in 2022 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity		
A. State(s) Party(ies) <i>For multinational nominations, States Parties should be listed in the order on which they have mutually agreed.</i>		
Austria, Czechia, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Spain		
B. Name of the element		
B.1. Name of the element in English or French <i>Indicate the official name of the element that will appear in published material. Not to exceed 200 characters</i>		
Timber rafting		
B.2. Name of the element in the language and script of the community concerned, if applicable <i>Indicate the official name of the element in the vernacular language corresponding to the official name in English or French (point B.1). Not to exceed 200 characters</i>		
Vorařství (in Czech) Flößerei (in German) Pļostnieku amata prasmes (in Latvian) Flisactwo (in Polish) La Maderada (in Spanish) Raiers (in Catalan)		
B.3. Other name(s) of the element, if any <i>In addition to the official name(s) of the element (point B.1), mention alternate name(s), if any, by which the element is known.</i>		



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage




International Association
of Timber Raftsmen





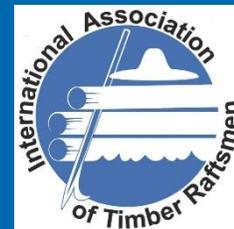
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

3. The Final Process

https://ich.unesco.org/en/files-2022-under-process-01172?select_country=00121&select_type=all#table_cand



N°	State(s)	Title as submitted	Documents		
1866 	Austria - Czechia - Germany - Latvia - Poland - Spain	EN: Timber rafting	Nomination form ICH-02:	English French	9 Nov 2021
		FR: Le radelage	Consent of communities - Austria:	German/English	29 Mar 2021
		Representative List	Consent of communities - Germany:	German/English	29 Mar 2021
		<i>File reference: 1866</i>	Consent of communities - Latvia:	Latvian/English	29 Mar 2021
			Consent of communities - Poland:	Polish/English	29 Mar 2021
			Consent of communities - Spain_Catalonia (video):	Catalan/English	29 Mar 2021
			Consent of communities - International Association of Timber Raftsmen:	English	29 Mar 2021
			Consent of communities - Czechia:	Czech/English	9 Nov 2021
			Consent of communities - Spain:	Spanish/Catalan /Basque/Valencian /French/English	9 Nov 2021
			ICH inventory - Austria:	German/English	29 Mar 2021
			ICH inventory - Czechia:	Czech/English	29 Mar 2021
			ICH inventory - Germany:	German/English	29 Mar 2021
			ICH inventory - Latvia:	Latvian/English	29 Mar 2021
			ICH inventory - Poland:	Polish/English	29 Mar 2021
			ICH inventory - Spain:	Spanish/Catalan /Valencian/English	9 Nov 2021
			Mandatory photographs:	Slideshow	
	Film 'Timber rafting' (14:27):	English	29 Mar 2021		



Austrian Commission for UNESCO
Universitätsstraße 5/12
1010 Vienna
Austria

Ref.: Support for the Inscription of rafting in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Spittal an der Drau, 17.12.2020



ĀDAŽU NOVADA DOME

Gaujas iela 33A, Ādaži, Ādažu novads, LV 2164
tālrunis 67997350, fakss 67997828, e-pasts dome@adazi.lv
reģistrācijas Nr.90000048472, norēķinu rēķins: Valsts kase, konts LV43TREL9802419010000

23.02.2021. Nr. ĀND/1-12-3/21/242

Strenči municipality
Tourism Information Center
Rīgas Street 7, Strenči,
Strenču municipality, LV-4730

Letter of Support

On behalf of Ādaži municipality inhabitants, I, the chairman of the council Māris Sprindžuks, express support to inscription of multinational nomination for intangible cultural heritage element "Timber rafting" on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

3. The Final Process



Landratsamt
Bad Tölz
Wolfratshausen



Landratsamt, Postfach 13 60, 83633 Bad Tölz

Josef Niedermaier
Landrat
Zimmer: 2.057

Telefon: 08041 505-312
Telefax: 08041 505-211
E-Mail: landrat@lra-toelz.de

Ihr Zeichen, Ihre Nachricht vom

Unser Zeichen, Unsere Nachricht vom

Datum
28.01.2021

Declaration of support
My name is Josef Niedermaier, I am district administrator of the Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen district. I am happy to support the nomination of timber rafting for the UNESCO Representative List for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, also on behalf of our district. Because the timber rafts, that are goods and means of transport in one, came from

**Letters of support of local
authorities as part of the
official documents**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

3. The Final Process



BURMISTRZ GMINY I MIASTA ULANÓW

37-410 Ulanów, ul. Rynek 5, tel. (15) 876-30-41, fax (15) 876-30-53,

www.ulanow.pl, e-mail : burmistrz@ulanow.pl

Ulanów, March 5, 2021

SUPPORT FOR THE INSCRIPTION OF TIMBER RAFTING ON THE REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

On behalf of the local authorities and the inhabitants of the Ulanów Municipality, I strongly support the application for the inscription of timber rafting on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Paseo Julián Gayarre, 5
31415 Roncal - Erronkari (Na)
Tel.: 948 47 50 35
juntageneral@vallederoncal.es
C.I.F.: P3129900A

Mrs. JONE ALASTUEY GARCIA, with identification number 73115855M, as president of RONCAL VALLEY GENERAL COUNCIL, with tax identification number P3129900A and address in Julián Gayarre avenue, 5 in RONCAL (Navarra, Spain),

EXPOUNDS: That she has been informed by the General Direction of the Cultural - Institution Príncipe de Viana of the Government of Navarra of the UNESCO nomination "Timber Rafting" in order to get its registration in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. I represent an organisation which is directly involved in the practise and the safeguarding of the traditional aforementioned techniques, craftsmanship and celebration in our land and consider this UNESCO nomination of utmost importance for their recognition and safeguarding.

**Letters of support of local
authorities as part of the
official documents**



MĚSTYS DAVLE/ THE TOWN OF DAVLE

Městys Davle, Nanáměstí 63, 25206 Davle, e-mail: starosta@obecdavle.cz, Telefon: 257770257

Vltavan Čechy — svaz vltavanských spolké,z.s.

ID No. 70106495

Rašínovo nábřeží 41/30 120 00 Praha 2

Davle, 22 Apr. 2020

Nomination for the inscription of timber-rafting on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by Vltavan Čechy

The town of Davle fully supports the efforts of Vltavan Davle together with the timber-raftsmen

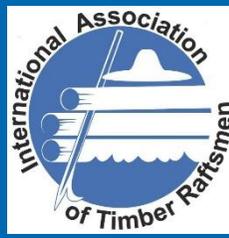


4. Shared Benefits for Local Timber Rafting Associations and Authorities



1. It was not a " suddenly happening ", but a result of yearslong of cooperation.
2. Associations safeguard old traditions, develop them further and motivate regional affinity and identity through their work.
3. Regional authorities and administrations contribute significantly to the support of voluntary work:
 1. Financial support through subsidies
 2. Assistance in public relations work
 3. Funding for children's and youth work
 4. Establishment of communal museums and places of memorials
 5. Granting of permits
4. There is a close correlation between engagement for the homeland and the diversity of the cultural heritage, to be proud of the voluntary associations and the task to make the region attractive for other people.

Accompanying Activities of the Nomination Process 2021/2022



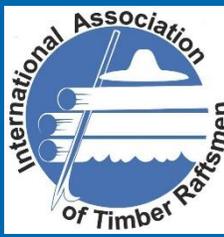
Maeros del Xúquer (Antella, Spain)

Nabateros d'a Galliguera (Huesca, Spain)





5. Contribution to Ensuring Awareness and to Encouraging Dialogue about Cultural Heritage of the Region



The inscription of Timber Rafting into the “Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” will

- **increase knowledge of ancient techniques and crafts practiced by communities.**
- **make clear that timber rafting is an activity carried out in different geographical areas, practicing different techniques and rituals adapted to the environment.**
- **explain many inhabitants and visitors of the rafter regions the awareness of the value and significance of this craftsmanship in the local area.**
- **increase public awareness as well as the visibility of this craftsmanship as a manifold expression of local identity.**
- **raise awareness that the intangible cultural heritage in general connects the past with the future, one generation with another, people and their environment.**



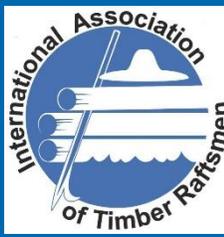
Schiltacher Flößer on the river Rhine (Germany)



Oberdrautaler Flößer on the river Drava (Austria)



5. Contribution to Ensuring Awareness and to Encouraging Dialogue about Cultural Heritage of the Region



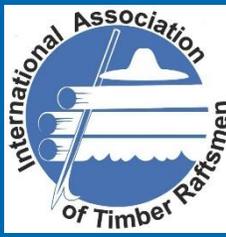
The inscription of Timber Rafting into the “Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” will further

- **illustrate the close interaction between intangible and tangible heritage, e.g. the preservation of local waterways as well as rafting sites and technical monuments**
- **raise awareness of other local traditional craftsmanship as a part of intangible cultural heritage:**
 - **necessary tools and connecting brackets for building rafts are made by blacksmiths,**
 - **wheelwrights supply the tool handles and ropemakers make ropes for tying the rafts,**
 - **tree felling and transport by horses allow the rafts building**

At annual rafters’ days and international meetings, different craftsmen are invited to demonstrate their knowledge and skills to visitors, which also contributes to raising the visibility of different aspects of intangible cultural heritage in the region.



6. Social Functions and Local Identity



Timber rafting is a practice requiring teamwork and has shaped a strong sense of community.

Various traditions have been developed concerning the power of water, responsibility for nature, and the care of rivers and brooks, the integration of communities in difficult times as well as the passion for work.

They are expressed in traditional songs, poems, stories, or sometimes in religious services and celebrations of patron saints of rafters. These traditions live on and have local, regional, or national counterparts.

Today, rafting is a cultural form with a close relationship to wood as a sustainable energy source and building material as well as a particular mental relation to water.

In many ways, this also corresponds to the interests of local legislatures, authorities and administrations.

6. Social Functions and Local Identity

The bearers and practitioners who safeguard and transmit timber rafting gather during various events in which young members of the community learn the craft from older representatives.

Timber rafting festivals create a feeling of unity and strengthen the sense of belonging to the community, the territory and the landscape.



Timber rafting is a practice open to practitioners representing all age, social and cultural backgrounds. More experienced rafters naturally guide less experienced members in both practical and theoretical aspects.

6. Social Functions and Local Identity

Raftswomen and Raftsmen work together

In the past, rafters were mainly men. However, once dominant male roles have been adapted with respect to gender equality.

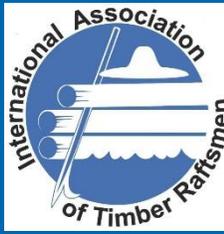
Therefore, participation in all aspects of timber rafting is nowadays open to people regardless of their gender in all participating countries.

This can be seen, for example, through the increasing participation and promotion of girls in youth camps and in leading positions of women in the rafters' associations.





7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities



The bearers ensure element's viability mainly by passing on know-how, skills, and values to the next generations as mentioned before. This happens above all during the annual timber raft building. The viability of the element is supported by activities such as timber raft floating for the audience, exhibitions, association meetings, distribution of information materials, etc.

Each country, and within these in each area where the tradition of timber rafting has been maintained, applied concrete initiatives for transmission of the element to new generations.

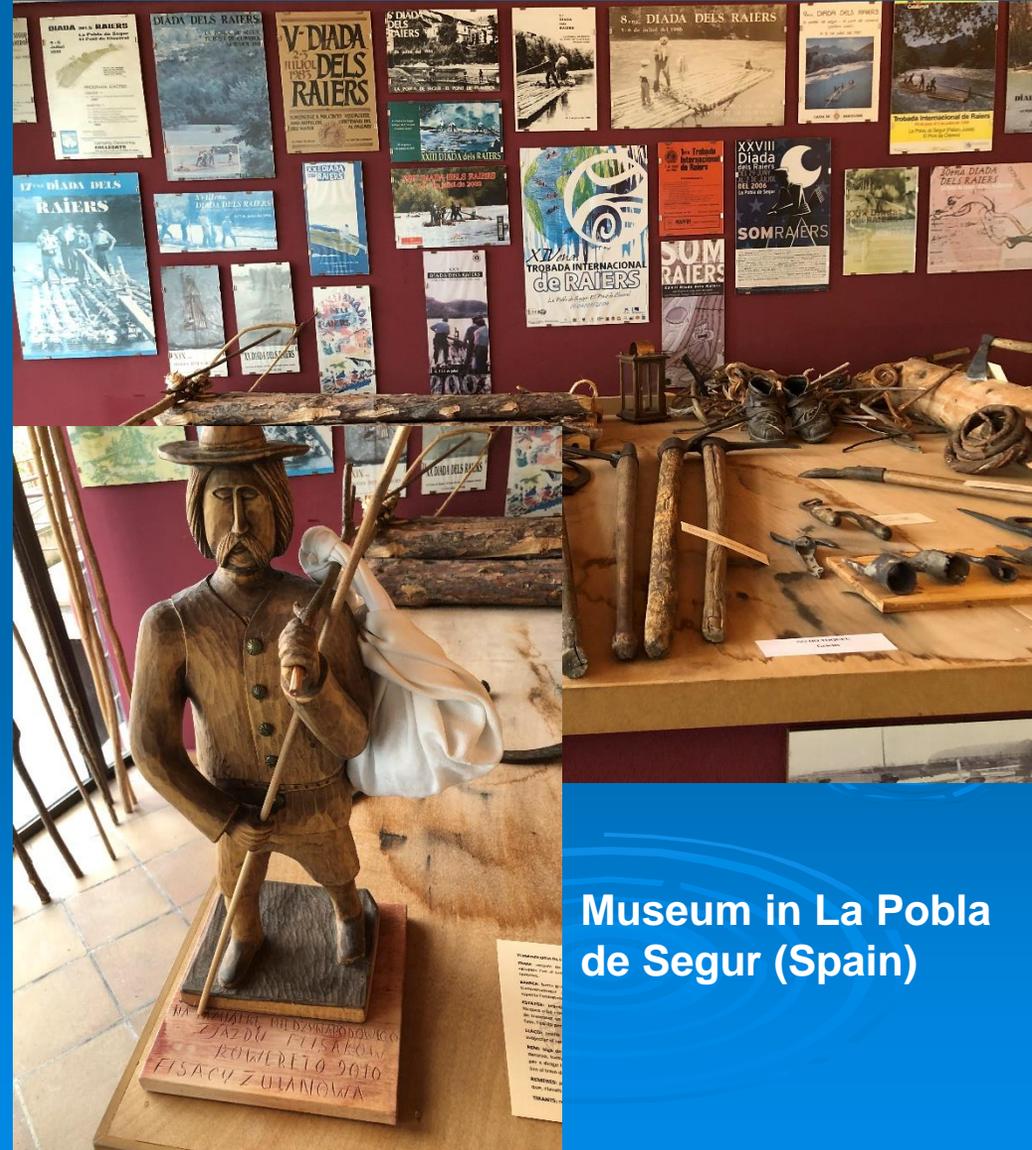
Besides, there are numerous examples of how museums and other institutions support the maintenance of documentary, photographic, and artisan legacy. To name but a few examples: the Rafting Museum in Ulanów (Poland), the Museu dels Raiers in Pont de Claverol (Spain) or the rafting section in the Handicraft Museum in Baldramsdorf (Austria).

Their activities and resources contribute to the process of transmission of the skills and techniques related to the transport of wood through rivers and channels.

7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities

In all submitting states, some general measures have been taken to safeguard the element:

- through the inclusion in national inventories, the element is formally identified and recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage
- the bearers can apply for grants to finance safeguarding measures
- the element is present in numerous museum collections (national and local)
- scientific research is done and publications and films are created



Museum in La Pobla de Segur (Spain)



7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities



Austria:

Timber rafting is regulated by the Navigation Law of 1997. Local rafting groups in collaboration with the government of Carinthia and the local municipality (in charge of public land and waterways management), ensure the viability and usage of natural space needed for rafting. Domestic and European funded projects for the revitalization and maintenance of the river Drava, take into account the necessary conditions for rafting when implemented. For the annual rafting days, the bearers can apply for funds from the culture department of Carinthia. For a few years, timber rafting in Austria has been a subject of research by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna.

Czechia:

Rafting was included in the key governmental documents in which the system of care of traditional folk culture is established. A set of dedicated grant programs from the public budget enabled the presentation of rafting and informal transfer of skills. The element has been included in educational and research activities taking place in regional and national cultural institutions. An important role in the promotion of the element through exhibitions and workshops is played by state and regional institutions.



7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities



Germany:

Funding programs offered by federal states support the maintenance of rivers, canals, typical devices (locks, weirs, ponds, logging), and monuments related to timber rafting and museum exhibitions. These measures for the safeguarding of timber rafting were also included in some cultural funding programs of the federal states after the inscription in the national inventory.

Latvia:

A Plan for the Safeguarding and Development of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is being developed to ensure coordinated actions of state administration and other authorities, including targeted use of resources. Furthermore, local governments take up various safeguarding measures.



7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities



Spain:

The regions are responsible for the implementation of measures concerning intangible cultural heritage. They support timber rafting associations with subsidies for the publication of studies, creation of schools as well as support for museums and interpretation centers in the area of documentation and dissemination.

Poland:

Many projects were financed by the government, e.g. organization of the Gdańsk rafts, a publication of albums, making films, traditional rafting clothing, and promotion. For 25 years, rafts on the Vistula, the San, and the Oder have been organized annually with presentations of timber rafting tradition. There are museums and exhibitions devoted to timber rafting.



7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities



Examples in Poland:

- Workshops devoted to the art of construction and navigation of rafts will be arranged as well as rafting trips for pupils from the Primary School in Ulanów and the School and Educational Center in Rudnik nad Sanem.
- Permanent exhibition in the Timber Rafting Museum in Ulanów will be expanded. The inhabitants will provide documents and items for the exhibitions located in a building of a timber rafting house purchased and restored by Ulanów Municipality.
- Oral tradition will be perpetuated by "Ziemia Ulanowska" magazine, an album about rafting, and the second part of the film about timber rafting traditions of Ulanów will be made.
- The organization of "The Rafting Days" in Ulanów (yearly in July), "Barbórka" (yearly in December), "The Timber Rafting along the Blue San route" (a raft trip starting in the town of Jarosław with the stops in Leżajsk, Sieniawa, Krzeszów, and Ulanów) will continue to be organized.
- Polish Guild of Rafters, Boatbuilders and Steersmen Association will continue organizing timber rafting on navigable rivers, documenting local binding techniques.



7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities





JUBILEUSZOWY www.flisodrzanski.pl
XXV FLIS ODRZAŃSKI
 ŚCINAWA- SZCZECIN
1.07-17.07.2021

OPŁYŃ Z NAMI!
DOŁĄCZ NA DOWOLNYM ODCINKU









FOT. PIOTR MALBORK





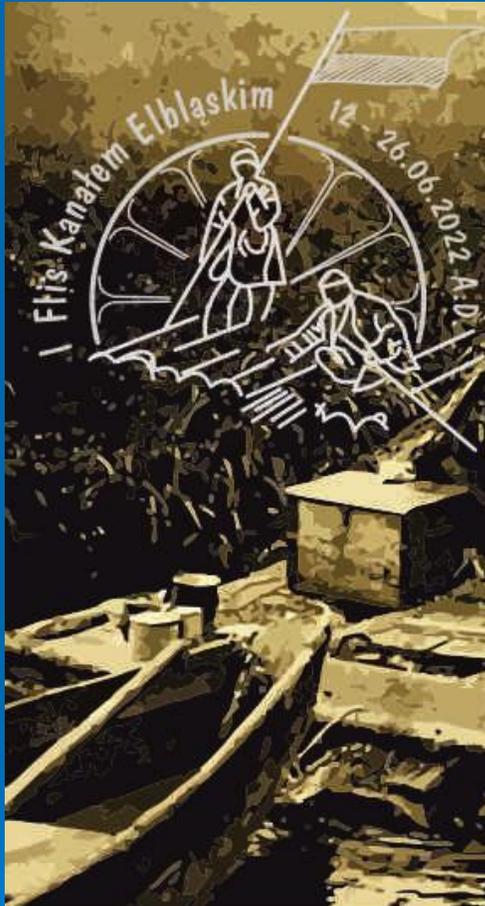
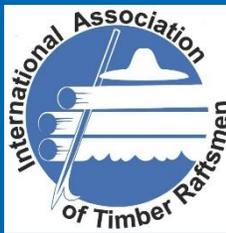
United Nations
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Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities

Accompanying Activities of the Nomination Process in 2022



ORGANIZATORZY: jagodno, KAWCZA, CECIUMIĘCZKA, PARAFIA WIELICZKA, STYCZANÓW

PATRONAT HONOROWY: Marszałek Województwa Warmińsko-Mazurskiego, Gustaw Marek Brzezin

PATRONAT: Państwowe Gospodarstwo Wodne Wody Polskie, BIBLIOTEKA ELBLĄSKA im. C. NORWIDA, NARODOWE MUZEUM MORSKIE, PARLAMENTARNY ZESPÓŁ DRÓG WODNYCH SEJM, Muzeum Archeologiczno-Historyczne w Elblągu

Polski Cech Flisaków, Szutników i Sterników (Poland)



PATRONATY HONOROWE



PATRONAT MEDIALNY



SAMORZĄDY



IŁAWA MIŁOMŁYN MAŁDYTY RYCHLIKI ELBLĄG

Etnoflis Jarosław-Ulanów 2022

Międzynarodowy Flis Szlakiem Błękitnego Sanu

„Tradycje flisackie” na Światowej Liście Niematerialnego Dziedzictwa Ludzkości UNESCO w 2022r.”

ULANÓW
10.07.2022



Przewidywana godzina
wypłynięcia tratwy - 18:00

BIELINY
12.VI

PATRONAT HONOROWY OBJĘLI:

Władysław Ortyl

Marszałek Województwa Podkarpackiego

Marcin Warchoń - Poseł na Sejm RP

Robert Bednarz - Starosta Powiatu Nizańskiego

Karol Wołoszyn - Radny Powiatu Nizańskiego

KRZESZÓW
11.VI

STARE MIASTO
10.VI

Partner

PODKARPACKIE
przestrzeń otwarta

Ignacy Łukasiewicz
polski geniusz

Nizanska Droga św. Józefa
Ścieżka Ulanów Rybak & Podkarpackie



Ministerstwo
Kultury
i Dziedzictwa
Narodowego

NARODOWE
CENTRUM
KULTURY

Dofinansowano ze środków Ministra
Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego
w ramach programu
Narodowego Centrum Kultury:
EtnoPolska. Edycja 2022

RZUCHÓW
9.VI

SIENIAWA
8.VI



JAROSŁAW
3-7.06.2022 8.VI - wypłynięcie
BINDUGA

www.flisacy.ovh.org flisacy@poczta.onet.pl
nr tel: 608 667 775, 660 002 806

7. Safeguarding Measures – Cooperation of Bearers and Local Authorities



Bractwo Flisackie w Ulanowie (Poland)

Accompanying Activities of the Nomination Process in 2022

"ETNOFLIS" JAROSŁAW - ULANÓW 2022R.

Międzynarodowy Flis Szlakiem Błękitnego Sanu

Działania popularyzujące żywe i zanikające zjawiska kultury ludowej, takie jak wystawy, konkursy, przeglądy, festiwale, koncerty „Etnoflis” Jarosław – Ulanów 2022r.

Partnerem wydarzenia jest: Województwo Podkarpackie.



Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego



NARODOWE CENTRUM KULTURY

Dofinansowano ze środków Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego w ramach programu Narodowego Centrum Kultury: EtnoPolska. Edycja 2022



PODKARPACKIE
przestrzeń otwarta

Patronat medialny:





Last but not least, especially in this time:

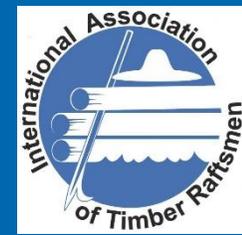
“Local associations of timber rafters follow common principles of peace, freedom, and equality without any geographical, racial, ethnic, religious, sexual or political discrimination...”

... May this also be a guideline for activity for all politicians!

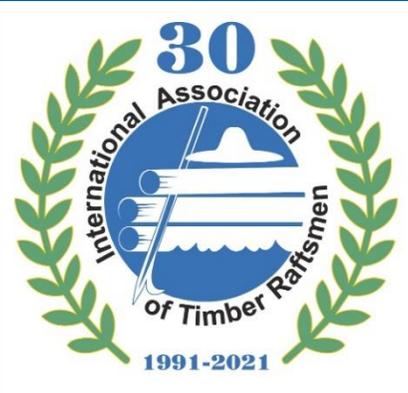




In our statute is enshrined: "Cultivating timber rafting traditions and cultural development of the local community".



And in this sense we hope to win the inscription as Intangible Cultural Heritage auf Humanity in 2022!



International Conference „30 Years IATR“ (Prague, Czechia)

