

## 7th Summer School on the Cultural Heritage of Rural Space

### Capacity Building Workshop

#### “Developing plans for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage”

Dimitsana, 26–30 July 2026

#### Call for applications

The Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the [Regional Center for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Southeast Europe, under the auspices of UNESCO](#), the [Dimitsana Conference and Cultural Center](#), the [Region of Peloponnese](#), the [Municipality of Gortynia](#), the [Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation \(Open-Air Water Power Museum\)](#), the [Mainalon Trail Cooperative](#) and other local organizations and citizens, are happy to announce:

the 7th Summer School on the Cultural Heritage of the Rural Space

that will be held in [Dimitsana \(Arcadia\)](#) from 26 to 30 July 2026.

For the first time this year, the Summer School will take the form of a focused capacity building workshop, organized in collaboration with the Regional Center for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Eastern Europe (based in Sofia), which operates under the auspices of UNESCO. The workshop is dedicated to the “Development of safeguarding plans for intangible cultural heritage”, with a specific focus on traditional craftsmanship.

The 7th Summer School will be taking place alongside with the 8th Traditional Stone Art Workshop, organized by the Citizens’ Movement entitled [“Flowers of Stone”](#) and other organizations in Lagadia (Arcadia). The Workshop aims in safeguarding and transmitting the traditional stone-building craft to younger generations. The contribution and influence of the Lagadia craftsmen on traditional Greek architecture is also studied, documented and highlighted.

#### **This call is primarily addressed to:**

- professionals, bearers of traditional crafts, representatives of heritage communities
- representatives of chambers of commerce, professional associations, modern culture museums, and collective bodies engaged in the fields of traditional arts, crafts, cultural tourism, and local development,
- members and/or representatives of cultural bodies responsible for safeguarding expressions of intangible cultural heritage,
- local government officials and/or municipal enterprise staff involved in the planning and implementation of cultural activities.

**This call is also addressed to:**

- Graduates in Social Anthropology, Ethnology, Folklore Studies, Cultural Management, and related academic fields,
- Educators in Technical and Vocational Education, especially those engaged in areas related to traditional arts, crafts, and the transmission of technical knowledge and skills.

**Programme overview and expected learning outcomes**

The capacity building workshops implemented under the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 2003) aim to strengthen the knowledge and practical skills of participants so as to effectively contribute to the design and implementation of measures for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. These workshops are conducted by certified facilitators and are based on participatory and experiential learning methods, placing particular emphasis on the decisive role of communities as primary agents, creators, and stewards of their cultural heritage. This workshop will be the fourth one Greece is co organizing with the Regional Centre (2021 - online, 2023 - Lemnos, 2024 - Athens).

The students of the Summer School will first of all have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the basic tools and principles of developing safeguarding plans for intangible cultural heritage. Furthermore, through group exercises, case studies, and fieldwork in collaboration with local stakeholders and communities, they will be able to concentrate on the specific challenges of safeguarding traditional arts and know-how. As recognized by UNESCO, traditional crafts are among the most visible expressions of intangible cultural heritage. Their sustainability depends on both their continued practice by craftsmen and the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and skills within communities.

Specifically, the programme:

- will include training sessions and field visits, as well as workshops aimed at developing coherent and applicable safeguarding measures and plans;
- will highlight the importance of a participatory approach, emphasizing the central role of communities, groups, and organizations engaged in relevant practices within the framework of safeguarding processes;
- will engage participants in collaborative analysis and discussion of examples of safeguarding plans and initiatives, with a view to identifying their strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants are expected to:

- have acquired a better understanding of the relationship between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development, as highlighted in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO 2003).

- have become familiar with the institutional framework, rationale, and objectives of safeguarding plans, in accordance with the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Operational Guidelines.
- have been introduced to the various approaches and methodologies for developing safeguarding plans for traditional crafts and for transmitting knowledge and skills within the communities.
- have improved their ability to identify challenges and opportunities in the safeguarding of traditional crafts.

### **Working Language**

Please note that English is the working language of this year's Summer School. Participants should therefore have sufficient knowledge of English to attend the sessions and participate in group exercises.

### **The Summer School's Guiding Principles**

The Summer School, held annually in Dimititsana since 2018, aims to emerge not only as an innovative capacity-building program for the management of rural cultural heritage, but also as an example of constructive collaboration between the academic community and civil society, with significant impact at both local and broader levels. A major aspect of the Summer School is the creation of a collaborative environment among students, instructors, and the local community. For this reason, emphasis is placed on dialogue, the exchange of views and experiences, and cooperation among participants.

### **The Daily Schedule**

The 7th Summer School on the Cultural Heritage of Rural Space will take place from 26 to 30 July 2026.

The Schedule includes daily morning and afternoon sessions and workshops, along with educational visits to nearby settlements in Gortynia renowned for their long-standing traditional arts and crafts.

### **Student Selection Criteria**

The total number of students to be selected will be no more than twenty (20).

In order to meet the objectives of the Summer School, particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring an interdisciplinary and interprofessional composition of the group of participants. The selection of students will be made by the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the certified facilitators, members of the [Global Network of Facilitators of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage \(UNESCO, 2003\)](#), that will conduct the workshop based on the following additional criteria:

- a) sufficient knowledge of the English language at B2 level or higher.
- b) the relevance of the candidate's background (professional, academic, etc.), as evidenced by their curriculum vitae, to the specific theme and objectives of the 7th Summer School.
- c) the reasons provided by the applicant for attending the Summer School.

d) any letters of recommendation that applicants are encouraged, but not required, to submit.

### **Participation Fee**

The participation fee for students attending the Summer School is:

- 200 euros per person for a single room (in accommodation selected by the organizers) for four (4) nights.
- 150 euros per person for a double room shared with another student (in accommodation selected by the organizers) for four (4) nights. The assignment of students to double rooms is based on gender, as determined by the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage, unless a preference is stated in advance by the participants.

The above fee includes meals, transportation within Dimitsana and the surrounding area as part of the Summer School programme, as well as the materials provided to the students.

Meals include breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and every effort will be made to accommodate special dietary requirements.

Breakfast will be served at the conference venue from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., unless the day's schedule specifies otherwise.

Travel expenses are not included in the participation fee. Each student must arrange their own transportation to Dimitsana as well as their return to their place of residence after the end of the Summer School.

The amount due from each student, depending on whether they choose a single or double room, must be deposited within one (1) week of the participants' announcement to the bank account of Dimitsana Conference and Cultural Center, as the co-organizing body of the 7th Summer School on the Cultural Heritage of Rural Space. The bank account details will be sent to students via email to the address they provide. In order for their participation to be confirmed, those selected to attend the 7th Summer School must send proof of payment of the applicable fee to the Dimitsana Conference and Cultural Centre, at the email address provided [info@spkd.gr](mailto:info@spkd.gr), with a cc to [greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com](mailto:greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com), within the specified timeframe. Otherwise, the first alternate candidate will be notified to fill the vacant place.

### **Cancellation Policy**

In the event that a student's participation is cancelled for any reason, the amount paid is non-refundable, unless the place is filled by another student from the list of alternates.

### **Certificate of participation**

Students who participate in all scheduled sessions and other activities of the Summer School will be issued a certificate of participation.

## Application Submission

### Steps:

1. Complete and submit the application form:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMxAV2zgo3\\_cEM-dgEmN5\\_fGMw9fHMB-7ZELfRFC-FM1DhRg/viewform?usp=dialog](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMxAV2zgo3_cEM-dgEmN5_fGMw9fHMB-7ZELfRFC-FM1DhRg/viewform?usp=dialog)
2. Send your curriculum vitae (CV) (mandatory) and any letters of recommendation (optional) to the following email address:  
[greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com](mailto:greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com)

If applicants do not receive an email confirming receipt of their application within three (3) days of submission, they are kindly requested to contact the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage by sending an email to: [greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com](mailto:greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com).

The names of the students selected for the 7th Summer School, as well as those of any alternate candidates, will be announced on the website of the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage (<https://ayla.culture.gr>) on the specified date (see Important Dates).

For any further information or clarification, please use the following email address:  
[greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com](mailto:greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com).

### **Important Dates**

**12 June 2026:** Start of the application period

**28 June 2026:** End of the application period

**3 July 2026:** Announcement on the website <http://ayla.culture.gr> of the students selected for the 7th Summer School and of the alternate candidates, if any.

**6 to 10 July 2026:** Payment of the required fee by the students and submission of the payment receipt to the relevant email addresses, namely [info@spkd.gr](mailto:info@spkd.gr) and [greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com](mailto:greece.cbw.2026@gmail.com).

**26 July 2026:** Arrival in Dimitsana