

## A case: “Un-touchable”

One of the projects of Tapis Plein, VCV and others in Flanders (Belgium) 2005-2007

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## Why? Goals?

- UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding ICH
  - Attempt to “translate” this complex text into everyday words and images for specific groups (2005-2006)
  - Taking the convention seriously!
    - Article 11 b: (states) identify and define the various elements of ICH present in its territory, with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organisations
    - Article 14: education, awareness-raising, capacity-building
    - Article 15: participation of communities, groups, individuals
- Education: not uni-directional, but multi-directional, dialogue, forming critical citizens!
- experiments, develop tools, best practices

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## Who? Tapis Plein & co

Bruges (Belgium)

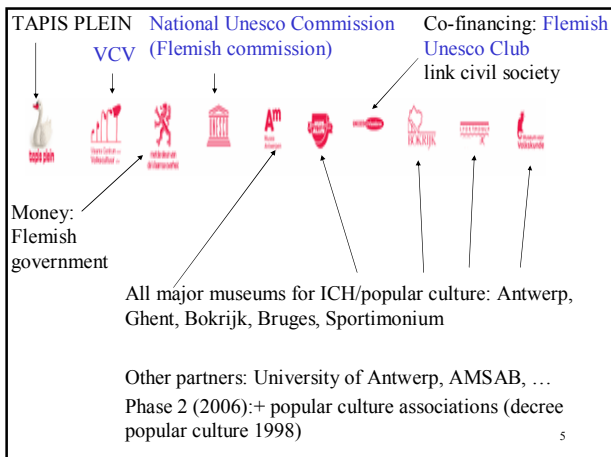


- Bruges (Belgium)
- Interventions in the city, the region (& the world)
- Small not for profit organisation, core 6-10 young people + many young volunteers (< 26 years): anthropologists, historians, designers, layout or ICT specialists, teachers, ...
- Intangible Cultural Heritage, everyday culture, eye-openers...
- 8mm films, oral history, mental maps, mobile museums, ... 3

## How was it organised?



- VCV (cfr. art. 13 b: national expertise center ICH)
  - Co-initiated the project
  - Coaching & providing expert information on the ICH convention
  - Helping to organise the network
  - Help in writing project proposal
  - Help obtaining funding
  - ...
- Tapis Plein vzw 4



## Un-touchable: phase 1 (2005-2006): 9 months

- Cultural Heritage Project Funding ([www.vlaanderen.be/erfgoed](http://www.vlaanderen.be/erfgoed)): 50.000 euro
- Tapis Plein could hire 1 coordinator + volunteers
- Flemish Unesco Club offered to finance the book ([www.unesco-vlaanderen.be](http://www.unesco-vlaanderen.be))

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## Ph. 1.1. Gathering information on the 2003 convention & ICH

- **Desk research** : VCV, literature, websites (1 month)
- **Focus groups and workshops** in 6 K-12 schools in Flanders (2 months)
  - What is ICH/ICE or popular culture? What is disappearing? Why and what should be saved?
  - What about globalisation and culture?
  - What do you think about the UNESCO ICH-masterpieces? About the 2003 convention? What can we do with "ICE"?

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## Ph. 1.2. Processing the information



- Working groups (12-16 years) of Tapis Plein
- Photography projects
- Production of a multi-layered text (globalisation, ICH, masterpieces, the conventions, own views)
- Multimedia exhibition in the format of a Game of the Goose
- Website  
Folk song > sampled

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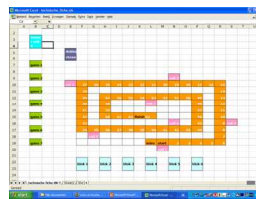
## Ph. 1.3. Constructing the exhibition



- Game of the Goose/Jeu de l'Oie: racing board game with dices and pawns (geese)
- Multimedia format, several techniques
- Geese: music, circus, carnival, traditional sports, ...
- Pictures on ICH and everyday culture
- Flexibility!

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## Constructing the exhibition



- 5 swimming starting blocks: article 2.2 (discussion)
- Information columns (with or without screen)
- 64 tiles (50 x 50 cm): 6 essential, 55 optional
- Geese 72 cm
- Electricity needed (screens, lamps, e-games...)

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## Making the book



- Results of the desk research and school workshops
- Presentation of UNESCO and ICH convention
- Photographs
- All information on the columns
- Questions, suggestions,
- Stories, links, ...

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## Flexible and modular travelling

- 3-6 weeks in a public place in a city or village (library, cultural center, museum, ...)
- Access for free!
- "Un-touchable" book for free for every visitor!
- Write to the minister...-module
- Special events...

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## Phase 1.4. Start of the travelling exhibition (February 2006)



- Start Termonde: 25 February –12 Marchy 2006
- town hall of Termonde
- The Bayard Horse & Giants (UNESCO masterpiece of OICH of humanity since 2005)
- nested exhibitions: extra effect & unintended confrontation/eye-opener
- **Tourism, politics, old-style presentation <-> globalisation: questions, concern, fancy layout**

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## 2. Phase 2 (Summer 2006- Summer 2007)

- New CH Project funding (Flemish government): 1 year 50.000 euro
- Tapis Plein hires a young female teacher (<26) to develop and give workshop
  - Exhibition touring to public places (3-6 weeks): for free
  - Schools can request workshops (1,5 hour - 50 euro)
    - <new development : provincial governments (Flemish-Brabant,...) or local governments offer this for free



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## Workshops for schools e.g. columns

(0. Freezing "ICE"?= ICH in Dutch)

1. SOS
  - What is in danger?
  - What is CH?
  - Can you inherit something from a group? ICH?
  - What about UNESCO masterpieces?
2. EHBO (First Aid)
  - Projects please!
3. Do-it-Yourself
  - everyday culture > ICH
4. Copyright /Copyleft - Ownership?
5. The Inn/meeting place
  - Intercultural contacts



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## Experiences & results

www.huisvanalijn.be



- Crucial : children and young people in the center!
- Sensitizing, no preaching
- No "correct" answers or solutions
- Group dynamics and questions > suggestions
- Basic education : local interests at first
- Secondary education : global concerns
- It works: concerned, but critical!

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## Phase 3: access to structural subsidies/programmes



### Tapis Plein

- Recognized by Flemish Government as ICH organisation from 1/1/2007 (decree on popular culture, with reference to the UNESCO-convention of 2003, awaiting the new decree in 2008)
- "translating – eye-openers"
- Part of a network of 13 subsidized umbrella organisations (civil society): 40.000 euro per year  
See Villa Futura.be ;  
heritage education project for children 8-12 years

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www.huisvanalijn.be Firmament: safeguarding puppet theatre

## Recent developments in heritage education in Flanders

- CH and education research project (2006-2007, presented 7/2/2007): [www.canoncultuurcel.be](http://www.canoncultuurcel.be) => network education and culture (administration support points, ...), [www.erfgoed.be](http://www.erfgoed.be), ...
- Highest on the agenda: differentiated, adapted programmes for general, professional, crafts and “special” education (for people with a handicap)
- Subsidy programmes in the departments of culture and education, from 2007 onwards: call for differentiated projects, intercultural communication
- Teacher training programmes: in heritage institutions, museums,...

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## First international steps



- Tapis Plein and VCV (March 2007-2009) “translating” the Un-touchable format to 4 community centers in South-Africa (research phase in schools, developing exhibitions, ...)
- VCV & Center for Popular Memory (Capetown) Project on oral history (DVD, ...): highschoools

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## Plans in the near future

- “Un-touchable” : adopted by the school networks as an interesting programme: bridges!
- Gaming, ICT, websites, multimedia
  - Webgame [www.un-touchable](http://www.un-touchable.be) (1/3/2007)
  - Dream: à la W@d@d: multimediproject, television <http://www.watisdad.be/>
- Culinary heritage ([www.weekvandesmaak.be](http://www.weekvandesmaak.be))
- Oral history boom: also in highschoools
- Big project in hospitals on its way (2007-2009), translating in other contexts (VCV and other organisations)

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## What lessons can be drawn?

- National/official ICH centers: coaching, facilitating,... and then letting groups and communities do their work!
- Open dialogue, critical reflection, creativity...
- Start in the world/context of the children or young people!
- Importance of networks, bridges, external partners, brokers, multi-directional ...
- Importance of multimedia, communicating with images, hyperlinks, gaming elements, layout,
- Modular and flexible ! Negotiate with every setting!
- For free, open, in public places but workshop formula for education institutions
- Differentiate and “translate” : not only (top) general education, all systems!
- There is much more to tell and do about ICH than the story of masterpieces...

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## More information

- Tapis Plein
  - [www.tapisplein.be](http://www.tapisplein.be)
  - [www.un-touchable.be](http://www.un-touchable.be)
- [www.vcv.be](http://www.vcv.be) and [www.erfgoed.be](http://www.erfgoed.be)
- [www.villafutura.be](http://www.villafutura.be)
- [www.mondelingegeschiedenis.be](http://www.mondelingegeschiedenis.be)
- Hereduc : [www.hereduc.net](http://www.hereduc.net)
- Research report on heritage education:
  - [http://www.nsd.be/web/canon/admin/media/14369\\_47.pdf](http://www.nsd.be/web/canon/admin/media/14369_47.pdf) and [www.canoncultuurcel.be](http://www.canoncultuurcel.be)

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