

## Aurora

# A massive support for enhancing the role of the musical heritage in the North – the three-year Nordic project “ICH North – passing on our musical heritage” starts in February 2023

The new Interreg Aurora program has approved the first projects for the 2021-2027 funding period. The project “ICH North – passing on our musical heritage” was among the 27 projects approved in the first round of applications and the decision was met with great happiness among the project partners, since it means massive support in the field of cultural heritage and traditional music in a Nordic context.

Northern Finland, Sweden, Norway as well as Sápmi has a very rich and distinctive immaterial cultural heritage (ICH) in the form of music. The musical heritage has both similarities and distinct local and regional differences, and includes heritage of minorities. Immigrants bring their own musical heritage with them. Traditions have crossed borders with practitioners over time and exploring how these traditions appear today will create togetherness and belonging cross-borders.

In today's society, it is not certain that the transmission of musical heritage to new practitioners will happen. This leads to a loss of traditional knowledge. The causes might be migration, urbanization, social distancing between age groups, low media visibility/low interest due to lack of information, networks or good safeguarding practices. Safeguarding that support performance and transmission are called for. Traditional music in the Nordic countries has very limited human and financial resources, across the board. Cultural cross-border partnerships, networks and joint development and implementation of actions through the project will strengthen the sector and promote transmission more effectively.

“ICH North - passing on our musical heritage” will enhance the role of intangible cultural heritage in the form of musical heritage in the Aurora area. The project will give musical heritage more visibility as well as promote cross-border cooperation related to musical ICH and enhance the role of musical communities in the area, building bridges between institutions, educational institutions and heritage communities and musicians. ICH North applies a bottom-up approach with the communities in the Aurora area in focus, following the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage framework. The project aims to include a vast number of music communities throughout the project area. During the three-year project several different project actions will be developed and implemented in a total of five work packages.

The project has a total budget of 1 171 212 € and lasts 1.2.2023-31.12.2025.

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The project is funded by Interreg Aurora, with co-financing by Region Västernorrland, Troms og Finnmarks fylkeskommune, Nordisk Kulturfond and Lapin Liitto as well as the project partners: Centria University of Applied Sciences, Kulturens Bildningsverksamhet, KulturÖsterbotten, Novia University of Applied Sciences, The Arctic University of Norway UiT, the Finnish Folk Music Institute and Västernorrlands Museum. The project was planned as a part of an Interreg Nord-funded project, also called ICH North.

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