Digitization and preservation of traditional crafts

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ABSTRACT

In Mingei, we explore the possibilities of representing and making accessible the tangible and intangible aspects of craft as living and developing Cultural Heritage, as a source of income, and as the expression of mind in making useful and beautiful things.

Several crafts today are threatened with extinction, due to declining numbers of practitioners. Despite the wide digitization and recording of other forms of tangible and intangible heritage, the digitization, digitalization, and knowledge representation of traditional crafts have not been systematized. The difficulty in doing so is that crafts involve an extremely wide heterogeneity of concepts and artefacts, materials, tools, dexterity, tool use, know-how, recipes, and skills and, at the same time, they are part of history, they have an impact upon the economy of the places in which they flourish, and carry the identity of the communities in which they are, or were, practised.

Mingei stands on Anthropology, Advanced Digitisation, Knowledge Representation, and Visual Intelligence to preserve and transmit craft knowledge for posterity and prosperity, through experiential presentations, storytelling, as well as educational applications based on AR, VR, MR, and the Internet. Engaging cultural experiences have a positive impact on interest growth and tourism, supporting communities and institutions that foster CH sustainability and preservation.

The talk presents step by step the application of the Mingei craft representation protocol in three uses crafts that of silk textile manufacturing, glassblowing, and mastic cultivation, demonstrating results from each step. The talk will introduce the Mingei Protocol Handbook, an Open Access digital edition that shows stakeholders the way to access and apply the Mingei technologies.

REFERENCES
https://www.mingei-project.eu/