

III. OTHER PROVISIONS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND SPORT

18401 *Royal Decree 952/2022, of 8 November, declaring the Spanish Knot as a Representative Manifestation of Intangible Cultural Heritage.*

Law 10/2015, of 26 May, for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, establishes in its article 11.2, letter c), that the General State Administration, through the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, is responsible for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage through the Declaration of Representative Manifestation of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Article 12 of Law 10/2015, of 26 May, regulates the procedure for the declaration of Representative Manifestation of Intangible Cultural Heritage, stating that it shall be initiated ex officio by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, either on its own initiative, at the reasoned request of one or more Autonomous Communities or at the reasoned request of a natural or legal person.

Accordingly, by Resolution of 23 May 2022, of the Directorate General of Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts (BOE of 27 May), it was agreed to initiate proceedings for the declaration of the Spanish Knot as a Representative Manifestation of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and a period of public information was opened. Prior to this resolution, the corresponding reports were requested from the Heritage Council and from the University of Murcia and the Complutense University of Madrid as advisory institutions on the matter. The dossier was also submitted to the autonomous communities and cities with a statute of autonomy.

Subsequently, in accordance with the provisions of article 12.4 of Law 10/2015, of 26 May, and article 82 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, a hearing was granted in due time and form.

By virtue of Royal Decree 2/2020, of 12 January, which restructures the ministerial departments, Royal Decree 139/2020, of 28 January, which establishes the basic organic structure of the ministerial departments, and Royal Decree 509/2020, of 5 May, which develops the basic organic structure of the Ministry of Culture and Sport, the Ministry of Culture and Sport is responsible for Spanish historical heritage.

Therefore, once the administrative processing has been completed, in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of Law 10/2015, of 26 May, at the proposal of the Minister of Culture and Sport, and following deliberation by the Council of Ministers at its meeting of 8 November 2022,

PROVIDES:

Article 1. *Declaration as a Representative Manifestation of Cultural Heritage*
Immaterial.

The Spanish Knot in Spain is declared to be a Representative Manifestation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Article 2. Description.

The simple knot, known as 'Spanish' because it was used almost exclusively in ancient carpets made in the Iberian Peninsula, is characterised by the fact that, in its execution, the loop embraces a single warp thread. The difference of this type of knotting with respect to other types is due to the fact that the knots are made in alternate threads as the weaving progresses, that is to say, in one pass the odd warps are knotted and in the next the even ones. This produces a the "stepped" in the pattern produced with this knot, which has become a characteristic image of the knot.

Within the millenary history of carpets and knot weaving, the simple knot is a minority variant of knotting techniques that took root almost exclusively in the territories of the Iberian Peninsula, so that modern historiography came to call it the 'Spanish knot'. The geographical implantation of this form of knotting on a single warp, therefore, was much smaller than that of the other two forms - the "Turkish" and the "Persian" - but, in spite of this, the genuine Hispanic carpet tradition managed to stand up to the massive oriental production and survive for centuries in the face of competition from the latter.

The survival in Spain of this indigenous expression of knotting took place through innumerable workshops spread across a wide spectrum of the national geography. From the mid-17th century onwards, however, the introduction of the Turkish knot in the country marked the beginning of a historical process of retraction of the Spanish workers. Towards the middle of the 20th century in Spain there was a movement to revive the very ancient tradition of carpet weaving and the single knot looms were reborn.

At the end of the 20th century, there was a crisis in the demand for this type of carpet which led to a chain of closures of most of the production centres within a few years. As a result, in the second decade of the 21st century there is only one manufacturer still in production in the Spanish hub, the three-hundred-year-old Royal Tapestry Factory, one of the very few living testimonies of those royal factories that flourished in Europe in the heat of mercantilism and enlightened industrialisation.

At present, there are many threats that threaten not only the future of the Spanish knot, but also that of all the artistic industries in the textile sector that still exist and that have led this knowledge to reach a difficult situation today. In view of this situation and the evident risks that loom over Spanish knot weaving, the declaration of this ancestral knowledge of unmistakably Iberian roots as a Representative Manifestation of Intangible Cultural Heritage will contribute decisively to its safeguarding.

Article 3. Supplementary description.

The additional description of the event referred to in this Royal Decree is contained in the documentation in the file.

Article 4. *Publication.*

The Declaration of Representative Manifestation of Intangible Cultural Heritage shall take effect from the date of publication of this Royal Decree in the "Official State Gazette".

Given in Madrid, on 8 November 2022.

FELIPE R.

The Minister for Culture and Sport,
MIQUEL OCTAVI ICETA I LLORENS