



REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE
SAFEGUARDING OF INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE IN
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE UNDER
THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

ACTIVITY REPORT 2018

20 NOVEMBER 2018
SOFIA

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2018

Summary:

The year 2018 marked the beginning of another 6-year period in the existence of the Regional Centre, after its successfully passing of an external evaluation by UNESCO and the signing of a new Agreement (November 2017) between UNESCO and the Bulgarian authorities on its continued operation in Sofia.

Taking into consideration the recommendations made in the Evaluation Report and the strategic goals of UNESCO, the Centre has made efforts to effectively plan its activities for the year, and thereby attain sustainable results. Thus, for instance, the Centre has focused its expertise on building capacity for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in the countries of South-Eastern Europe by organizing a total of four capacity-building workshops: in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The need was identified to conduct such activities in the countries of the region as a step towards the successful implementation of the 2003 Convention, and successful policy making at national level in relation to ICH. From the workshops conducted it becomes clear that such trainings are very beneficial for the countries of South-Eastern Europe in that they help improve the process of identification and inventorying of ICH and contribute to a better understanding of the importance of involving the communities and practitioners in the processes of its safeguarding. For the first time the Centre has joined in the process of conducting an assessment of the needs and priorities in the FYR of Macedonia, and for a second year in a row it has been supporting the Training of Trainers workshops organized by the European branch of the UNESCO network.

Another important step towards the attainment of sustainable results has been the initiation and creation of robustly functioning networks for the safeguarding of the ICH, such as the University Network for the region of SEE, the network of non-governmental organizations in the region, as well as the annual support provided by the Centre for the Network of Experts in intangible cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe. Those networks provide a platform for communication and promote cooperation in the SEE region on different areas of ICH.

The Centre has also made efforts to enhance the visibility of its operation at national as well as regional level, by supporting a number of folklore festivals, exhibitions and film competitions, although some of those did not appear in its Work Plan. Thus the Centre has created good partnerships at national and regional level with organizations and individuals active in the promotion and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. Also for the first time, the Centre has launched a printed periodical, Living Heritage magazine, whose first commemorative issue is dedicated to the early years of the Centre's establishment and its constituent members from South-Eastern Europe.

Last but not least, the Centre has also made efforts to enhance its visibility in the social media, thus striving to cultivate a following among the young generation, which is instrumental in generating a commitment to the importance of the intangible cultural heritage.

The workshop on international assistance, as well as the production of a series of documentaries on the intangible cultural heritage, will be rescheduled for 2019, because of the insufficient time for their proper organization and the identification of suitable partners. The project of the online platform has been suspended for the time being.

In conclusion, the Centre has managed to successfully implement the activities

approved for 2018, by proving able to strike a balance between pursuing already established activities and launching new ones for the long run.

REPORT by activity

January 1 - May 1, 2018

Chronological review:

1. Workshop on capacity building at national level on the subject of 'Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage', held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on January 22-26, 2018 (Activity 1.1.2. of the approved Work plan for 2017)

In fulfilment of the 2017 Work Plan and in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia and the Slovene coordinator for ICH, the Sofia Centre organized a capacity-building workshop on the subject of 'Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' in the City of Ljubljana between the 22nd and the 26th of January, 2018. Mr Nikolai Vukov and Ms Tamara Nikolić Đerić were invited as facilitators. The workshop aimed at outlining the basic concepts, functions and objectives of the 2003 Convention. 22 participants, such as Ministry officials, NGO staff, researchers and community members were invited to take part in the workshop. The majority were professionals in the field of cultural heritage protection dealing with ICH at national and local level. There was a necessity to improve the knowledge of existing professionals through trainings and dedicating more time to ICH during their everyday professional activities.

Results achieved:

- Enhanced knowledge of the basic concepts, functions and objectives of the 2003 Convention;
- Empowered participants with relevant information on technical issues regarding international and financial assistance as well as programs of awareness-raising;
- Enhanced participation in future capacity-building activities of more ICH practitioners, NGOs and young generation in order to reach a more balanced dialogue.

2. Workshop on capacity building at national level on the subject of 'Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage', held in Dnipro, Ukraine, on February 5-9, 2018 (Activity 1.1.3. of the approved Work plan for 2017)

In fulfilment of the 2017 Work Plan, the Regional Centre conducted, in conjunction with the Kiev-based Information-Analytical Centre 'Democracy through Culture' and the Department of Culture, Minority and Religious Affairs of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Administration, a workshop on 'Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'. The facilitators were Mr Saša Srećković and Ms Anita Vaivade. While discussing the major areas of implementing the 2003 Convention, the workshop highlighted the importance of cooperation among different communities and institutions at regional and national, as well as multinational levels. Workshop participants discussed such issues as revitalisation of ICH elements as a safeguarding measure; ICH and gender roles; as well as intellectual property protection related to ICH safeguarding, and others. 26 participants were invited to participate in the workshop on IMP. There was a balanced representation of different ICH safeguarding related roles in the group, with a significant emphasis on community

representatives, cultural mediators (NGO members as well as individuals), as well as ministry officials and researchers. The recommendation is to improve the workshop organisation - exchange of experience with other community members and representatives of institutions, more work in groups and more video-material to be shared.

Results achieved:

- Enhanced knowledge of the basic concepts, functions and objectives of the 2003 Convention;
- Increased understanding of the role of communities in all stages of ICH safeguarding process;
- Awareness raised of members of communities about the possibilities to actively engage in decision-making on developing ICH safeguarding plans and measures.

3. Production of an information card on 'Cultural practices related to 1st March – Paris, France, March 1, 2018

The Regional Centre produced a card printed with information in English and French about the celebrations of March 1 in Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia, Romania and the Republic of Moldova; copies of the card, together with martenitzas, were given out to visitors and staff at the UNESCO HQ. The practice of the martenitza is inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a multi-national nomination jointly proposed by the above listed countries.

Results achieved:

- Awareness raised about shared elements of ICH in a multinational nomination

4. VIII Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers of Culture (ASEM CMM8), Sofia, Bulgaria, March 1-2, 2018

The Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers of Culture (ASEM CMM8) was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on March 1-2, under the motto 'The Role of Culture in International Relations: the Road Forward'. A representative of the Regional Centre took part in a panel discussion on 'Strengthening cooperation in the area of the cultural heritage' by presenting the activities of the Association.

Results achieved:

- Promotion of the fields of activity of ICH Centre Sofia on a global scale;

5. Participation in an international conference on 'The Cultural Heritage: for a More Sustainable Europe', and presentation of a photographic exhibition on 'A Journey through the Living Traditions: the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe', Plovdiv, Bulgaria, March 27 through April 4.

On March 26-27, 2018, representatives of the Regional Centre took part in an international conference on 'The Cultural Heritage: for a More Sustainable Europe', jointly organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Commission, which took place as part of the events marking the European Year of Cultural Heritage. During the Conference, the Regional Centre

presented in the Old Bath House in Plovdiv a photographic exhibition on 'A Journey through the Living Traditions: the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe', which lasted between March 26 and April 4. Also shown were documentaries about the intangible cultural heritage.

Results achieved:

- Increased awareness of ICH in SEE on the part of the public at large, especially young people;
- Increased support for the countries of South-Eastern Europe in the process of promotion of ICH elements;

6. Scientific conference on 'The Intangible Cultural Heritage: Uniqueness, Continuity, Adulteration' – Sofia, Bulgaria, March 28, 2018

The conference was jointly organized by the Areté-Fol Foundation, the Cultural and Historical Heritage Chair at the State University of Library Studies and Information Technology (ULSIT) and the Chair of Ethnology at the St. Kliment Ohridsky University of Sofia, in partnership with the Regional Centre. The event took part on March 28 at ULSIT.

Results achieved:

- Increased knowledge and improved understanding of key concepts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

7. Development of case studies about intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, March

2018 (Activity 1.3. of the approved Work plan for 2017)

The aim of this activity was to develop case studies related to the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development in the region of South-Eastern Europe, which would then be used in conducting workshops within the global UNESCO program for building capacity at national level. The methodology has been developed on the basis of UNESCO's long-standing practice in that area. The Regional Centre invited two experts from the UNESCO trainers' network to develop five case studies each about intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development in the countries of South-Eastern Europe in conformity with the UNESCO program and requirements. The case studies were uploaded to the UNESCO online library on the subject.

Results achieved:

- Increased support for delivering trainings of the global facilitators network;
- Identification of case studies referring to one or a group of countries of SEE on the topic ICH and Sustainable development;

8. Days of Intangible Cultural Heritage – Sofia, Bulgaria, April 11-14, 2018

The project 'Days of Intangible Cultural Heritage' was implemented in Sofia on April 11 - 14, May 11 and July 20, 2018. Its main goal was to provoke a lasting interest in the national living heritage and its context in the region and in Europe as a whole. The project targeted primarily the citizens of Sofia and visitors to the capital, especially young people who were given an opportunity, through the performances of folklore ensembles, the staging of exhibitions and the showing

of documentaries, to become familiar with the intangible cultural heritage of Bulgaria. The Regional Centre organized two round tables, both related to the legal framework for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage and its promotion in an urban environment. The project ended with the showing of the documentary 'The Power to Revive' and a discussion on the subject of 'The Possible Revival: Will today's young people bring back to life the traditions of their ancestors'. Joining in the discussion were Mr. Ivan Dimitrov, the author of the film and of the TV series 'Bulgaria from End to End' and other renowned ethnographers and cultural scholars.

The project was implemented by the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO with the financial support of Sofia Municipality and the Europe 2018 Program, in partnership with the Sofia City Library.

Results achieved:

- Increased knowledge and improved understanding of key concepts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- Increased awareness of ICH on the part of the public at large, especially young people;

9. Photographic exhibition in partnership with NSEC-UNESCO, shown in Sofia, Bulgaria, between January 27 and June 30, 2018

To mark the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU by promoting our cultural and historical heritage, the Regional Centre supported an exhibition of photographs taken in the course of the student expeditions organized by the

National Student Expedition Club-UNESCO. The exhibition was opened on January 27 and lasted till the end of June.

Results achieved:

- Increased awareness of ICH on the part of the public at large, especially young people;

10. Participation in the Information Session at UNESCO HQ – Paris, France, April 20, 2018

In April, Hall II at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris provided a venue for the Information Session on the Overall Results Framework for the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The purpose of the meeting was to present the Overall Results Framework and its practical application in the states parties to the 2003 Convention, pursuant to a 2017 decision of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Decision 12. COM 9).

Results achieved:

- Increased knowledge and improved understanding of the Overall Results Framework;

11. Participation in Discover EU, Brussels, Belgium, May 3, 2018

The pilot program #DiscoverEU aims to support young people traveling around the European Union, so they would identify themselves as Europeans, build friendships in other countries and continue their communication with other European youngsters. The Regional Centre participates in the network of coun-

tries disseminating the program.

Results achieved:

- Increased knowledge and improved understanding of EU programmes

REPORT by activity

May 17– November 19, 2018

Chronological review:

12. Organizing and convening the General Assembly of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO – Sofia, Bulgaria, May 17, 2018 (Activity 5.1. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

The seventh session of the Regional Centre's General Assembly took place on May 17, 2017, at the Novotel hotel in Sofia, Bulgaria. The members of the GA from all the Member States considered and adopted the key documents of the Association: its Statutes, the Activity Report for 2017, and a Work Plan for 2018, as well as the financial records of the Centre. They confirmed by a vote the

appointment of the new Executive Director, and approved the Rules of Procedure for the selection of universities and NGOs to be represented to the General Assembly of the Regional Centre. The agenda for the session was successfully fulfilled.

13. Presentation of the photographic exhibition of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO at the Regional Museum of History in Rousse, Bulgaria – May 19, 2018 (Support of other events)

Within the framework of the initiative 'European Night of Museums', the Regional Centre, jointly with the Regional Museum of History in the city of Rousse, organized a photo exhibition on the subject of 'A Journey through Living Traditions: the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe', part of the Rousse RMH's program 'The Fifteenth Night at the Museum'. The exhibition, dedicated to elements of the intangible cultural heritage from the member states of the Regional Centre, had premiered during the 2017 session of its General Assembly. The Regional Centre also supported the performance before the Rousse audiences of the folk troupes Jamal and Buenets, both inscribed on the National Representative List of Living Human Treasures.

Results achieved:

- Promotion of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Increased awareness of ICH on the part of the public at large, especially young people

14. Workshop on capacity building at national level on the subject of 'Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage', held in the city of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on May 28-31, 2018 (Activity 1.1.1. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

As a follow-up of a previous inventory workshop in 2012 and a needs assess-

ment held in 2017, the workshop organized by the Sofia Centre in close cooperation with the ICH Section of UNESCO was on the topic of 'Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'. It was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that country's National Commission for UNESCO. Ms. Panagiota Andrianopoulou (Greece) and Ms. Mery Kumbe (Albania) were invited as trainers. The objectives of the Sarajevo workshop were primarily to outline the basic concepts, functions and objectives of the 2003 Convention, according to the core national needs. Taking into account the local organizers' requests and needs, the facilitators prioritized the analysis of the key concepts of the Convention, especially the ones of community involvement, the interrelation between ICH and sustainability, the clarification of the living heritage notions. Moreover, the facilitators placed an emphasis on the prospects for international assistance and the ICH Fund, as well as on the concept of the shared living heritage and the potential of multinational cooperation in the preparation of nomination files. 25 participants directly involved in the 2003 Convention implementation took part in the training, such as civil servants, museum experts, NGO staff and students. The recommendation for future capacity-building activities were to improve the coordination between local organisers, the Sofia Centre and the Regional UNESCO Offices for better timing. The inclusion of young generation's representatives and a balanced geographical distribution of participants are also crucial for better impact of the capacity-building activities.

Results achieved:

- Strengthened participants' understanding and capacities with regard to ICH identification and safeguarding, the role of communities, and the oppor-

- tunities provided through International Assistance and regional cooperation;
- Improved coordination between authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and stakeholders, the Sofia Centre, and UNESCO;
 - A more balanced participation of stakeholders from the different constituent parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Raised awareness and stronger commitment of youth representatives with regard to ICH safeguarding.

15. Participation in the Seventh Session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention (Activity 4.4. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

The Seventh Session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage took place at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on June 4-6, 2018. With the participation of representatives of 177 states, the session evolved into a platform for discussion and sharing of experience among the participants engaged in the sphere of the intangible cultural heritage. Attending the meetings were representatives of the States parties to the Convention, NGOs, youth organizations and communities of ICH practitioners.

Results achieved:

- Maintaining relations of partnership and active communication with representatives of different institutions and countries world-wide

16. The 6th Meeting of Category 2 Centres active in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Paris, France, June 4-8, 2018 (Activity 4.4. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

The Sixth Meeting of Category 2 Centres for the Intangible Cultural Heritage took place on June 7, after the closing of the General Assembly. It was subdivided into two sessions: the first, moderated by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention, presented information about the funding priorities of the Convention, the 39C/5 Programme and indicators, as well as the role of the Category 2 Centres in the implementation of the Convention. The second session was dedicated to discussing possible mechanisms of cooperation between the individual centres and the secretariat; the challenges those centres encounter in their daily work for the implementation of the Convention, as well as the process of renewal of the Agreement between the host country of a Category 2 Centre and UNESCO. Representatives of the Regional Centre took an active part in the meeting by sharing the experience accumulated by the Association over the past several years.

Results achieved:

- Strengthening cooperation between UNESCO and other Category 2 centres;
- Improving collaboration and communication among Category 2 centres with a view to the establishment of a functioning global network of the intangible cultural heritage

17. 'Rediscovering Heritage': Round Table and Mobile Exhibition – So-

fia, Bulgaria, June 5, 2018 (Activity 3.2. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

The Sofia Regional Centre and UNESCO supported the convening of a second round table at the New Bulgarian University on June 5, on the topic of 'The University Meets the Museum: the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Presentation and Exposure'. The debates focused on the institutions of the university and the museum as entities with shared functions, and the aim was to prompt a discussion, a sharing of views and to arrive at a set of common concepts. The round table was organized with the cooperation of the Paissy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, the Regional Museum of History in Rousse, and the Regional Ethnographic Museum in Plovdiv. On the same day the San Stefano Art Gallery in Plovdiv hosted the opening of the mobile exhibition 'Rediscovering Heritage'. This photographic exhibition, jointly staged by the Regional Centre and the New Bulgarian University as part of the events marking the European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018), provided a whole new perspective on the cultural heritage.

Results achieved:

- Increased awareness of ICH on the part of the public at large, especially young people;
- Demonstration of good practices for developing ICH-based creative industries.

18. Establishment of a university network for safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage – Sofia, Bulgaria, June 8, 2018 (Activity 4.1. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

The UNESCO Regional Centre in Sofia initiated the establishment, on June 8, 2018, of a University Network for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The network comprises representatives of universities based in all Member States of the Regional Centre. At the founding meeting, the delegates from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, FYR of Macedonia, Georgia, Greece, Moldova and Ukraine united behind the proposal for implementation of joint projects for the exchange of study findings, training materials and the possible development of training curricula in the area of ICH. The discussions proceeded from the replies to a questionnaire circulated in advance among the universities in the region of South-Eastern Europe, designed to gather concrete information, depending on the national context, about the development and implementation of learning curricula about the intangible cultural heritage at schools of higher learning. The participants in the meeting also referred to the conclusions made by UNESCO about the important role of universities in educating the future leaders, in a national as well as international context, that will be tasked with decision making in respect of the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. The meeting defined the goals of the network while also outlining future joint initiatives and the manner of communication.

Results achieved:

- Supporting an effective and productive network in the area of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Understand the current situation of intangible cultural heritage in universities in the SEE region;
- Improve communication among universities, researchers, institutions responsible for the safeguarding of ICH, and its practitioners

19. Participation in the 4th, 5th and 6th meetings of the Stakeholder Committee held in Brussels, Belgium, on March 6-8 and June 4-5; and Leipzig, Germany, on November 8.

In early March and early June, a representative of the Regional Centre took part in the 4th and 5th stakeholder meetings held in Brussels. The event kicked off with a meeting of the national coordinators of the European Year of Cultural Heritage from the EU member states. At the 6th meeting in Leipzig in November, the participants evaluated the outcomes of the EYCH and discussed how its successful initiatives will be used in a future context.

Results achieved:

- Maintaining relations of partnership and active communication with representatives of EU;

20. Participation in the European Cultural Heritage Summit – Berlin, Germany, June 18-24, 2018

The European Cultural Heritage Summit was held in Berlin, Germany, on June 18-24, under the motto 'Sharing Heritage – Sharing Values'. The Regional Centre, as part of the Stakeholder Network making up the logo of EYCH, contributed two events: Evening of the European Heritage (June 21), and a conference on 'European Policy Debate' (June 22, 2018).

Results achieved:

- Maintaining relations of partnership and active communication with representa-

tives of EU;

21. Support for the 'Balkan Palette' Festival, Sofia, Bulgaria, June 24, 2018 (Support of other events)

The 'Balkan Palette' Festival took place in Sofia on June 24. It was organized by the Global Creativity Association in partnership with the Sofia International Women's Club, with the support of the cultural services at the embassies respectively of Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and other Balkan countries, and with the special support of the Cultural and Information Centre of the FYR of Macedonia in Sofia. Dedicated to the International Decade of Cultural Cohesion and the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the festival showcased music, dance and cuisine that are typical of the region. Visitors had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with cultural customs and traditions from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, the FYR of Macedonia, Romania and Serbia. The festival of Balkan cultures took place under the patronage of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture, with the support of Sofia Municipality and the UNESCO Regional Centre, Sofia.

Results achieved:

- Awareness raised about the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding on a regional level;
- Awareness raised on the part of the public at large, especially young people;

22. Arts and Crafts Alley, a side event to the One Love Tour (Support of

other events)

The One Love Tour has been thus far the only music tour jointly undertaken by Bulgaria and FYR of Macedonia, aimed at bringing closer together the two neighbouring countries. In partnership with the One Love Tour, the Regional Centre sponsored the initiative 'Arts and Crafts Alley', showcasing, supporting and promoting traditional Bulgarian skills. The first edition of the 'Alley' took part in Skopje on June 16, followed by another in Sofia on June 30, yet another in Bansko on July 21, and the last one in Rousse on September 8, 2018. Artisans from all corners of Bulgaria flocked to the 'Arts and Crafts Alley' to demonstrate the techniques and artistry of traditional Bulgarian crafts: from woodcarving and woodturning, through the making of the Kalofer lace and the creation of jewellery from beads, to the felting of wool.

Results achieved:

- Awareness raised about the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding;

23. Participation in 'Filming ICH', a professional forum of documentary filmmakers dedicated to the intangible cultural heritage (Activity 1.4. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

The ninth edition of Docu Rough Cut Boutique, the International Program for Training in Project Development with a focus on documentary filmmakers from the Balkans or working on subjects related to the Balkans, took place between the 8th and 12th of May, 2018, at the Goethe Institut in Sofia. The Regional Centre participated in an observer capacity in the training, whose purpose was to familiarize the Balkan documentary filmmakers with in-depth practical and theoretical knowledge about the audio-visual sector in Europe. Participating in the training were two teams, who present-

ed an evolving concept for making a documentary about the intangible cultural heritage.

Film directors, ethnologists or anthropologists working on projects for documentaries about intangible cultural heritage had until September 15 to apply for participation in the first edition of the professional forum. **A total of 16 entries were submitted:** 'The Last Transhumance' (Romania); 'Three on a Hill' (Romania); 'Steps in Fire' (Bulgaria); 'Armenian Dreamers' (Armenia); 'Flotacija' (Serbia); 'The Journey' (Moldova); 'Merry Cemetery' (Romania); 'Koliatsou in Athens' (Greece); 'La Blouse Roumaine' (Romania); 'Quantum of Clean' (Serbia); 'Tarara' (Croatia); 'LoveLand' (Bulgaria/Poland); 'The Silk Thread' (Serbia); 'Making an interview with a poltergeist' (Romania); 'Elizabeta Konevska' (FYR of Macedonia); and 'Skopje, Texas' (FYR of Macedonia).

During the 27th International Ethnological Film Festival in Belgrade (October 9-13), the shortlisted entrant from phase one of the forum (**6 projects in all: 'The Last Transhumance' (Romania); 'Flotacija' (Serbia); 'The Journey' (Moldova); 'Merry Cemetery' (Romania); 'Koliatsou in Athens' (Greece); and 'Tarara' (Croatia)**) had an opportunity to work with professionals from the film industry on the realization of their projects and their submission to an international panel of judges.

The best 2 finalists were honoured - **'Flotacija' (Serbia) with a diploma and amount of 500 EUR from the Regional centre and 'Merry Cemetery' (Romania)** with automatic inclusion in one of the training programmes organized on an annual basis by the Balkan Documentary Centre. The realisation of the initiative was a joint project of the Regional Centre, the International Ethnological Film Festival, Belgrade, and the Balkan Documentary Centre

Results achieved:

- Increased capacity for visual recording of elements of the intangible cultural heritage and the making of documentary films on ICH;
- Promotion of good practices in the visual recording of elements of the intangible cultural heritage

24. Training of trainers from the European branch of the UNESCO capacity building network – Sofia, Bulgaria, September 17-20, 2018 (Activity 1.2. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

For a second year running, the Regional Centre has supported the training of trainers from the European branch of the UNESCO Network, a joint venture of the Centre and the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. The training kicked off on September 17 and lasted for 4 business days. It was a major event that brought to Sofia over 25 international experts to deliver training seminars on topics related to the intangible cultural heritage, as well as representatives of UNESCO and the Regional Bureau for Science in Europe, based in Venice. Within the framework of the training seminar, the participants exchanged experience in developing policies for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage at national and regional level, reviewed the training materials developed by UNESCO on that subject, discussed the Periodic Reporting Framework under the 2003 Convention, while also weighing up the usefulness and future of the Network. Lastly, the Executive Director of the Regional Centre and the head of the Capacity Building and Heritage Policies Department of the UNESCO ICH Section conferred certificates to the graduating experts.

Results achieved:

- Knowledge and competencies of facilitators strengthened to provide policy support in the field of ICH;
- Hands-on experience provided to use UNESCO capacity-building curriculum, including the materials on policy development and relevant guidance note;
- Lessons learned from implementing policies in the field of ICH in the European context.;

25. Needs assessment for the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention in the FYR of Macedonia (Activity 1.1.2. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

For the first time the Regional Centre supported the implementation of a needs and priorities assessment for the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the FYR of Macedonia. This is a joint project the Centre pursues in conjunction with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Venice and the host country.

Results achieved:

- Training needs identified for planning future capacity building activities;
- Increased support for the countries of South-Eastern Europe in the process of implementation of the 2003 Convention and national level;

26. 12th Annual Regional Meeting of Experts in Intangible Cultural Heri-

tage from South-Eastern Europe – Ljubljana, Slovenia, October 25-26, 2018 (Activity 4.3. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

For yet another consecutive year, the Regional Centre supported the organizing of that expert meeting that has already established itself as a regional platform for sharing knowledge, experience and good practices in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe and promoting regional cooperation in this area. This year it was Slovenia's turn to host the event, which was organized by the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia, the country's National Commission for UNESCO, and the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum; the subject matter was 'The Role of Museums in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage'. The participants in the meeting are experts in ICH from South-Eastern Europe.

Results achieved:

- Strengthening of cooperation in the region of South-Eastern Europe for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Supporting an effective and productive network in the area of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Exchange, on an annual basis, of good practices and sharing of progress and experience in the safeguarding of the living heritage in the region of South-Eastern Europe

27. Museum Exhibitions Fair – Rousse, Bulgaria, October 24-26, 2018 (Support of other events)

The Regional Centre organized a round table on the subject of 'The Intangible Cultural Heritage – between Educational Programs, Communication and

Interactive Sharing', which took place on October 24, 2018, within the framework of the Museum Exhibition Fair in the city of Rousse. The purpose of the event was to lay the groundwork for developing an educational program for the training of museum experts in two versions: mobile and online. The event was organized in partnership with the Etara Architectural and Ethnographic Park, the Regional Museum of History in Rousse and the New Bulgarian University.

Results achieved:

- Exchange of good practices and sharing of experience in the safeguarding of ICH and the museum;

28. A festive concert dedicated to November 1st, the Day of National Revival Leaders, to be held on November 3 in Sofia, Bulgaria (Support of other events)

Within the framework of its annual programme, the Bulgarian national section of the UNESCO-associated International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) organised, jointly with the Regional Centre, a festive concert dedicated to November 1st, the Day of National Revival Leaders, which took place on November 3 at a concert hall in Sofia, Bulgaria. Leading folklore troupes from Sofia were invited to perform in the concert, presenting their latest routines that reproduce and help preserve the rich Bulgarian traditional and cultural heritage.

Results achieved:

- Awareness raised on the part of the public at large, especially young people.
- Maintaining relations of partnership with representatives of NGO's

29. Workshop on capacity building at national level on the subject of 'Imple-

menting the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage', held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on November 5-9, 2018 (Activity 3.1. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

In the context of the UNESCO global capacity building program for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and in fulfilment of Regional Centre's work plan for 2018, the Centre conducted a training workshop on the subject of 'Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' in the city of Tbilisi, Georgia. Just like with the other successfully delivered training events, two trainers of the UNESCO Network of facilitators conducted a 5-day training on capacity building at national level, for the benefit of experts working in the area of safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

Results achieved:

- Increased knowledge and improved understanding of key concepts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- Increased support for the countries of South-Eastern Europe in the process of implementation of the 2003 Convention and national level;
- Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders working in the area of the intangible cultural heritage at the national level

30. First issue of the publication 'Living heritage' of the Regional Centre (Activity 2.2. from the approved Work plan for 2018)

In fulfilment of its work plan for 2018, the Regional Centre started the preparation for the launch of the first commemorative issue of 'Living Heritage' magazine, presenting the Centre and its functioning during the first 6 years since the signing in 2010 of the

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and UNESCO. The issue contains information about the founding members of the Regional Centre, about the national representatives of the member states in South-Eastern Europe, interviews with officials from key institutions and a fact sheet about the implementation of the 2003 Convention in the countries of the SEE region. The publication, which will be available in both hard copy and electronic form, is due out by the end of the year.

Results achieved:

- Increased number of columns and featured articles published in connection with ICH in the SEE region;
- Promotion of ICH and the Convention 2003;
- Awareness raised about the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding on a regional level;

31. Establishment of a network of non-governmental organizations active in the area of safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (Activity 4.2. from the approved Work plan for 2018) – in process

The Regional Centre launched a process of mapping non-governmental organizations active in the field of safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in the region of SEE. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the participation of such organizations in the processes of safeguarding and promoting the intangible cultural heritage. The Centre developed a contact data form, to be circulated to all of its Points of Contact with a request for cooperation in the recruitment of NGOs in the SEE countries and their inclusion in the mapping process.

Results achieved:

- identification and mapping of NGOs in the region active in the field of ICH;
- Expanding and supporting an effective and productive network of representatives of communities from the SEE region;

32. Others

A number of meetings were conducted and the network of partners was expanded to include universities, museums and non-governmental organizations. Cases in point are the universities of Athens, Cyprus and Banja Luka (in Bosnia and Herzegovina), the New Bulgarian University, the University of Plovdiv, and others. Among the successful partnerships of the Centre, mention is due of the contacts established with the Regional Museum of History in Rousse and Plovdiv Ethnographic Museum.

The Regional Centre signed a contract with a PR agency that has since been promoting successfully its image in the media and among the general public while also drawing the interested of new audiences towards events and activities organized by the Centre using the tools of social networking.

To raise the capacity and knowledge of its permanent staff, the team participated in trainings in cultural management in accordance with a training programme of the Sofia Municipality and the Goethe Institut.