



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of
Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe
under the auspices of UNESCO

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 MAY 2018

SOFIA



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PROPOSED WORK PLAN 2018

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The Regional Centre will implement its Work Plan in accordance with the following principles:

- ✓ The Regional Centre will focus its activities on attaining the strategic goals of UNESCO;
- ✓ The Regional Centre will seek maximum inclusion of all countries in the region in its activities;
- ✓ The Regional Centre will develop and strengthen its partnerships with different organizations and structures committed to the safeguarding of ICH, with a focus on universities and NGOs, and on the creation of specialized networks in the SEE region;
- ✓ The Regional Centre will strengthen the capacities of its Member States for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, policy development in the field of ICH and the use of international assistance;
- ✓ The Regional Centre will promote, exchange and disseminate initiatives and good practices pertinent to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the sustainable development of the countries in the region;
- ✓ The Regional Centre will seek the inclusion of ICH in the national development policies and programmes, with a special emphasis on its contribution to the attainment of the goals of sustainable development;
- ✓ The Regional Centre will seek to promote community involvement at every stage in the safeguarding of ICH.

All activities included in the Work Plan for 2018 of the Regional Centre for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO will mark the European year of cultural heritage.



GOAL 1 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2003 ICH CONVENTION IN THE TERRITORY OF THE ENTIRE REGION

Activity 1.1 Capacity-building seminars

In the context of the UNESCO's Global Capacity Building Programme for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, **the Regional Centre will continue its efforts for organizing training seminars in its Member States in South-Eastern Europe. Those seminars will be delivered in countries, which have stated their willingness to act as partners for such events.** The purposes of the seminars are:

- to achieve better understanding of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage while increasing the knowledge for its implementation at national level;
- to discuss good practices and methodologies of intangible heritage inventorying and its regular updating, as well as offer training on community-based inventorying;
- to review success stories associated with the safeguarding of the living heritage in both a national and an international context and offer training on elaboration of relevant safeguarding plans;
- to consider policies for the implementation of the Convention and offer relevant training for policy development in the field of ICH,
- to encourage the active participation of local communities in all the processes of ICH safeguarding.

Each training exercise will comprise 25 to 35 participants (experts, NGOs representatives, ministry officials and academia working in the field of ICH) who will be selected by host countries.

Activity 1.1.1 Capacity-building seminar for experts in intangible cultural heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Subject matter: Implementation of the 2003 Convention, based on the Needs assessment undertaken by UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in 2017;

Duration: May 14-18, 2018;

Tentative budget: BGN 13,500

Activity 1.1.2 Undertaking a survey to assess the needs and priorities for the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The needs assessment will explore the legislative and policy documents in the field of intangible heritage, analyze institutional and administrative framework for the implementation of the Convention and assess current inventorying, educational and training efforts. The assessment will also include tentative multi-year action plan, with proposals for capacity building. The expert/s who will conduct the survey will be selected through call for proposals.

Partners: UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Duration: 2018

Tentative budget: BGN 8000

Deliverables – activities 1.1

- 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 regional level; engagement of new partners in the region of South-Eastern Europe, strengthened cooperation among representatives of different organizations and institutions; building and supporting an efficient and effective network;
- Training needs identified for planning future capacity building activities.

Activity 1.2 Supporting policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage. Training of trainers for the facilitators from Europe.

Similarly to the ‘Training of Trainers’ course delivered in 2017, this year the Regional Centre will organize, jointly with UNESCO, training for the European chapter of UNESCO’s global network of facilitators. This year’s training of trainers will focus on policy development in the field of ICH and will aim to improve capacities of facilitators to provide policy support to authorities in Europe for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention.

This event will take place in the second half of September 2018, and will have a duration of up to 5 working days. Like in 2017, attendance will number 30-32 persons: mainly facilitators from the UNESCO network, as well as representatives of from UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice.

Duration and date: September 17-21, 2018;

Venue: Sofia, Bulgaria;

Partners: UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice, Italy);

Tentative budget: BGN 68,000

Deliverables

- Lessons learned from implementing policies in the field of ICH in the European context;
- 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;

Activity 1.3 Regional Capacity building workshop on ‘International assistance’

The workshop aims to strengthen the necessary conceptual and analytical skills of experts from Centre's Member States to prepare requests for International Assistance in accordance with the criteria established under the Operational Directives of the 2003 Convention and which can reliably be expected to lead to successful projects for safeguarding ICH. Through the process of team-based analysis, trainees will be provided with critical skills that they can then apply when they elaborate international assistance requests.

Participants will be chosen from among the experts who took part in capacity building workshops held by the Sofia Centre in Albania, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and other countries as relevant by the time of this training. Particular attention will be paid to the profile, expertise and the role of the participants in institutional context for ICH safeguarding at the national level, in order to maximize the training results in longer perspective. An introductory session to recap key concepts of the 2003 Convention will be needed at the beginning of this training.

Duration: 4 days, 2018

Location : Sofia, Bulgaria

Partners: Intangible Cultural Heritage Section UNESCO

Tentative budget: BGN 30000 (transport, accommodation, facilitators)

Deliverables

- Increased knowledge and improved skills for the utilization of international assistance, in accordance with the 2003 Convention;
- Strengthened support for the Member States in South-Eastern Europe in the process of implementation of the 2003 Convention at national level;
- Increased capacity of experts working in the field of the intangible cultural heritage at national level;
- Engagement of new partners from the region of South-Eastern Europe, improved cooperation among representatives of different organizations and institutions, structuring and maintenance of an efficient and effective network.

Activity 1.4 BDC Discoveries with focus on ICH

This activity will be implemented in partnership with the Balkan Documentary Centre and will use the potential of this initiative with a focus on the intangible cultural heritage.

BDC Discoveries is an initiative bringing together European professionals with directors and producers of documentary films in the Balkans. The purpose of the training is to familiarize Balkan documentary filmmakers with some unorthodox yet in-depth practical and theoretical knowledge about the audio-visual sector in Europe. Included in the training will be two teams, demonstrating in progress the development of a documentary film project on the intangible cultural heritage. A call for proposals will be announced within the framework of the initiative, in June 2018, for projects related to the intangible cultural heritage to be shown at a pitching forum, to be held during the International Festival of Ethnological Film, Belgrade. The deadline for submission of proposals is August 2018. A two-day workshop will be held during the International Festival of Ethnological Film in Belgrade, aimed to prepare the entrants for the submission, the follow-up presentation and the selection of projects for 2019. Two representatives from the Regional Centre will take part in the initiative as jury members and observers.

The goal of this initiative is to enhance the capacities for developing documentaries with ICH topic in order to promote and raise awareness about the role of ICH in the society.

Duration: 2018;

Partners: Balkan Documentary Centre;

Tentative budget: BGN 15,000

Deliverables

- Increased capacity for visual recording of elements of the intangible cultural heritage and the making of documentary films on ICH;
- Promotion of the intangible cultural heritage and the 2003 Convention;
- Promotion of good practices in the visual recording of elements of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Expanded new audiences, particularly of young people familiar with ICH and its safeguarding.

GOAL 2 PROMOTION OF ELEMENTS OF ICH FROM THE REGION

Activity 2.1 Development of an online platform for ICH

The purpose of the platform is to promote cooperation while supplementing the network of partners and stakeholders of the Regional Centre by providing accessible and detailed information about the intangible cultural heritage in the region of South-Eastern Europe. The platform will feature interconnected databases that will be mutually engaged on the basis of business logic and will operate in accordance with a predefined set of rules of communication. The Platform will contain: Information about the Regional Centre; development of databases in the area of ICH from the region; Network of Experts and facilitators from the region; Network of Institutions, NGOs and Organizations related to ICH in the region; Search Option for elements of ICH from the entire region; Link to the ICH inventories of the Member States in the region; Statutory framework: publication of the relevant primary and secondary legislation applicable to the safeguarding of ICH in the countries of the Regional Centre network; an Interactive Calendar of Events relevant to ICH in the region: holidays, festivals, academic conferences; a Forum for experts and research publications in the area of ICH; Info Package ICH: a dictionary of ICH terms linked to UNESCO websites; key documents and conventions of UNESCO presenting ICH in an easy-to-grasp form; Gallery: a virtual collection of photo and video content and archives; Links to all regional institutions – legislative and strategic documents of the Member States; Community representatives; Mailing list; Online platform promoting forms of distance learning.

This platform is a long-term initiative and will be developed and updated according to the needs of the stakeholders in the field.

Tentative budget: BGN 47,000

Deliverables

- Developed online platform of ICH in the region;
- Increased visibility of ICH in the region and promotion of access to information about ICH;
- Promoted digitization of ICH elements and developed database of research projects in this area, containing recordings, photos, etc.;
- Collection, dissemination and exchange of information about initiatives and activities aimed at the safeguarding and promotion of ICH;
- Promotion of the archiving of records of ICH, video recordings and photographs;
- Development and support of an up-to-date database of ICH in SEE;
- Promotion of the use of information technology for promoting ICH;
- Development of different networks in the area of ICH.

Activity 2.2 Thematic edition – main topics in the efforts of safeguarding of the ICH

The publication will include studies, analyses, case studies and other materials on subjects pertinent to the safeguarding and promotion of ICH in the region. Within the framework of this activity, the preparation will continue for the publication of the Regional Centre Yearbook, a collection of articles and research papers on the subject of ICH. The Yearbook will be published in hard copy (booklet form) and/or as an online publication (e-zine) with its own ISSN. In this form, it may also contain interviews and minutes of meetings. Its *Editor in Chief* and *Editor* will be tenured experts in the field of ICH in the region. The *Editorial Board* will comprise members of the Executive Board and experts from the Regional Centre Secretariat. *Issue Coordinators* will be the persons responsible for collecting the information and for the layout of each issue. *Reviewer(s)*: Experts in ICH from the region.

Tentative budget: BGN 10,000 for 400 issues annually

Deliverables

- Promotion of theoretical and methodological research in the field of ICH;
- Increased number of columns and featured articles published in the media in connection with ICH;
- Raising awareness about the intangible cultural heritage and the 2003 Convention.

Activity 2.3 Creating a series of short documentaries dedicated to the intangible cultural heritage in the region

Based on the successful model developed by the Bulgarian National television, the Regional in cooperation with Member States plan to develop and produce a series of short documentaries dedicated to the intangible cultural heritage in at least five countries in the region.

Tentative budget: BGN 24,000

Deliverables

- Promotion of elements of intangible cultural heritage;
- Encouraging good practices for documenting intangible cultural heritage;
- Increased capacity for implementation and promotion of the 2003 Convention on ICH in the territory of the region.

GOAL 3 AFFIRMATION AND DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICES IN SAFEGUARDING ICH IN THE REGION

Activity 3.1 Round table 'Intangible cultural heritage management' in Georgia

The aim of this event is to provide the possibility of the participants from different areas from the region of South-Eastern Europe to share experience on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Management. The selection of the participants is planned as follows: the experts of South-Eastern countries in intangible cultural heritage management (approx. 10-12 experts), Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia, the representatives of local municipalities, local non-governmental sector, and other stakeholders. Also, the participants from the hosting country will analyze the main trends and possibilities of Georgia in this field. With the support of the UNESCO experts, the general guidelines for the various levels of management will be outlined. The main ICH management principles will be included in compendious document that they will develop. It is also planned the main presentations of the participants and the final document to be published in 2019 in English and Georgian.

Duration: 3 days in November 2018

Venue: Tbilisi, Georgia;

Partners: National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

Tentative budget: BGN 7,000 (participation of 3 experts in the round table)

Deliverables:

- Developing a draft manual related to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Management trends and principles
- Sharing and exchange the main principles on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (general policy, legislation, sustainable development)
- Informally dissemination of the experiences in Intangible Cultural Heritage Management
- Strengthening the active communication with the representatives of different institutions focused on the intangible cultural heritage in the region.

Activity 3.2 "Rediscovering heritage": round table and mobile exhibition

This initiative will include a Second Round Table (June 5, 2018, New Bulgarian University) entitled " University meets Museum: Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Presentation and Exhibition (Sites, Posters, Booklets, Catalogs, Narratives, Interactive Games)". The aim is the university and the museum, subjects of common activities, to discuss, share and build common concepts. The Round Table will be organized in cooperation with University of Plovdiv, Regional History Museum- Rousse, Regional ethnographic museum - Plovdiv.

The Mobile Exhibition "Rediscovering heritage" is planned as joint event of students and lecturers from eight departments of the NBU presenting their concepts and works related to the theme. The exhibition includes: fashion design collections, result from the cooperation project of Regional Ethnographic Museum- Plovdiv and Muhtaridis Silk Factory, Soufli , Greece and others; exhibition concepts for ethnographic museums, photographic exposition of the heritage through the photo lens and video materials for the architectural heritage of Sofia. The exhibition will improve the access to the cultural heritage and will reveal the heritage's existence in a new way and with new perspectives. Part of the exhibition is a result from a joint creative project of students with small enterprises representatives from Soufli, Greece, and local authorities in Bulgaria and Greece.

Duration: -5-12 June 2018

Venue: Sofia, Sliven, Ruse and Gabrovo;

Partners: New Bulgarian University, Sofia, University of Plovdiv, Regional History Museum- Rousse, Regional ethnographic museum - Plovdiv;

Tentative budget: BGN 3000

Deliverables

- Increased visibility of the work of the Regional Centre in Bulgaria and throughout the region;
- Increased awareness of ICH on the part of the public at large, especially young people;
- Promotion of good practices for safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and policy development in that domain.

GOAL 4 NETWORKING AND PROMOTING COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Activity 4.1 University network in collaboration with UNESCO

Networking among universities in the region will continue, involving such universities that either teach or undertake research on subjects in the area of ICH. The work of universities is complementary to UNESCO's capacity building programme for the implementation of the Convention at national level, as they are the main institutions for training future administrators and decision makers in the field of ICH. Initial desk research and a survey will identify existing relevant university initiatives, taking into account prior survey results, such as generated by the European network on cultural management and policy (ENCATC). Since currently teaching about intangible cultural heritage is highly dispersed throughout different disciplines. A working meeting of professors and other academic staff from universities in the region will be held to discuss the experience of individual universities in teaching and researching ICH. The aim will be to support networking among them on areas of particular interest, such as for example community-based research methodology, challenges of integrating ICH in university programmes etc.

In collaboration with the UNESCO Secretariat, the Sofia Centre will also seek to link this work with similar initiatives going on in other regions, some of which support by other Category 2 Centres.

Duration: 8 June 2018;

Venues: Sofia, Bulgaria

Tentative budget: BGN 23,800

Deliverables

- Understand the current situation of intangible cultural heritage in universities in the region;
- Improve communication among universities, researchers, institutions responsible for the safeguarding of ICH, and its practitioners;
- Promote scientific research in the area of ICH and community-based approaches to safeguarding; and
- Develop suggestions for future networking through information exchange and collaboration.

Activity 4.2 Building a network of NGOs active in the field of ICH

This is a long-term initiative of the Regional Centre that aims to mobilize and commit the resources of the non-governmental sector active in the area of the intangible cultural heritage.

The first stage of this initiative will involve mapping the active NGOs in the region, and collecting information about their work profile. This activity requires a survey of the region in active communication with the Member States of the Regional Centre as well as with the ICH NGO Forum and its European branch. NGOs will be mapped in accordance with pre-approved criteria. The next step, once the necessary information is collected, is to organize a meeting in 2019 of the most active representatives of the non-governmental sector and to draw up a common strategy of measures for the safeguarding of ICH. Partnership will be established and sustained with the ICH NGO Forum.

Duration: 2018;

Venue: Sofia, Bulgaria;

Tentative budget: BGN 6,400

Deliverables

- A map of NGOs in the region active in the field of ICH;
- New partnerships and resources mobilized for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention;
- Promotion of community-based safeguarding of ICH;
- Raising awareness about the Convention and good practices in the safeguarding of ICH;
- Greater awareness on the part of NGOs about the possibilities for obtaining UNESCO accreditation and the application procedures;
- Networking between NGOs in the region and similar organizations on other continents supported by the respective Category 2 centers for each region;

- Planned sustainable joint activities of the Regional Centre with NGOs active in the area of ICH.

Activity 4.3 Twelfth annual regional meeting of experts in intangible cultural heritage from South-Eastern Europe, to be organized in Slovenia jointly with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum. The theme of this year meeting will be “The role of museums on the safeguarding of ICH”.

Deliverables

- 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;
- Maintaining active communication with representatives of institutions in the countries of South-Eastern Europe;
- 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.

Duration: 25-26 October 2018

Venue: Slovenia

Tentative budget: 15000 BGN

Activity 4.4 Participation in UNESCO sessions on the intangible cultural heritage and the annual meeting of Category 2 centres for safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Paris

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will convene for its 13th session in Mauritius. A representative of the Regional Centre will attend the session.

Tentative budget: BGN 20,000

Deliverables

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

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE

Activity 5.1 Convening a General Assembly of the Regional Center in two sessions

Tentative budget: BGN 70,000;

Activity 5.2 Participation in meetings with partners from the South-Eastern Europe Member States, at the invitation of the respective Member States

Tentative budget: as allocated in the foreign travel section of the budget

Activity 5.3 Participation in meetings organized by Category 2 centers for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, as well as in meetings about ICH at the invitation of other partners

Tentative budget: as allocated in the foreign travel section of the budget