Изданието е посветено на подновяване на Споразумението между Република България и ЮНЕСКО за продължаване дейността на Регионалния център за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство в Югоизточна Европа под егидата на ЮНЕСКО в София за нов шестгодишен период (10 ноември 2017). Читателите се запознаят с изработката и развитие на Регионалния център - резултат от партньорствата с международни и национални институции в името на опазване, съхранение и популяризиране на нематериалното наследство.

This publication is dedicated to the renewal (on November 10, 2017) of the Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and UNESCO on the continued operation of the Regional Centre for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO in Sofia for another six-year term. The reader will become familiar with the establishment and evolution of the Sofia Regional Centre as the product of partnerships with national and international institutions in the name of the safeguarding, preservation and promotion of the intangible heritage.
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Interview of Mr. Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO

for the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, Sofia, Bulgaria

20 November, 2018
Question 1: Considering the increasing mobility, migration and political conflicts of late, how would you define the meaning/importance of cultural heritage?

Cultural heritage is a part of the human story that is etched in our collective memory through castles, temples, bridges, factories, national parks, reefs, wharfs and tombs across the planet at UNESCO-protected sites. Yet intangible cultural heritage – our living heritage – is equally as crucial in these turbulent times. Localised traditions in a globalized world are reassuring; they root us to our past and the ways of our ancestors. With the increase in migration, intangible heritage has greater significance for diaspora populations, reconnecting them with their homeland through the smells of the local cuisine, the thrill of local sports and the spirituality of local rituals.

As a result of this migration, our societies are becoming increasingly culturally diverse. This cultural diversity is one of the major assets of our modern societies and we need to learn how to harness its full potential. Daily exchanges with people of different backgrounds, with their stories, values and cultural practices, allow us to glimpse at all the many extraordinary facets of our shared humanity. This richness is part of the living heritage of individuals, groups and communities: it is more than the sum of its individual parts. By drawing on such
a wealth of experience, we can address new development challenges, live more fulfilled lives and build a more sustainable future.

At the same time, intolerant discourse – including xenophobia, racism and misogyny – is on the rise, leading to a proliferation of violent extremism. Cultural heritage – whether it be material or intangible – is the foundation of identity and belonging, which is why it is often a target for extremists. UNESCO especially encourages all people, particularly young people, to engage with their intangible cultural heritage, as well as that of others. By feeling proud of their own heritage and respecting that which may seem different or foreign, they can stand up and reject extremist ideology that pits groups against each other. Governments around the world, and in particular State Parties to the UNESCO conventions in the field of culture, have a great responsibility to ensure that culture can be enjoyed by all and passed down to the next generation.

Question 2: You could be described as ‘a citizen of the world’ – what are your priorities with a view to protecting, safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage?

One of the overall priorities of UNESCO is to nurture a culture of global citizenship for all 7 billion inhabitants of our world, a crucial task with current
demographic challenges and the rise of intolerant attitudes towards other cultures. I see the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as a vital component in this formula. By continuing to practice and transmit our heritage, we can develop sustainable ways of living together and building resilient, inclusive and peaceful societies.

Yet the passing on of practices, skills, knowledge and their meanings from one generation to another is itself under threat from the pressures of modernity. Whereas in the past, intergenerational transmission happened mainly through traditional modes embedded in the daily lives of people, these have been disrupted due to changing community structures, new technologies and labour patterns, as young people leave their family homes early to find work opportunities. In this changing context, educational responsibility and transmission of practices, knowledge and skills are no longer the prerogative of families and communities alone, but shared with public institutions.

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education is therefore an important priority area of work for UNESCO. Governments, specialized institutes, civil society and non-governmental organizations, including teachers, educators and youth organizations are among our key partners in these endeavours, and we encourage greater cooperation between them.

Въпрос 2: Вие спокойно можете да бъдете описан като „гражданин на света“. Какви са Вашите приоритети по отношение на защитата, опазването и популяризирането на културното наследство?

Един от приоритетеите на ЮНЕСКО като цяло е да подхрани култура на глобално граждансство за всичките 7 милиарда жители на планетата – първостепенна задача при сегашните демографски предизвикателства и засилващите се нагласи на нетолерантност към чуждите култури. За мен опазването на нематериалното културно наследство е жизненоважен елемент от тази формула. Продължавайки да упражняваме и предаваме наследството си, ние сме в състояние да развиваме устойчиви начини на съживяване и да изграждаме жилищна, приобщаваща и мирна общност.

Въпреки това, самото предаване от поколение на поколение на практики, умения, познания и тяхното значение е застрашено под натиска на модерността. Докато в миналото предаването между поколенията е ставало най-вече чрез традиционни модели, залегнали в бита на хората, то днес те вече са нарушени поради измененията в обществените структури, новите технологии и модели на работа, защитата на младите хора напускат рано дома си, за да търсят възможности за работа. В този изменящ се контекст, отговорността за образованието и предаването на практики, познания и умения вече са прерогативи единствено на семействата и човешки-
ESCO, our education and culture teams have joined forces to work on this issue. One of their main projects is developing guidance for schoolteachers on how to integrate living heritage in existing curricula, also involving the pupils’ parents, grandparents and communities. We are also working with technical and vocational education institutions to make sure that traditional techniques are taught alongside the latest technological innovations.

In addition, we are working with governments to build knowledge and capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and designing training materials for facilitators in national advisory services.

Question 3: What role is the role of UNESCO Category 2 Centres dedicated to ICH, such as the ICH Centre in Sofia, in implementing the strategic objectives and policies of UNESCO in safeguarding ICH?

Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO play a vital role in translating the 2003 Convention on for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage into tangible action. There are currently seven Category 2 Centres: four in Asia and the Pacific; one in Latin America; one in Algeria that focuses its activities in Africa, and, of course, your Centre in Sofia. The
Centres that work with UNESCO on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage have become very active and dynamic partners. They support training, research and are especially vital in engaging local communities.

Once a year, these Centres come together to share their experiences and find new ways of working together. A new programme priority adopted by the Category 2 Centres is the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage through strengthening education. Currently in universities, studies on intangible cultural heritage is highly dispersed throughout different disciplines such as heritage studies, anthropology or environment studies. This new initiative aims to design training programmes that are more tailor-made. It also aims to work more closely with civil society organizations.

UNESCO is immensely grateful for the support of these Centres, since they have allowed us to expand the outreach of UNESCO’s global capacity-building strategy, which is one of the priority programmes under the 2003 Convention.

**Question 4:** The ICH Centre in Sofia continues its work following the renewal of its Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Bulgaria. Would you please share your views and expectation regarding its further development in the region of South-East Europe?
Since 2011, the Regional Centre in Sofia has carried out inspirational projects across the South-Eastern Europe region. For example, it organised the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the National Ethnographic Museum of Bulgaria and an Ethnographic Film Festival.

Perhaps its most significant contribution is training professionals in culture ministries, museums, universities, and non-governmental organizations deepening their understanding of the value of intangible heritage, sharing good practices and ensuring long-term policies to preserve this heritage.

UNESCO also hugely appreciates the Centre’s contribution to international conversations on the development of the Convention, so that we can innovate our activities and reach new audiences.

Question 5: What are your wishes for the next six years of the ICH Centre in Sofia?

The recent renewal of the Agreement marks the beginning of a new phase of our partnership and I am extremely grateful to the Government of Bulgaria for its support. The Centre in Sophia has gained the reputation of a reliable professional partner. In the coming years, I hope that together we can expand our activities throughout the region.

ЖИВИ НАСЛЕДСТВА

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The Centre can build on its successes in building partnerships with universities and civil society, and reinforce its network of training facilitators. Above all, UNESCO looks forward to working hand-in-hand with the Sofia Centre in the coming years to spread the humanist vision that is at the heart of the 2003 Convention.

ЮНЕСКО оценява също така неимоверно много приноса на Центъра за международния диалог по развитието на Конвенцията, за да бъдем в състояние да обновим нашата дейност и да достигнем до една по-широко публика.

Въпрос 5: Какви са Вашите пожелания за следващите шест години на Центъра за нематериално културно наследство в София?

Неотдавнашното подновяване на Споразумението бележи началото на нов етап в нашето партньорство и аз съм изключително благодарен на Правителството на България за неговата подкрепа. Центърът В София си е изградил репутация на надежден професионален партньор. В блиските години се надявам заедно да разширяваме нашата дейност в региона.

Центърът може да надгражда досегашните си успехи в създаване на партньорски отношения с университети и с гражданското общество, като наред с това уплътнява мрежата си от фасилитатори на обучения. И, най-вече, ЮНЕСКО очаква с нетърпение да работи в блиските години ръка за ръка със Софийския център за разпространяване на хуманистичната визия, залегнала в сърцевината на Конвенцията от 2003 г.
‘Living Heritages’! What an apt title for a new periodical publication of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO, whose first issue you are holding in your hands!

The safeguarding of oral traditions, rituals, social practices, popular skills related to traditional craftsmanship – these are all elements we should cherish, preserve and transmit to make sure that the ‘living’ heritage of our forefathers would not disappear. Folk creativity, just like the tangible cultural heritage, lies at the foundation of the sustainable development of every society.

Every culture is a priceless asset; respecting that makes people more tolerant. We should welcome with respect and joy our cultural differences and seek to enrich one another, and there should be no discrimination or hostility against other cultures. This is the basis for a peaceful and harmonious co-existence of communities and nations, which implies a tolerant attitude and constant opening up towards one another. The intangible cultural heritage is equal in dignity and its right to exist, irrespective of the number of practitioners in the relevant counties or the
Варяне едни към други. Нематериалното културно наследство е равно по достойнство и права, независимо от броя на населението в съответните страни, които го практикувам, нито от квадратните километри площ. Всъщност, човечеството съществува благодарение на съвместното съществуване и на pluralism, затова е особено важно да се грижим за културното многообразие и да си съдействаме за неговото съхраняване. Това е и основната роля на Регионалния център и аз съм убедена, че сътрудничеството между страните членки от региона е гаранция той да изпълни приоритетните си цели.

Вярвам, че списание „Живи наследства“ ще се превърне в платформа за обмен на идеи и опит как да опазим нематериалното културно наследство на наша регион, как да го предадем на следващите поколения, как да го популяризираме. Доброто познаване и признаване на различията ни водят без съмнение към повече взаимно доверие и разбирателство.

Пожелавам на новото списание успешен старт, вдъхновение и удовлетворение. Нека то се превърне в необходимо четиво за специалисти, политици, управленци, за всички в нашия регион, които миеят за опазването на народните традиции и уважават творчеството на „другия“. Нека с всеки нов брой читателите на „Живи наследства“ се множат и списанието да се превърне в търсено четиво!

На добър час!

square mileage they occupy. Actually, humankind has survived through co-existence and pluralism, so therefore it is of the utmost importance that we take good care of our cultural diversity and cooperate with one another in preserving it. This is the key role of the Regional Centre and I have no doubt in my mind that the cooperation of the countries in the region is a guarantee that the Centre will live up to its priority goals.

I believe that the Living Heritages magazine will become a platform for exchange of insights and experience as to how best to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage in our region, how to bequeath it to the coming generations, and how to promote it. A good familiarity with, and recognition of, our differences will no doubt lead us to more mutual trust and understanding.

I wish the new publication a flying start, inspiration and a rewarding future. May it become a much-needed reading matter for experts, politicians, people in governance positions, for everyone in this region who holds dear the safeguarding of folk traditions and respects the creativity of the ‘other’. May each new issue of Living Heritages find an ever wider reading audience, and become a sought after publication!

Good luck and Godspeed!
Въпрос 1: Вие подписахте като министър на културата Второто споразумение между българското правителство и ЮНЕСКО за продължаване дейността на регионалния център за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство. Какви са, според Вас, целите, които стоят пред Центъра?

- Работата, която ЮНЕСКО върши по мястото за запазване на културното наследство, е огромна по обем и аз смятам, че България и регионът не просто имат какво да дадат, а могат да бъдат много активна част от този процес.

Регионалният център за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство за страните от Югоизточна Европа под егидата на ЮНЕСКО е важно звено във веригата центрове на международната организация по целия свят. Както и досега той ще съсредоточи своите усилия за популяризирането на Конвенцията на ЮНЕСКО за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство. Неговата цел е да изгражда активно работеща мрежа от експерти, които да оказват необходимата помощ

Question 1: As Minister of Culture, you signed the second Agreement between the Government of Bulgaria and UNESCO on the continued operation of the Regional Centre for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. What, in your view, are the goals the Centre should be setting itself?

The work UNESCO does locally for protecting and safeguarding the cultural heritage is enormous in scale, and I believe that Bulgaria and the region not only have a lot to contribute, but could play a very proactive role in that process.

The Regional Centre for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) under UNESCO Auspices is an important link in the network of the supported by the international organization centres. Just like until now, it will continue to focus its efforts on promoting the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). Its goal is an active network of experts that would provide the necessary assistance and support both to professionals and to the governments of their respective countries, with a view to the implementation of the already existing policies and the adoption of new ones in the safe-
guarding and promoting of ICH in the SEE countries.

Question 2: The cultural heritage, and more specifically, the intangible cultural heritage, is increasingly taking center stage in the policies of international organizations, in national policy, and in the advancement of individual economic sectors, such as tourism. How would you describe their significance for the modern human being?

The intangible cultural heritage is about a lot more than traditional customs and the forms of their presentation and expression. The knowledge and skills, the tools, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces that are related to such knowledge and skills – all of that, if recognized by the community, constitutes...
intangible heritage. That heritage, when transmitted from one generation to the next, is constantly recreated by the communities and groups depending on their surrounding environment and their history, shaping up their sense of uniqueness and continuity, and thus promoting respect for the cultural diversity and creativity of mankind. UNESCO is the only international organization that from its very inception has stated its mission: to instill in the minds of the people the conscious desire to protect peace and to disseminate ethical values and humanistic principles. Therefore, in this increasingly fast-paced and globalized routine of ours, a return to our roots and their rationalization through our personal perception will enable us to feel not just more secure glancing back in time, but more confident looking forward, into the future.

In recent years, cultural tourism is also turning an eye to the intangible cultural heritage, finding there fresh opportunities for its development. The various folklore festivals, visited by thousands of tourists every year, are becoming ever more exciting and attractive. Let me remind you that Bulgaria has its unique Festival of Folklore in Koprivshtitsa, listed in the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. The Festival will have its 12th edition in 2020.

**Question 3: What are the prospects for further development of the Regional Centre?**

The Bulgarian State, through its various governmental institutions, has provided enabling conditions...
not merely for the establishment but for the consolidation and successful development of the Regional Centre. Its existence is cemented first and foremost in the Agreement between the Bulgarian Government and UNESCO. At the same time, we all stand ready to encourage and expand the work of the Centre in all directions, which would contribute to the protection, safeguarding and promotion of our intangible cultural heritage.

**Question 4: Your recommendations to the Regional Centre?**

The Regional Centre is indeed a major achievement whose function fits nicely into the new policies defined by this cabinet during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in relation to the Western Balkans as part of the entire European family. So the Centre is assuming a great responsibility. And I have no doubt in my mind that it will continue ever so actively to assist all countries in the region of SEE in identifying new policies for the safeguarding of their ICH. I believe that we are all united round this vision and I call upon everyone concerned to work hard to that end. One of our most important tasks, in my view, is to enable today’s young people to see themselves as a unique part of a global community.
My Cause: How to Safeguard Our Heritage

Our earliest memories are often about grandma Lullabying you with a fairy tale the solemn feasts on major Christian holidays, the songs or jokes you learned back at school! The intangible cultural heritage discreetly follows us everywhere from the moment we were born. We may find it in all those rites and rituals that seem so full of magic in our childhood years, then look funny in our teens, and later, when we are overwhelmed by the mundane grayness of our daily lives, we are suddenly amazed to discover that we are reenacting them the way our parents used to. Thus, we become a tiny part of the infinity of tradition.

Nothing else – neither education nor career, not even the physical world around us – structures the DNA of our identity the way our intangible cultural heritage does. What is it that guards it, though? Who makes sure that, in the breathless pace of our lives, we do not let lose, that tiny bit of it that makes us what we are?

I remember the day I showed up for the interview for the position of Executive Director of the
It was a dark and chilly day, the falling rain quickly turning to sleet. So I said to myself, as we often do in the sunny Balkans to play down an unexpected bout of foul weather: ‘There MUST be a silver lining behind those clouds!’ The interview dragged on for almost an hour. There was no air in the room, but the panel just kept firing questions at me, as though I was applying for the job of Secretary General of the United Nations. Towards the end, my legs were all shaking… But it was worth it!

During my year and a half with the Regional Center, I came to realize that if you study the intangible cultural heritage from books alone, you...
can never understand anything about it. You need much more than that: you need to talk to the graceful old ladies from Plovdiv who create textiles using ancient technique of their grannies; you need to hold in your hand the tiny porcelain milk jug, a gift from the Lotzi family of Chicago to the Rousse Museum of History, or buy a scarf from Arts and Crafts Alley in Bansko, a place where the latest fashion trends mingle with the mystical notes of traditional Bulgarian folk art...

The UNESCO Regional Center in Sofia became my cause. The cause of guarding our heritage, of keeping alive the memory of our ancestors, of being proud of our lifestyle and traditions.

Today I have the opportunity to be part of that process of safeguarding and promoting the intangible cultural heritage not only in Bulgaria but in all of South-Eastern Europe. Of finding out what we have in common while admiring whatever makes us different. Of passing on bits of knowledge while receiving new ones. All with the single goal of remaining different and of safeguarding all that for the future generations. A nation without traditions can hardly be called a nation.
The Responsible Mission of the Sofia Regional Centre

I signed the Agreement on the Establishment of a Regional Centre for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO in my capacity as Minister of Culture, jointly with the then UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova, in Paris on October 25, 2010. The Centre was officially inaugurated on February 12, 2012. It is our underlying mission to showcase the extremely great wealth of intangible cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe as a worthy part of the European and world heritage.

The coming into effect of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2006 has opened a new page in the joint efforts of the states with respect to their concern for the cultural heritage. A priority for a global organization like UNESCO, this new international instrument has provided a fresh impetus for re-evaluating the
With its geographic location in South-Eastern Europe, Bulgaria has always served as a bridge between East and West. It has been over the centuries a venue for encounters and cross-fertilization between cultures, rituals and traditional skills. Even today this priceless folklore and ethnographic diversity remains, an inexhaustible source of creative inspiration.

The immensely rich intangible cultural heritage of South-Eastern Europe deserves special attention. Therefore, it has been our intention to demonstrate through this Centre the little known image of this region as a cradle of European and world civilization, to advocate the indivisibility and integrity of culture as the basis for overcoming divisions, to strengthen our sense of regional belonging and shared responsibility, and to promote a feeling of regional self-esteem and pride. Over the years, the Regional Centre has contributed enormously to the fulfilment of this highly responsible mission. We have received a lot of support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with whom we joint undertook all necessary steps for the realization of this undertaking.

In September 2012, mere months after the inauguration of the Regional Centre, Bulgaria hosted the
Eighth Conference of the Ministers of Culture from South-Eastern Europe, dedicated specifically to the promotion and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. I am convinced that Bulgaria and its neighboring countries will continue to work successfully under the auspices of UNESCO in order to promote the cultural heritage of the Balkans for the benefit of Europe and the world. The Bulgarian masterpieces officially inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mankind are but part of our common efforts to display to the world the talents and traditions of generations of Bulgarians. In this context, the Regional Centre has a significant role to play.
The Intangible Cultural Heritage is the Soul of Every Nation

...
I remember the meeting of the Committee for the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Sofia ten years ago, in 2008, which I had the honour of chairing, and which paved the way for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The traditions of Bulgaria are entwined into the ‘masterpieces of the World Intangible Cultural Heritage’, to use the established UNESCO term: the Bistritza Babi (Grannies), the Fire Dancing, the Chiprovtsi rugs, the Surva ritual, the Koprivshtitsa
Folk Festrival, the celebrations marking March 1st and the Martenitza, as well as the Chitalishta, those unique centers of the vibrant Bulgarian spirit and craving for knowledge and creativity. Their inscription on the UNESCO List comes in recognition of the richness of the Bulgarian spirit and identity, which Bulgaria willingly shares with the world.

Having spent eight years at the helm of UNESCO, the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization, I am deeply convinced that culture and the cultural heritage are needed more than ever today, in this globalized and interconnected world we live in. Culture provides the natural environment for consolidation of the moral values of mutual respect, solidarity, and tolerance in every society. Culture is what makes people think, dream, create and imagine the world as a better and fairer one.

Culture and cultural identity can be a bridge for cultural dialogue, cooperation, and closeness between different cultures. Culture and the cultural heritage can be an engine for sustainable economic growth, for national reconciliation where conflicts once raged, for building bridges of mutual understanding, for national consent.

I wish the Regional Centre for the Intangible Cultural Heritage another six fruitful years under the auspices of UNESCO, and to Cultural Dialogues Magazine good luck and Godspeed!
Our Cultural Heritage in Conditions of Pan-European Mobility

The cultural heritage of a country has long refused to fit into the concept of an ‘inherited popular tradition’, a cornerstone in the process of structuring a national identity for the peoples of South-Eastern Europe at the dawn of the modern age. In the dynamic process of globalization marking the early 21st century, which describes the world through the metaphor of ‘global village’, the idea of ‘tradition’ and folklore as the inherited culture of the pre-modern village is undergoing radical change and drastic transformations. According to present-day ethnology, proclaiming something a ‘tradition’ is increasingly becoming an interpretative act, a manner of selection and labelling. In Bulgarian ethnology, since way back in the early 1980s, there has
изследователска и педагогическа стратегия.

В подобна концептуална рамка би трябвало да се развиват и политиките по отношение на културното наследство на България, което ние изследваме и представяме в нашието етнографски музеи и събори на народното творчество. В съвремеността именно познанието на всеки ново поколение за културното наследство, поставянето на основите на сравнителното интерпретиране на културното минало на всяка отделна страна и на региона като цяло, би могло да се превърне в основа за общото ни бъдеще в една обединена Европа, Европа на „единство в многообразието“. В това отношение, ролята и на музеите, и на изследователите, и на университетските преподаватели, е изключително съществена.

Конкретно пред музеите в страната стои изключително важната задача да се превърнат в реално и виртуално място за общуване с дивижимото и нематериалното културно наследство в процес на диалог и взаимно „заговаряне“ със своите публики. Регионалният център за нематериално културно наследство под егидата на ЮНЕСКО има мисията да поддържа тази синергия при представянето на материалното и нематериалното културно наследство в страната и в региона, която е една от перспективните политики на ЮНЕСКО. Аз ще работя за това!

been an established understanding of ‘tradition’ as the attitude of any given generation to the past as a whole, and specifically, to the culture of that past, i.e. the appreciation of the inherited culture by the generation concerned. Present-day Bulgarian science has built that understanding into an important research and pedagogical strategy.

It is in a similar conceptual framework that we should develop the policies with respect to the cultural heritage of Bulgaria, which we study, explore and showcase in our ethnographic museums and at folk art festivals. In our present day reality, it is the familiarity of each new generation with its cultural heritage, the laying of the groundwork for comparative interpretation of the cultural past of each separate country and the region as a whole that could become the basis for our common future in a united Europe, a Europe of ‘unity in diversity’. In this respect, the role of museums, of researchers and of university lecturers is extremely significant.

Specifically, museums in this country are faced with the extremely important task of becoming both a virtual and a physical venue for interaction with the movable and the intangible cultural heritage in a process of dialogue and mutual ‘chatting up’ with the respective audiences. The UNESCO Regional Center for the Intangible Cultural Heritage has the mission of keeping alive that synergy in presenting the tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Bulgaria and the region, which is one of the promising UNIESCO policies. And I shall work to see that happen!
A Bridge for Cultural Cooperation among Nations

Bulgaria has always played a key role in international research in studies on the subject of cultural heritage. Not only on account of its cultural diversity, an account of its positions and participation in
the preparation and adoption of a number of international documents or initiatives about the collection, safeguarding and promotion of elements of the intangible cultural heritage. It was not an accidental occurrence that back in 2008, the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO was established in Bulgaria. Through all its accomplishments so far, Bulgaria has been demonstrating its firmly established position as a mainstay for the protection and promotion of cultural values.

The work of the Sofia Centre is important not just for the Balkan nations but for a number of Black Sea countries as well, because of the similarity of ideas and issues encountered. All of us who appreciate the cultural heritage as a powerful tool for raising the quality of education, science, culture and the economy, are unanimous in our belief that the struggle for saving cultural values from extinction is a bridge for active cultural cooperation among the nations. Another evidence is the role the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sofia, which in recent years has been contributing through its activities to the promotion of cultural dialogue at national as well as regional and international level.

An important aspect with regard to the significance of the cultural heritage is the broadening of the boundaries of political and economic integration, driven by the ongoing changes in traditional geopolit-
Нарастването на интереса към нашата страна като туристическа дестинация води до промени в съдържанието, тълкуването и популяризирането на специфични обекти от нематериалното културно наследство. То ва, което ме тревожи най-много е комерсиализацията на голяма част от съхранените до днес обреди и ритуали, които носят културните белези на отминали епохи, но днес служат като „средство“ за забавление на средностатистически турист. Комерсиализацията на нематериалното културно наследство, особено с цената на загубена автентичност в търсене на атракция, губи своето значение във възпитанието и образованието.

Присъединяването на България към голямото семейство на ЮНЕСКО на 17 май 1956 г. е прекрасна възможност страната ни да участва активно в осъществяването на междукултурен диалог. Дълбоко вярвам, че именно по този начин може да се допринесе за опазването и популяризирането на културното наследство.

The growing interest in Bulgaria as a tourist destination leads to changes in the content, interpretation and promotion of specific elements of the intangible cultural heritage. What worries me the most is the commercialization of part of the rites and rituals that have survived to this day, or things that bear the cultural imprint of ages and serve today as entertainment to the statistically average tourist. The commercialization of the intangible cultural heritage, especially at the cost of its lost authenticity in the process of making it more ‘attractive’, actually renders that heritage quite meaningless for purposes of education and patriotic upbringing.

Bulgaria’s joining on May 17, 1956 the large UNESCO family has been a wonderful opportunity for this country to play an active part in the pursuit of intercultural dialogue. I am deeply convinced that this is the way to contribute to the safeguarding and promotion of the cultural heritage.
Ms Pustina is an expert at the Sector of Programs for the Development of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Creative Industries, Ministry of Culture, Albania. She holds a Master’s Degree and is working on her Ph.D in Linguistics. Her twenty-five year experience includes projects, studies and publications on cultural heritage, sociolinguistics, digital archives, cultural diversity, etc. Intangible cultural heritage is in the focus of her publication: “Transmitting Albanian Cultural Identity in the Age of the Internet, New Review of Information Networking, 21:1, 24-36, October 2016. 

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13614576.2016.1234828
The protection of the National Intangible Heritage of Albania is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and domestic legislation. Albania joined UNESCO on October 16, 1958 and this year we are celebrating our 60 years to-

АЛБАНИЯ / ALBANIA


Албанската фолклорна исополифония е про-

възгласена за Шедьо вър на устното и нема-

tериалното наследство на човечеството на 25 ноември 2005 г., а през 2008 г. е включе-

на в Представителния списък на ЮНЕСКО на не-

материалното културно наследство на чове-

чеството. Исополифонията е форма на пеене,
Albania has ratified the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 2003 UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The ancient city of Butrint (1992) and the Historic Centers of Gjirokastra (2005) and Berat (2008) were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, while the Codex Purpureus Beratinus was inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2005. Albanian folk iso-polyphony was proclaimed a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity on November 25, 2005 and is inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008. Iso-polyphony is a form of the oral art of singing, one of the most ancient a cappella singing traditions. “Iso” refers to the drone, accompanying the singing. It is practised in the South of Albania and is typical for two large areas: Toskària and Labària. This musical genre is part of everyday life’s events, such as weddings, popular feasts and celebrations. The Ministry of Culture supports all related activities: the National Folk Festival in Gjirokastra, which is organized every 5 years; the National Folk Typological Festival of Iso-polyphony, which takes place every 2 years in the city of Vlora; the Festival of Saze in Korca; the “BylisFonia” Festival, etc. Some elements of the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage are: Albanian Songs of the Frontier Warriors (epic songs of Northern Albanian highlands, accompanied by lahuta), Albanian Dialects, and Xhubleta.
A traditional women folk costume, which represents the oldest typology of garment in Albania and in the Balkans. Albania has been a member of the ICH Centre Sofia since 2012. In cooperation with this Centre, the training workshop “Building capacities for the Convention of 2003 of UNESCO” was held in September, 2015 in Tirana.

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives
ICH Centre Sofia has a significant role in the alignment of national policies and practices of intangible cultural heritage in our region. It may organize various meetings and publications, providing best examples and sharing of experience in the safeguarding of our intangible cultural heritage and its transmission to the new generations and their education.

Capacity building activities to ensure the identification and registration of different typologies of intangible cultural heritage and creating a portal or electronic platform for showcasing the rich intangible cultural heritage of the region are more than welcome.
Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

Ministry of Culture of Albania
Address: Rruga Aleksandër Moisiu, nr. 76, Tirana
E-mail: info@kultura.gov.al
WEB: http://kultura.gov.al/

Useful links

The Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Art Studies, http://asa.edu.al/site/
Database of Albanian Folk Iso - Poliphony, http://isopoli1.w03.wh-2.com/Default.aspx
Albanian dialects, http://dialects.albanianlanguage.net/
Naira Kilichyan holds a Ph.D degree in Art Critics and works at the Department of Cultural Heritage and the Folk Crafts Department of the Ministry of Culture as a senior expert on intangible cultural heritage as well as a research fellow at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. She is the author of “Armenian Traditional Dance on Stage” and of about fifty articles on the intangible cultural heritage.
Armenia ratified the 2003 Convention and became member of the Centre in 2013. The inventory process was launched in 2008, and followed by the adoption of the Law on intangible cultural heritage in 2009. All this resulted in three state inventories, approved by the Government of Armenia. Those inventories were formed as a consequence of the urgent safeguarding necessity and the needs for the inventoring of cultural spaces. The established in 2009 professional council, which is adjoined to the Minister of Culture, discusses the policy issues in this field. The intangible heritage is presented in many ways. In the recent years lots of folk festivals have been or-

Armenian spring carnival Barekendan with a game called "False wedding"
Hasmik Baghramyan, Aragatsotn marz (region), Byurakan community, Armenia, 2016
During Armenian spring carnival Barekendan people play a special game called "False wedding". They wear masks and costumes, and participate in a game as a way of expressing their opinion. The holiday is a joyous masquerade.
organized in different regions of Armenia. Several NGOs are responsible for a number of annual events and festivals. Favorable conditions have been created for spreading knowledge and skills of intangible cultural heritage to the younger generation through continuous programs, ensuring viability of traditional regional culture. National minorities, having a constitutional right to preserve and develop their culture and religious freedom, have been also involved in the process of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Interesting elements are “Duduk and its music”, “Armenian cross- stones art”, “Symbolism and craftsmanship of Khachkars”, “Performance of the Armenian epic of Daredevils of Sassoun” or “David of Sassoun”, “Lavash” - the preparation of traditional bread, as well as “Kochari, traditional group dance”. The periodic report is also a valuable resource, showing the Armenian contribution to the implementation of the Convention.
религиозните си свободи, също участват в процеса на опазване на нематериално културно наследство. Вписването на елементите „Дудукът и неговата музика”; „Изкуството на арменските кръстови камъни – символизъм и занаятчийски умения на Хачкарите”; „Изпълнение на арменския епос за Смелчациите от Сасун” или „Да Вид от Сасун”; „Лаваш – приготвяне, значение и външен вид на традиционния хляб като израз на арменската култура”; „Традиционният групов танц Кочари”, както и представяните периодични доклади, са пока-

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

The ICH Centre Sofia provides possibility for the Member States to introduce their cultural policy and share experience in the safeguarding issues of intangible cultural heritage within the application of the articles of the Convention.

We propose to carry out various projects (thematic meetings, festivals, seminars, etc.) not only in Sofia, but also in other member states.

Изкуството на изработване на арменския Хачкар (кръстов камък)
Рубен Налбандян, с. Аршалуйс, Армавирска област, Армения, 2016
Като явление, присъщо изключително само на арменската култура, кръстовият камък и занаятчийското умение за неговото изработване олицетворяват културата, народопсихологията, творческото въображение и вярванията на арменския народ. Кръстовите камъни са изсечени от варовиков туф – един от най-разпространените, красиви и пъстри камъни в арменските планини.

Art of making Armenian khachkar (cross-stone)
Ruben Nalbandyan, Armavir marz (region), Arshaluys community, Armenia, 2016
Being exclusively an Armenian culture phenomenon, the cross-stone craftsmanship represents national mentality, imagination and beliefs. The cross-stones are carved from tuff - one of the most widespread, beautiful and colorful stones in the Armenian highlands.
живи наследства

зателни за важността, която Армения при-
дава на прилагането на Конвенцията, както
и важни постижения в изпълнението на кул-
турната политика на страната.

ролята на регионалния център за опаз-
ване на нематериалното културно наслед-
ство в югоизточна европа под егидата на
унеско, София – възможности и перспек-
тиви

софийският център за опазване на нема-
териалното културно наследство създава
възможност за държавите членки да предста-
вят една на друга своята културна политика
и да споделят опит относно проблемите на
опазването на нематериалното културно на-
следство и прилагането на разпоредбите на
конвенцията.

предлагаме различни проекти (тематич-
ни срещи, фестивали, семинари и други подоб-
ни) да се реализират не само в София, но и в
другите държави членки.

пожелаваме на центъра да продължи своята дейност като
институция, която координира дейностите за защита
на нематериалното културно наследство в региона и спо-
собства за междукултурен диалог и сътрудничество. осъ-
ществяването на нови и разнообразни проекти, както и
увеличаването на отпусканите финансови средства, може
da допринесе за повишаване на ефективността на функ-
циониране на центъра и неговите дейности.

д-р найра киличян
Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

Ministry of Culture
Address: Government House #2, 3/8 Vazgen Sargsyan str., Yerevan 0010, Republic of Armenia
E-mail: info@mincult.am
WEB: www.mincult.am

Useful links

Government of the Republic of Armenia

Government of the Republic of Armenia

UNESCO
Ms Bozana Djuzelovic is an ethnologist and an anthropologist. She has been working as a curator at Museum Herzegovina Trebinje since 2000, doing research on intangible cultural heritage in the traditional culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republic of Srpska). Bozana Djuzelovic graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade and her diploma paper was on “Traditional costumes of Serbian women in Velika Hoca today - Kosovo and Metohija”. Apart from being a curator in the Museum Herzegovina Trebinje, she manages the Ethnology department, which protects and presents the intangible cultural heritage of east Herzegovina. Also, she is a member of the Culture Department of the Encyclopedia of the Republic of Srpska.
Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented the UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2009. So far, there are two elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. They are Zmijanje embroidery and woodcarving from Konjic. The next nomination is „The picking of Iva grass on Ozren mountain“. Bosnia and Her-

Босна и Херцеговина прилага от 2009 г. Конвенцията на ЮНЕСКО за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство. Към момента страната има два елемента, вписани в Представителния списък на нематериалното културно наследство на човечеството: бродерияте от Змияне и дърворезбите от Конич, като следващата номинация е за „Съ-
Bosnia and Herzegovina has two entities, Republic of Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the 2003 Convention in February 2009. The entity experts, in collaboration with the non-governmental sector, local communities, experts from museums and academia, made two preliminary lists of intangible cultural heritage: one for Republic of Srpska and one for Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Consolidated entity preliminary lists of intangible cultural heritage make the Preliminary List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is welcoming new elements. Blue thread on a white linen in refined combinations and a playful and precise geometric design are the main characteristics of Zmijanje embroidery on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Culture. Today, the most beautiful pieces of this art are spread throughout the world from religious centers like Hilandar, Vatican and Jerusalem. Zmijanje embroidery is the first element from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. There is an old belief that picking of Iva grass on Ozren mountain in the northern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina brings recuperation after long illness and severe physical and mental exhaustion. Nevesinje Olympics is basically a horse race that has been held on the meadow Bratačkom since the 18th century. Nowadays, it is a very important event in the month of August. Games include
Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

ICH Centre Sofia plays an important role in the protection and the presentation of the intangible heritage of South-Eastern Europe. The Member States of the Centre exchange their experience at annual assemblies, which are held twice a year. The
Centre maintains workshops, complementing the general knowledge of the protection and implementation of the Convention on Intangible Heritage. When it comes to the representatives of the member countries and their participation at
The mutual exchange between ICH Centre Sofia experts and members of the General Assembly contributes significantly to the cultural policy of this part of Europe. Workshops on intangible heritage and relevant publications make the diverse Balkan culture more popular. Therefore, the existence of such a Centre is more than necessary. Globalization and social changes may lead to intolerance among communities, followed by deterioration or ultimate disappearance of the intangible heritage. Because of these processes, various protection projects will be financed from funds that are intended for this purpose. Coordination and prevention of protection should be the basis for the further work

The possibility of the exhibition Zmijanski vez that has been exhibited so far in the Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, in Moscow and in Brussels to be also presented in Sofia. That the Bulgarian public sees a part of the intangible heritage of BiH actually the first element that is included in the UNESCO list of the non-material heritage of mankind.

Да се намери възможност изложбата „Змиански бродерии“, която вече е показвана в Република Сръбска, в Москва и Брюксел, да бъде представена и в София, за да може българската публика да види част от нематериалното наследство на Република Босна и Херцеговина – всъщност, първия елемент, вписан в Представителния списък на ЮНЕСКО на нематериалното културно наследство на човечеството.
of the Centre and the members of the General Assembly. Existing international agreements, recommendations and resolutions on cultural and natural heritage should be effectively enriched and supplemented. This will create a stronger awareness of the importance and preservation of the intangible heritage, in particular among the younger generations.

**Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:**

*Museum Herzegovina Trebinje, institution of the Government Republic of Srpska*

*Address: Stari grad br. 59*

*E-mail: muzejhtr@gmail.com*

**Useful links**

- [www.vladars.net](http://www.vladars.net) – Government Republic of Srpska
- [www.mcp.gov.ba](http://www.mcp.gov.ba) - The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms Marina Taktakishvili is an expert on Issues of intangible cultural heritage at the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia since 2011. She has a Ph.D in Humanitarian, Education and Historical Sciences. Her position at the Agency includes project participation, participation in formatting the ICH Preservation Draft Law, ICH Management Main Principles, Project ICH Protector, Annual School Contest, Illustrating Fairy Tales, Living Culture of Three Writing Systems of the Georgian Alphabet – UNESCO Representative List of the ICH of Humanity, Georgian Wrestling as well as participation in the preparation of the National list of ICH elements.
Грузия ратифицировала Конвенцию о Нематериальном наследстве в 2007 г., а с 2015 г. является участником Регионального центра по охране нематериального наследия в Юго-Восточной Европе в рамках ЮНЕСКО. В последние годы Грузия представила ряд успешных номинаций для включения в Репертуарный список нематериального культурного наследия. Придавая приоритет важности усилий по реализации Конвенции на международном уровне, Грузия заявляет полную готовность делиться приобретенным опытом и знаниями, за

Georgia joined the Convention of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2007 and is a member of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO since 2015. In recent years, Georgia has presented a number of successful nominations to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Attaching a significant priority to the implementation of the Convention on in-
International level, Georgia is fully committed to sharing all knowledge and experience, bringing value to the work of this important Committee, contributing to the preparation of new nominations and providing guidance on the best practices. Moreover, Georgia supports the active involvement in achieving the objectives of the Convention and lends its help in the implementation of the Committee’s decisions. The ratification of the Convention by the Georgian Parliament in 2007 introduced several basic changes at legislative level, including the Georgian National Law on Cultural Heritage and the new draft National Law on the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage of Georgia of

Illustrating Georgian fairy tales
Giorgi Mikeladze, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, Dusheti, Georgia, 2017
ICH project for the upper mountainous village school. Children are illustrating Georgian fairy tales
2013 that envisages the future of the institutional capacity in the country. The safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage is one of the significant directions of the “Cultural Strategy of Georgia 2025”, approved by the Government of Georgia in 2016. It verifies the sustainability of its commitment to the development of this sector. A solid number of intangible heritage experts from different scientific and educational organizations, as well as the NG sector, is actively involved in the identification, safeguarding and advertising of in Georgia. Georgian experts are frequently invited to the different international trainings and forums. Georgia joined the South-Eastern European Centre (Sofia, Bulgaria) in 2015 and has been actively involved in the events within the above-mentioned framework.
Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

ICH Centre Sofia plays a tremendous role in the protection of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. The activities are coordinated with ICH and they popularize and protect the intangible heritage, support members’ participation and implement the state policy with the help of UNESCO guidelines and international experiences. With the help of Sofia Centre, Georgia has planned to organize a round table for the member states and UNESCO experts in November 2018. There will be discussions and experience sharing on the preservation of intangible heritage in Georgia, the state policy, regulations, management possibilities and other important issues. We hope the event will formulate the main trends of intangible heritage protection mechanisms not only in Georgia, but also in the participant countries and that it be a wonderful...
possibility to share our experience in this field. The participation of UNESCO experts will greatly enrich the event.

We should further develop our future joint projects regarding protection mechanisms, trainings, educational activities, etc. It will be useful to organize the Centre’s sessions in various member-states, so that we can share local experiences, especially in intangible cultural heritage preservation.

Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia
Address: #5 Tabukashvili Street, Tbilisi, 0105;
E-mail: info@heritagesites.ge
WEB: www.heritagesites.ge

Useful links

Both links below are moderated by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. On these sites one can find all the Cultural Heritage news and the National Data of ICH update.

https://www.heritagesites.ge/uploads/files/5b2b7986e64d6.pdf
https://www.heritagesites.ge/ka/files/95
Stavroula-Villy Fotopoulou was born and grew up in Kalamata, Greece. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Archaeology from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUoA), a Master’s Degree in Contemporary History from NKUoA on collective memory and management of cultural heritage and a Master’s Degree in Folklore from NKUoA on Life-stories and Gender. Her speaking and writing skills in English are excellent and her communicating ability in French and Spanish is moderate. After graduating from the National School of Public Administration, she has been working for the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and has been the Director of Modern Cultural Heritage since 2014.
The competent body for the implementation of the ICH Convention is the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports). It collaborates closely with communities of bearers of elements with the purpose of documenting, safeguarding and highlighting the overwhelming wealth of living Greek traditions. The Directorate is responsible for planning and implementing of all activities that are related to the safeguarding of the ICH elements and that are inscribed on the National Inventory of ICH. It func-

Средиземноморска диета. Бране на маслини.
Янис Н. Дринис, с. Корони, Месиния, Гърция, 2013
Средиземноморските културни пейзажи са пряко свързани с традиционните системи за изхранване на местните общности. Както и останалите традиционни хранили системи, тази и тези, които се намират в Гърция, включват понятия и практики, свързани със събирането, приготвянето, разпределението, съхранението и консумацията на храни и осигуряване на изхранване.

Yannis N. Drinis, Messinia, Koroni, 2013
The Mediterranean cultural landscapes are directly related to the local food systems of the Mediterranean societies. As it happens with every traditional local food system, those encountered in Greece incorporate concepts and practices that pertain to the collection, preparation, distribution, consumption of safe preservation of food.
tions through the collective efforts of the bearers of ICH who share cultural experience, talk about their collective identity and formulate proposals for documentation and safeguarding of their ICH. 22 elements of ICH have already been inscribed on the National Inventory (http://ayla.culture.gr/en/category/elements-inscribed-in-the-national-inventory-of-ich/). Greece has so far inscribed 5 elements on the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity.

The subtle power of ICH is in its contribution to the prevention of conflicts, environmental disasters and in the integration of refugee populations (http://ayla.culture.gr/en/the-text/apk_se_katastaseis_ektaktis_anagkis/). Greece recognizes
the importance of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies when its viability may be threatened, but on the other hand its mobilization as a powerful leverage for resilience and recovery can be of significant benefit to affected populations. Acknowledging the dynamics of Intangible Cultural Heritage in coping with traumatic circumstances during armed conflicts and expatriation (either due to war or climate change), we can contribute to the reinforcement of cultural diversity and peaceful reconstitution of communities. Moreover, community-based and local knowledge may offer valuable insights into environmental problems as a result of climate changes, and complement broader-scale scientific research with local precision and nuance. The practice of identifying and understanding orally transmitted traditional cultural values may serve as a special guide for the future.

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

The Centre is pivotal in forming a network of experts, interested NGOs and communities of bearers of ICH in the SEE Region. So far, the drafting and the submission of the Dry Stone multinational nomination file was made possible due to our participation in the proceedings of the Centre. Other strengthening and promoting co-operation activities can also be undertaken by the Centre.
The Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage has been collaborating with the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival since 2015. The purpose of their activity is to popularize ICH among young film makers and researchers as well as among all interested in ethnographic documentary films, and to introduce the importance of ethnographic documentary regarding ICH and citizens’ awareness. A proposal we strongly support is the initiation of a South-Eastern Europe Ethnographic Film Festivals Network.

Rebetiko
Lia Koniaris, Greece, Athens, 2016
Rebetiko flourished during the first half of the 20th century and is a popular urban cultural expression that has been influenced by Greek folk and Asia Minor songs. Nowadays, through daily entertainment venues and concerts, it has been acknowledged as a popular cultural heritage that belongs to all people, Greeks and non-Greeks. The popular music is entwined with dance.

Дирекция „Съвременно културно наследство“ сътрудничи с Атинския фестивал на етнографския филм от 2015 г. с цел обогатяване на дебата и трактовката на нематериално културно наследство от страна на млади кинодейци, изследователи и хора, интересуващи се от документални филми с етнографска тематика, както и за представяне на такива филми пред широка публика с цел повишаване на обществената осведоменост по въпросите на нематериалното културно наследство. Едно предложение, което енергично подкрепяме, е стартирането на Мрежа от етнографски кинофестивали в Югоизточна Европа.

Ребетико
Лиа Конярис, Атина, Гърция, 2016
Ребетико – обичай, процъфтявал през първата половина на ХХ век, е популярно проявление на градската музикална култура под въздействието на гръцки фолклор и песни от Мала Азия. Понастоящем ребетико е признато за популярно културно наследство, достояние на всички – гръци и „негърци“, заради всекидневни изпълнения в увеселителни заведения, на концертни подиуми и в рамките на сценни представления. Популярната музика на ребетико е неразривно свързана с танците.
Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports
Address: Tritis Septemvriou 42, 10433 ATHENS
E-mail: dnpk@culture.gr
Website: http://ayla.culture.gr

Useful links

The most important of our objectives is the awareness raising of young people regarding safeguarding ICH as a factor of collective identity and memory. Our website hosts relevant educational material http://ayla.culture.gr/en/educational-material/. Promoting the culinary cultural heritage is one of our top priorities https://tinyurl.com/y9yq4lkq. Apart from inventorying and inscribing culinary elements on the Representative List, we have initiated a relevant series of publications, and an e-booklet, featuring the Greek Pie, has already been released http://ayla.culture.gr/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/DNPAAPK_Pites.pdf. The series is to be continued with a second edition, which will be dedicated to vine cultivation and wine-making traditions.

Collaboration in our SEE neighborhood,
Promotion of our common ICH,
Intercultural Dialogue:
These are the goals I hope we will achieve together in Sofia Regional Center for ICH.

My best wishes to all the participating states and experts.

Villy Fotopoulou, Greece

Сътрудничество в нашата добросъседска Югоизточна Европа, популяризиране на нашето общо нематериално наследство, международен диалог. Това са целите, които се надявам да постигнем заедно в Регионалния център за нематериално наследство – София.

Най-добри пожелания за всички страни-участници и експерти, Виля Фотопулу, Гърция
Mr Pavlos Paraskevas was born in 1956 in the village of Kontea, Cyprus. He graduated with a BA from the Department of Archaeology and Art, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and holds a MBA degree in Management and Public Administration from the Mediterranean Institute of Management in Cyprus. As the Head of the Cultural Services and as the Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO since 2009, Mr Paraskevas’ duty is to envision, propose and execute the state’s cultural policy as regards to contemporary and traditional culture and to support the realization of activities and programmes promoting UNESCO ideals and goals.
Cyprus became a Member State of UNESCO on the 6th of February, 1961. The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO was founded on the 15th of February 1962. On February 24, 2006, Cyprus became the 35th member-state of UNESCO to ratify the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). Since the ratification of the Convention, the Commission (in collaboration with several governmental and non-governmental stakeholders) has contributed significantly towards the proposal and implementation of policies and measures ensuring the viability of the ICH. This includes the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, and revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage, both within its territo-
Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

Regional co-operation plays an important role...
in the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of ICH. Considering that there exist several common elements of intangible cultural heritage among the countries of South-Eastern Europe, the exchange of good practices and information contributes to the safeguarding of these elements. With the support of the Centre, Cyprus organized a meeting for experts on intangible cultural heritage in 2016. The theme was “Art of dry

’yocher cernter za ophzva-

ne na nematerialnato kulturno nasledstvo

v Yogoiztocha Evropa pod egidata na YUNESKO,

Soфия – възможности и перспективи

=yi=номинациите за вписва-


Ролята на Регионалния център за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство в Югоизточна Европа под егидата на ЮНЕСКО, София – възможности и перспективи

„Традиционно грънчарство от Фини“, Антигони Полиники, Кипърският музея на народното изкуство, Никозия, Кипър, 2018

В рамките на Международния ден на музеите 2018, Комисията, заедно с Дружеството за етнографски изследвания към Музея на народното изкуство на Кипър, организира поредица от творчески работилници с активно участие за деца, юноши и възрастни, с фокус върху нововписваните елементи в Националния регистър на нематериално наследство.

‘Traditional pottery-making of Phini’ workshop at Cyprus Folk Art Museum

Nicos Louca, Antigoni Polyniki, Cyprus Folk Art Museum, Cyprus, Nicosia, 2018

In the frame of the International Museum Day 2018, the Commission, the Cyprus Folk Art Museum and the Society of Cypriot Studies co-hosted a series of hands-on creative workshops for children, adolescents and adults who got familiar with the newly inscribed elements on the National Inventory of ICH.
In 2016 among the main aims of the meeting was the submission of a multinational nomination file for the inscription of the element on the Representative List. In 2017, the multinational file “Art of dry-stone walling, knowledge and techniques” was submitted by Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland. The file is being treated for the 2018 cycle that is to be examined by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of
търа, среща на експерти по нематериалното наследство на тема „Изкуството на сухия камък – познания и техники“. Сред основните цели на срещата бе изготвянето на многонационална номинация за вписване на елемента в Представителния списък на ЮНЕСКО. През 2017 г., Гърция, Испания, Италия, Кипър, Словения, Франция, Хърватия и Швейцария представиха многонационална номинация за вписване на елемента „Изкуството на сухия камък в строежа на стени – познания и техники“. Номинацията се подготвя за участие в цикъл за 2018 г. и ще бъде разглеждана от Междुправителствения комитет за опазване на нематериалното наследство на неговата тринаесета сесия (26 ноември – 1 декември 2018 г.).

Дългосрочното планиране за създаване на благоприятни условия за предаване между поколенията и популяризиране на нематериалното културно наследство – особено сред младото поколение – е основна задача на Националната комисия на Кипър за ЮНЕСКО. През следващите пет години Комисията
ICH at its thirteenth session (November 26th – December 1st, 2018).

Long-term planning for the creation of favourable conditions for the promotion of the intangible cultural heritage – particularly among the younger generations – is a key objective of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO. In the next five years, the Commission plans to organize and in collaboration with the strategic local and regional parties series of training workshops and activities to strengthen national, sub-regional and regional capacity, and successfully implement the 2003 Convention (e.g. production of short films for the nomination of elements of intangible cultural heritage, creation, maintenance, preservation and use of intangible cultural heritage archives, inventories and audio-visual records, preserving and revitalizing elements of intangible cultural heritage through festivals and commemorations).

Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO
Address: 27, Ifigenias street, 2007 Strovolos, Cyprus
E-mail: unesco@culture.moec.gov.cy
WEB: www.unesco.org.cy
Useful links

Cyprus National Inventory for Intangible Cultural Heritage
As a signatory of the 2003 Convention, Cyprus undertook the responsibility to establish a National Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage on its territory. The Cyprus National Inventory of intangible cultural heritage is updated every year with the addition of new elements and updating of the existing entries. The nomination of the files that are submitted by different communities are processed by an expert Committee in close collaboration with the related resources – individuals, research institutes and all other stakeholders.

http://www.unesco.org.cy/Programmes-Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_of_Cyprus, EN- PROGRAMMES- 04- 02- 03,EN

Byzantine chant short film
In May 2018, following the submission in collaboration with Greece, of the nominated file “Byzantine chant” to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2019 cycle nominations), along with the Commission, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia and UNIC-Mediazone co-produced a short film on Byzantine chant in Cyprus. The film, created with the participation of students from the University of Nicosia, is available on the Commission’s YouTube channel. https://youtu.be/HsmWsDdUlNU

Cyprus UNESCO Associated Schools Network
The Commission works closely with the competent departments of the Ministry of Education and Culture for the successful implementation of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project.
Meri Stojanova holds a PhD degree in ethnology and is the Director of NI “Institute and Museum”, Bitola. During her professional career she worked on various projects directly or indirectly connected to her expertise of protection and promotion of intangible and tangible cultural heritage. She cooperated and worked as an external expert at the Institute for Old Slavic Culture, Prilep on several projects concerning valorization of various elements (rituals, crafts, etc.) of the intangible cultural heritage in the Republic of Macedonia. She participated in numerous international conferences and workshops, delivered lectures and published numerous articles in domestic and foreign journals.
The intense process of safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Republic of Macedonia started with the adoption of UNESCO’s Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003 and its ratification by the Macedonian government in 2006.

Since 2006, the mediator between the professionals and the government has been the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, a governmental institution established in 2005. The Ratification of the Convention brought some terminological changes. The previously used term “spiritual culture” got gradually replaced with the term “intangible culture”.

Several institutions were appointed to do re-
search and undertake specific activities concerning safeguarding of intangible heritage as understood and adopted by UNESCO.

NI “Museum of Macedonia”, IF “Marko Cepenkov” – Skopje and IMJ “Krstе Misirkov” were the first appointed institutions and their proposed elements
were the first to be enlisted in the national registry. IMJ “Krste Misirkov” did a remarkable job by enlisting 20 Macedonian dialects, 10 dialects of ethnic minorities and 1 in the category of toponyms.

The Institute for Old Slavic culture-Prilep was appointed in 2010 to work in the field of safeguarding of intangible heritage in the southwestern part of the country. It has already inscribed 16 valuable elements, the recent one in 2017. Some were researched and prepared in joint cooperation with ex-
Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

The role of the ICH Centre Sofia is quite important considering that it connects 15 different countries sharing interests and efforts in order to safeguard intangible cultural heritage both in their countries and the region as a whole. The possibilities are vast. Special attention should be paid to the field of capacity building activities, to collaborations in the creation and work of the national registries of ICH, and especially to the methodology and mechanisms for transmission and popularization of the ICH. My first impression is that ICH Sofia should become more active in the field of international collaboration.

There should be collaboration in the capacity building activities, ICH registries, exhibitions, promotional activities, publications, etc.

Useful links

Scientific Institute for Old Slavic Culture in Prilep http://www.isk.edu.mk
Institute of Folklore „Marko Cepenkov“ – Skopje http://ifmc.ukim.mk
Exhibition Svonchari „ВОНЧАРИ“, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12Zfr0WaYvA
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbnFHgw5QuSgf1Pm-Lfq16-Q

Полезни Връзки

Институ̀т за старославянска култура – Прилеп http://www.isk.edu.mk
Институ̀т за фолклор „Марко Цепенков“ – Скопие http://ifmc.ukim.mk
Изложба „Сvonчари“ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12Zfr0WaYvA
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbnFHgw5QuSgf1Pm-Lfq16-Q
Пожелание за създаването на дългосрочни професионални и приятелски връзки, които ще доведат до успешно реализирани дейности и опазени елементи на нематериалното културно наследство като символ на нашите общии усилия да запазим и предадем това, което сме наследили от нашите предци, на нашите деца и следващите поколения.
Mr. Andrei Prohin is a graduate of the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Moldova State University, a postgraduate student at the Ecole Doctorale Francophone en Sciences Sociales, Bucharest University, Romania. He holds a PhD in History of the Romanians. As a research fellow (Ethnography Department) and deputy director at the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History (Chisinau), he has participated in the preparation of the National Inventory of the ICH of the Republic of Moldova and of UNESCO nomination files. Mr. Prohin works with the National Commission for the Safeguarding of the ICH of the Republic of Moldova and has published numerous scientific papers in the fields of history, ethnography and literature.
The Republic of Moldova is a UNESCO member since 1992 and a member of the Sofia ICH Centre since 2016. The ICH has an important place in the life of all communities in Moldova. Its elements ensure the preservation of the cultural identity and the unity of communities. They are also resources for creation, education and economic growth.

Коледа
Варвара Бузила, с. Попяска, окръг Кахул, Република Молдова, 2011.
Група пълнолетни изпълнители на коледни песни се връща от посещение в частен дом с питка „колач”.

Christmas
Varvara Buzila, village of Popeasca, district of Cahul, Republic of Moldova, 2011.
A band of carollers with “colaci”
The National Commission for the Safeguarding of the ICH within the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, coordinates the state policy in this domain, while the National Centre for the Conservation and Promotion of the ICH assures its implementation.

Традиционно килимарство


Жени тъкат традиционен килим в Занаятчийския комплекс „Арта Рустика”.

Traditional carpet

Varvara Buzila, village of Clisova Noua, district of Orhei, Republic of Moldova, 2014

Weaving a traditional carpet at the Complex of Crafts „Arta Rustica”
Other important parties in the process of safeguarding are the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, the Institute of Cultural Heritage, the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts, district culture departments, local museums. The National Inventory of the ICH of the Republic of Moldova (Vol. A) is proud to have 510 elements. The country has 3 elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List: Men’s group Colindat, Christmas-time ritual (jointly with Romania, 2013), Traditional wall-carpet craftsmanship in Romania and the Republic of Moldova (2016), Cultural practices associated with the 1st of March (jointly with Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania, 2017). Following the inscription, the interest towards them has noticeably grown. In 2015, the government approved “The State Program concerning the Safeguarding of the custom “Carolling in male group” (2016-2020). As a result, the participation of carol singers has increased and more people have shown interest in the skills of wall-carpet craftsmanship. The experts are constantly taking care of the assessment of the present state of the intangible heritage. Several scientific editions have been dedicated to the above-mentioned elements, as well as to other viable ICH elements. ICH is also promoted through festivals, workshops, conferences and museum exhibitions.

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

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Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives
The ICH Centre Sofia is a useful tool for advancing international agreements in the field of ICH, sharing regional policies and practices, connecting experts from different countries and creating new possibilities for individuals and communities.

The institutions and experts from Moldova and Regional Centre may organize trainings and workshops, conferences, exhibitions, field research and cultural events, as well as publishing of scientific works.
Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

National Centre for the Conservation and Promotion of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Address: Republic of Moldova, Chisinau MD 2012, 50 Mihai Eminescu street.
E-mail: cncppci@gmail.com
WEB: http://www.creatie-populara.md/

Useful links

The official page of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova: www.mecc.gov.md Comprises legal documents concerning the ICH, announces and reports about the actions undertaken for its promotion.
The page of the National Commission for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Moldova: www.patrimoniuimaterial.md Hosts the digital version of The National Inventory of the ICH of the Republic of Moldova, detailed descriptions of ICH elements, scientific publications. The site is managed by the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History.
The official page of the National Centre for the Conservation and Promotion of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: www.creatie-populara.md Includes announcements and photos of festivals, workshops and other actions dedicated to the safeguarding of the ICH.
The official page of the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History: www.muzeu.md Publishes announcements exhibitions, workshops and scientific events. It hosts the electronic version of the annual Scientific Bulletin, issued yearly, which comprises studies on the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Republic Moldova.
Cornelia - Sabina Ispas is an academician, senior researcher and director of “Constantin Brăiloiu” Institute of Ethnography and Folklore of the Romanian Academy. She is a member of several international societies and organizations, and the Chair of the Romanian National Commission for the Safeguarding of the ICH. Fields of expertise: techniques and methodology of folk collection and archives, textual criticism, typology of folk literature, comparative studies on the South-East Europe and Middle East folklore, folklore and religion relationship, folklore and contemporary societies, theory of genres with a focus on ballads, fairy tales, lyrics, Christmas carols, folklore and the globalization of cultures, folklore and expression of cultural identity, etc..
Румъния е държава-член на ЮНЕСКО от 1956 г., и на Регионалния център – София, от 2012 г. Нематериалното наследство е важен фактор за запазване на специфичността, ролята и авторитета на румънската култура в настояящия момент на глобална промяна в културните отношения и модели. Нематериалното наследство е основан критерий при разработване на национални стратегии за опазване и популяризиране на традиционните ценности в идните десетилетия и векове.

Освен това, благодарение на нематериалното наследство, човек си дава сметка къде се намираме ние спрямо останалите, спрямо Румъния е държава-член на ЮНЕСКО от 1956 г., и на Регионалния център – София, от 2012 г. Нематериалното наследство е важен фактор за запазване на специфичността, ролята и авторитета на румънската култура в настояящия момент на глобална промяна в културните отношения и модели. Нематериалното наследство е основан критерий при разработване на национални стратегии за опазване и популяризиране на традиционните ценности в идните десетилетия и векове.

Osven tova, blagodarenie na nematerialnотo nasledstvo, chovek si dava smetka k'ede se namiramye nие spriamo ostanalite, spriamo Румъния е държава-член на ЮНЕСКО от 1956 г., и на Регионалния център – София, от 2012 г. Нематериалното наследство е важен фактор за запазване на специфичността, ролята и авторитета на румънската култура в настояящия момент на глобална промяна в културните отношения и модели. Нематериалното наследство е основан критерий при разработване на национални стратегии за опазване и популяризиране на традиционните ценности в идните десетилетия и векове.

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The Ministry of Culture and National Identity and its experts' body – the National Commission for the Safeguarding of the ICH – has a significant role in the policies and activities of the ICH in Romania. Romania's system to protect and promote its ICH includes public institutions, such as the National Institute of Heritage, a complex network of regional centers for the preservation and promotion of traditional culture, ethnographic museums, research institutes of the Romanian Academy, universities, the Romanian Radio Broadcasting Company, the National Romanian Television Society and a number of NGO's. In order to ensure better visibility of the ICH, Romania has inscribed seven elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Ministry of Culture and National Identity declared October 17th as the Intangible Cultural Heritage Day, which is also
Romania hosted regional meetings and capacity building workshops in partnership with UNESCO Venice Office and Regional Category 2 Centre for the Safeguarding of ICH in Sofia. Regarding awareness raising through communication, Romanian Living Human Treasures benefited from private funds through a multinational telecommunications company advertising campaign - UNIDSCOVERED ROMANIA - that promoted the bearers of traditional knowledge: https://www.facebook.com/RomaniaNedescoperita/?fref=ts

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

Romania appreciates the extraordinary capacity of the ICH Centre Sofia to create cohesion and good cooperation among the member countries, as well as the progressive expansion of the network of countries in a very important cultural area of the Euro-Asian, Continental and Maritime space.

Attracting institutions with a communication role to convey correct information and make popular the traditional culture of the member countries is welcome.
налия център категория 2 за опазване на нематериалното наследство в София.


Ролята на Регионалния център за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство в Югоизточна Европа под егидата на ЮНЕСКО, София – възможности и перспективи

Румъния високо оценява изключително големия капацитет на Центъра за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство – София да способства за сближаването и добрато сътрудничество между държавите членки, участващи в мрежата, както и за постепенното разширяване на мрежата от държави, обхващаща една много важна част от евразийското, континенталното и средиземноморското културно пространство.

Приключване на институционална роля за предаване на информация и изучаване на традиционната култура на държавите-членки, участващи в мрежата.

Уважаеми колеги,

Поздравяваме ви за вашата плодотворна и последователна дейност в областта на нематериалното наследство в Югоизточна Европа. Благодарни сме да бъдем част от тази мрежа и се надяваме нашето хармонично сътрудничество да продължи и в бъдеще.

Искрено ваша,
Сабина Испас
Букурещ, 10 юни 2018 г.
Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

Ministry of Culture and National Identity
Address: 22 Unirii Avenue, 3rd District, 030833, Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: cabinet.ministru@cultura.ro; driae@cultura.ro; patrimoniu.cultural@cultura.ro.
WEB: http://www.cultura.ro/

Useful links

The official web site of the “Constantin Brăiloiu” Institute of Ethnography and Folklore within the Romanian Academy - http://www.academiaromana.ro/ief/
Bojana Rogelj Škafar, PhD in sociology, is an ethnologist and art historian. She has been employed at the Slovene ethnographic museum (SEM) in Ljubljana since 1989 and between 1999 and 2005 was a curator of folk and fine arts collections. Continuing her curatorial career after 2015, she was also the director of the SEM between 2005 and 2015. Her research fields are Slovene folk art collections study and interpretation, interpretation of pictorial sources for the purposes of ethnological research, visual culture and the history of SEM. Her scientific bibliography consists of about 150 units.
Republic of Slovenia joined UNESCO on 27 May 1992 and received ratification in 2003. The Convention took place in 2008 and Republic of Slovenia was admitted at the ICH Centre Sofia in 2014. The Republic of Slovenia ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008. The competent bodies for implementation of the UNESCO Convention (2003) are the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovene ethnographic Museum as a national Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2009 and 2010 the role of Coordinator was carried out by the Institute of Slovene Ethnology at the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, and since 2011 by the Slovene Ethnographic Museum. The Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovenia is a list of intangible cultural heritage from the area of the Republic of Slovenia. The Register includes intangible cultural heritage elements and the bearers of that heritage. Elements that are pan-Slovene or characteristic of a specific region may have a number of bearers, while local elements may have only one. Proposals for inclusion in the Register are drawn up by the Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, while the Register is maintained by the Ministry of Culture. The first element, The Škofja Loka Passion
Play, was listed in the Register in 2008 and since 2012 the Register is regularly updated. Currently (on 27th of June 2018) there are 65 elements and 181 bearers listed in the Register. Elements of intangible cultural heritage in the Register with special significance can in a further procedure be declared as intangible cultural heritage of special local or national significance, and the latter can apply for UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In 2016 the Škofja Loka Passion play was the first element from Slovenia to be inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Škofja Loka Passion play is a penitential passion procession based on the text by the Capuchin monk Romuald Marušič from 1721. It is staged at Easter in the town of Škofja Loka. Next passion procession based on the mentioned text will be in 2021. In 2017 the element Door-to-door Rounds of Kurenti was also listed on the Representative List. Door-to-door rounds of the imposing masked figures known as kurenti is a Shrovetide custom on the Ptuj and Drava plains, in the Haloze hills and in the Slovenske gorice area. The kurenti are more popular and numerous than any other traditional Shrovetide figures. It is believed that they drive away winter and invite spring into the countryside.

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives
ICH Centre Sofia’s perspective is in strengthening international cooperation and fostering common projects that are created by member states of the Centre.

Promotion of the ICH Centre Sofia activities is one of the most important future tasks. Some appropriate suggestions are yearly scholarly publication and attractive yearly promotion publication revealing its activities and member states activities, both available online.

Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

Institution/ bodies at the national level (of your choice) responsible for cultural heritage or in particular for ICH:
Name: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia
Великденски Заговезни в околностите на градче Птуй и долината на Драва, по хълмовете на Халозе и в планинската област Словенске Горице. Курентите са по-многообразни от останалите персонажи, свързани с Великденски Заговезни. Смята се, че прогонват зимата и възвестяват пролетта в словенското село.

Ролята на Регионалния център за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство в Югоизточна Европа под егидата на ЮНЕСКО, София – възможности и перспективи

Перспективата пред Софийския център за нематериално наследство е в засилване на международното сътрудничество и поощряване разработването на съвместни проекти, които да бъдат осъществявани от държавите-членки на Центъра.

Популяризирането на дейността на Центъра в София е една от най-важните бъдещи задачи. Възможни средства за постигане на това са ежегодните научни публикации и ежегодните рекламни публикации, които да разкриват дейността на Центъра, както и на отделните държави-членки, като и двета вида да са достъпни в интернет.

Useful links


Link to the list of elements of the intangible cultural heritage published on the webpage of the Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: http://www.nesnovnadediscina.si/sl/register

Куренти

Адела Пукл, Марковци, Словения, 2016
Шествия от врата на врата на страховити маскирани фигури, известни като куренти (маскирани)

Kurenti

Adela Puki (Slovene Ethnographic Museum), Markovci, Slovenia, 2016
Door-to-door rounds of the imposing masked figures known as kurenti.
Living Heritage

Institution, which is responsible for intangible cultural heritage

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia
Address: Mestni trg 10, 1000 Ljubljana
E-mail: gp.mk(at)gov.si
WEB: http://www.mk.gov.si/si/
Slovenian Ethnographic Museum / Coordinator for the protection of intangible cultural heritage
Address: Metelkova 2, 1000 Ljubljana
E-mail: nesnovna(at)etnomuzej.si
WEB: http://www.nesnovnadediscina.si/

Useful links

The register of intangible cultural heritage of Slovenia under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia:
List of elements of intangible cultural heritage, published on the internet page of the Coordinator for the protection of intangible cultural heritage:
http://www.nesnovnadediscina.si/sl/register

Intangible cultural heritage is the soul of the world. Let the ICH Centre Sofia be the pillar of its survival and development.
Bjana Rogelj Škafar
Даниела Филипович е етнолог-антрополог в Центъра за нематериалното културно наследство към Етнографския музей на Сърбия. Работата ѝ е фокусирана върху прилагането на Конвенцията за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство на национално и международно равнище. Като член на Националния комитет за нематериалното културно наследство на Сърбия, Д. Филипович участва в изпълнението на Политиката за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство. Тя е координатор на екипа от експерти за подготовката на номинациите за вписване на елементи в списъците на нематериалното културно наследство на ЮНЕСКО.

Ms Danijela Filipovic is an ethnologist and anthropologist at the Centre for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Serbia at the Ethnographic Museum. Her work focuses on the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at national and local levels. As a member of the National Committee of Intangible Cultural Heritage, she is involved in the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy of Intangible Heritage and is the coordinator of the team of experts preparing the nomination files for UNESCO’s lists of intangible cultural heritage.
СЪРБИЯ / SERBIA

Serbia joined UNESCO on December 20th 2000, the ICH Centre Sofia in 2012 and ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in 2010. The implementation of the Convention at national level has been focused on three main lines of action: establishing the legislative and institutional framework, forming a National Registry, educating and promoting the values of the Convention with ICH awareness raising. The institutional framework for systematic and organized safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage was established through a network of expert bodies, including the National Committee for ICH at the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia, the Commission for Inclusion in the National List, the network of regional coordinators (for Vojvodina, Belgrade, Central Serbia, Western Serbia, Eastern Serbia, Southern Serbia and Kosovo and Metohia), as well as the Centre for the ICH of Serbia within the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade. A major step in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage was made in 2012, when the National Register of ICH was established through close cooperation of the expert bodies, associations and local communities in identifying the elements for the inscription,
preparation and development of the nomination files. The Register, which is maintained by the Centre for the ICH of Serbia, includes 37 elements reflecting the living cultural heritage of Serbia. The process of the implementation of UNESCO 2003 Convention in Serbia gained an international visibility after the inscription of the “Family Slava” (2014) and “Kolo, traditional folk dance” (2017) on the UNESCO Representative List of the ICH of Humanity.
Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

Serbia has been cooperating with the Centre since 2012 through exchange of experience and information among the Regional Centre and experts from South-East Europe and the Centre for the ICH of Serbia and involvement of experts in the annual activities in the Regional Centre in Sofia (festivals, expert meetings, trainings, seminars, workshops, projects).

The Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade collaborates with the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of ICH in South-East Europe under the auspices of UNESCO and within the framework of the International Festival of Ethnological Films. This cooperation includes the organization of lectures and round tables like “The contribution of audiovisual productions to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage” in October 2013 and workshops like „New Technologies and Intangible Cultural Heritage“ in October 2017.

Our cooperation is expected to continue through workshops and production of ethnographic documentaries. The implementation of these activities revealed the need to solve an im-
important issue: establishing rules and possibilities for documenting intangible cultural heritage and creating documentary films. Documenting ICH as living and developing heritage requires constant monitoring and regular updating. This is a particularly great challenge when ICH documentation is observed in the context of museum documentation. In order to overcome these challenges, it will be necessary to organize professional debates on this segment of ICH, with possible involvement of international experts.

Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:

Center for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Serbia
Address: Studentski trg 13, 11000 Beograd
E-mail: centarnkns@etnografskimuzej.rs
WEB: nkns.rs

The central body in charge of ICH safeguarding is the Centre for the ICH of Serbia, which was formed within the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade in June 2012. The main task of the Centre is to maintain the National Register of ICH and the overall documentation of the registered ICH, as well as to perform the basic selection and technical processing of proposals for inscription on the National Register. The Centre also prepares, processes and preserves the files of Serbia’s intangible cultural heritage elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List,
the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices. Other important tasks of the Centre include coordinating and establishing cooperation among communities, groups,
ЖИВИ НАСЛЕДСТВА

ти в Националния регистър. Центърът изготвя, обработва и съхранява досиетата на елементите от сръбското нематериално културно наследство от Представителния списък на ЮНЕСКО, в Списъка на нематериалното културно наследство, нуждаещо се от спешна защита, или в Списъка на най-добрите практики по опазване на културно наследство. Други важни задачи на Центъра включват координиране и устанавяване на сътрудничество между общности, групи, отделни лица, експерти, експертни центрове и изследователски институти.

Useful links

Electronic Register and the website of Serbia's intangible cultural heritage provides information about the elements inscribed on the Register nkns.rs
Elements inscribed on UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Полезни Връзки

Електронен регистър и интернет страница на сръбското нематериално културно наследство – предоставя информация за вписаните в Регистъра елементи: Register nkns.rs
Елементи, вписани в Представителния списък на нематериалното културно наследство на човечеството:
Kolo
Saša Milutinović, Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade, Center for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Serbia, Knjaževac, Vrtovac, Serbia, 2012
A kolo performance in a satellite programme showing the celebration of Đurđevdan (St George’s feast) in the village of Vrtovac near Knjaževac. The youngest members of the local folklore ensemble present a kolo variant from their cultural heritage.
Проф. д-р Йоджал Огуз / Prof. Dr. Öcal Oğuz

Представител на Турция в Общото събрание на Регионалния център, София

Representative of Turkey in the General Assembly of ICH Centre Sofia

Проф. д-р Йоджал Огуз е ръководител на Катедрата по турски фолклор към Факултета по хуманитарни науки на Университета Гази, Президент на Националната комисия за ЮНЕСКО на Турция и председател на Комитета по нематериалното наследство към Националната комисия за ЮНЕСКО; председател на Катедрата по нематериално културно наследство във формалното и неформално образование и основател на Анкарския музей на нематериалното културно наследство и на Музея на нематериалното културно наследство към Университета Гази.

Prof. Dr. Öcal Oğuz is the Chair of the Department of Turkish Folklore at Gazi University Faculty of Arts, the President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, the Chair of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee at Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, the Chairholder of UNESCO on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Formal and Informal Education, as well as the founder of Ankara ICH Museum and Gazi University ICH Museum.
Turkey joined UNESCO as one of the founding countries in 1946 and is one of the members of the Executive Board (2017-2021). It is also a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006-2010 and 2014-2018). Turkey, as a member of the Regional Centre in South-Eastern Europe, regularly and actively participates in the works and meetings organized by ICH Centre Sofia and contributes to the development of safeguarding efforts and joint projects in cooperation with other members in the region. We believe that ICH Centre Sofia is an important platform for the expression of the various opinions of the countries in South-Eastern Europe in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Turkey ratified the 2003 Convention in 2006 and as a UNESCO member, it respects, values and takes care of the safeguarding of ICH locally, regionally and internationally. There is a strong collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, universities, local governments, museums and NGOs. ICH museums are sources and platforms for non-formal education. It is important to emphasize that right after its ratification of the 2003 Conven-
Turkey included the course “Folk Culture” at state secondary schools. Besides, Turkey encourages the foundation of ICH museums and the development of methodology in this field of study. Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum and Gazi University Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum represent two exceptional models for ICH museology in the world. Museums stand as excellent platforms for ICH education. There are 11 UNESCO Chairs in Turkey. One of these chairs is an ICH Chair, which is also one of the five ICH Chairs in the world.

Turkey has 15 elements in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and one element in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.
Turkey recognizes the importance of the intangible cultural heritage as a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guarantee for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a crucial guide for future projects, applications and academic studies. International cooperation is also one of the key agenda topics in Turkey’s safeguarding activities and this is why “Intangible Cultural Heritage and Formal and Informal Education: Round table Meeting for Sharing Experience of Turkey and Africa” was organized in Istanbul in 2015 by the Turkish National Commission for
Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

ICH Centre Sofia is an important platform for encouraging cooperation in the field of ICH and for conducting initiatives related to the safeguarding of ICH in South-Eastern Europe. Since its official in-
The Centre has made some considerable contribution to the coordination activities in the region through meetings, exhibitions, publishing, etc. Nevertheless, a system of safeguarding aims to make expert opinions in this field more active, valuable and stronger, can be built along with the needs and priorities in the region. Besides, I believe that ICH Centre Sofia should promote and strengthen regional and international cooperation. It is also essential that the Centre should keep up with the processes and mechanisms of the 2003 Convention.

Prof. Dr. Müezz Oğuz, representative of Turkey
**Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:**

**Institute for Intangible Cultural Heritage**  
Address: Gazi Mah. 3akır Sok. No: 21 5-A, Yenimahalle/Ankara/TURKEY  
E-mail: sokumenstitusu@gmail.com  
WEB: www.sokumenstitusu.org.tr

**Useful links**

Arts of the Meddah, Public Storytellers)

Олександр Буценко / Mr Oleksandr Butsenko

Представител на Україна в Общото събрание на Регионалния център, София

Representative of Ukraine in the General Assembly of ICH Centre Sofia

Олександр Буценко є директор на громадська організація Центр за розвиток „Демократія через культуру”, сьє- ветник към Секретаріату на Національній академії на ізкусстві на Україна, консультант на Парламентарна- та комісія за культуру и вероизповедания към Парламен- та на Україна, член на Європейськия культурен парламент. Той е лектор по въпросите на нематериалното културно наследство към ЮНЕСКО, експерт по културните полити- ки, културното наследство и стратегиите за развитие към Съвета на Европа и координатор на различни между- народни проекти в Україна относно културното наслед- ство и развитието на местните общности. Той е писа- тел, преводач, учен- изследовател, художествен критик, лектор, журналист.

Mr. Oleksandr Butsenko is a Director of the CSO Development Centre “Democracy through Culture”, counselor of the Secretariat of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, consultant of the Parliament of Ukraine Committee on Culture and Religions, and member of the European Cultural Parliament. He is a UNESCO ICH facilitator, expert of the Council of Europe on cultural policies, cultural heritage and development strategies, and coordinator of various international projects on cultural heritage and local development. Mr. Butsenko is a writer, translator, researcher, art critic, lecturer and a journalist.
Конвенцията на ЮНЕСКО от 2003 г. е ра-
tифицирана от Украина през 2008 г. През
май 2017 г. Украина офіційно стана член
на базиранія В София Регіонален центрър за
опазване на нематериалното културно на-
следство Во Югоизточна Европа.

През 2015 г. Украина представи своя Пе-
риодичен доклад относно прилагането на
Конвенцията на ЮНЕСКО за нематериалното
културно наследство, утвърден през декември 2016 г. на 11-
та сесия на Международния комитет на ЮНЕСКО в Адис
Абеба. Докладът бе изготвен съвместно от
Министерството на културата на Украї
на и от неправителствената организация
Център за развитие „Демокрация чрез кул-
тура” (на базата на подписан Меморандум
между тях). В съответствие с Дългосрочна-
та стратегия за развитие на украинската
култура (2016), следва да се разработи Дър-
жавна програма за опазване на нематериално
културно наследство. За постигане на
тази цел с оглед ефективното прилагане
на Конвенцията на ЮНЕСКО от 2003 г., Цен-
tърът за развитие „Демокрация чрез кул-
tура” започна изграждането на Платфор-

The UNESCO Convention (2003) was ratified
by Ukraine in 2008. In May 2017 Ukraine offi-
cially joined the Regional Centre for the Safeguard-
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ма за нематеріальну культурну наслідство на Україну с участием на об'єктів, неправительствених і частин організацій, науково-дослідницьких інститутів і учебних заведений, медіа, місцевих об'єктів, групи і окремих лиц.

Між основними діячами і досягнення в цьому напрямку слід згадати: сьогодення українсько-естонського збігу на ткани майже (от Королевець і Київ в Україні і Талін в Естонія), організована від Центра за розвиток ,,Демократія через культуру'', Естонський центр для фольклорної культури і Музея на тканинності в Королевець; об’єднання на національні експерти на тему ,,Применение конвенции ЮНЕСКО на нематеріальну наслідство на національному рівні'', організована від Регіонального центр під егідою ЮНЕСКО в Софія і Центра за розвиток, яким та сьогодення є його великість, учіні і семінари в Одесі і Дніпропетровічкі області і в Мелітополі (Запорізька область); творчі обмін між носіями на нематеріальну культурну наслідство і май-December 2016 at the 11th Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO in Addis Ababa. The Report was prepared jointly by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine and the NGO Development Centre “Democracy through Culture” (on the basis of the Memorandum). According to the Long- term Development Strategy of Ukrainian Culture (2016), the State Program for ICH Safeguarding should also be developed. To reach this goal and aiming at efficient implementation of 2003 UNESCO Convention, the Development Centre “Democracy through Culture” has started the establishing of the ICH Platform in Ukraine, involving public, non- governmental and private organizations, research and educational establishments, media,
local communities, groups and individuals. Main activities and achievements are The Ukrainian-Estonian joint exhibition of woven towels (Krolevets, Kyiv in Ukraine and Tallinn in Estonia), organized by Development Centre “Democracy through Culture”, Estonian Folk Culture Centre, Museum of Krolevets Weaving, training for national experts “Implementation of UNESCO ICH Convention on the national level”, organized by Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of ICH in Sofia and Development Centre “Democracy through Culture”, and the spin-offs after the training: workshops and seminars in Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk region, and in Melitopol (Zaporizhia region), as well as creative exchange between ICH bearers and artisans in Poltava and Kyiv region. It is worth mentioning the ICH based festivals like Kodyma-Fest – an ecological ethno fest in the village of Ivashkiv, Kodyma district of Odessa region; Petrykivsky Dyvotsvit (Magic colour of Petrykivka), the annual ethnographic festival (Petrykivka, Dnepropetrovsk region), the annual ethnographic art festival “Krolevets Towels”; the annual International festival of Cossack Songs in the village of Bohuslav, Pavlogradsky district (Dnepropetrovsk region).

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South- Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives
First of all, the ICH Centre Sofia could promote and develop international cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe through publications, conferences, exhibitions, and joint projects. The ICH centers, as well as some museums and universities, could host special presentations of the results.
of research projects, while also showing films and ICH elements from other countries organized by the Sofia ICH Centre.

It would also be important and useful to dedicate a special section during General Assembly sessions for reporting on national ICH policies (issues, best practices, hot topics), and invite participants to make comments, proposals and formulate creative solutions.

The Centre could help organize mobile exhibitions of new ICH elements to incentivize local communities by promoting their efforts and using advice from external experts in combination with presentations by heritage practitioners and researchers; international workshops for practitioners, researchers, and policy makers; international educational courses in ICH to be provided at universities as well as informal educational establishments (summer schools, study camps).

**Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:**

*ICH Platform Ukraine (Development Centre “Democracy through Culture”, National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, Department on Culture, Nationalities and Religions of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast State Administration, Melitopol State Ped...*
Ukrainian regions (regional folk art centres) are active in making their local ICH lists and creating special websites.

Center for Culture and Art of Kharkiv: [http://www.cultura.kh.ua/uk/intangible-cultural-heritage/elements](http://www.cultura.kh.ua/uk/intangible-cultural-heritage/elements)


Пожелавам на Центъра за нематериално културно наследство – София да стане:
1) Платформа за неправителствени организации, свързани с нематериалното културно наследство, музеи, институти по културното наследство и развитие на местните общности от Югоизточна Европа;
2) Привлекателна възможност за университети и отделни учени-изследователи да публикуват своите статии;
3) Платформа за различни министерства и сектори за разработване на интегриран подход за социално развитие на основата на нематериалното културно наследство.

Олександр Буценко
Ms Milica Nikolić, MA, is an ethnologist and anthropologist, holding MA in history of culture and historical anthropology. She is the Secretary General of the National Commission of Montenegro for UNESCO and has previously worked at the Departments for Cultural Heritage and International Cooperation within the Ministry of Culture. She was one of the experts involved in the assessment of cultural values of elements of intangible cultural heritage, prior to their inscription in the Register, as well as the representative of Montenegro in UNESCO Regional Expert Group for ICH. Her fields of interest are identity search, concepts of multiculturalism, bonds between society and individuals and many more. She is the author of numerous scientific articles.
Montenegro joined UNESCO on March 1, 2007 and the Centre in Sofia in 2012.

Ratification of the Convention in 2009 and adoption of the Cultural Properties Protection Act in 2010 were necessary basic steps towards proper management of the process of protection and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. In October 2011 the Ministry of Culture together with UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Eu-
нение на нематериалното културно наследство. След тези действия, през октомври 2011 г. Министерството на културата, съвместно с Регионалното бюро на ЮНЕСКО за наука и култура в Европа (седалище във Венеция), организира семинар по съставяне на регистри на базирани в човешките общности нематериално културно наследство, ръководен от двама експерти от ЮНЕСКО. В семинара участваха официални лица от държавни и местни органи, натоварени с опазването и съхранението на Нематериалното наследство, представители на гражданското общество, както и носители на някои от елементите на нематериалното наследство.

Въз основа на наученото, Впоследствие Министерството на културата, в рамките на Годишната програма за съхранение на културните ценности за 2012 г., осъществи проект за инвентаризация на нематериално културно наследство, който бе проведен във всички общности на Черна гора. В проекта бяха ангажирани всички налични експерти в тази област, които осъществиха едномесечна тежка работа по описването и систематизирането на тоя наследство. Проектът доведе до съставянето на Предварителен списък на елементите на нематериалното наследство, в който са включени около 200 елемента, и който е отворен за допълване и осъ-
Properties for 2012 implemented a project of Inventorying of ICH that was conducted in all Montenegro municipalities. The project engaged all available experts in this field. They spent one month of field work on inventorying and the Preliminary list of ICH elements has around 200 items and is open for additional information. The list was used as a basis for further planning and primarily for the analysis of potential cultural properties to be added to the Register after the legal procedures concerning their cultural values. Legal protection procedures were conducted for 16 intangible cultural properties (already part of the Register of Cultural Properties), and one element is currently under procedure. These 16 intangible cultural properties display the diversity of intangible cultural heritage in Montenegro with elements from different parts of the country, each one of them carrying its unique local and nation-
ment, determining cultural policies for the country. Efforts were made to increase awareness of the intangible cultural heritage and its significance through additional modules of finance, the Ministry of Culture continuously supports all planned activities. ICH is set as one of the priorities within the cultural policy through the National Programme of Cultural Development in a five-year strategic document. Lots of efforts were invested in the public promotion of ICH and its importance through the media, especially in 2014, when the celebration of European Heritage Days in Montenegro was dedicated to the ICH.

Role of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO – possibilities and perspectives

In March 2017 the Ministry of Culture together with UNESCO 2 category Regional Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage from Sofia organized another workshop on the process of preparation of Nomination file. Since the activity was planned and organized as part of the internal strategy on the ICH, the majority of the participants were the same and the workshop was the first step towards the first nomination file that Montenegro had submitted for the inscription on UNESCO Representative List – traditional organization of Boka Navy. ICH Centre Sofia’s perspective is the further strengthening of international cooperation and the contin-
The perspective of the Centre for material cultural heritage in Sofia is in the further strengthening of international cooperation and the development of previously conducted activities.

**Institution at the national level responsible for intangible cultural heritage:**

**Ministry of Culture**
Address: Njegoševa b.b. Cetinje
E- mail: kabinet.kultura@mku.gov.me
WEB: [http://www.mku.gov.me/ministarstvo](http://www.mku.gov.me/ministarstvo)

**Administration for the Protection of Cultural Properties**
Address: Njegoševa b.b. Cetinje
E- mail: uzkd@t-com.me
WEB: [http://www.uzkd.mku.gov.me/naslovna](http://www.uzkd.mku.gov.me/naslovna)

**National Museum of Montenegro / Ethnographic Museum**
Address: Novice Cerovića b.b. Cetinje
E- mail: nmcg@t-com.me

**Useful links**

Ministry of Culture - [http://www.mku.gov.me/ministarstvo](http://www.mku.gov.me/ministarstvo)
Office for the Protection of Cultural Monuments - [http://www.uzkd.mku.gov.me/naslovna](http://www.uzkd.mku.gov.me/naslovna)
The establishment in Bulgaria of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO has been a long process involving both national and international efforts. The preparation for that process began way back in 2008, when the Centre was registered as a non-profit legal entity under Bulgarian law. A year later, by a resolution adopted by the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference, it was approved as a Category 2 Centre operating under UNESCO auspices. Thus the Regional Centre based in Sofia emerged as the 7th Category 2 centre in the world and the only one in Europe. The purpose of such centres is to promote the principles and ideas of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to build capacity for the safeguarding of such heritage at regional and international level, and to stimulate regional as well as international. In 2010, the Bulgarian government and the United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) signed an Agreement on the establishment of a Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO. The document was ratified by the Bulgarian
Parliament in March, 2011, and has been effective since then.

The inauguration of the Centre was a significant event for Bulgaria and the region. It stirred up considerable public and media interest. On February 20, 2012, Irina Bokova, the then UNESCO Director-General, together with the then Bulgarian Minister of Culture, Vasil Garnizov, opened the regional centre for the intangible cultural heritage in Southeastern Europe under the aegis of UNESCO. The document was ratified by the Bulgarian Parliament on 16 March 2011, following which it came into effect.

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tor General (2009-2017), the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria Vezhdi Rashidov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria Nikolay Mladenov and the then President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Acad. Nikola Sabotinov launched the Association ‘Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe’ with offices at the Museum of Socialist Art. The founding members of the Centre are the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Speeches at the Opening Ceremony (excerpts):

Irina Bokova: “Bulgaria has already inscribed two masterpieces on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ‘The Bistritsa Babi (Grannies): Archaic Polyphony, Dances and Ritual Practices from the Shoplouk Region’ and ‘Fire Dancing: a Message from the Past’. These traditions are jealously guarded by the Bulgarian people, but already constitute also a part of the world cultural heritage. Bulgaria has been long known for its commitment to the ideals and goals of UNESCO. This commitment reflects values that are deeply rooted in Bulgarian society and to which I, as a Bulgarian woman and Director General of UNESCO, attach very great importance. The intangible cultural heritage reflects a wealth of spirit accumulated over the centuries; it reflects the continuity be-
between past, present and future while structuring the cultural outlook and creative being of every nation, the way we perceive the world and build our future.”

Nikolay Mladenov: “The biggest challenge is yet to come. It is for us to realize that all of us, Bulgaria and its neighbors, can work together in order to promote our cultural and historical heritage. Quite often we forget that the intangible heritage is exactly as important as the tangible one. The traditions, languages, dialects, all that we create and all that our forefathers have created, must be developed in the future. I am certain that with the cooperation of UNESCO we shall be able to demonstrate to the world the common heritage that the Balkan Peninsula has, as part of world culture.”

Acad. Nikola Sabotinov: “The compiling of the Bulgarian national inventory of the intangible cultural heritage, one of the first complete inventories of its kind, was done by scholars from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,” said BAS President Acad. Nikola Sabotinov at the opening ceremony of the Centre. “The experts of the Academy are those who keep alive our cultural tradition. Therefore they are invited to train their colleagues from other countries in the area of the intangible cultural heritage. They are also the ones who maintain active relations with experts from the other countries in the region.”
Vezhdi Rashidov: “With its geographic location South-Eastern Europe has always been and will be a bridge between East and West. This venue over the centuries has been a meeting place for many cultures, rites, rituals and traditional skills. Its invaluable folklore and ethnographic wealth has remained an inexhaustible source of creative inspiration to this day. Let us together share with Europe and the world the exceptional tangible cultural heritage of South-Eastern Europe and demonstrate this little known image of the region as one of the cradles of European and world civilization. I am convinced that the Regional Centre will contribute
significantly to bridging the divisions, strengthening the sense of regional belonging and responsibility, and to promoting our regional self-esteem and pride.”

Source: Radio Bulgaria / Culture (radiobulgaria/culture/list)

During the first six years of its existence, the Regional Centre has been working actively for the inclusion and involvement of the countries in the region in its activities. Today, the Centre has sixteen member states: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (with two representatives), Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine. More and more countries recognize the significance of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO and turn to it for support and expertise on activities and initiatives.

Since the start of its operation to the present day, the Centre has been promoting the establishment of business contacts and has been organizing expert meetings in the sphere of the living heritage. Over the years, it has been expanding the scope of its activities in different areas of the intangible cultural heritage.
One of the main functions of the Centre is to deliver training workshops on the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In keeping with the principles of the UNESCO Global Capacity Building Program, the Centre assisted in organizing a number of workshops in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, and Ukraine. In 2014, the Regional Centre conducted a working meeting on the Global Strategy of UNESCO for building capacity for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Central Asia and Europe. In proper interaction with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO, the Centre has been hosting for two consecutive years (2017 and 2018) the seminar of the European Branch of UNESCO Trainers for Capacity Building.

The Centre has been a long-standing partner of the UNESCO European Regional Bureau for Science and Culture (Venice, Italy) in organizing the annual meetings of the regional network of experts on the intangible cultural heritage from South-Eastern Europe. That network, which was created back in 2007, has established itself over the years as a regional platform for the sharing of expertise, experience and good practices, as well as for promoting the exchange of ideas pertinent to the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe.

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ширява профила на своите дейности като акцентира върху регионални инициативи, които обхващат различни области на нематериалното културно наследство.

Една от основните функции на Центъра е да провежда обучителни семинари по теми, свързани с Конвенцията на ЮНЕСКО за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство. В последните години се осъществиха редица семинари в страните членки по тема „Прилагане на Конвенцията от 2003 г. на национално ниво“ в Албания, Босна и Херцеговина, България, Румъния, Словения, Украйна, Черна гора с цел да се следват принципите на глобалната програма на ЮНЕСКО за повишаване на капацитета за работа по проблематиката. През 2014 г. Центърът провежда работна среща във връзка с глобалната стратегия на ЮНЕСКО за изграждане на капацитет за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство в Централна Азия и Европа. В добро взаимодействие с Отдела за нематериално културно наследство на ЮНЕСКО, Центърът за втора поредна година е домакин на семинара на Европейския клон на обучители на ЮНЕСКО (2017 и 2018 г.).

Центърът е дългогодишен партньор на Регионалното бюро на ЮНЕСКО за наука и култура (Венеция, Италия) в организирането на годишните срещи на регионалната мрежа на
The first meeting of the Category 2 Centres for the intangible cultural heritage convened in 2013 at the initiative of the Regional Centre. It was then that Bulgaria hosted for the first time representatives of all the centres who reviewed and discussed ideas for possible joint projects and initiatives, thus laying the groundwork for their traditional annual meetings.

In 2017, the Regional Centre underwent external evaluation of its operation by UNESCO for the purpose of the next six years Agreement renewal. On November 10, 2017, the then UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova and the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria Boil Banov signed in Paris an Agreement on Extending the Operation of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO. The new agreement was ratified by an act of Parliament promulgated in State Gazette No. 32 of April 13, 2018.

The Centre continued to work actively in the course of 2018 and its work has been closely associated with the European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018) as proclaimed by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe. The purpose of the European Year of Cultural Heritage is to promote the sharing and understanding of the European cultural heritage as a shared resource, to stimulate attention to the common history and values of Europe.
while strengthening the sense of belonging to the common European area. The motto of the Year is: 'Our heritage: where the past meets the future'. It involves many events and celebrations all across Europe. The Regional Centre, as part of the network of stakeholders providing the logo of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, has supported a number of such events.

Chayana Istatkova
Конкурс и изложба „Приказният свят на легенди, митове и сказания от моя роден край”, 1 декември 2014 г., София, България

To mark International Children’s Day, June 1st, 2014, the Regional Centre announced a competition on the subject of ‘The Wonderful World of Legends, Myths and Tales from Home’. It was targeted at children aged 8 to 14 from the region of South-Eastern Europe. The aim of the event was to provoke members of the younger generation into sharing through sketches and drawings their vision and attitude towards the inherited traditions and customs. Each drawing was to be accompanied by a description in English and/or Bulgarian of its subject matter and its relation to the intangible cultural heritage of the relevant region. The competition remained open for three months, prompting considerable interest on the part of Bulgarian as well as foreign participants. The entries kept pouring in all summer long. The special panel of Prof. Ivaylo Mirchev, Prof. Andrey Daniel, Alexandra Gogova and Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Yana Gergova was faced with the far from easy task of sifting through and making short lists of 126 chil-
Children’s drawings from the member states of the Regional Centre Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania, and Slovenia. Ultimately, the panel selected four award winners and bestowed another six consolation prizes.
On December 1, 2014, Sofia Mayor Yordanka Fandakova and the then UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova opened the exhibition featuring the shortlisted children’s drawings at the exhibition hall at 1 Paris Street in the capital city. The event was organized with the kind support of Sofia Municipality. The four winning entrants, children from Bulgaria, Armenia and Slovenia, received their awards after being specially flown in for the occasion thanks to the financial support of the Regional Centre. A children’s music program with performances by young artists from the ensemble Spiritual Mirror and girls from Nikolay Haitov Community Centre added to the festive atmosphere of the event.

International forum dedicated to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, Sofia, Bulgaria, December 12-13, 2015

This forum, designed to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of UNESCO, was conceived as a joint initiative between the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under UNESCO auspices, the Ministry of Culture, the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Library Studies and Information Technology (UniBIT). Its topic was: ‘The contribution
Before the official opening of the event, participants and guests had the chance to experience the Surva Festival (festive ritual with masks) at the plaza in front of the National Theatre in Sofia. Thus, Bulgaria celebrated the inscription of this festival, a traditional occurrence for the region of Pernik, on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mankind.

After the official opening, Ms Irina Bokova, the then Director General of UNESCO, bestowed distinctions upon the winners of the National Youth Competition for showcasing the Bulgarian elements and sites inscribed on the UNESCO representative lists of the tangible and intangible heritage. The competition was organized to mark the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

The scientific part of the forum, which took place on December 13, was divided into two panels: 'Steps taken by the countries in South-Eastern Europe for the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' and 'The role of local communities in the safeguarding of the intangible cultural
Конвенцията на ЮНЕСКО за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство от 2003 г." и „Ролята на локалните общности в опазването на нематериалното културно наследство“. В тях взеха участие експерти от страните от

Еньовден.
Васил Гарнизов. Провиране през венеца с билки на Еньовден, с. Славеево, Ивайловградско, 22.06.2013 г.

Midsummer Day.
Taking part in the panels were experts from the countries of South-Eastern Europe, UNESCO representatives and scholars from Bulgarian academic institutions.

This event concluded the series of initiatives realized in the course of the year to mark the 70th jubilee of the world cultural organization.

Days of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Sofia City Library – Sofia, Bulgaria, April 11-14, 2018

The project ‘Days of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’ was realized in Sofia between the 11th and 14th of April, 2018. Its main goal was to generate a lasting interest in the national living heritage and its context in the region of South-Eastern Europe and further afield. It targeted Sofia residents and visitors to the city, especially young people. Featured folklore ensemble performances, exhibitions and documentary film shows enabled the audiences to gain familiarity with the Bulgarian intangible cultural heritage. The Regional Centre organized two round tables, both dealing with the statutory framework for safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and its promotion in an urban environment. The project was implemented by the Regional Centre for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO Auspices with the financial support of Sofia Municipality, the Europe 2018 Programme and in partnership with the Sofia City Library.
On June 24, 2018, the City of Sofia hosted the Balkan Palette Festival, organized by the Global Creativity Association in partnership with the International Women’s Club Sofia, with the support of the cultural services at the embassies of Albania, the FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and other Balkan countries, and with the special cooperation of the Cultural and Information Centre of the FYR of Macedonia in Sofia. Dedicated to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, the festival showcased music, dance and cuisine traditional for the region. Visitors had an opportunity to become familiar with customs and traditions from Albania, Bulgaria, 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.

Round table on ‘University meets Museum: Issues of the intangible cultural heritage in the educational curriculum of Bulgarian universities’ – New Bulgarian University and the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO, Sofia, June 16, 2017

For the first time in Bulgaria, the issue of training personnel in the sphere of the intangible cultural heritage was brought into sharp focus. The
For the first time in our country the question of preparing personnel in the sphere of intangible cultural heritage has been put. The initiative came from UNESCO HQ in Paris and was implemented jointly by the Regional Centre and the New Bulgarian University. Taking part in the discussion were experts from different fields such as education, academic research, and heritage exposure, who presented their perspectives of a topic of common interest: the intangible cultural heritage in terms of academic and qualification curricula and continuing education, training of personnel and their professional fulfilment as museum staff. Participating in the event were established professionals and researchers from the regional museums of history in Rousse, Smolyan, etc., as well as scholars from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the New Bulgarian University, the Paissy Hilendarsky University of Plovdiv, the St. Kliment Ohridsky University of Sofia, UniBIT, etc.

Arts and Crafts Alley 2018: Skopje, Sofia, Bansko, Rousse

Arts and Crafts Alley was designed to draw attention to traditional crafts being developed in a modern setting. The goal of the Regional Centre has been to showcase, support and promote Bulgarian arts and crafts. The first edition of Arts and Crafts Alley was held in Skopje on June 16, the next in Sofia on June 30, then one more in the town of Bansko on July 21, and the last, in Rousse on September 8, 2018. During each of those, craftsmen from all corners of Bulgaria flocked to the Alley to demonstrate...
Second round table on ‘University meets Museum: The intangible cultural heritage and its presentation’ – organized by the New Bulgarian University and the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO, with the support of the Regional Museum of History in the city of Rousse, the Chair of Ethnology at the Paissy Hilendarisky University of Plovdiv and the Regional Ethnographic Museum of Plovdiv, June 5, 2018

Attending the round table were faculty from the New Bulgarian University, the Paissy Hilendarisky University of Plovdiv, the St. Kliment Ohridsky University of Sofia, UniBIT, regional museums and galleries, students a.o. The experts invited: anthropologists, ethnologists, historians, people specializing in marketing, advertising, interior design etc., broadened their joint perspectives of a common topic: the intangible cultural heritage and the way it is exposed at museums/galleries, in public spaces and on the Internet. Part of the questions concerned what content to offer and how to structure it in museum exhibitions or in virtual spaces; where to present and

the techniques and artistry of traditional Bulgarian crafts: from woodcarving and woodturning, via the making of Kalofer lace and jewelry from beads, to the felting of wool.

Second round table on ‘University meets Museum: The intangible cultural heritage and its presentation’ – organized by the New Bulgarian University and the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO, with the support of the Regional Museum of History in the city of Rousse, the Chair of Ethnology at the Paissy Hilendarisky University of Plovdiv and the Regional Ethnographic Museum of Plovdiv, June 5, 2018

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the techniques and artistry of traditional Bulgarian crafts: from woodcarving and woodturning, via the making of Kalofer lace and jewelry from beads, to the felting of wool.
ята, В публичното и в интернет пространство. Част от въпросите: какво съдържание предлагаме и по какъв начин го изграждаме в музейните експозиции, във виртуалните пространства, където представяме и предоставяме информация, фотографии, препратки към музейната съкровищница; каква експозиция и за какви публики – да открием ценното за местните общности или да се насочим към „универсалните посетители“…

provide information, photographs, and references to museum collections; what exposition for what audiences; whether to identify what is of value to the local community, or to address the message to the ‘universal visitor’…

Еньовден.
Васил Гарнизов. Напяване на пръстените на момичетата на Еньовден в гр. Малко Търново, Странджа, 24.06.2012 г.

Midsummer Day.
Vassil Garnizov. Divination of the rings of young maidens on Midsummer Day in the town of Malko Tarnovo, Strandja Mountain, June 24, 2012
The book tells the story of art in the lands of present-day Bulgaria, from antiquity to the decline and fall of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom and the Middle Ages. It features skillfully executed photographs of museum exhibits and artefacts from different museum collection around the country, images and sculptures made of clay, gold, silver and copper. Highlighted in it are the specificities of the development of art and culture in the Balkans.
В настоящото издание, посредством илюстративен материал, се представя част от многообразието на нематериалното културно наследство у нас. Показани са най-типичните етнокултурни общности, фолклорни области и събори на народното творчество – елементи от една система, в центъра на която е живата традиция и нейните носители. За първи път се представя Националната програма „Живи човешки съкровища” и Националната листа на българските живи човешки съкровища. Специално мястото е отреждено на вече световно признатите за щедъври от ЮНЕСКО Бистришки баби и Нестинарите от с. Българи. 

This publication uses an abundance of illustrative material to showcase part of the diversity of the intangible cultural heritage of Bulgaria. Demonstrated in it are the most typical ethno-cultural communities, folklore regions and folk art festivals, all of them elements of a system having as its core the living tradition and its practitioners. For the first time the book presents the National Program ‘Living Human Treasures’ and the National List of Bulgarian Living Human Treasures. Pride of place in it has been allotted to the now world famous Bistritza Babi (Grannies) and the Fire Dancers of the village of Bulgari, both recognized as masterpieces by UNESCO.
The publication presents the cultural diversity of Bulgaria through the present-day cultural practices and traditions of communities with a lasting presence in this country. Featured in its text are brief excerpts from travel books, interviews, descriptions of popular festivities and other elements of the culture of different groups, all of which add substance to the narrative. The book builds the images of communities with their cultural specificities in a historical context, with an emphasis on their present-day status. The research studies are accompanied by abundant photographic material credited to well-known Bulgarian photographers.
Изданието представя Вписаните елементи в Представителната листа на нематериалното културно наследство на ЮНЕСКО от седем държави от Югоизточна Европа – Албания, България, Гърция, Кипър, Румъния, Турция и Хърватия. Включва описание и снимков материал.

Съдържа кратка информация за Регионалния център, поздравителен адрес от Генералния директор на ЮНЕСКО г-жа Ирина Бокова (2012 г.) и Декларация от Осмата конференция на министрите на културата от Югоизточна Европа (24-25 октомври 2012 г. в гр. София, България).

The publication presents the elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from seven countries in South-Eastern Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, and Turkey. It features descriptive texts and photographic material.

Also included is brief information about the Regional Centre, a congratulatory address from Ms. Irina Bokova, the Director General of UNESCO (2012) and a declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of the Ministers of Culture from South-Eastern Europe (held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on October 24-25, 2012).
Структурата на книгата е мозаична. В първата й част се проследява историята на Конвенцията за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство и първите крачки, предприети от България по прилагането й. Разказът е за период, в който се изграждат политики за прилагане на Конвенцията от 2003 г. Плодотворно сътрудничество между българските власти, международни експерти и носители на наследството наричда България сред най-активните страни в опазването на нематериалното културно наследство. Във втората част се дискутират проблеми, свързани с нематериалното културно наследство и неговото опазване, съхранение и популяризиране.

The book follows a mosaic-like pattern. Part One traces the history of the 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the first steps made by Bulgaria for its implementation. This is the story of a period of policy making for the implementation of the 2003 Convention. The fruitful cooperation between the Bulgarian authorities, international experts and ICH practitioners has made Bulgaria a top-ranking country in terms of its efforts for safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. Part Two discusses issues related to the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding, conservation and promotion.
A voluminous tome which, in a modern manner and through the lens of world history, tells in minute detail the tumultuous story of the Balkans as a whole and Bulgaria in particular as a crossroads of civilizations over the past 2000 years, while also presenting its links with Europe, Asia, America and the East. ‘The Balkan Man 14th-17th c.’ comprises a total of seven books in three volumes with numerous illustrations, over 700 endnotes and hundreds of footnotes.
Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO. The Contribution of UNESCO Member States of South-Eastern Europe to the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

A jubilee publication dedicated to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. This is the first publication to present in a comprehensive manner the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, offering readers information about the processes and practices of safeguarding ICH in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey. This collection of articles is intended not just for experts; it is suitable for anyone taking an interest in the subject matter of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region of South-Eastern Europe.
Edited by: Diana Stoyanova, Sofia Vasileva, Evgeni Velev. Traveling University seminar Sharing knowledge on the intangible cultural heritage of Southeastern Europe, Nis, Serbia, 2016. Conference papers. Volumes 1 and 2

A collection of reports from the domain of the intangible cultural heritage delivered in the course of a series of traveling workshops in the cities of Edirne, Turkey, and Nis, Serbia. The texts are dedicated to issues of the intangible cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe.
A book about the successful implementation of strategies in the domain of the cultural and educational policy of the state, it presents a concept for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage while accentuating the Bulgarian contribution to European history. The authors have sought to highlight the continuity in the adoption and implementation of modern European models and practices. Richly illustrated, the book launches in academic circulation a variety of bibliographic sources.

Стоян Денчев, София Василева. Културно и историческо наследство на България. Приоритети на държавната политика. Авангард prima, София, 2017

Between the Visible and the Invisible. The Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Museum. Publish. Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House of Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, 2018

Доклади от кръгла маса за нематериалното културно наследство и музея, организирана от Регионалния център за опазване на нематериалното културно наследство в под егидата на ЮНЕСКО и Института за етнология и фолклористика с Етнографски музеи, БАН, в сътрудничество със Словенския етнографски музей, Любляна.

A collection of reports from a round table on the intangible cultural heritage and the museum, organized by the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO and the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Ljubljana.
Exhibitions organized with the support of the Regional Centre


Изложбата представя шевици от Софийско от края на ХІХ в. и началото на ХХ в., притежание на Музея за история на София. Експонатите са разнообразни образци от поли, ръкави на женски и мъжки ризи, пешкири, забрадки и ръкавици към горните женски дрехи с характерни за региона колорит и орнаментика.

Exhibition of embroideries ‘Colors from ages past: The memory of Sofia embroidery patterns’

The exhibition showcased embroidery patterns from Sofia and the surrounding region dating from the late 19th-early 20th century, property of the Sofia History Museum. The exhibits are diverse specimens of embroideries that once adorned skirts, sleeves of men’s and ladies’ shirts, bath towels, kerchiefs and gloves worn in the past with ladies’ coats, each with its color scheme and ornamental pattern characteristic for the region.
Фотоизложба „Пазител на традициите“, 2013 г., София

Експозицията представя 20 фотографии, посветени на обичаи, хора и места от България, които печелят награди от национален фотоконкурс по същата тема. Откриването се е състояло на 11 февруари 2013г. в сградата на Регионалния център.


The exposition presents 20 award-winning photographs dedicated to customs, rituals, people and places in Bulgaria; all of them were selected among the winning entries in a competition on the subject.

The opening of the exhibition was on February 11, 2013, at the building of the Regional Centre.
Exhibition ‘The Wonderful World of Legends, Myths and Tales from Home’, 2014

The exhibition of children's drawings presented the viewpoint of children and adolescents (aged 8-14) and their attitudes to traditions, whether inherited from parents and relatives or internalized from school. After a competition the specialized panel of judges selected 126 entries from member states of the Regional Centre and bestowed awards on the top four. The opening of the exhibition took place on December 1, 2014, in Sofia, Bulgaria.
Photographic exhibition on ‘The Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Region of South-Eastern Europe’ – Sofia, June 2017

The Regional Centre, supported by the ministries of culture and museum institutions of its member states, presented unique photographs capturing samples of the intangible cultural heritage of the countries in the region of South-Eastern Europe. Over 50 photos documented diverse elements of ICH, among which were striking examples of rites and holidays, skills and knowledge, objects, artefacts and social practices, each one of them recognized by the respective communities as their cultural heritage. The exhibition toured a number of cities in Bulgaria.
The exhibition titled ‘Rediscovering Heritages’ is a joint initiative of the New Bulgarian University and the Regional Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. It presents new viewpoints on cultural heritages and features creative endeavors by faculty and students of the NBU: collections of photographs by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vassil Garnizov, Prof. Lyudmil Hristov and students in the Photography program; permanent exposition designs for ethnographic museums by students in the Interior Design program under the supervision of Chief Assistant Prof. Dr. Ivo Popov; a fashion design collection on the themes of ‘Inspiration from Old Town Plovdiv’ and ‘Silk: From the Fibre to the Model’ by students on the Fashion program supervised by Chief Assistant Prof. Dr. Kristina Savova. The exhibition was open to the public at San Stefano Gallery between the 5th and 19th of June, 2018; it was also displayed at the Regional Museum of History in the city of Rousse and is scheduled to be shown at museums in Plovdiv and Smolyan.
Photographic exhibition ‘Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Slovenia’

The photo exhibition is dedicated to the Slovenian intangible cultural heritage and will showcase elements listed in the National Inventory of ICH of Slovenia. It will be opened on November 20, 2018, at the plaza in front of the National Theatre in Sofia.
„Чипровски килими“, документален филм, 2013 г.

Иван Георгиев-Гец (режисьор)

Филмът е проникновен разказ за магията на чипровските килими. Авторският екип насочва вниманието към историята на региона, умението да се тъче, предаването на техниката и творчеството по изработване на чипровския килим.

‘Chiprovtszi Rugs’, a documentary, 2013

Directed by Ivan Georgiev-Getz

An inspired narrative of the magic of the Chiprovtszi rugs. The team of authors draw attention to the town of Chiprovtszi and the surrounding countryside, the skill of carpet weaving, and the transmission of the creative impulses and skills that go into making Chiprovtszi rugs from one generation to the next.
This publication is dedicated to the renewal (on November 10, 2017) of the Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and UNESCO on the continued operation of the Regional Centre for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Aupses of UNESCO in Sofia for another six-year term. The reader will become familiar with the establishment and evolution of the Sofia Regional Centre as the product of partnerships with national and international institutions in the name of the safeguarding, preservation and promotion of the intangible heritage.