The Regional Centre Sofia - UNESCO was inaugurated in 2012 with the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of the countries in South-East Europe, its main objectives being:

- to promote the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and contribute to its implementation in South-East Europe
- to strengthen the participation of communities, groups and individuals in the safeguarding of ICH
- to enhance the capacity of the South-East European countries in the safeguarding of ICH
- to coordinate, exchange and disseminate information regarding the safeguarding of ICH
- to foster regional and international cooperation for the safeguarding of ICH

The Intangible Cultural Heritage is manifested in the following domains:

- oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
- performing arts
- social practices, rituals and festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- knowledge and skills associated with traditional arts and crafts

ICH elements inscribed in UNESCO by the Member States of the Regional Centre Sofia:

- Albanian folk iso-polyphony, Albania
- Armenian letter art and its cultural expressions, Armenia
- Picking of iva grass on Ozren mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ancient Georgian traditional Qvevri wine-making method, Georgia
- Door-to-door rounds of Kurenti, Slovenia
- Singing to the accompaniment of the Gusle, Serbia
- Tradition of Kosiv painted ceramics, Ukraine

There are also multinational nominations, among which:

- Cultural practices associated to the 1st of March, inscribed by Bulgaria, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Romania
- Mediterranean diet, inscribed by Cyprus, Croatia, Spain, Greece, Italy, Morocco and Portugal
- Art of dry stone walling, knowledge and techniques, inscribed by Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland
- Spring celebration Hıdırellez, Republic of North Macedonia and Turkey
Regional Centre Sofia - UNESCO is active in 16 Member States:

- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Georgia
- Greece
- Montenegro
- Republic of Moldova
- Republic of North Macedonia
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Turkey
- Ukraine

Regional Centre Sofia - UNESCO organizes activities aimed at the safeguarding of ICH, such as:

- training workshops and expert meetings
- international forums and conferences
- papers and publications
- exhibitions and catalogues

Regional Centre Sofia - UNESCO participates in:

- international meetings
- round tables
- cultural events
- festivals

Regional Centre Sofia - UNESCO
7, Iachoar Stanchev Str., Sofia (Bulgaria)
+ 359 2 444 21 03
office@unesco-centre.bg.org
www.unesco-centre.bg.org
UNESCO Centre Sofia