



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Hellenic  
National Commission  
for UNESCO



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Venice Office  
Regional Bureau for Science  
and Culture in Europe

## PROGRAMME OF THE SEMINAR

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# Sixth Annual Regional meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage

*“Promoting a shared vision of intangible  
cultural heritage in South-East Europe”*



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

**Athens, Greece, 10-11 May 2012**

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**A meeting organized within the initiative**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



CULTURE

A BRIDGE TO DEVELOPMENT



## I. Background

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into force on 20 June 2006. It has been ratified at an unprecedented pace, the number of State Parties now amounting at 142 (three fifths of UNESCO's 193 Member States). The Convention's rapid entry into force is a testament to the international community's concern for safeguarding the world's living heritage, especially at a time of rapid socio-cultural change and international economic integration.

The promotion of intangible cultural heritage stands high among the political priorities in the South-East European region. All countries from the region have ratified the 2003 Convention.

Hence, annual meetings of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage (Arbanassi, Bulgaria, June 2007; Safranbolu, Turkey, May 2008; Zagreb, Croatia, April 2009, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Romania, May 2010; Belgrade, Serbia, May 2011) have been organized to enhance a common understanding of opportunities and challenges linked to the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in the region, such as: national inventory policies, the process of revitalization, the management of sustainable cultural tourism, the role and involvement of the local communities, the transnational dimension of intangible cultural heritage, as well as training and capacity-building.

The annual meetings serve as a regional platform for sharing knowledge and good practices, and stimulating a collective reflection on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as a key asset of South-East European cultural diversity.

This meeting is also taking place within the new framework initiative entitled "Culture: a Bridge to Development" that has been included in the biennial Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 of UNESCO (36 C/5) – as approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 36th session (October-November 2011). The initiative aims at better promoting cultural heritage in all its forms as a powerful and unique tool for sustainable social, economic and human development, job-creation opportunities social cohesion, education and mutual understanding, thus bringing forth new opportunities for international cooperation. Building on the cohesive power of cultural heritage in all its forms and dimensions (tangible and intangible, movable and museums, documentary heritage), this meeting should therefore also aim at contributing to the enhancement of dialogue and cultural exchanges, develop innovative and creative approaches to the safeguarding and promotion of heritage and culture-sensitive development projects.

## II. Justification and Relevance

During the fifth regional seminar organized in Serbia in 2011, experts noted the great progress achieved by the countries of the region in the field of the intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, including: the ratification of the 2003 Convention by all countries of the region; the establishment of the Category 2 Regional Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sofia, Bulgaria; the setting up of national agencies or departments focusing on intangible cultural heritage at the Ministries of Culture; the creation of national expert networks; the development of inventories; and the adoption of new laws in the light of the objectives set out in the 2003 Convention.

However, many of the SEE countries still share some common difficulties in effectively implementing these safeguarding mechanisms, such as: preparing national strategies and reviewing legal frameworks on intangible cultural heritage; involving communities and groups in the definition and implementation of safeguarding policies; developing joint transnational projects on shared elements of intangible cultural heritage; increasing educational (formal and non formal), awareness raising and information programmes.



### III. Objectives

This 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Greece will be an opportunity to present and discuss, in a comparative and informative way, the implementation of national measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

The meeting will also allow for a presentation of best practices and projects in the promotion of shared heritage (common research projects, multinational nomination files, etc.).

Finally, it will be an opportunity to discuss future joint activities in the area of training and capacity-building, to be developed in conjunction with the Sofia Regional Center on intangible cultural heritage, officially inaugurated in February 2012.

### IV. Topics of discussions

The seminar will address three major topics.

#### **Round-table 1: “Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage”**

The 2003 Convention (article 11) lays out the responsibility of the States at the national level, although in very broad terms: each State Party shall ‘take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory’. One main responsibility is to ‘adopt a general policy aimed at promoting the function of the intangible cultural heritage in society, and at integrating the safeguarding of such heritage into planning programmes’.

At the institutional level, States Parties are also to create or support several kinds of organizations or offices, designate or establish one or more competent bodies with responsibility for safeguarding, foster the creation or strengthening of institutions for training in managing and transmitting intangible heritage, and establish institutions to support documentation for safeguarding.

Further, the Convention requires States to ‘foster scientific, technical and artistic studies, as well as research methodologies, with a view to effective safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, in particular the intangible cultural heritage in danger’. And finally, the Convention gives great importance to education, awareness-raising, and capacity-building aimed at ensuring ‘recognition of, respect for, and enhancement of the intangible cultural heritage in society’.

During this first session, participants will be therefore invited to give a presentation on the implementation of the 2003 Convention in their respective countries, with special focus on the definition of legal and regulatory frameworks (general policies, legislations, inventories, digitization, consultative bodies, cooperation mechanisms, institutions, networks, etc.) as well as on the main activities for ICH safeguarding, including measures taken for awareness raising (educational programmes, media campaigns, and multimedia databases).

#### **Round-table 2: “Promoting shared intangible cultural heritage: pilot projects and best practices”**

An ICH element is frequently not restricted to the territory of a single State Party. Because intangible heritage is linked to people, it travels with them quite easily. People move around all the time, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, and as emigrants sometimes cling more firmly to traditional practices than do those who stay at home. ICH can also spread from a community to another and become shared heritage; if communities happen to live on two side of the same border, the ICH crosses the border, too.



An ICH element is thus frequently shared across borders and with communities of emigrants in more distant countries.

Shared ICH elements – as well as the communities concerned - may benefit from the ICH in question being safeguarded jointly by all countries concerned. The Convention thus encourages multinational nominations, requests and safeguarding projects and gives priority to them for financial assistance. In cases of shared heritage, safeguarding may best be achieved through collaboration between the communities or groups concerned, whether or not they live in different countries, and the communication and collaboration between them can be assisted by the States Parties concerned.

States Parties are thus specifically encouraged to submit joint multinational nominations of elements that are found on the territory of more than one of them for inscription on the Lists of the Convention. They are, of course, also encouraged to develop joint projects. Joint safeguarding activities and joint preparation of nomination files, together with the communities concerned, may also foster cooperation and understanding between States in cultural and other domains.

During this second session, selected experiences and good practices from the SEE region will be presented (joint research projects, preparation of multi-national nomination files, etc.), followed by a discussion that will allow participants to exchange views on the promotion of shared heritage, which could be of common interest for the region, and beyond.

### **Round-table 3: “Training and capacity-building: a needs assessment”**

UNESCO’s strategic emphasis lies on strengthening capacities of different stakeholders to safeguard intangible cultural heritage at the national level, and to benefit effectively from the opportunities and mechanisms of international cooperation created by the Convention. This includes the development of a global network of experts trained in the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

Within this framework, the first “training of trainers” workshop for the European region (“Strengthening national capacities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage”) was organized by UNESCO, in cooperation with the Bulgarian National Commission, in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 14-18 March 2011. The main objective of this workshop was to introduce the training curricula<sup>1</sup> developed by UNESCO on different aspects of the 2003 Convention, in response to the needs expressed by of the State Parties, and to form trainers for their further introduction. Trainees from Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Serbia and Turkey participated, among others, in this programme.

As a direct follow-up, the UNESCO Venice Office organized 2 capacity-building trainings at national levels, in the SEE region. A first national training workshop on “Community-based ICH Inventorying making” was organized in Cetinje, Montenegro, with the Ministry of Culture, from 24 October to 31 October 2011. This workshop addressed the essential features of inventorying under the 2003 Convention, and training on practical skills in inventorying making, including a fieldwork practicum. The 15 trainees for the workshop included experts, NGOs, community members, and actors at the heart of the 2003 Convention from Montenegro. A second similar training on “Community-based ICH Inventorying making” will be organized for Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Sarajevo, on 21-27 May 2011.

During this last session, participants are invited to present lessons learned from the first training workshop held in Montenegro, discuss modalities for enhancing regional and international cooperation, identifying needs and gaps, providing concrete suggestions for improvement, make proposals and suggestions on national/regional training and capacity-building activities to be carried out in 2012,

<sup>1</sup> The training is composed of 4 modules: Implementing the Convention at national level; Ratifying the 2003 Convention; Community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage; Preparing nominations for the Urgent Safeguarding List. Further modules are in preparations (on safeguarding measures and plans, for example).



whenever possible with the support of the UNESCO Venice Office and within the framework of the future activities to be conducted by the Regional Sofia Center on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

## V. Expected results

- identify new forms of institutional cooperation, exchanges and partnerships between institutions within the region and beyond, with special focus on shared ICH, and on regional activities for training and capacity building;
- define follow-up activities to be supported and promoted in SEE in the afore-mentioned fields of action, and make recommendations to UNESCO in this regard.

## VI. Participants

The conference will comprise experts from: Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria, Croatia; Cyprus; Greece; Italy; Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Romania; Serbia; Slovenia; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.

## VII. Working language

English, Greek

## VIII. Place of the conference

Conference hall of the Cultural Foundation of the Piraeus Bank

Aggelou Geronta 6 st, Plaka. Athens, Greece

Website : [www.piop.gr](http://www.piop.gr)

## IX. Interventions

Experts will be asked in session 1 to make a general presentation (20 min max) on the national implementation status of the 2003 Convention. Power point presentation is encouraged.

Participants may want to share in advance a summary/outline of their intervention.

Other sessions will allow each expert to present her/his views and experience, outline challenges encountered, and make proposals for future actions. Besides their personal presentation, experts will be asked to participate in the discussions of all sessions, under the guidance of a moderator.

## X. Agenda

The final agenda will be finalized before the seminar and sent to the participants. Please inform the Secretariat if you need any specific audio-visual equipment for the presentation of films, slides and/or PowerPoint presentations.

## XI. Accommodation



UNESCO Venice Office will arrange for travel tickets and make hotel reservations for participants. The hotel chosen is New Hotel (<http://newhotel.athenshotels.it>).

Address:

New Hotel, 16 Filellinon Str.  
Syntagma Square  
10557 Athens, Greece

Transportation from the airport to the hotel and back will be arranged by the organisers.  
Lunches and dinners for the duration of the meeting will be offered to the participants.

## XII. General Contacts

### Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism

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## PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SEMINAR

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### Wednesday 9 May 2012

Arrival of participants  
Transfer from Airport to New Hotel

20:30 Dinner at the New Hotel

### Thursday 10 May 2012

#### Venue of meeting

Cultural Foundation of the Piraeus Bank  
Aggelou Geronta 6 st, Plaka. Athens, Greece  
website : [www.piop.gr](http://www.piop.gr)

9:00 Departure from hotel (5 minutes walk)

9:15 Registration of participants

9:30-10:15 **Opening addresses**

- Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki, Director General of Antiquities & Cultural Heritage, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Aikaterini Tzitzikosta, President of Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO
- Aspasia Louvi, Director General of the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation
- Anthony Krause, Chief Culture Unit, UNESCO Venice Office

#### Session 1

10:15 **“Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage: progress, prospects and challenges”,**



Introduced and moderated by Dr. Maria Andreadaki Vlazaki, Director General of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism

10:30-11:30

**Presentations** by representatives of Greece:

- Mrs Aikaterini Polymerou-Kamilaki, Director of the Hellenic Folklore Research Center of the Academy of Athens
- Aspasia Louvi, Director General of the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation

**Presentations** by Albania

11:30-11:45

*Coffee-break*

11:45-12:45

**Presentations** by representatives of Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus

12:45-13:30

**Questions and Answers**

13:30-14:30

*Lunch*

14:30-15:30

**Presentations** by representatives of Italy, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova

15:30-15:45

**Questions and Answers**

15:45-16:45

**Presentations** by Montenegro, Romania, Serbia

16:45-17:00

*Coffee break*

17:00-18:00

**Round-table Discussion**

18:00 -20:30

Guided tour to the Museum of Greek Folk Instruments.  
Greek Traditional Music event

20:30

Dinner

**Friday, 11 May 2012**



- 9:30-10:30 Presentations by Slovenia, Turkey (continuation of Session 1), followed by discussion
- 10:30 **Session 2 – Round-table discussion**  
***“Promoting shared intangible cultural heritage: pilot projects and best practices”***  
Introduced and moderated by Matteo Rosati, UNESCO Venice Office and Teti Hadjinicolaou, Honorary Director of Modern Cultural Heritage of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- 10:45-11:00 Case examples by Mrs Panayiota Andrianopoulou (Greece): the Greek perspective
- 11:00-11:15 Case examples by Mrs. Selcan Gürçayır (Turkey): the multinational file of “Nevruz”
- 11:15-11:30 Case examples by Mrs Elizabeta Koneska (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): the joint research project with Turkey on “Sharing the same taste in traditional cuisine”
- 11:30-11:45 *Coffee-break*
- 11:45-13:00 **Round-table discussion**
- 13:00-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14h00 **Session 3 – Round-table discussion**  
***“Capacity-building and training in South-East Europe: a needs assessment”***  
Introduced and moderated by Anthony Krause, UNESCO Venice Office
- 14:15-14:30 The Sofia Regional Center on intangible cultural heritage: proposals for action 2012-2013, by Mr Nikolai Vukov (Bulgaria)
- 14:30-14:45 Youth, ASPnet and the promotion of intangible cultural heritage, by Ms Thekla Papantoniou (Cyprus)
- 14:45-15:00 Lessons learned from the UNESCO capacity-building training workshop on “community-based inventorying” held in Montenegro, by Sacha Sreckovic (Serbia) and Milica Nikolic (Montenegro)
- 15:00-16:30 **Round table discussion**
- 16:30-16:50 *Coffee-break*



16:50-17:30	<b>Conclusion, adoption of Declaration and closing remarks</b>
17:30-19:30	<b>Guided tour to the Acropolis Museum</b>
20:30	Dinner

## **Saturday 12 May 2012**

**Departure of participants**  
**Transfers from New Hotel to Airport**