Svobodný, předem daný a poučený souhlas nositelů tradic výroby vánočních ozdob z foukaných skleněných perel s podáním žádosti.

Free, prior and informed consent of the bearers of the tradition of handmade production of Christmas tree decorations from blown glass beads to the nomination.

2019
My name is Marek Kulhavý. I took over the workshop producing glass bead ornaments in Poniklá from my father. I learned to blow glass beads and to assemble Christmas ornaments from people more experienced than myself. I ensure that all the craftsmen and women have sufficient material for their work and carry out the complicated chemical part of the production process for glass bead ornaments in our workshop. In addition, I try to present our craft to the public through the media and teach those interested to assemble ornaments through various courses.

I support the nomination for inscription on the UNESCO List because I do not want this craft, to which I dedicate all my energy, to disappear, or only to be shown in museums as a reminder of the old arts practised by our ancestors.
My name is Barbora Kulhavá and I took over a workshop producing glass bead Christmas ornaments in Poniklá with my husband from his father. We work together to ensure that the glass bead craft does not disappear – it covers a number of procedures, each of them involving manual work with glass. In Poniklá, where we live, almost every family has some connection with glass bead production.

I fully support this nomination for inscription on the UNESCO List of intangible cultural heritage. It reflects more than a hundred years of experience, passed on through families from generation to generation in a harsh mountain environment. I also intend to pass my knowledge on to my own children.

There are very few people today who know this craft and I believe that an inscription in the List would help us attract new people interested in this form of glass production. It was also because of this that I was prepared to take on the role of guide in the film, which forms part of the nomination.
My name is Marie Zuzánková. I live in Hrabačov near Jilemnice. I was born in Poniklá. My mother and grandmother made Christmas decorations and we children also had to help. So we learned to make stars, circles and various ornaments. I have dedicated my entire life to this work. I taught my daughters and my granddaughter to assemble ornaments. I enjoy the work and am happy when other people like our products. I hope our craft is preserved, which is why I am supporting the nomination for a UNESCO inscription.

15/11/1942
Hanče a Vrbaty 850, 514 01 Jilemnice

26.2. 2019
Zuzánková M.
My name is Petra Skalská and I was born in Poniklá. If you live here you can say that Christmas decorations guide your entire life. Even as small children we helped our sister thread beads as a basis for our grandmother, Anička Huderová, to work on, someone who had devoted her whole life to making ornaments. One ornament, which she loved to assemble, is still named after her, the Huderovka star. My mother is retired and she also helps to make hand cut smaller beads. My adult daughter is also practising cutting beads and assembling ornaments. My job is also to make Christmas decorations. We are continuing in the family tradition, because my husband's mother also worked as a glass bead blower. I also blew beads for a time and you can be sure that it really isn’t easy to heat the glass properly and to blow beads that don’t crack. I have been involved in the whole production process; I’ve tried the silver coating, printing, dipping in colours, cutting the beads and assembling the ornaments. This all requires skill, some artistic talent, but the main thing is that you have to enjoy the work. When I see our ornaments in the shop, or on the television, I am proud to think that my hands have also played a part in their creation. I realise how special this craft is, how it is passed on from one generation to the next. It is handiwork, involving a number of individual and difficult procedures, some of which I can manage. At the end, a beautiful product is created, which gives pleasure to people during the festive periods. There are so few of us left who understand this craft. This is why I am supporting its nomination for inscription on the UNESCO List of intangible cultural heritage. It will help us preserve the knowledge and skills of our ancestors, which we are developing further and want to pass on to future generations. Please help to ensure that this beautiful craft is not forgotten.
My name is Věra Šimůnková and I live in Bozkov. I have been blowing since I was 15 years old. I started blowing because of my sister, who also used to blow. I liked the fact that it was a craft that almost no one knew. We would like to preserve our knowledge and skills and to pass them on to the next generation. Handmade production is increasingly rare and it is worth preserving. This craft includes a number of difficult individual procedures, which result in a beautiful product which gives pleasure to people during the most magical period of the year. This craft is extremely rare and it would be a great pity if it fell into oblivion. This is why its inscription in the UNESCO List of cultural heritage will make more people aware of it and increase the possibility of continuing in this tradition and developing it even further.
I have been involved in the production of Christmas decorations for 50 years. My parents also lived off this work. I enjoy the work and believe that these products bring pleasure to children and adults alike. I agree with the UNESCO nomination.

08/03/1947
Na Žuliánc 1104, 514 01 Jilemnice

Miroslava Bucharová

26.2.19:
Bucharová m.
My name is Mariana Paldusová and I come from Jilemnice. I joined a company producing glass beads quite by chance. When I was about to finish my maternity leave I didn't want to go back to my previous work, because it would have been difficult to combine the working hours with the children and my husband's work. I was therefore looking for other options and came across an offer to work in a shop selling decorations as a "Guide and lecturer for a creative workshop". I started working on a temporary basis. However I loved the varied work so much that I stayed and have been working here since August 2017.

Work in the creative workshop is mainly with children, who love it and it also helps them develop their fine motor skills. I feel I'm handing the craft on to these children. It is delicate manual work, which people appreciate nowadays, which is why I think it should be preserved. I believe that its inscription in the UNESCO List of intangible heritage will help to maintain the traditional manufacture that has existed in Poniklá for so long...
My name is Eva Hradecká and I live in a village called Roztoky u Jilemnice. When I was a child I very often heard my mother talk about glass making. She comes from Víchovská Lhota, where during her youth a number of families living in mountain cottages made their living from beads.

Her stories had an effect on me, and I studied bead winding at the glass school in Jablonec nad Nisou. I then looked for something similar closer to where I grew up. I was interested in the production of glass Christmas ornaments and learned how to blow glass beads.

I love how the hard, brittle glass becomes supple and plastic under the influence of the fire. I have been blowing for 30 years, but it is still like a small miracle for me.

I am advocating for this craft to be nominated for inscription on the UNESCO List of cultural heritage because the field I originally studied disappeared several years ago and this is a great pity. This is why I think it important to preserve the remnants of these old skills for future generations.
My name is Eliška Hájková and I live in Poniklá. My grandfather and uncle used to blow glass beads at home. Grandma used to string all the “klautsches” or beads they blew onto threads. She then cut the threads and wound them onto blocks, which she took to Horna. As children we also helped to string beads. My mother was also employed at Horna, working there and also making decorations at home. When I went back to Poniklá after I retired, the Rautis family workshop asked whether I could help out. I was happy to agree and sometimes I cut beads, sometimes I make decorations. It doesn’t pay much, but it helps supplement my pension and I enjoy it, while it also occupies my free time in the evenings. My husband is from Dušnice and his mother made decorations and home and the children had to help her. My husband also helps me sometimes. I do like the decorations themselves. I think it would be a pity if this production stopped and people all over the world were deprived of these beautiful things. That’s why I don’t want it to be lost and for it to be inscribed as UNESCO cultural heritage.
We are sisters - Markéta Dobiášová and Jana Brožová. Both of us come from Poniklá. For the past couple of years we have been working in the silverwork shop in the Rautis family workshop.

Our ending up here is the result of a series of coincidences. We spent our childhood in a family where our mother’s work involved the production of Christmas decorations at home. We used to help her during our free time.

In the silverwork shop, we handle almost all the beads and other different shapes. The reward for our, often alchemistic work, is when members of visiting groups, of all different ages, see us as magicians, amazed at how the transparent solution with which we fill the beads, gradually turns into shining silver.

In order to ensure that as many people as possible can witness this transformation, we want to support this nomination for inscription on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
My name is Jana Šírová. I have been living in Poniklá since 1981. I remember that at that time every third house lived off the glass bead industry. We lived next door to Mrs Lada, who made these ornaments. During the summer we would watch with the children as Mrs Lada sat outside at the table and started to work. The children watched with breathless wonder as her skilful hands created decorations. Sometimes it was stars, sometimes a pram, a train, a plane or many other beautiful shapes. I always told myself that I would like to be involved in this type of creative work. And it actually happened. First I helped in the production process, doing anything that was needed, painting beads, cutting, and later assembling the ornaments. Today it is my grandchildren who watch me with bated breath. The bigger ones already know how to make their star, which they place on the Christmas tree. I would love to see all the other children, and everyone who has a sense of beauty, given the opportunity to try this craft and to make their own star. This is why I am supporting the inscription of this craft on the UNESCO List.

02/05/1960
Poniklá 94, 512 42 Poniklá

26.2.2019
Jana Šírová
My name is Ludmila Kohoutová and I come from Pardubice. I now live in the village of Mostek near Dvůr Králové n. L., where I moved after my marriage.

I have been working for the company since 2014 as a glass bead blower. I ended up in this job quite by chance. A friend of mine blew beads at home so I tried it at her place and grew to like the work. I enjoy my job because it means something and the final product gives such pleasure to people at Christmas, the most wonderful festival in the year.

When I see our ornaments in a shop or on television I immediately realise that I contributed to producing them and that I am one of the few people who know how. I also think back to my childhood.

I support the nomination for inscription on the UNESCO List because I don't want this craft to die out and I want it to develop for future generations. A nomination for inscription on the UNESCO List of intangible cultural heritage will ensure that this handmade work will be preserved.
My name is Kamila Nyklíčková and I live in Horní Branná. I trained as a glass blower for Christmas ornaments and, after my maternity leave I was looking for this type of work. I do love working with glass.

At the Rautis family workshop they offered me a job as a painter, so I tried it. I am delighted with my skilful hands, which have helped to fulfil my dream by giving me work I enjoy and which satisfies me. And first and foremost I can make people happy.

Each of my faces (beads) is an original, and this is why people choose a particular decoration. I love this work, which is why I think this beautiful craft and its tradition will be preserved by joining UNESCO.

28/04/1980
Horní Branná 342, 512 36 Horní Branná

Kamila Nyklíčková
My name is Jarmila Volejníková and I live in Poniklá. I started to work for Rautis in 2000, when I was looking for employment. I have lived in Poniklá since I was small and was very familiar with the Christmas decorations they make here. I love working with my hands, which is why I had no problems with assembling decorations, even the complicated ones, and I really enjoyed it. My current work involves thinking up new shapes and patterns, as well as repairing very old ornaments, passed down from generation to generation.

Satisfied customers - this always delights us - are a reward for us all. This is why I think that an inscription in the UNESCO List of Intangible Heritage will help to preserve this manual craft, which is becoming increasingly scarce and is deserving of conservation.
My name is Jitka Janatová and I live in Roprachtice, which is the neighbouring village to Poniklá. From the time I was very small I loved the glittering Christmas bead decorations. After my maternity leave, I had the opportunity to start working and to learn how to do interesting work in Poniklá. I learnt how to blow and how to assemble beads – it is interesting work with fire and glass.

This is why I am supporting the idea of inscribing the manufacture of glass bead decorations on the UNESCO list, to ensure that people all over the world learn about the brilliant beauty of our decorations.

Jitka Janatová
My name is Veronika Nováková. I learned about this craft at the age of 17, when I took a temporary job in the shop, where I worked as a guide and lecturer in the creative workshop. I got the job through classmates who worked here. After leaving school I stayed at the bead workshop. I enjoy the work, demonstrating the craft and handing the knowledge on. It is lovely to see how people remember their past, when they had glass bead ornaments on their Christmas tree. When they describe how they are regularly adding to their collection and how they are looking forward to their next visit.

People appreciate and are able to value the opportunity to watch the production process and to make their own ornament, the fragile beauty and all the manual work involved in its creation. This doesn't just apply to one specific group, but to people of all ages, who like the ornaments, enjoy the assembly process and see that it helps develop their fine motor skills.

This is why I think the glass bead craft should be inscribed in the UNESCO List of intangible heritage, to preserve the traditions of this craft and to continue to spread it and, with it the joy and memories it brings to so many people.

08/06/1988
Jestřabí v Krkonoších 76, 514 01 Jestřabí v Krkonoších

26.2.2019

Veronika Nováková
My name is Jana Hlaváčová and I have lived in Poniklá since I was born.
I used to walk to school past the company that used to make, and still makes, Christmas decorations and liked to look through the window at the work the women were doing.
I have a vivid memory of the map of the Czech Republic, which showed Poniklá in Krkonoše with arrows pointing to what looked like the whole world, showing where the decorations were exported to. I was so proud, and still am, that the village of Poniklá and its glass bead family workshop have become so famous and that its work and products have been nominated for inscription on the UNESCO List of cultural heritage, which I wholeheartedly support.
The assembly and blowing of glass beads is part of our extended family and I am also carrying on the tradition.
My name is Tamara Vondrová and I live with my family in Horní Sytová. After my first encounter with the glass bead industry, I married someone from Poniklá. My husband's grandmother and his sister already made decorations here. I was amazed how different stars, cars, animals and other characters were created from these tiny beads. I am currently working in the family workshop, where I send packages containing our decorations to different corners of the country. I am so happy when I see our decorations on the television and know that I have been part of the process.

It would be such a shame if this craft were to disappear and the work of our forefathers were to be lost, which is why I support the idea of inscribing glass bead decorations on the UNESCO List of intangible cultural heritage.

Tamara Vondrová

17/10/1963
Horní Sytová 56, 512 41 Víchová nad Jizerou
My name is Jaroslava Valášková and I live in Cimbál, near Semily. Because we have a small farm, I looked for work I could do at home. It was my sister-in-law who introduced me to blowing glass beads, as she used to assemble ornaments at that time. I have been blowing since 1992. It involves working with glass and fire, so you must be calm and cool, otherwise it doesn’t work. When I see the ornaments on the television I feel good, because I know that they contain some of my own work. If our craft is inscribed on the UNESCO List, people throughout the world will learn about it, which is why this nomination has my support.

07/09/1961
Bitouchov 155, 513 01 Semily

07/09/1961
Bitouchov 155, 513 01 Semily

26.2.2019
Valdivkov J.
My name is Jaroslava Klikorková. I discovered Christmas decorations when I was a child as both my parents assembled ornaments at home and I had to help them. My love of assembling the ornaments remained and I am still doing it. I am happy that my work brings pleasure to other people. I support the inscription of our craft on the UNESCO List.

04/09/1946
Poniklá 299, 512 42 Poniklá

Jaroslava Klikorková
My name is Ladislav Böhm. I am 61 years old. I live in Semily. I am a glass bead blower and I enjoy the work because of the variety of beads, which is why I have been doing it for 22 years. These products are still popular, which is why this production should become part of the UNESCO world heritage.
My name is Petra Hartmanová and I design glass decorations from blown glass beads under the brand Hartdesign in a craft workshop in Vrchlabí. This is where the name for my brand comes from (Hartmanová from Harta − www.Hartdesign.cz). I began to become involved in the production of interior decorations during my maternity leave, about 3 years ago. At that time I moved to Krkonoše with my husband, who comes from Jilemnice, and extended his artistic family. My husband’s grandfather, Jaromír Masejdek, worked for many years as an academic artist, he taught applied art at the textile and art school and painted the local scenery and the local beauties. Almost every family in Krkonoše, or at least one of their members, has been involved in the production of glass beads. You simply cannot imagine what a flexible material it is. The blower blows the klautches (rows of beads) using a mould, and there are countless types of these. Lentils, pears, oats, barley, parachutes, hearts, you could almost open a grocery shop.

After my maternity leave I joined the Rautis family workshop and my love of glass beads grew even more. In 2018 I designed a minimalist collection called Geometric for Rautis and, thanks to that collection, the glass bead family workshop was nominated for the prestigious Czech Grand Design award in the Production − Design for Export section.

In the run-up to Christmas 2018 I began sharing my experience at workshops. The first one was mainly attended by the local community. Children are happy to make stars and angels and choose their colours carefully. In contrast, women like to indulge in their fantasies or make the decorations they like. Mostly hearts and butterflies. Fathers and grandfathers tend to help their youngsters finish off the decorations. I am currently working in the Krkonoše Local Action Group, where I am trying to link crafts, teaching about traditions and Krkonoše original products. From May 2019 we are planning to offer visitors to Krkonoše an experience package we are calling “in the footsteps of Krakonoš”, which will take tourists to different members making Krkonoše products where they will be able to try out for themselves how to make glass bead decorations and other skills in the original locations. This will help to sustain the glass bead craft and to spread awareness.

This craft is at the heart of all the mountains, it offers unlimited possibilities for designs of Christmas decorations, through jewellery and interior decorations to bead curtains for casual living areas. Every reasonably sensitive person who values handmade products and tradition and prefers good quality to cheap mass production loves the glass bead craft. And I am living proof that, even though the tradition was not part of my family, I could find my way to it.
Glass bead Christmas ornaments
As mayor of the municipality of Poniklá, I should like to express my support for the nomination of the production of glass bead Christmas ornaments for inscription on the UNESCO List of intangible cultural heritage. In earlier times Poniklá was full of “bead makers” – those who blew the glass beads, coated them in silver, or threaded them and entire extended families were involved in this work. Today it is only the remaining few who can master this craft who remain. The municipality of Poniklá is aware of the importance of this inscription, which would help preserve this craft. Glass bead production is part of our national identity and our workshop is the only one of its type in the world.

Obec Poniklá
Tomáš Hájek

MUNICIPALITY OF PONIKLÁ - TOMÁŠ HÁJEK, MAYOR
Collaboration between the Rautis family workshop and Poniklá Primary School

We very much appreciate the fact that we are able to visit Rautis, which is very close to our school. Our pupils can relive the traditional Krkonoše production of glass bead decorations. It is helpful for them to be able to try to assemble ornaments in the workshop itself, during the normal working day. The Rautis family workshop has donated creative kits to our school. This means the pupils can make their own Christmas decorations. We would love our children to remember this Poniklá glass bead tradition. Most of our children have learnt of bead blowing and the production of Christmas ornaments from their grandparents.

Our school was faced with a major challenge in the form of an art competition for the best background for fairytale characters made from beads. The children enthusiastically painted and built backgrounds for fairytales during their art classes and in after-school activities. These were all displayed in the Rautis display window allowing everyone to judge the quality of the work.

We are proud of the fact that this unique production of hand crafted glass bead Christmas ornaments has been preserved in our village.