



NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

**REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED
TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

Deadline: 17 February 2025 for examination in 2025

File may be downloaded at:

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

Please provide only the information requested below.

Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.

ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΤΩΝ

A.1.b. Name of the organization in English and/or French.

POLITISTIKO ERGASTIRI AYION OMOLOYITON

A.1.c. Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)

NGO-90265

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. The postal address should be the one where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Politistiko Ergastiri Ayion Omoloyiton

Address: Anchialou 1, 1080. Lefkosia Cyprus

Telephone number: +35722256782

Email address: info@politistiko-ergastiri.org

Website/Social media: www.politistiko-ergastiri.org

Other relevant information:

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr

Family name: Theodorou

Given name: Panayiotis

Position: Director

Postal address: Anchialou 1, 1080, Lefkosia Cyprus

Telephone number: +35722256782

Email address: ptheodorou@politistiko-ergastiri.org

Other relevant information:

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework, as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

Our organisation, focusing on the topics of dance, music, costume and traditions organises and supports opportunities for young persons and adults to be involved in activities relates with ICH. The activities are structured and implemented under extensive planning and supported by funds absorbed by applications so that the they are sustainable. This achieves the continuity and ability to enhance quality through experience and expertise. Persons involved (human capacity) are trained on the topics and supports to participate in the activities enabling their growth in expertise and competences. Awareness of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is developed through these planned efforts. Activities are planned both the local and international level offering our members opportunities through seminars, trainings, lessons to both be aware, understand and be able to participate in activities that involve Intangible Cultural heritage. Local topics are shared in international cooperation through European learning activities, or presented and shared through conferences. (e.g. 18th Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) meetings in Kasane, Botswana 2023, during the 18th Annual Meeting of the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage , October 2024 Warsaw).

B.2. Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Our main objective is transmission of knowledge, attitudes and skills for the safeguarding of ICH through non-formal & informal education, activities in communities and performances for a broad public. In this respect, we organise on a regular basis open discussions to exchange of knowledge and ideas offering expertise to individuals interested and contribute in education and capacity building..

ICH and Education - (schools/families)

Implementation of an educational interactive workshops:

A. "Visiting Evthalias Mansion" which introduces elements of Traditional dance, Music, Costume and story telling of Cyprus. <https://youtu.be/tuq9LkUNLMY?si=SyHtLpPMhFCupz50>

B. "Let me tell you as story" which introduces the structure of story telling and provides the opportunity to children of young age to identify the elements of a traditional tale, story and create their own. https://youtu.be/wVBbtT7BYsY?si=w2JPfcWWajdxTO_A

Both educational programs are approved by the Ministry of Education and Culture for their methodology and content liked with ICH.

-Creation of a movable exhibition with the topic: traditional dance and music and how it can be transmitted, the content, its topics. The exhibition is movable and can be exhibited in schools.

-performances with a topic which transmit a particular topic related with ICH elements

-weekly meetings not excluding but including anyone that wishes to participate in dancing lessons with a minimum fee for adults and children

-performances and presentations 2 -3 time a year following annual custom calendar. eg. local celebrations, Christmas, easter, which include the community of the city of Lefkosia.

B.3. Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Politistiko Ergastiri has been documenting [traditional dance](#), music and other related customs since 1990, collecting relevant data. The information collected is examined carefully and used to transfer knowledge to younger members of our organisation. Dance is taught using the recorded material and then performed. The process of documentation is based on on-site visits, interviews and recording of individuals. To achieve this we cooperate with members of the families of the bearers of intangible heritage (e.g. dancer) and their community, to put these into context. The cooperation does not end with the recording, and where possible, the bearer is hosted in workshops, performances, speeches, seminars, trainings, in order to promote intergenerational dialogue and maintain the direct contact between experienced practitioners and new apprentices.

Politistiko Ergastiri has created a small inventory of gathered information in the form of video and documents which is available to its members, mostly for the purpose of knowledge transmission regarding Cyprus dance and music.

In addition we have recently created a publication referring to the material gathered and its transmission.

In addition in cases a particular topic of dance is referred to in thematic projects we invite known researchers that have worked with locals in documenting the dances. Since we have not the chance of meeting the source directly, we aim to the closest relevant persons - a researcher.

B.4. Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

As an organisation there are measures taken towards policies in an official and unofficial level. On the official level we have a constant communication with the **Cyprus National Committee** and a close relation, in exchanging views and possible activities supporting ICH promotion in the National level. We have supported the presentation of the Committee in the Living Heritage in Urban Contexts 18th Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage, October Warsaw, with the presentation Cyprus / "Fostering Community Engagement in Safeguarding Living Heritage in Urban Contexts in Cyprus"

In addition we are in an agreement with the **University of Cyprus** by signing a Memorandum of cooperation for in the promotion of ICH matters with and in cooperation with its professors and students.

On an unofficial level, we have intervened in various occasions when it is seen that the misuse of elements of ICH in particular Dance & Music, affects the quality of transmission in our opinion and based on the research material gathered. Intervention is either by meeting with producers, musicians, dancers and discussing the effect of the performances or activities expressing our concerns of the direction of the outcomes. Examples are - Cyprus Tourism Organisation activities, linked with performances of Cyprus dances, Open festivals as Antama happening in Lefkosia lately.

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

To understand the role of ICH and its need of safeguarding, there is a need of creating awareness on the topic. The effort of the Cyprus National Committee have been promoting the topic and creating sensitivity on the subject awakening many communities and individuals in documenting ICH. There is a discussion though concerning the transmission and good practices in the promotion of safeguarding. This discussion in on going and needs the support of conferences, trainings and seminars. There is a need of expertise to be shared. This is a achieved through seminars we structure occasionally linked mostly with Traditional dancing and music and focuses mostly on the audience of dance teachers and musicians. Examples- Seminar of Dances , Music, Costume, Story telling 30/09/2021, Seminar on Traditional Cyprus music 3/01/2023, Seminar of Dances from Drama, Greece, Kappadokia, Asia Minor. etc.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Since its establishment, Politistiko Ergastiri has dedicated itself to the realms of dance, music, song, and storytelling. Our primary aim is to cultivate structures that facilitate activities focusing not only on the safeguarding but actively promoting intangible cultural heritage (ICH) as a vibrant, living aspect of our community rather than a mere collection of artifacts. Our performances bridge the gap between the past and the present, utilizing traditional music and dance while addressing contemporary societal needs. Each performance serves as a journey through time, showcasing the continuity and connection of cultural practices. Our performances are not simply an exhibition of ability but a process of exchange with the audience, raising questions, discussions, awareness on ICH, which is very much alive in everyday life.

We envision our showcases not merely as exhibitions of talent but as platforms for meaningful exchanges with our audience, provoking thoughtful discussions and raising awareness about the importance of ICH, which permeates everyday life. Additionally, our cultural center prioritizes collaborations with individuals and organizations committed to promoting elements of cultural heritage.

Our philosophy is rooted in open participation, fostering acceptance and coexistence among individuals of all ages and abilities through the universal languages of dance, song, and music. This approach not only connects participants but also encapsulates the essence of our culture. The interplay of dance, music, and costumes (horostasi) is viewed as an organic entity that forges a continuum through time, leaving behind traces that invite a deeper exploration, interpretation, and celebration of our rich cultural heritage. Together, we strive to keep this heritage vibrant and relevant for future generations.

B.7. Describe your organization's participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

As an advisory NGO we have supported the activities of communities in creating their own events in promoting their contributions and in specifics activities for the [Maxilles Lysou](#) with the community of Lysos. Supporting their activities promotion of involvement of local producers, ensuring visibility and promotion of the product but mostly the practice of production of Maxilles.

As an organisation we also have proceeded in promoting [Rembetiko](#) which is Inscribed in 2017 ([12.COM](#)) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity through performances and events in cooperation with rural villages promoting the awareness of ICH in a content they already are familiar with.

Promoting events and activities and supporting the communities and individuals in their implication, promotion , performance of the ICH elements support the safeguarding as well.

- B.8.** Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.

Not to exceed 250 words

Seminars and activities are open to host persons and organisations dealing with similar topics of traditional dance and Music. Invitations to persons of interest are given out supporting discussion and exchange of ideas, knowledge, good practices attitudes, behaviours. An example of these are a seminar on "Transmission- Tradition" "Παράδοση-Μετάδοση" 9/10/2021, where the related topics of Dance , Music, Story telling, Costume and Architecture in tradition were presented and discussed with an audience from local groups and individuals, another example was the seminar on Traditional music in January 2023, focused on [Cypriot Phones](#), promoting them towards young musicians.

In the international level we have cooperation with various organisations in creating International Learning experiences which are mostly focused on life values. Through these we also have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with organisations that are focused on intangible heritage elements, and do planning cooperations. A recent example is the cooperation with County Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture Iași called the MYTCH project from IASI, focusing on Promoting Local culture and community building through traditional music.

- B.9.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

Not to exceed 250 words

As an organisation and in cooperation with the Cyprus National Committee of Unesco, we have contributed in the periodic report drafted by the Committee.

- B.10.** Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

Not to exceed 250 words

Politistiko Ergastiri contributes, through its activities, to the implementation of safeguarding measures of elements already inscribed on the Representative List and the National Inventory of ICH (such as: Tsiattista poetic duelling, [Cyprus Traditional Dances](#), [Cyprus Traditional Wedding Customs](#), [Shadow Theatre - Karagiozis](#), [Maxilles Lysou](#), [Folk Stories and Myths](#)). IN addition we have supported the inclusion of [Cypriot Phones](#), in the National List.

As an advisory NGO we have supported the activities of communities in creating their own events in promoting their contributions and in specific activities for the [Maxilles Lysou](#).

As an organisation we also have proceeded in promoting [Rembetiko](#) which is Inscribed in 2017 ([12.COM](#)) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity through performances and events in cooperation with rural villages promoting the awareness of ICH in a content they already are familiar with.

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)

Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention

Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators

Cooperation with Category 2 Centres

Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO

Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs

Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund

Financial support from the Participation Programme

Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

- A. Participated on the online meeting of the UNESCO Culture Sector live session online at 1.30 p.m., 18 May (Paris time) to illustrate good examples of synergies between education and culture at both global, national and local levels.
- B. Participated in the Online workshop to present an overview of the 2003 Convention, the role of NGOs, the ICH NGO Forum, and participation at 17COM (meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee at Rabat, Morocco, 27 Nov.-3 Dec. 2022).
- C. Registered as and organisation in the ICH NGO Forum - Elections
- D. Presenting during the 18th Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) meetings in Kasane, Botswana 2023,
Presentation titled: Eavesdropping in Echoes of the city, Panayiotis Theodorou
Topics:
- Key Safeguarding measures
- Inventorying: Presenting Information on ICH elements in a systematic way
- Awareness raising Encouraging people to understand and appreciate ICH
- Revitalisation Strengthening of endangered ICH practices
- E. Presenting during the 18th Annual Meeting of the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage, (October 2024 Warsaw). Representing Cyprus
Topic: Fostering Community Engagement in Safeguarding Living Heritage in Urban Contexts in Cyprus : Christiana Papadopoulou, Thekla Papantoniou, Panayiotis Theodorou,

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

- D.1** Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

A. Presenting during the 18th Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) meetings in Kasane, Botswana 2023,
Presentation titled: Eavesdropping in Echoes of the city, Panayiotis Theodorou

Topics:

- Key Safeguarding measures
- Inventorying: Presenting Information on ICH elements in a systematic way
- Awareness raising Encouraging people to understand and appreciate ICH
- Revitalisation Strengthening of endangered ICH practices

B. E. Presenting during the 18th Annual Meeting of the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage , October 2024 Warsaw). Representing Cyprus

Topic: Fostering Community Engagement in Safeguarding Living Heritage in Urban Contexts in Cyprus : Christiana Papadopoulou, Thekla Papantoniou, Panayiotis Theodorou,

D.2 *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

No

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

Our will is to be more implicated as an advisory NGO. At the moment we are in close cooperation with our National Committee in Cyprus, and participating mostly by sharing good practices and engaging in discussions either online or by physical presence in conferences.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives)

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff with the language abilities concerned.*

Not to exceed 250 words

1. Panayiotis Theodorou - English Language - willing to participate in evaluation processes if requested.

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes,. we are working with Dance , Music, Traditions, Costume, Story telling, but also provide support in local edible products and handicrafts. Our expertise lies mostly in training processes and support of creating events cultural experiences, (performances, educational interactive tours/games, personal development and cultural awareness). we are ready to provide these expertise through conferences, trainings or other activities.

E.3. *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

We have not any experience this sector

E.4. Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff with the language abilities concerned.

Not to exceed 250 words

We have not any experience this sector

E.5. Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, our experience since 2007 in international learning activities, (youth exchanges, trainings, Erasmus plus projects, Culture projects is extensive and of high Quality. We have an established network of supporters and facilitators for this sector, and feel very comfortable in hosting or organising international events, or contexts related to international experiences. topics: Culture, Personal Development, Volunteer management, Mentoring and support of mental health.

F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: Panayiotis Theodorou

Title: Director

Date: 17/02/2025

Signature:



For the purpose of collecting information, accredited non-governmental organizations are invited to answer the following question (optional). The information provided will not be assessed as part of the review of accreditation in the sense of paragraph 94 of the Operational Directives.

Participation in the work of the ICH NGO Forum

Has your organization contributed to the work of the ICH NGO Forum in the past four years? If yes, please tick the relevant box(es) and provide information below.

Member of the **Executive Board** of the ICH NGO Forum

If yes, indicate the period and the role played:

Member of a **thematic working group** established under the ICH NGO Forum

Specify the name of the working group, the period and the role played:

Presenting and actively participating in the workshops during the 18th Annual Meeting of the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage, (October 2024 Warsaw). Representing Cyprus
Topic: Fostering Community Engagement in Safeguarding Living Heritage in Urban Contexts in Cyprus : Christiana Papadopoulou, Thekla Papantoniou, Panayiotis Theodorou

Organizer of an **event specifically convened for accredited non-governmental organizations**

Specify the name of the event, its target group and its date:

Other types of cooperation

Specify: