



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

NGO accreditation

ICH-09 – Form

Requ CLT / CIH / ITH

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31 MAI 2013

N°

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REQUEST BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO BE ACCREDITED TO PROVIDE ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE COMMITTEE

DEADLINE 31 MAY 2013

Instructions for completing the request form are available at:

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/forms>

1. Name of the organization

1.a. Official name

Please provide the full official name of the organization, in its original language, as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section 8.b below).

Рэспубліканскае маладзёжнае грамадскае аб'яднанне "Студэнцкае этнаграфічнае таварыства"

1.b. Name in English and/or French

Please provide the name of the organization in English and/or French.

National Youth Non-Governmental Organization "Student Ethnographic Association"

2.a. Address of the organization

Please provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone or fax numbers, e-mail address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled (see section 8).

Organization: National Youth Non-Governmental Organization "Student Ethnographic Association"

Address: 112, Libkniekhta str., Minsk, 220036, Belarus

Telephone number: +375 17 208 20 90

Fax number: +375 17 208 44 28

E-mail address: set@ethno.by

Website: <http://set.ethno.by/>, http://vk.com/ethno_by

Other relevant

information:

2.b Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this request. If an e-mail address cannot be provided, the information should include a fax number.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms
Family name: Leshkevich
Given name: Alena
Institution/position: manager, member of the Board
Address: 6 - 308, Aliaksandrava str., Liasny settlement, Minsk district, 223040, Belarus
Telephone number: +375 29 748 61 41
Fax number: +375 17 208 4428
E-mail address: alena.leshkevich@ethno.by
Other relevant information:

3. Country or countries in which the organization is active

Please identify the country or countries in which the organization actively operates. If it operates entirely within one country, please indicate which country. If its activities are international, please indicate whether it operates globally or in one or more regions, and please list the primary countries in which it carries out activities.

- national
 international (please specify:)
 worldwide
 Africa
 Arab States
 Asia & the Pacific
 Europe & North America
 Latin America & the Caribbean

Please list the primary country(ies) where it is active:

Belarus

4. Date of its founding or approximate duration of its existence

Please state when the organization came into existence.

Founded in 1998; registered in 2002

5. Objectives of the organization

Please describe the objectives for which the organization was established, which should be 'in conformity with the spirit of the Convention' (Criterion C). If the organization's primary objectives are other than safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, please explain how its safeguarding objectives relate to those larger objectives.

Not to exceed 350 words; do not attach additional information

Objectives of NYNGO "SEA" are:

- to preserve, develop and contribute to the continuity of the Belarusian authentic cultural traditions;
- to preserve and revive the environment of the traditional ethnic culture, the Belarusian natural and cultural landscape;
- to overcome spiritual crisis in modern Belarusian society on the basis of the values of the traditional culture. (paragraph 2.1 of the Statute)

The concept "Traditional ethnic culture" as we use it includes both intangible and tangible cultural heritage of Belarus (see definition given in the Statute):

NYNGO "SEA" considers the traditional ethnic culture – knowledge, beliefs, customs, morality and other forms of the spiritual and material heritage which were acquired by ethnos during the independent development on their land – to be the highest value which shall be passed on from one generation to another and shall be the basis for the development of society. (paragraph 1.3 of the Statute)

6. The organization's activities in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

Sections 6.a to 6.c are the primary place to establish that the NGO satisfies the criterion of having 'proven competence, expertise and experience in safeguarding (as defined in Article 2.3 of the Convention) intangible cultural heritage belonging, inter alia, to one or more specific domains' (Criterion A).

6.a. Domain(s) in which the organization is active

Please tick one or more boxes to indicate the primary domains in which the organization is most active. If its activities involve domains other than those listed, please tick 'other domains' and indicate which domains are concerned.

- oral traditions and expressions
- performing arts
- social practices, rituals and festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- traditional craftsmanship
- other domains - please specify:

6.b. Primary safeguarding activities in which the organization is involved

Please tick one or more boxes to indicate the organization's primary safeguarding activities. If its activities involve safeguarding measures not listed here, please tick 'other safeguarding measures' and specify which ones are concerned.

- identification, documentation, research (including inventory-making)

- preservation, protection
- promotion, enhancement
- transmission, formal or non-formal education
- revitalization
- other safeguarding measures – please specify:

6.c. Description of the organization's activities

Organizations requesting accreditation should briefly describe their recent activities and their relevant experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Please provide information on the personnel and membership of the organization, describe their competence and expertise in the domain of intangible cultural heritage and explain how they acquired such competence. Documentation of such activities and competences may be submitted, if necessary, under section 8.c below.

Not to exceed 750 words; do not attach additional information

SEA takes an active part in the identification, preservation, promotion, transmission and revitalization of the Belarusian intangible cultural heritage on national level.

SEA has organized more than 20 ethnographic expeditions to the regions of Belarus and to the regions of neighbouring countries inhabited by Belarusians since 1998. The members of SEA have identified, researched and documented elements of the Belarusian ICH from various domains: oral traditions and expressions, rituals and festive events, social practices, knowledge concerning nature and the universe, worshiping of sacred elements of natural landscape, magic practices, traditional craftsmanship, customs related to everyday life both actual and preserved in bearers' memory.

The folklore and ethnographic archive of SEA is the significant source of information on ICH of Belarus. To date it contains about 2,000 hours of audio and video recordings, 50,000 photos, as well as collection of tangible items. The archive contains not only SEA expedition materials but also folklore collections of different state organizations, NGOs, regional cultural institutions and private researchers deposited by their owners to SEA, collections of television and radio programs recordings.

The archive materials are available for cultural workers and local communities on their demands. Materials are used for documentation of ICH elements, making out of regional ICH inventories. In 2012 SEA defined informative providing of ICH safeguarding to be of top priority in usage of the archive.

SEA Issued 15 titles of publications and DVDs containing information on ICH.

SEA conduct educational activities aimed at both urban and rural youth in the forms of non-formal education (study circles, workshops, summer handicraft camps, singing and dancing studies), festivals, art events, as well promotion activities aimed at the whole society. The objectives of these activities' are: to adopt the traditional cultural knowledge, skills and values by the youth; to encourage motivation for cultural continuity; to provide information and enhance awareness of ICH importance in society, to turn bearers' passive knowledge in actual practice.

Since 1999 SEA have been supporting some elements of ICH, mainly traditional festive events, rites, handicrafts. Among achievements actualization and drawing society's attention to the Christmas ritual game of young people "Žaničba Ciareški / Ciareška's Wedding" in northern Belarus can be mentioned. SEA has initiated revitalizing of the rite "Mikol'skaja šviača / St. Nicholas' candle" and the Christmas rite "Kury" in Kličau district (eastern Belarus) where children take part, the Easter rite of making the round of homesteads "Valačobniki" in Liepiel' district. Feltmaking of Drybin district has been maintained through organizing the annual summer handicraft camp as well as holding of promoting workshops and round table in April 2012. SEA

have some “basic” regions in which we cooperate with local communities most closely and give constant support to ICH. The list of ICH elements that have been supported by SEA is attached in paragraph 8.c supplement.

In 2012 SEA initiated to coordinate measures on protecting ICH in Belarus among NGOs, local communities, cultural workers and experts in the form of Public coordinating council. SEA takes part in both national and international workshops where different aspects of ICH safeguarding are concerned (e.g “Identification and inventory making of ICH as an effective factor of its preservation” (Minsk, 25-26 March 2013). SEA activities have been mentioned in the Periodic report on the implementation of the 2003 Convention in Belarus (Periodic report No. 00780/Belarus).

SEA members are people of different age, have different occupations united by their concern of Belarusian traditional cultural values. Some of them have special education in the field of ethnology, folklore studies, philology, cultural studies, have experience as researchers and tutors. Our members’ competence has been acquired mainly practically during the ethnographic expeditions and activities on ICH safeguarding. SEA act in close contact with the expert community, conduct cooperation and mutual consultations. Two SEA members took part in Regional Consultative Meeting and training for the experts of the CIS countries on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention 2003 (18-21 May 2011, Minsk).

SEA has developed structures in the regions of Belarus. There are 164 members in SEA.

7. The organization’s experiences cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners

The Committee will evaluate whether NGOs requesting accreditation ‘cooperate in a spirit of mutual respect with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage’ (Criterion D). Please briefly describe such experiences here.

Not to exceed 350 words; do not attach additional information

Having begun conducting ethnographic expeditions SEA members realized their unity with the traditional culture and its bearers rather than being observers from outside. It is due to this understanding that communication without cultural and age-dependent barriers in a spirit of mutual respect and concern with both elderly people and rural youth has been achieved.

ICH bearers and SEA are interested in each other. We gain knowledge that helps us form our world view. They realize their cultural heritage value and their importance as bearers and teachers.

As a rule our relations with the local community set up during expeditions may continue in the following forms: subsequent visits; exchanging the records and photos; participating in local festive events or initiating revitalization of such events; organizing handicraft workshop or summer camp. While contacting with local communities we try to find their leaders who are interested in their cultural heritage preservation. In this case usually long-time cooperation is established.

So regarding local communities and authorities SEA nowadays appears to be a representative of public opinion of the necessity to respect and safeguard ICH and an active social figure able to initiate and support certain measures in this direction. The organization often acts as a medium between local communities interested in ICH safeguarding and experts who can give advise on it, between local authorities and experts, and sometimes between local communities and local authorities in case of conflicts.

SEA gets help from local authorities in researches on their territories and shares recorded materials sometimes together with ICH analysis and recommendations on its support. Since 2011 SEA have been carrying out public presentations of ICH at regional workshops for cultural workers and public discussions on issues of local ICH.

8. Documentation of the operational capacities of the organization

The Operational Directives (paragraph 97) require that an organization requesting accreditation submit documentation proving that it possesses the operational capacities listed under Criterion E. Such supporting documents may take various forms, in light of the diverse legal regimes in effect in different States. Submitted documents should be translated whenever possible into English or French if the originals are in another language. Please label supporting documents clearly with the section (8.a, 8.b or 8.c) to which they refer.

8.a. Membership and personnel

Proof of the participation of the members of the organization, as requested under Criterion E (i), may take diverse forms such as a list of directors, list of personnel and statistical information on the quantity and categories of members; a complete membership roster usually need not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section 8.a'.

8.b. Recognized legal personality

If the organization has a charter, articles of incorporation, by-laws or similar establishing documents, a copy should be attached. If, under the applicable domestic law, the organization has a legal personality recognized through some means other than an establishing document (for instance, through a published notice in an official gazette or journal), please provide documentation showing how that legal personality was established.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section 8.b'.

8.c. Duration of existence and activities

If it is not already indicated clearly from the documentation provided for section 8.b, please submit documentation proving that the organization has existed for at least four years at the time it requests accreditation. Please provide documentation showing that it has carried out appropriate safeguarding activities during that time, including those described above in section 6.c. Supplementary materials such as books, CDs or DVDs, or similar publications cannot be taken into consideration and should not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section 8.c'.

9. Signature

The application must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization requesting accreditation. Requests without a signature cannot be considered.

Name: Aliaksei Hlushko

Title: Chairman of the National Youth Non-Governmental Organization "Student Ethnographic Association"

Date: 24.05.2013

Signature:

