

**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE GLOBAL FACILITATORS' NETWORK**

**PREPARING NOMINATIONS TO THE LISTS AND REGISTER OF THE CONVENTION –  
UPDATED TRAINING MATERIALS FOLLOWING THE GLOBAL REFLECTION ON THE  
LISTING MECHANISMS (2018-2022)**

**10 and 26 June 2025  
Online**

**Part I: 10 June 2025, 2.00 pm – 5.00 p.m.  
Part II: 26 June 2025, 2.00 pm – 5.00 p.m.**

**Mock nomination to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**

# REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

**Deadline: 31 March 2026  
for possible inscription in 2027**

*Instructions for completing the form are available at:  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

## **A. State Party or States Parties**

Srecha in Eastern Europe

## **B. Name of the element**

### **B.1. Name of the element in the languages and scripts of the community(ies) concerned**

Spring Procession in Zabra [in the Bromzha dialect of the official language of Srecha]

### **B.2. Name of the element in English**

Spring Procession in Zabra

## **C. Name of the communities, groups or individuals concerned**

The Municipality of Zabra

## **1. General information about the element**

*For **Criterion R.1**, States **shall demonstrate that ‘the element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention’.***

*1.1. Provide a brief description of the element that can introduce it to readers who have never seen or experienced it.*

*Not to exceed 300 words*

Spring (Hana) Procession in Zabra is an example of ancient folklore that is never changing and endlessly repeated over the centuries. The townspeople of Zabra speak of Hana with pride. They don't know its authentic historical meaning, but research is being done to determine it. The oldest descriptions of Hana date from the sixteenth century CE. Attempts at its interpretation date from the late nineteenth century when researchers first became interested in the element. Hana was at first spontaneously organized within the community. In the early 1960s, however, Central Government suppressed many customs and traditions related to religious holidays and peasant life. The procession was not promoted by the Christian Church because Hana is of pre-Christian origin and girls were acting as boys. The procession was revitalized in the 1980s, when researchers at the Provincial Museum in Bromzha started helping towns in the province to maintain their customs, and to present them on stage in an authentic way within the framework of amateur folklore. One of the researchers had even participated in a Hana Procession in her youth. Today the procession is performed regularly every year in its authentic form and is very popular with young and old alike.

[Word count = 199]

- 1.2. *Who are the bearers and practitioners of the element? Are there any specific roles, including gender-related ones or categories of persons with special responsibilities for the practice and transmission of the element? If so, who are they and what are their responsibilities?*

*Not to exceed 100 words*

All members of the community are involved in this beautiful procession in different ways, but the girls are the most striking. Researchers constitute a special group too, a community of skilled people who transmit knowledge about the element through their written works, thus contributing to its safeguarding.

In the town of Zabra in spring, on Whitsunday, girls dress up as princesses and knights and visit selected houses in different streets in the town to sing and dance to music for the householders. After they are provided with food and drinks in the yard by the householder, the procession goes to another house. On the next day – the second day of Whitsuntide – they visit a neighbouring town, Brymla. Finally, there is a celebration of feasting and dancing in the town square of Zabra. The procession is coordinated by the Zabra Folklore Organization.

[Word count = 141]

- 1.3. *How are the knowledge and skills related to the element transmitted today?*

*Not to exceed 100 words*

The best way of instructing the girls in their folklore is of course for them to learn the authentic versions of the Hana songs and dances soon to be published by the Provincial Museum in Bromzha. Specialists give instructions to the dancers at the annual folklore festival – the Summer Festival. In the hands of modern professionals, the Procession and all its accompanying songs and dances can be passed on from one class of specialists to the next at national and international festivals. Thus, alone can one wipe away the cobwebs of the generations and peer clearly into the past. Soon the inhabitants of Zabra will be able to rightfully claim that they have the oldest dances of the country.

[Word count = 119]

- 1.4. *What social functions and cultural meanings does the element have nowadays for the communities concerned?*

*Not to exceed 200 words*

The townspeople of Zabra don't know its authentic historical meaning, but research is being done to determine it. Certain names used in the song seem to point at pre-Illyric fertility rites. The element is economically significant in attracting recent emigrants and tourists to the town, as people come to enjoy the procession or the Summer Festival. The added income enjoyed by local restaurants and hotels, sabre sellers, the church, the local zoo and taxi services far exceeds the expenditure on costumes and food for the festival performers. The Zabra community has welcomed ideas from the tourists on how to improve the Procession to make it more modern and appealing to outsiders. These changes are giving new social functions and meanings to the Procession in a modern world as the community waits for the authentic historical meaning to be established by the researchers.

[Word count = 142]

- 1.5. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element is incompatible with existing international human rights instruments?*

*Not to exceed 50 words*

No, this is an innocent ritual that can be appreciated by young and old alike. In fact, the participation of tourists in all aspects of the Procession is an indication that this practice is compatible with international human rights and mutual respect.

[Word count = 42]

- 1.6. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element could be perceived as not compatible with the requirement of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals?*

*Not to exceed 50 words*

No, the entire community participates in Hana, always welcoming tourists, and other guests in a friendly and hospitable atmosphere. There is nothing that would indicate any disrespect. Everyone is welcomed.

[Word count = 30]

- 1.7. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element could be perceived as not compatible with the requirement of sustainable development?*

*Not to exceed 50 words*

It is not known that any part of the element would be against requirements of sustainable development. Quite the opposite (see Section 2). Nature is coming to its climax in expectation of fertile summer. Hana procession is a celebration of this thriving time, linking the community with their natural environment in a moment of strong solidarity and social cohesion.

[Word count = 59]

- 1.8. *Are there customary practices governing access to the element? If yes, describe any specific measures that are in place to ensure their respect.*

*Not to exceed 100 words*

The right of anyone to have access to this element can easily be guaranteed as there are no secrets involved and no hidden aspects (other than the unknown authentic function of the element – researchers are, however, working on this issue).

Respect for the element itself will enable all interested parties to participate in the performance of the entire procession of Hana from Zabra in situ. That achieves far better understanding of local culture, erasing boundaries between present and the past, and between the performers and the audience, between outsiders and insiders.

[Word count = 91]

## 2. Contribution to visibility, awareness, dialogue and sustainable development

*For **Criterion R.2**, the States **shall demonstrate that 'Inscription of the element will contribute to ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage and to encouraging dialogue, thus reflecting cultural diversity worldwide and testifying to human creativity'**. In addition, States are encouraged, with reference to Chapter VI of the Operational Directives, to recognize the interdependence between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development.*

*Given its extensive nature, criterion R.2 will be assessed based on the information provided in the nomination file as a whole including the answers provided in this section.*

2.1. Do communities concerned consider that the element contributes to the following?

- ☐ Ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of intangible cultural heritage
- ☐ Encouraging dialogue
- ☒ Reflecting cultural diversity and testifying to human creativity

2.2. Do communities concerned consider that the element contributes to the following? (select only relevant options)

- ☐ Food security
- ☐ Health care
- ☐ Quality education
- ☒ Gender equality
- ☒ Inclusive economic development
- ☐ Environmental sustainability including climate change
- ☒ Peace and social cohesion
- ☒ Others (please specify): raising awareness of the importance of ICH in the society and in its economy; completing the list with a unique element.

2.3. Provide explanations in support of the statement(s) made above, as appropriate.

*Not to exceed 200 words*

Hana spring procession has an irreplaceable role in the touristic development not only in the town of Zabra, but in the entire province. Tourism is a crucial source of income for local inhabitants and Hana procession is the most attractive annual event. Its regular organization contributes to the well-being of the local community and strengthens social ties across families and generations.

The applied part of the research mentioned above, carried out by cultural tourism experts, will explore new opportunities how to use Hana for further development of tourism in the region. The video attached documents its tourist attractiveness – it is a recording from the Summer festival held in 2014, where the Hana dances were enacted, and which saw the highest number of tourists in its history.

Gender equality is also tackled by the element. The ritual is mostly performed by women. In the past, when the society was strongly patriarchal, Hana was one of very few ways how girls and young women could express themselves and become visible. Nowadays, women are fully emancipated but treasure Hana as a symbol of their identity and continuity with past generations.

[Word count 187]

- 2.4. States are encouraged to submit audiovisual materials that convey the communities' voice in support of the statements made above (optional).

☒ Materials (written, audiovisual or any other way) are submitted (referred to as 'R.2 materials')

### 3. Safeguarding measures

For **Criterion R.3**, States **shall demonstrate that 'safeguarding measures are elaborated that may protect and promote the element'**.

What safeguarding measures are put in place to protect and promote the element?

Include in your answer:

- the description of the safeguarding measures;
- the communities' role in the planning of measures described;
- the communities' role in the implementation of measures described.

Not to exceed 500 words

The element is currently viable, but inscription of the Hana Procession may unintentionally jeopardize the viability of the Summer Festival where Hana dances and songs are performed. The Zabra mayor – who has four daughters – actively supports the Whitsuntide Procession and the festival. The mayor has expressed concern that because of the economic recession that has affected the country, without efficient and widely supported measures, and without inscription, the public performances of the songs and dances in the festival will not attract as many people as before and the authorities will not be in a position to implement the plan. It is anticipated that inscription may attract a multitude of visitors from neighbouring countries and beyond and the community expects the State to use its authority to enforce law and order to protect this national treasure.

The following safeguarding measures are proposed:

Activity	Stakeholders responsible	Timetable	Cost p.a.	Outcomes expected
Identify all local communities that held Hana Processions and that are still holding them either regularly or occasionally	Provincial Museum, Bromzha	2022–2031	2 000	Inventory of the processions
Market the Summer Festival so that it attracts more tourists. Consider the merger of the procession and the Summer Festival	Tourism office, Bromzha	2022–2024	50 000	More tourism in the area around Zabra
Train young people at the theatre academy in the capital to fill up the required numbers of performers in the Summer Festival and the procession	Republican Theatre Academy	2022–2024	15 000	Tradition continued

Remunerate girls and musicians participating in the procession	Tourist office in Bromzha, the provincial capital	Annually	4 000	Performers motivated
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The Zabra Municipality has hosted a number of meetings to discuss the safeguarding measures with researchers at the Provincial Museum in Bromzha. The mayor of Zabra actively supports the Whitsuntide Procession and the Summer Festival. As the representative of the State and the people of Zabra, the Mayor will be in charge of implementing the proposed safeguarding measures.

Since the inscription of the element will bring national pride to the State, the Department of Culture, local and provincial authorities, including the Municipality of Zabra will be the main financiers of the proposed safeguarding measures. Other supporters such as the tourist industry and private sponsors may make contributions in kind to encourage the continued practice of Hana in Zabra town.

[Word count = 385]

#### 4. Community participation in the nomination process and consent

*For Criterion R.4, States shall demonstrate that ‘the element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent’.*

4.1. Describe how the communities, groups or individuals concerned have actively participated in all stages of the preparation of the nomination.

*Not to exceed 300 words*

In mid-2015 the procession was proclaimed as an element of the national cultural heritage of the country and the townspeople were very glad to have been recognized in this way. The participation of communities at that time was easily mobilized by the Mayor who is the government and people's representative. He still has the authority to bring together the concerned community together and get them to participate in the nomination process. A few years later, the idea of nominating the Hana Masterpiece for UNESCO's List of World Intangible Heritage was announced in the local press. Schoolchildren were also informed about UNESCO and its Lists.

Many meetings were held; as a result, we could append a letter showing that the Mayor of Zabra agrees to the nomination and that he is entitled to do so.

[Word count 134]

- ☒ Consent (written, audiovisual or any other way) to the nomination of the element from the communities, groups or individuals concerned is attached in support to the description above (referred to as 'consent materials')

4.2. *Community organizations or representatives concerned*

Contact person for the communities:

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: PPP

Given name: PPP

Institution/position: Mayor of Zabra

Address: PPP

Telephone number: PPP

Email address: PPP

Other relevant information:

- ☒ Additional contact information for main community organizations or representatives, non-governmental organizations or other bodies concerned with the element are attached in a separate annex, and their details can be published on the website of the Convention as part of the nomination

5. **Inventory**

For **Criterion R.5**, States **shall demonstrate that the element is identified and included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies)** in conformity with Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention.

5.1. *Name of the inventory(ies) in which the element is included***National inventory**5.2. *Name of the office(s), agency(ies), organization(s) or body(ies) responsible for maintaining and updating that (those) inventory(ies), both in the original language and in translation when the original language is not English or French***Ministry of Culture**5.3. *Reference number(s) and name(s) of the element in the relevant inventory(ies)*5.4. *Date of the element's inclusion in the inventory(ies)***2015**

Is the information concerning the updating and periodicity of the inventory(ies), as well as the participation of communities, groups and NGOs concerned to the inventorying process, included in the periodic report on the implementation of the Convention?

- ☐ Yes, the information is included in the periodic report. Specify in the box below the year in which that report was submitted
- ☒ No, the information is not included in the periodic report. Provide information in the box below

*Not to exceed 200 words*

The element has been listed on a national inventory that can be consulted online. The community has participated in all aspects of the nomination process as has been indicated above. People from Zabra love to visit the website to learn more about their procession.



- ☒ An extract of inventory(ies) in English or in French and in the original language, if different, is submitted

## 6. Checklist for audiovisual materials

Confirm that the following audiovisual materials have been submitted:

- ☒ 10 recent photographs in high definition submitted
- ☒ Form ICH-07-photo is attached to grant rights for the 10 photographs submitted
- ☒ A video (from 5 to 10 minutes) is submitted
- ☐ Form ICH-07-video is attached to grant rights for the video submitted
- ☐ R.2 materials (written, audiovisual or any other way) submitted (*optional – with reference to section 2.3; audiovisual materials should last no more than ten minutes*)
- ☐ Form ICH-07-video is attached to grant rights for the R.2 materials submitted (*only if the materials are audiovisual*)
- ☐ Consent materials (written, audiovisual or any other way) submitted (*with reference to section 4.1; audiovisual materials should last no more than ten minutes*)
- ☐ Form ICH-07-video is attached to grant rights for the consent materials submitted (*only if the materials are audiovisual*)

## 7. Correspondence and signature

### 7.1. Designated contact person

Provide the contact details of a single person responsible for all correspondence concerning the nomination. For multinational nominations, provide complete contact information for one person designated by the States Parties as the main contact person for all correspondence relating to the nomination.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr

Family name: XXX

Given name: XXX

Institution/position: Mayor of Zabra

Address: XXX

Telephone number: XXX

Email address: XXX

Other relevant information: Principal contact

7.2. Other contact persons (for multinational nomination only)

Provide below complete contact information for one person in each submitting State, other than the primary contact person identified above.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.):
Family name:
Given name:
Institution/position:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email address:
Other relevant information:

7.3. Signature on behalf of the State Party or States Parties

Name:
Title: Mayor of Zabra
Date: 18 February 2025
Signature: <signed>

7.4. Name(s), title(s) and signature(s) of other official(s) (for multinational nominations only).

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## **MATERIALS APPENDED**

### Communities' voice in support of the statements concerning contribution to the sustainable development

A 60-minute video capturing the highlights of the Summer festival in 2014 is attached.

### Compulsory photo and video documentation

20 photos including:

- 10 historical photos of the procession dating from the 1890s
- 5 photos of the Summer Festival in which the songs and dances were performed
- 2 photos of the Minister of Culture proclaiming the procession as an element of the national cultural heritage of the country
- 3 photos of the historical centre of the town of Zabra on a sunny day (including the Old Water Mill, ruins of Zabra Castle, and the Meadow of Victory where the Brymlian aggressors surrendered (reproduction of an eighteenth-century engraving)).

Cession of rights will follow

[English Translation]

# *The Zabra Traditional Music Association*

Srecha

January 2, 2023

## Letter of Consent

The Zabra Traditional Music Association members unreservedly grant our grant free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of the 'Hana or Whitsuntide processions in the province of Bromzha' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Our Association has over 100 members, and the Association's committee is signing this letter on behalf of all the members whose support to nominating this important part of our cultural heritage is unanimous. We have been training musicians to ensure that our processions continue for many years to come.

Signed by

*Georg Maslov*

Chairperson

Zabra Traditional Music Association

*Dimitri Leonov*

Vice Chairperson

Zabra Traditional Music Association

*Paavel Alexandrovik*

Secretary

Zabra Traditional Music Association

*Vladimir Russov*

Treasurer

Zabra Traditional Music Association

[English Translation]

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
ZABRA MUNICIPALITY  
Srecha**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Subject: Proceeding free, prior and informed consent to the nomination**

The Municipality, for and on behalf of the people of Zabra, grants its free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of the 'Hana or Whitsuntide processions in the province of Bromzha' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

We are happy to provide our continued contribution and support to the coordination of the Hana Processions, which are an important dimension of our community's cultural life and identity.

Signed by

**Dr Zbigniew Brasky**

Mayor of Zabra

*Official stamp*

[English Translation]

February 8, 2023

### **Letter of Consent**

We, the grandmothers and tradition-bearers of the Hana Procession have over the years actively groomed girls to play their different roles in the procession. We have been involved in designing the traditional dresses, preparing food, and passing on our cherished values and beliefs associated with this procession.

We are proud to have restored the Hana Procession after this was banned by the Government.

We now have the pleasure of granting our free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of the 'Hana or Whitsuntide processions in the province of Bromzha' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

We look forward to sharing this important part of our heritage with the rest of the world.

Signed by six grandmothers from the Zabra community

1. Ludmilla Sharapova
2. Katrini Cichrova
3. Eva Suransky
4. Nadia Ivanova
5. Evgenia Konstantinova
6. Anastasia Leontova

[English Translation]

16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Letter of Consent

As some of the Hana girls of 2020 and 2021, we are happy to give our free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of the 'Hana or Whitsuntide processions in the province of Bromzha' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

We believe that the Hana Processions are very important for us young people to safeguard our heritage for the future generations.

Thank you to all those who have helped us to continue with the Processions, especially our grandmothers.

Signed by representatives of the 2022 Hana Girls

1. Nadia Sharapova, Team Leader
2. Ludmilla Ivanova, Publicity Secretary
3. Eva Maslov, Treasurer

Signed by representatives of the 2021 Hana Girls

1. Ludmilla Konstantinova, Team Leader
2. Evgenia Cichrova, Publicity Secretary
3. Anastasia Suransky, Treasurer

Extract from inventory

[Translated into English]

**THE REPUBLIC OF SRECHA  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF CULTURAL GOODS**

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No. 2226A

Entry Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Name of the element: 'The Hana Procession of Zabra'

Geographical Location: Bromzha Province

**Description of the element:**

The Procession of Hana is performed in the town of Zabra every spring at Whitsuntide, a feast in the Christian calendar (the seventh Sunday after Easter, falling in May or June). The oldest references to Hana Processions date from the late sixteenth century.

On Whitsunday, a group of about fifteen girls dress up as princesses and knights and sing and walk through the town, accompanied by musicians. They visit selected families in different streets, including newcomers to the town, to sing and dance in their yards. People living in the same street – especially young people – gather around. Songs are chosen from a wide repertoire of Hana lyrics, improvised to address young people in the household being visited. Recently married girls are congratulated and wished well. In every yard visited, the knights perform a dance holding sabres and the princesses comment on their dancing through song. Then the family being visited joins in with the dance before providing refreshments to everyone.