



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

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CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Fifth session
Kenya
November 2010

FILE NO. 00332 FOR REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE HERITAGE FUND IN 2010

A. PROJECT TITLE

This is the official name of the project that will appear in published material from the Committee. It should be concise. Please do not exceed 200 characters, including spaces and punctuation. Names should be romanized, without special fonts or characters.

Establishing of the National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Belarus

B. SUBMITTING STATE PARTY

For multi-national proposals, States Parties should be listed in the order on which they have mutually agreed.

Belarus

C. BENEFICIARY COMMUNITY, GROUP, OR IF APPROPRIATE, INDIVIDUALS

Identify clearly the community(ies), group(s) or, if appropriate, individuals concerned with the proposed project. The Convention provides no definition of a community, but the information here should allow the Bureau or Committee to identify the primary parties concerned with a project, and should be mutually coherent with the relevant sections below.

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts as the implementing agency of this project; communities, groups and individuals from different regions of Belarus - bearers of ICH, including in the Inventory.

D. IS THIS AN EMERGENCY REQUEST THAT MIGHT RECEIVE EXPEDITED PROCESSING?

Indicate if this is an emergency request that might warrant expedited evaluation by the Bureau or Committee. You will be asked to describe the nature and severity of the emergency in section 1. If this is an emergency request, the information required in sections 4, 5 and 6 can be submitted at a later stage, if required.

- emergency request
- non-emergency request

E. PURPOSE OF REQUEST (CHECK ONE)

Select one box to identify the purpose for which international assistance is requested.

- safeguarding heritage inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List
- safeguarding heritage being nominated for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List
- elaboration of inventories
- implementation of programmes, projects and activities for safeguarding

F. Scope of the project (check one)

Select one box to identify whether the project is primarily local, national, sub-regional, regional or international in scope (the latter including projects carried out in geographically non-continuous areas).

- local
- national
- sub-regional
- regional
- international (including geographically non-continuous areas)

G. Location of the project

Identify the location(s) in which the project may be carried out.

Belarus

H. Proposed implementing organization or body

Provide the name(s) of the organization that will be responsible for implementing the project. Contact details are provided below (section 7.b. and 7.c.).

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus
Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts

I. BUDGET OVERVIEW (IN US DOLLARS)

This section is to provide a budget overview concerning the implementation of the project. Please indicate in US dollars the amount requested from the Intangible Heritage Fund and the amount to be contributed by the State Party.

Amount requested from the Fund: 133,600

State Party contribution: 35,400

J. TIME FRAME

Indicate the starting and ending months of the project. The time frame may alternatively be expressed in terms of the total number of months required.

November 2010 - October 2012

K. SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the current situation, the main objectives and expected results and the activities proposed.

The Project is aimed to identify, define and protect all elements of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as ICH) to promote the cultural diversity through the registration and safeguarding of the heritage. The main goal of the Project is promotion and distribution of structured information about the intangible cultural heritage and diversity of the Belarusian people.

Evidently the establishment of the ICH Inventory will provide the safeguarding of the information about ICH elements, its revival through their promotion and development of social interest to them. Good registration is a first step of preservation.

The Project contributes to promotion of intercultural dialogue, intergenerational transmission of knowledge, reduction of poverty and strengthening of partnership on national and international levels.

The Project is designed for 24 months (November 2010 - December 2011). It includes organizational activities on co-ordinating the Project, field researches with the aim of study and monitoring of the Belarusian intangible heritage.

The creation of the National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Belarus should present a variety of cultural and educational products.

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Provide a brief description of the current situation and the need that the proposed assistance would address. For safeguarding of a particular element, provide a description of the element, its viability and why safeguarding measures are required. For programmes or activities not focused on a particular element (e.g., preparation of inventories, strengthening of capacities, awareness-raising, visibility), please describe existing related programmes and activities, if any, and identify gaps to be addressed. For emergency assistance requests, describe the nature and severity of the emergency.

The Belarusian ICH is the living culture which requires careful attitude from state and society. It comprises a variety of regional and local features, archaic elements and forms, modern types of culture, etc. The safeguarding of ICH in Belarus is regulated by the Law on Protection of Historical and Cultural Heritage (adopted in 2006). The inventorying of the ICH is one of the key

objectives of the Law.

Criteria of the selection of the elements of ICH to the national inventory:

- 1) The elements constitute intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention 2003.
- 2) the elements should have significant local features, concerning with general national and regional traditions;
- 3) they should reflect traditional mentality and world-view (beliefs, moral imperatives, regulations, values, traditional behaviour, etc);

The main coordinator of the activity of ICH inventoring on the national level is the Belarusian State Institute For Culture Issues. It provided the regular work on the selection of the ICH data in six ethnic regions of Belarus over a period of 10 years. The great collection, including more than 600 audio and 40 three-hour video cassettes was formed. 40 audio and 20 video cassettes were digitized. The majority of these data were published in the 3 volumes of the significant publication entitled 'Anthology of the Belarusian Folklore'. This work is continuing in partnership with other storage of ICH data. Among them are the Institute of Art Sciences, Ethnography and Folklore of the National Academy of Science of Belarus, which has more than 400 units of text records and 20000 audio and video records of ICH elements, Belarusian University of Culture and Art, which also has a collection of folklore data.

After the analysis and identification of all elements of ICH preserved at mentioned institutions we plan to provide broad field investigation (with the help of students and representatives of local communities) with the aim to know what elements from those which selected and described early continue to exist, what of them keep the viability and how many of them are urgent need of safeguarding. As a rule viable elements are the most stable elements which transmit from generation to generation and have the active form of their expression for today. They originate from the places where the representatives of all age groups are living. The youth generation constitutes the bearer of traditions. In this case the oral transmission of living traditions through the informal contacts takes place. The spontaneous appearances of traditional culture in the natural conditions of its existence are safeguarding. Disappearing elements keep only in the memory of the oldest informers – bearers of traditions.

Finally the Inventory will take account and mark out in the separate fields the disappearing and viable elements of ICH.

2. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Describe what primary objective(s) will be addressed and what concrete results are expected.

The long-term objective of the project is the safeguarding and promotion of the living heritage of Belarus particularly through the promotion and implementation of the intangible cultural heritage Convention and enhancing complementarities of the Conventions of 1972, 2003 and 2005.

The mid-term objective of the project is the strengthening capacities for establishing of the national inventory of the intangible cultural heritage and promoting a crucial role of cultural diversity and cultural heritage for sustainable development in Belarus, in particular the implementation of the project will contribute to the following:

At the international level:

- To raise awareness about the cultural diversity and recognize the importance of the ICH of Belarus and the need to safeguard and revitalize it;
- To decrease the consequences of environmental changes.

At the national level:

- To build local and national capacities for the safeguarding of the ICH by laying the basis for the development of the legal and administrative measures for the protection of the ICH;
- To contribute to the preservation of the cultural diversity of Belarus;
- To restore the balance between 'traditional' and 'innovative' from the point of view of ethnic cultures;
- To strengthen ethnic and civil identity of the Belarusian people;
- To promote the participation of communities, groups and non-governmental organizations, as well as traditional artists and local creators, in the preservation of the ICH of Belarus;

The Inventory of ICH will be existing in the form of database. The data will be published in the Internet site (specially elaborated) and in the different publications. Among them are: 6 CD and DVD catalogues, represented collections of ICH elements from 6 ethnic regions of Belarus. The names of these regions: Paazerje, Padnyaprouye, Central Belarus, West Palesse, East Palesse, Pasozhzha. They formed historically. CD and DVD will contain the information about different forms of ICH, typical for these regions and reflect their cultural potential.

The next publication is the catalogue of the most significant elements of the Belarusian ICH represented as the album with more than 100 colour photos.

Besides we plan to publish 2 methodical editions which will contain the handbook on the national and international practice of selection, investigation and safeguarding of ICH.

3. ACTIVITIES

What are the key activities to be carried out in order to achieve these expected results? Describe the activities concretely and in their best sequence, addressing their feasibility.

The main goal of the Project is to elaborate and create the Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Belarus. All possible elements of the ICH present in Belarus (activities, performances, products, cultural expressions) are to be identified and registered. The viability of the inventoried elements and factors (if any) threatening the viability are to be indicated.

The Belarusian Inventory of the ICH will be made on two levels: 1) as the database including disappearing, urgent need of safeguarding elements of ICH, proposed local communities, groups or individuals; 2) the most representative and viable elements of Belarus, described also in the National List of Historical and Cultural Heritage.

Establishing of the ICH Inventory implies the specified activity, including:

- 1) Selection of the data from the collections of the mentioned early institutions: Belarusian State Institute For Culture Issues, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, Institute of Art Sciences, Ethnography and Folklore of the National Academy of Science of Belarus.
- 2) analysis, identification and digitizing of the data;
- 3) Field investigations of ethnic regions of Belarus with the aim to identify and monitoring the viability of the ICH elements, kept in the mentioned collections, to define new elements. These investigations will be provided under the broad involvement of local communities – bearers of traditions. In Belarus there is the developed system of various cultural institutions (public, state) on the national and local levels which are engaged in the preservation of cultural heritage. On local level there are various clubs, houses of handicrafts, and museums of local culture and centres of culture. They locate in every small town and in many villages and work with the representatives of bearers directly. On the base of these centres many committees and associations of bearers were created

(practically they exist in the majority of local houses of handicraft or local museums and culture centres). The example – Association of shapovals (fullers) in Dribin district (Mogiliev region). Certainly the investigations of ICH, its definition and describing will provide with the direct participation of these centres and local inhabitants.

- 4) Creation of the ICH database. The administrator of the database will be the Belarusian State Institute For Culture Issues. This database will be available to the broad groups of users, first of all through the creation of appropriate web-site;
- 5) Publication of the results (series of publications).

During the elaboration of the project it is assumed to provide the holding of some consultation workshops with the experts and representatives of communities, groups and individuals, concerning the inventorying and safeguarding of ICH. Besides the international workshop with the participation of international experts is planning in Belarus with the aim to explore and implement the experience of different countries in the field of inventorying of ICH.

The ICH inventory will be created in partnership with the Belarusian State Institute For Culture Issues (main coordinator), Belarusian State University of Culture and Art, Institute of Art Sciences, Ethnography and Folklore of the National Academy of Belarus, etc. Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus exercises the general control under the process of inventorying.

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.a. Community involvement

Describe the mechanisms for fully involving communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals in the activities.

National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will be based on the materials which were collected and have been put forward by local communities in different regions of the country. The process of inventorying of ICH on local level has been started in 2009 and was declared by special program of Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus. The responsible bodies for this work are local museums, houses of handicraft, and local authorities in the field of culture. Representatives of local communities actively participate in the processes of selection and identification of the ICH elements. The experts of the Belarusian University of Culture and Arts elaborated the special questionnaire for work with bearers of ICH, which is used quite broadly. In many regions of Belarus there are Committees of bearers of ICH which were created on local levels by initiative people.

It is supposed to organize and carry out series of seminars and workshops for representatives of local communities, groups and individuals – bearers of ICH devoted to the selection, identification, inventorying and safeguarding of ICH, its visibility.

The main goal of the project – collect all data about the Belarusian ICH, using regional and local materials which were identified by their bearers and customers, describe these elements and create national database which helps to organize the work under their preservation and visibility on local and national levels.

4.b. Implementing organization

Describe the implementing organization or body that may be responsible for implementing the project including name, background, structure, etc. Identify the human resources available for implementing the project. (Contact information is to be provided below (section 7.c).)

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus

Belarusian State Institute For Culture Issues as a branch of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts

4.c. Partners

Describe, if applicable, coordination arrangements with any other partners and their responsibilities in the implementation of the project, including their available human resources.

Institute of Art Sciences, Ethnography and Folklore of the National Academy of Belarus

Regional and local authorities, museums, houses of handicraft, committees of bearers of ICH

4.d. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Describe how the implementing organization plans to carry out monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project. For larger or more complex projects, external monitoring and evaluation are preferable. Standard formats for reporting and evaluation are available from the Secretariat.

The Project will be monitored on all the stages of preparation and implementation. Monitoring will be carried out by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus. The National Commission of the Republic of Belarus will be responsible for informational and analytical work on all the stages of the Project. Scientific monitoring will be executed by the Belarusian State Institute for Culture Issues. It will be liable for monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Project, will submit all the materials to the Ministry of Culture of Belarus quarterly.

The methods of monitoring, reporting and evaluation include: holding round tables on the results of expeditions, quarterly financial reports, attracting experts to evaluate the results of activities, field researches, discussions of catalogues, albums to be published, DVDs to be released, etc.

5. CAPACITY-BUILDING, SUSTAINABILITY AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

5.a. Capacity-building

Describe how the project may contribute to building up capacities or strengthening existing resources, for instance in the communities and/or in the implementing organization concerned.

The implementation of the Project will contribute to the following at the national level: preserving of the unique cultural landscape of Belarus and rare forms of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; restoring of the lost balance in the dialogue between traditional and innovative from the point of view of ethnic cultures; strengthening of ethnic, civil and civilization identity of the Belarusian people; facilitating of a wide access to the cultural resources'; strengthening of development of cultural diversity of different regions of Belarus.

The implementation of the Project will stimulate the motivation of bearers of ICH on the identification and inscribing of their activity, safeguarding of their value knowledge and practices,

their transmission to new generations. Viability of this knowledge will provide the development of cultural tourism, educational processes on national and regional level, real attention and activity from the side of local and national authority in the field of preservation of cultural heritage and development of culture.

At the international level the implementation of the Project will contribute to the following: globalisation and localisation of culture; survival and development of the indigenous people's culture; increasing of cultural diversity of the representatives of different types of the Belarusian traditional culture; decreasing of the consequences of environmental changes; documenting of the best practices in the domains of the cultural heritage of indigenous people; safeguarding of cultural diversity, enhancing of intercultural dialogue; engaging indigenous men and women in the activities related to safeguarding of the cultural heritage.

5.b. Sustainability

Describe how the results and benefits of the project are expected to last beyond the end of the project.

The Project will be executed by partner organisations concerned that share humanitarian ideas of UNESCO. Special interest is expected from the representatives of the Belarusian ethnic communities whose interest in the roots of their ethno-cultural identity is continuing to rise, as well as their concern about their future in the conditions of cultural diversity.

The Project will draw attention of the state and organisations to activities of local communities, bearers of the Intangible Cultural Heritage promoting their preservation. The Project might lead to local initiatives and a larger, national Project involving the whole nation.

The Project will show the contribution of ethnic groups and local communities into the cultural diversity of humanity, it will assist the Belarusian government in reforming the cultural policy for the benefit of the representatives of traditional culture.

The Project will promote preservation and sustainable development of the Belarusian ethnic regions, strengthening and consolidation of their ethno-cultural values; it will draw attention and stimulate interest to the cultural diversity. The Project might make contribution to the economic development of the country and development of tourism in Belarus.

It is supposed that National Inventory will be constantly updated and increased in the closed cooperation and communication the responsible persons for its conducting (experts from Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts) and representatives of ethnic communities, groups and bearers. The project is aimed to provide the permanent activity on inventorying of ICH of Belarus, stimulate its further financing and technical support from the side of national and regional authorities, different interested organizations.

5.c. Multiplier effects

Describe how this assistance may stimulate financial and technical contributions from other sources or may stimulate similar efforts elsewhere. When the overall project benefits from contributions of other funding sources, please indicate by whom, how much and for what purpose the contributions are granted.

Establishment of the Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as ICH) is a real and effective way to safeguard the ICH. The project is directed at supporting economic, psychological and cultural well-being of the Belarusian people, and the forming a positive ethnic identity amongst the youth, as well as ensuring their understanding of their own cultural heritage. The project also will assist to strengthening the expression of the creative potential of the indigenous people, developing the economic status of a family engaged in traditional crafts. The products of the project will be used in educational institutions for raising the professional level of

teachers and all those, who work with the indigenous peoples.

The joint work of experts and representatives of communities, groups and individuals under the elaboration and establishment of the Inventory of ICH of Belarus will stimulate the creative activity of both sides, promote the development of actions on the selection and inventorying of ICH elements, involve the additional means on the preservation of ICH. The ICH inventory is a good tool for the strengthening of educational programs for students of the Belarusian State Institute of Culture and Arts and in the frameworks of non-formal education.

Financing of the ICH inventory by UNESCO at the first stage helps to find the necessary means in future from different sources, including state financing in the frameworks of state programmes.

6. TIMETABLE AND BUDGET

6.a. Timetable

Please provide a month-by-month timetable for the proposed activities.

See Appendix 1

6.b. Budget

(1) *Provide a detailed budget breakdown in USD of the amount requested, by type of cost (e.g. personnel, travel, fees, etc.) or by activity;*

(2) *Indicate the contribution by the submitting State Party, if any.*

The budget should reflect only the activities and expenses for which international assistance from the Intangible Heritage Fund is requested, including the State contribution, if any. Sample budgets are available from the Secretariat.

See Appendix 2

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

7.a. Submitting State Party

For multi-national proposals, States Parties should be listed in the order on which they have mutually agreed.

Belarus

7.b. Contact person for correspondence

Please provide the name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning the request. If an e-mail address cannot be provided, the information should include a fax number. For multi-national requests provide contact information for one person in each State Party and identify the person among them who is designated as the main contact person.

Alla Stashkevich, an expert of Belarus at the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Address: ul. Yanka Kupala, 11/4

Minsk 220030
Belarus
E-mail: as.belicom@gmail.com
Tel. 375 29 332 03 94

7.c. Organization or body responsible for implementation

This section should provide the name and contact information of the body (agency, institution, or manager) responsible for implementing the project if it is selected for funding.

Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts
ul. Rabkorovskaya, 17
Minsk 220007
Belarus
Rector of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts – Svetlov Boris Vladimirovich

8. SIGNATURE

The application must include the signature of the official empowered to sign it on behalf of the State Party.

Name: B. Svetlov
Title: Rector of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts
Date: 5 May 2009
Signature: Signed