



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Fifth session
Kenya
November 2010

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION NO. 00332 OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS GREATER THAN US\$25,000 2010

Name of the examiner: Association nationale cultures et traditions
Name of the expert (if different): Jean Roche Assisted by: Angeles Prieto and Pierre-Julien Canonne (ANCT)
Date of the examination: (revised on) 10 August 2010
International Assistance request No. 00332 State Party: Belarus Title of request: Establishing the national inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Belarus
<i>Note: Information in italics in boxes is provided for the examiner's reference; it includes excerpts from the Operational Directives or from the explanations given to submitting States Parties in the International Assistance request form. The examiner shall rely upon the information provided within the request file. The examiner shall bring to bear his/her personal and professional knowledge in assessing the credibility and completeness of the information provided within the request, but his/her report shall primarily address whether or not the submitting State, within the request, has adequately demonstrated that the criteria for international assistance are satisfied. The examiner shall neither be a national of the State(s) party(ies) submitting the nomination nor have any conflict of interest that could influence in duly the results of the examination.</i>
Excerpts from the Operational Directives Criteria for international assistance: 66. <i>When evaluating requests for international assistance, the Committee shall take into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the special needs of</i>

developing countries. The Committee may also take into account whether:

- a. the request implies cooperation at the bilateral, regional or international levels; and/or,*
- b. the assistance may have a multiplier effect and may stimulate financial and technical contributions from other sources.*

67. The Committee will base its decisions on granting assistance on the following criteria:

- a. the community, group and/or individuals concerned participated in the preparation of the request and will be involved in the implementation of the proposed activities, and in their evaluation and follow-up as broadly as possible;*
- b. the amount of assistance requested is appropriate;*
- c. the proposed activities are well conceived and feasible;*
- d. the project may have lasting results;*
- e. the beneficiary State Party shares the cost of the activities for which international assistance is provided, within the limits of its resources;*
- f. the assistance aims at building up or reinforcing capacities in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;*
- g. the beneficiary State Party has implemented previously financed activities, if any, in line with all regulations and any conditions applied thereto.¹*

Brief textual description of the international assistance request

The examiner should provide a brief description of the international assistance request, suitable for publication. This may draw upon item K of the Cover Sheet and item 1 'background and rationale', but should also draw upon the request as a whole to provide a summary overview of the essential features of the request. The description should be prepared based on the information provided within the request.

(175 to 225 words)

The intangible cultural heritage of Belarus is an essential part of the national culture that must be protected, developed and promoted both nationally and internationally.

Since the adoption by Belarus of the new Law on the Protection of Historic Memory and Cultural Heritage in January 2006, in accordance with the 2003 UNESCO Convention, the inventory of intangible cultural heritage has become a key objective in ensuring protection at the national and regional levels.

The primary objective of the project is to draw up and implement a centralized inventory within the Belarus Institute of Culture of all possible elements of intangible cultural heritage to be found in the territory of Belarus.

The project proposes that these elements be identified and selected in different stages, throughout the territory's six ethnic regions. The method is centred round the participation of and sharing of resources and funds by State institutions, communities, local associations and persons who are repositories of such knowledge.

The project will serve, among other things, to strengthen the powers of creative expression of the people of Belarus and develop the economic potential of traditional crafts.

In the long term, project outcomes are to be used to improve the level of professionalism among teachers and, more generally, raise awareness among the people of Belarus of their cultural heritage and the importance of safeguarding it.

1. Note to examiners: Criterion g. will be reported by the Secretariat and need not enter into your examination.

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Excerpts from the request form

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 request satisfactorily demonstrates the background and rationale:

Yes

No

Examiner's comments regarding whether the request demonstrates the background and rationale of the proposed assistance

The examiner should assess whether the submitting State Party has clearly and adequately described the current situation and the need the proposed assistance would address, providing a strong rationale for the proposed activities.

(150-200 words)

Having examined the supplementary information provided by the submitting State Party and its replies to our preliminary report, we can confirm that the State Party has given a coherent description of the need to share the work being done since 1960 by the various partner institutions, in terms of researching and collecting elements of the intangible cultural heritage of Belarus, and to update and publicize that work.

Apart from the work entailed in inventorying, sharing and indexing the material already collected, the project would also involve fresh gathering exercises, in which local communities and individuals with resources and knowledge will be actively involved in the identification and selection of elements of intangible heritage for inclusion in the database to be established.

The State Party has also set the criteria for drawing up the two lists required in the first phase of the identification process in order to distinguish between those in urgent need of protection and those that are less urgent.

The background, as described in the request, seems to be consistent with the objectives, the partners identified and the methodology to be used.

The involvement of individuals and local communities in the process of inventorying, data gathering and setting the selection criteria for the elements of ICH to be included in the inventory seems, in our view, to meet local needs.

2. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Excerpt from the request form

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

The request satisfactorily demonstrates the objectives and expected results of the proposed assistance:

Yes

No

Examiner's assessment of the proposed objectives and expected results

The examiner should assess whether the submitting State Party has clearly and adequately demonstrated what must be achieved and what kind of positive impacts and concrete accomplishments might be seen after implementing the proposed activities.

(150-200 words)

The project submitted clearly sets forth the objectives for the first phase of identifying, selecting, inventorying and establishing a database of the intangible cultural heritage of Belarus, both at the national and international levels.

The expected results identified in the request file appear to us to be clearly defined in respect of the first phase of the project.

We also consider that the medium- and long-term objectives are consistent with the recommendations of UNESCO in the various conventions (1972, 2003 and 2005) and take the concepts of intergenerational relations and cultural diversity, environmental factors and the suitability of the ICH to the civil and ethnic context in Belarus into account.

While we view this item as very positive, it will, however, be necessary to monitor action taken after the inventory and database establishment phase in order to assess the expected long-term impacts.

Further to the question raised in the preliminary report concerning the way in which the inventory would be integrated and structured, we are satisfied with the reply given by the submitting State Party on 30 April 2010, especially with regard to the publication of handbooks on the methodology used.

3. ACTIVITIES

Excerpts from the request form

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 request satisfactorily demonstrates the key activities:

Yes

No

Examiner’s assessment of the proposed activities

The examiner should assess whether the submitting State Party has explained clearly and in the great detail what the key activities are, and assess whether the proposed activities are well conceived and feasible to achieve the above-mentioned objectives and results.

(150-200 words)

The request shows consistency between the objectives, the expected results and the proposed activities.

It should be emphasised that the State Party has taken account of the recommendation in our preliminary report about the phasing of the safeguarding activities. The State Party gives a breakdown of its inventory into two distinct types of data:

- 1- an initial selection of data from existing collections.
- 2- identification of new ICH elements, involving individuals and local communities.

We believe that the distinction thus drawn is important to ensure better understanding of the intellectual process on which the inventory is based.

The setting of different levels of publication (national and international) seems to us to be consistent with the objectives and the expected results.

Similarly, an Internet website will be established to publish the database and to facilitate access to the results of the project by actors involved in the process and by the general public.

Generally speaking, the methodology to be used for the proposed activities entails direct participation and involvement of the partners, communities and knowledge-bearers concerned, which we think is judicious and conducive to the achievement of the objectives mentioned above.

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.a. Community involvement

Excerpt from the request form

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

The request satisfactorily demonstrates the involvement of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals in the activities:

Yes

No

Examiner's comments on the involvement of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned

The examiner should assess whether the submitting State Party has demonstrated that the community, group and/or individuals concerned have participated in the preparation of the request and will be involved in the implementation of the proposed activities, and in their evaluation and follow-up as broadly as possible (Operational Directives paragraph 67.a). The examiner should also assess whether the submitting State Party has effectively and convincingly described the mechanisms for ensuring such participation and involvement.

(100-200 words)

A survey of the knowledge-bearing communities, groups and individuals, local associations and institutions involved in protecting the ICH locally has shown that the climate is quite conducive to participation in the project.

In fact, before the project was initiated, the communities were canvassed by means of a questionnaire about their perception of the need to safeguard their ICH. This collaboration seems to have been successfully carried over into the process of identification and collection, through the use of workshops held in the local communities.

While we consider this point very positive, we must nonetheless recommend follow-up action and continuity in order to establish lasting bonds of cooperation with the communities and actors concerned.

The expected participation of students and trainees from the Belarus Institute of Culture in the gathering of material among the local communities could be a practical way of developing informal cooperative links with local actors as part of a course of academic study.

These measures contemplated by the submitting State seem to provide the necessary bases for putting in place a long term project on various scales: local, regional, national and international.

4.b. Implementing organization

Excerpt from the request form

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.

The request satisfactorily describes the implementing organization or body:

Yes

No

Examiner's comments on the implementing organization or body

The examiner should comment on whether the submitting State Party clearly and adequately described the implementing organization or body that would implement the project, and clearly identified the human resources within the organization or available to it.

(50-200 words)

The request reflects coordination between the two bodies responsible for implementing the project:

- the Ministry of Culture of Belarus, responsible for general project coordination; and
- the Belarus Institute of Culture, tasked with the identification and selection of data, home to the

national database and also the body responsible for evaluation throughout the process.

While the additional information provided in the annex to the preliminary report seems satisfactory, a more detailed organizational chart and description of the human resources assigned to the project would be desirable.

4.c. Partners

Excerpt from the request form

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

The request satisfactorily demonstrates the coordination arrangements with and responsibilities of other partners:

Yes

No

N/A

Examiner's assessment on the partners

The examiner should comment on whether the submitting State Party has clearly described such coordination arrangements and the respective responsibilities of cooperating bodies, and address whether the request implies cooperation at the bilateral, regional or international levels (Operational Directives paragraph 66.a). In case such cooperation is implied, the examiner should assess whether the cooperation is clearly described.

(50-200 words)

It is clear that all partners involved in this new process have considerable experience of ICH research and collection. This new project is in fact based on the principle of the sharing and harmonization of each partner's existing data.

The coordination arrangements to be put in place are well defined:

- general coordination shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture of Belarus;
- the pooling of collection and inventorying methods and the structuring of the data will be handled under the responsibility of the Institute of Culture.

The project also covers work entailed in pooling material locally between more specific partners (museums, associations, clubs, etc) and stresses the essential nature of the work to be done on the ground. While in our view these partners 'on the ground' will have a central part to play in the process, no specific details are given about the role and involvement of each one.

4.d. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Excerpts from the request form

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 request satisfactorily demonstrates how the State Party will carry out monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project:

Yes

No

Examiner's comments on the monitoring, reporting and evaluation

The examiner should address whether the submitting State Party has described monitoring, reporting and evaluation, and assess whether they are appropriate to the size and scope of the proposed project.

(50-200 words)

The State Party has described the monitoring and evaluation to be undertaken throughout the process by the organizations responsible for the project:

- the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus will be responsible for evaluating the preparatory and roll-out phases;
- the National Commission of the Republic of Belarus will be responsible for the evaluation and scientific analysis of the work during all phases of the project.
- the Belarus Institute for Culture will provide scientific oversight of the whole process

We consider that the evaluation tools and methods are coherent, though no evaluation indicators have yet been put in place, to the best of knowledge, to measure the impact of the activities and the level of success in achieving reaching project objectives.

Information should provided, too, on whether external evaluation.

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

5.a. Capacity-building

Excerpt from the request form

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 request satisfactorily demonstrates how the project contributes to capacity-building:

Yes

No

Examiner’s comments on the capacity-building

The examiner should address whether the assistance aims at building up or reinforcing capacities in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (Operational Directives paragraph 67.f), and assess whether the submitting State Party has effectively described how the project will strengthen capacities within the communities and/or implementing body concerned.

(150-200 words)

The proposal received should help to build the State Party’s institutional capacities to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage. The sharing of resources and funds among national, regional and local institutions should result in the establishment of a nationwide ICH inventory, while enhancing the sense of regional identity.

Given that the project involves working with communities and individuals involved in protection tasks and scientific research institutions, we consider that its experimental working methods could build local capacities to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage.

That said, the aspect of ‘transmission’ and ‘transfer’ of the tools and methods required to build capacity should not be overlooked.

The publication of the project’s outcomes on the Internet and the establishment of local workshops should also build local communities’ capacities to take part in the definition of their own intangible cultural heritage. It might be advisable to increase the number of workshops planned.

The production of educational tools designed to build teachers’ capacities in regard to the intangible cultural heritage seems to us to be one of the strengths of the project, to be followed up in later phases.

5.b. Sustainability

Excerpt from the request form

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

The request satisfactorily demonstrates the sustainability of the project:

Yes

No

Examiner’s comments on the sustainability

The examiner should address whether it can be expected that the project will have lasting results (Operational Directives paragraph 67.d), and assess what measures the submitting State Party proposes to ensure that such results and benefits will endure beyond the life of the project itself.

(150-200 words)

It is sufficiently clear from the nature of the activities contemplated in this request that the project will be of lasting value and, although there is no express statement to that effect in the file, it can be deduced that the inventory and database will evolve and be constantly updated to take account of new elements that are inventoried.

In our view, the commitment of local communities and associations is of great importance to the project’s long-term sustainability. We think, in fact, that the establishment of a national ICH inventory will have an impact on local development policies and on the promotion of ICH-related

activities and events locally.

The long-term objectives of spreading, transmitting and raising awareness will, it seems, be met through the development of educational tools for use by teachers. This assumes that education programmes, both formal and informal, will be put in place in order to safeguard and promote of ICH.

5.c. Multiplier effects

Excerpts from the request form

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.

Yes

The request satisfactorily demonstrates multiplier effects of the project: **No**

N/A

Examiner's comments on the multiplier effects

The examiner should comment on whether the submitting State Party has described how the assistance may have a multiplier effect and may stimulate financial and technical contributions from other sources (Operational Directives paragraph 66.b).

(100-200 words)

The objectives and expected results as described by the submitting State imply that there will be multiplier effects in terms of raising of awareness and spreading, promoting and safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage among all people in Belarus.

These multiplier effects will be satisfactory, provided that the submitting State effectively implements the long-term activities set out in the request file in order to achieve the transmission and awareness-raising objectives set.

To conduct the activities detailed, the State of Belarus plans to release funds, including some from its own public programmes, to promote tourism and local development through the promotion of activities and events based on traditional culture.

6. TIMETABLE AND BUDGET

6.a. Timetable

Excerpt from the request form

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

Yes

The request provides an adequate timetable: **No**

Examiner’s assessment on the timetable

The examiner should assess whether the submitting State Party provided a clear and concrete timetable for the proposed activities, as requested.

(50-200 words)

We consider that the timetable is consistent with the activities proposed, though we did raise the question of the lack of workshops with the local communities throughout the whole process.

At this time we have no information as to whether the timetable proposed for the 2008-2009 period was respected as originally established.

6.b. Budget

Excerpts from the request form:

- 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.

The request provides an adequate budget:

Yes

No

Examiner’s assessment on the budget

The examiner should assess whether the amount of assistance requested is appropriate (Operational Directives paragraph 67.b), considering the scope and size of the activities, the local conditions for carrying out such activities, and the human and other resources available to the implementing body, and address whether the submitting State Party has demonstrated that it will share the cost of the activities for which international assistance is provided, within the limits of its resources (paragraph 67.e).The examiner should also assess whether the proposed budget breakdown is detailed enough for the Committee to understand how the State will use the requested budget, and whether the amounts are appropriate and feasible to carry out the proposed activities.

(50-200 words)

The budget proposed by the submitting State appears to us to be appropriate for the activities planned under the project.

The tools and publications that complement the completion of the inventory and the establishment of the database of national elements must be of high quality if the objectives of the first phase of the project are to be achieved. For this reason, we consider that this head of expenditure is essential and must be substantial in amount.

Logically, to us, this phase of setting up the centralized ICH inventory of the Republic of Belarus will be expensive. A solid foundation must be laid if multiplier effects are to be achieved, especially those of attracting other sources of financing for new action to be taken to protect the intangible cultural heritage.

As to the sharing of the costs of activities for which international assistance is requested (see paragraph 67.e), we are not, on basis of the documents provided, in a position to make an

assessment on this item.	
Overall Recommendation	
Recommend to approve the request: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recommend not to approve the request: <input type="checkbox"/>
Examiner's comments on the overall recommendation Please provide comments on your recommendation to approve or not to approve this international assistance request. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(200-300 words)</i></p>	
<p>We have noted that the formulation of the request has changed for the better compared to the file originally submitted, which was somewhat vague and contained little information on the way in which knowledge-bearers and local communities would be involved.</p> <p>In addition, we believe that the consideration given to the specific characteristics of the country's six regions will have a major impact on respect for cultural diversity, which in turn will enhance the overall vision of the national culture of Belarus.</p> <p>We now have a clearer view of the various partners' roles and also of the methodology to be used in building up the national inventory and future database of Belarus.</p> <p>We have also been concerned to ensure that the activity should be able to continue beyond the period of the subvention, and we think that, by providing assistance in response to this request, UNESCO will not only allow the requesting State to proceed with the financial and operational implementation of the project, but will give an example of what can be achieved to neighbouring countries wishing to put into practice the recommendations in the 2003 Convention.</p> <p>We also stress that the inscription in 2009 of the 'Rite of the Kalyady Tsars (Christmas Tsars)' in the List of Intangible Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding will inevitably encourage this Member State to take effective action along the lines recommended by the Secretariat and by the appointed examiners.</p> <p>We consider it important, however, to request a final evaluation of the project for, while we have given a positive response on all the items in the report, it will be necessary to ascertain that the comments made with a view to the successful execution of the project are taken into account, as well as the technical and financial participation of the stakeholders.</p>	