



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

With the support of
Venice Office

8th Ministerial Conference on Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe

Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development

24-25 October 2012 - Sofia, Bulgaria

A meeting organized within the initiative



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization





Background

Following the recent inauguration, in February 2012, of the Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe, and within the framework of the UNESCO global initiative “Culture: a Bridge to Development”, the main theme proposed for this 8th Ministerial Conference on cultural heritage in SEE is “Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development”.

Participating Ministers and heads of delegations will be invited to present the respective policies and measures to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage in their respective countries, and to enhance this heritage as a driver for intercultural dialogue and sustainable development.

Furthermore, the conference has the objective to reinforce regional cooperation on capacity-building and the exchange of knowledge and good practices, as well as on the safeguarding of the elements of intangible cultural heritage that are shared by more countries and/or local communities in the region.

In addition, the conference will offer the opportunity to discuss on the way to streamline the different cultural cooperation platforms at the ministerial level existing in the South-East European region (Ministerial Conferences, Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe, meetings of the Ministers of culture associated to the Forums of the Heads of state, etc), in order to improve their coordination and to devise possible forms of convergence. This theme is proposed as main focus for the meeting of the International Working Group, convened on October 24 and formed by experts in representation of the participating ministries of culture.



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Logistical Information

Working language

English and Bulgarian

Venue

October 24: Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria, 17, Al. Stamboliiski Blvd. – Sofia

October 25: National Palace of Culture, Bulgaria Square, 1 – Sofia

Travel and Accommodation

Participants will lodge at the Grand Hotel Sofia, Gurko Str. 1 – Sofia

Relevant travel and accommodation costs for the delegations of participating countries (up to 3 persons per country: Minister plus 2) are covered by the organizers.

Contacts

Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 24 October

Arrival of participants – Transfer to hotel

12.00 – 14:00: Lunch for participating delegations (venue: Grand Hotel Sofia)

Programme for the experts:

15.00: Transfer from hotel to the Ministry of Culture (walking distance)

15.30 – 18.30: Meeting of the International Working Group (expert level)
Venue: Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria

Theme for discussion: “Coordination, optimisation and possible convergence of the different ministerial platforms for cultural cooperation in South-East Europe”.

Programme for the Heads of Delegations:

16.00: Visit to the Ancient Cultural-Communication Center “Serдика” at Sofia Subway (archaeological site and finds related to Roman-era Sofia, opened on 31 August 2012) – Departure from Grand Hotel Sofia.

18.00: Return to hotel

20.00: Dinner for participating delegations (venue: Grand Hotel Sofia)

Thursday, 25 October

Ministerial Conference (venue: National Palace of Culture, Hall 6, ground floor)

09.30: Transfer from hotel (by special bus)

10.00: Opening speeches

- Vezhdi Letif Rashidov, Minister of Culture of Bulgaria
- Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO



- 10.45: Presentation of conclusions of the International Working Group (Deiana Danailova - Director, Cultural Policy Directorate, Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria)
- 11.00: Enhancing Regional Cooperation on Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe (Oli Grueva - Executive Director of the Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe)
- 11.30: Photo opportunity
- 11.45: Visit to the Exhibition "Cultural Heritage of Bulgaria: Past, Present and Future" (National Palace of Culture, Hall 3.3, 7th floor)
- 12.15: *Lunch* (Sky Plaza Restaurant, National Palace of Culture, 8th floor)
- 14.00: Ministerial Conference, Second Session
Speeches by participating Ministers and Heads of Delegation
(Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey)
- 16.30: Speeches by observer countries and organisations
- 16.45: Presentation and approval of the Sofia Declaration
- 17.00: Conclusions
- 17.15: Transfer to the National Gallery of Foreign Art (by special bus)
- 18.00: Opening of the Petit Palais exhibition in Sofia
National Gallery of Foreign Art
- 19.30: Transfer to Restaurant MAXI (by special bus)
- 20.00: Official dinner given by the Minister of Culture of Bulgaria (venue Restaurant MAXI, 110 Simeonovsko shose Blvd.)
Following: Transfer to hotel (by special bus)

Friday, 26 October

Departure of the participants