

## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON BULGARIA / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 17 May 1956.
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** not currently (last term: 2007-2009).
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:**
  - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
  - Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (term expires in 2018)
  - Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education; Member: Prof. Stoyan Denchev
4. **Your visits to Bulgaria: 13**
  - 18-20 May 2016: Global Women Leaders' Forum in Sofia.
  - December 2015: an international forum entitled "The contribution of UNESCO Member States of South-Eastern Europe to the dissemination and implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003", held in Sofia on the occasion of UNESCO's 70th anniversary.
  - 29 October 2015: to participate in the International Conference "Thoughts about the social inclusion: old issues in a new edition or new issues within the existing format", organized by the Polish Embassy in Bulgaria.
  - 16 September 2015: to participate in the conference "Fighting the looting of Syria's cultural heritage."
  - 6-8 August 2015: to participate in the official opening of the international round table entitled "70 years UNESCO peace through education, science and culture".
  - 12-13 January 2015: you were awarded the title of Honorary citizen of Sofia, and was conferred the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of National and World Economy.
  - 30 November-2 December 2014: to attend the participation ceremony of the candidature of the city of Sofia within the Creative Cities Network.
  - 31 March 2014: visit on the occasion to honour and to receive the State Order.
  - January 2014: meetings with the Members of the Bulgarian National Commission.
  - August 2013: meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
  - 24-26 October 2012: visit on the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Ministerial Conference on Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe.
  - 20 February 2012: official visit and participation in the inauguration of the UNESCO Category II Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Eastern- Europe.
  - 27-29 October 2010: official visit and award of the Honoris Causa degree from the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo.
5. **The former Director-General's visits to Bulgaria: 2**
  - 20-21 May 2005: visit on the occasion of the Varna Regional Forum on "Cultural Corridors in South-East Europe – the Common Past and Shared Future, a Key to a Future Partnership"
  - 26-28 August 2003: official visit
6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**
  - Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Anguel Tcholakov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France (Since 3 June 2016).
  - Former Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Alexandre Savov, Ambassador (September 2010 – February 2016)

7. **UNESCO Office:** none. Bulgaria is covered by the UNESCO Venice Office.
8. **Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO:**
- Date of establishment: 25 May 1956
  - Chairperson: Mr Rumen Alexandrov (since November 2015)
  - Vice-Chairperson: Mr Dimitar Philipov (since January 2015)
  - Secretary-General: Mrs Maria Donska (since October 2014)
9. **Bulgarian personalities linked to UNESCO's activities:**
- Bulgarian football legend, Mr Hristo Stoichkov, UNESCO Champion for Sport (May 2016).
  - Bulgarian jazz musician, Mr Theodosii Spassov, Artist for Peace (September 2015).
  - Prof. Maria Ivanova (Professor of Global Governance at the University of Massachusetts, USA) is member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board.
  - Ms Lydia Shouleva, member of the Council of the United Nations University (2010-2016).
  - Prof. Stoyan Denchev, member of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education.
  - In your letter to Mr Dimitar Berbatov (football star) in May 2012, you designated him as a UNESCO Champion for Sport. No official ceremony date has been set to confer the honorary title.
10. **UNESCO Chairs:** 3
- UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technologies in Library Studies, Education and Cultural Heritage, established at the State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (2012).
  - UNESCO Chair in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Change Management, established at the Technical University of Sofia (2011).
  - UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Human Rights, established at the Bourgas Free University (1998).
11. **Associated Schools:** 60 (4 primary, 5 primary/secondary schools, 40 secondary schools, and 11 vocational and technical institutions). Bulgaria joined the ASP Network in 1965.
12. **Category 2 Institutes and Centres:**
- Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia)
13. **UNESCO Clubs:** 3
- Club UNESCO - Varna
  - Club UNESCO Leonardo Da Vinci - Sofia
  - National UNESCO Club for scientific expeditions (NNEK – UNESCO)
14. **Biosphere Reserves:** 16 (all designated in 1977)
- |                        |                 |                     |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| • Alibotouch           | • Kamtchia      | • Steneto           |
| • Bistrichko Branichté | • Koupena       | • Tchervenata sténa |
| • Boitine              | • Mantaritzza   | • Tchoupréné        |
| • Djendema             | • Ouzounboudjak | • Tsaritchina       |
| • Doupkata             | • Parangalitzza |                     |
| • Douпки-Djindjiritza  | • Srébarna      |                     |

**15. World Heritage Sites:** 9 (7 Cultural, 2 Natural)

Cultural: 7

- Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari (1985)
- Ancient City of Nessebar (1983)
- Rila Monastery (1983)
- Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo (1979)
- Boyana Church (1979)
- Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak (1979)
- Madara Rider (1979)

Natural: 2

- Pirin National Park (1983, extended in 2010)
- Srebarna Nature Reserve (1983)

**16. Tentative List:** 14 properties

- Extension to the Joint World Heritage Property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)” (2015)
- Pobiti Kamani Natural Monument (2011)
- Vratsa Karst Nature Reserve (2011)
- Rocks of Belogradchik (2011)
- Central Balkan National Park (2011)
- The Ancient Plovdiv (2004)
- Thracian Tomb with Wall Paintings beside Alexandrovo village (2004)
- Two neolithic dwellings with their interior and household furnishings and utensils completely preserved (1984)
- The Magoura cave with drawings from the bronze age (1984)
- The ancient town of Nicopolis ad Istrum (1984)
- The late ancient tomb of Silistra (1984)
- The Bachkovo Monastery (1984)
- The town of Melnik and the Rozhen Monastery (1984)
- The Roussensky Lom National Park (1984)

**17. Intangible Heritage Lists:** 4 elements on the Representative List

- Surova folk feast in Pernik region (2015)
- The tradition of carpet-making in Chiprovtsib (2014)
- Nestinarstvo, messages from the past: the Panagyr of Saints Constantine and Helena in the village of Bulgari (2009)
- The Bistritsa Babi – Archaic Polyphony, Dances and Rituals from the Shoplounk Region (2008)

**18. Memory of the World Register:** 1 inscription

- Enina Apostolos, Old Bulgarian Cyrillic manuscript (fragment) of the 11th century (2011)

**19. Creative Cities Network:** 1

- Sofia, UNESCO City of Film (2014)

**20. Legal instruments:** 24 ratified, 16 non-ratified

- International Convention against Doping in Sport: ratification (12 January 2007)
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: ratification (18 December 2006)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ratification (10 March 2006)
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: ratification (6 October 2003); Bulgaria was the second Member State to have ratified the Convention

**21. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2016-2017: 2**

- 1100th anniversary of the death of Clement of Ohrid (830-916) (joint nomination by Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the support of Poland and the Russian Federation).
- 150th anniversary of the birth of Pencho Petkov Slaveykov, writer (1866-1912) (with the support of Italy and Germany).

**22. Participation Programme:**

- 2014-2015: 3 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 63,715
- 2012-2013: 4 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 75,500
- 2010-2011: 4 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 102,800
- 2008-2009: 6 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 114,000

**23. Fellowships:**

- 2 fellowships awarded since 2010, for a total amount of US\$ 17,434

**24. Payment of assessed membership fees for 2016: fully paid**

Assessment rate for 2016: 0.045%

Contributions assessed for 2016: US\$ 146,925

**25. Voluntary contributions (expressed in US\$):**

Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total	-	3,041	414,267	2,482	2,453	411,889

**26. Representation within the Secretariat: over-represented**

- *7 International professional staff in geographical posts (min. 2, max. 4)*