

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; Vice-President (term expires in 2018)
 - Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education; Member: Prof. Stoyan Denchev
4. **The Director-General's visits to Bulgaria: 14**
 - 24-25 November 2016: meeting with President-elect Rumen Radev and Minister of Culture Vezhdi Rashidov.
 - 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: 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 8th 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)
 - Previous 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: Ms Iskra Andreeva (since May 2017)
9. **Bulgarian personalities linked to UNESCO's activities:**
- Mr Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgarian football legend), UNESCO Champion for Sport (2016-2018)
 - Mr Theodosii Spassov (Bulgarian jazz musician), UNESCO Artist for Peace (2015-2017)
 - Prof. Stoyan Denchev, member of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education
10. **UNESCO Chairs: 3**
- UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technologies in Library Studies, Education and Cultural Heritage (2012), State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies
 - UNESCO Chair in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Change Management (2011), Technical University of Sofia
 - UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Human Rights (1998), Bourgas Free University
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: 4**
14. **Biosphere Reserves: 10**
- Alibotouch (1977)
 - Bistrichko Branichté (1977)
 - Douпки-Djindjiritza (1977)
 - Mantaritzza (1977)
 - Ouzounboudjak (1977, extended in 2017)
 - Parangalitzza (1977)
 - Srébarna (1977, extended in 2017)
 - Tchervenata sténa (1977, extended in 2017)
 - Tchoupréné (1977)
 - Central Balkan (2017)
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: 16 properties

- The royal necropolis of the Thracian city of Seuthopolis – a serial site, extension of the Kazanlak Thracian tomb (2016)
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes in Bulgaria (2016)
- 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: 5 elements

4 elements on the Representative List

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

1 element on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

- Festival of folklore in Koprivshtitsa: a system of practices for heritage presentation and transmission (2016)

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 city

- Sofia, UNESCO City of Film (2014)

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

- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: ratified (06/10/2003)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ratified (10/03/2006)
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: ratified (18/12/2006)
- International Convention against Doping in Sport: ratified (12/01/2007)

21. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated:

2016-2017:

- 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).

2018-2019 anniversaries proposals for 39GC:

- 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1869) (with the support of Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

22. Participation Programme:

- 2016-2017: 3 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 75,000
- 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. NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO:

Consultative Partnership: 3

- International Association of Film and Television Schools, CILECT (1955)
- Sozopol Foundation, (2011)
- Liberal Institute for Political Analysis, LIPA (2016)

Foundation and Similar Institution: 1

- National Endowment Fund “13 Centuries Bulgaria” (2015)

25. Payment of assessed membership fees for 2016-2017: fully paid

Assessment rate: 0.045%

Contributions assessed for 2016-2017: US\$ 293,850

26. Voluntary contributions (expressed in US\$):

Year	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total	1,506	-	3,041	414,267	2,482	2,453	411,889

27. Representation within the Secretariat: over-represented, with 7 professional staff in geographical posts (min. 2, max. 4)

- 6 international professional staff at Headquarters in geographical posts
- 1 international professional staff in the field in geographical posts