

## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON BULGARIA / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 17 May 1956
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** member for the term 2017-2021
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:**
  - 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
  - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
4. **Your visits to Bulgaria:** none
5. **The former 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 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.
6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**
  - Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Anguel Tcholakov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France (since 3 June 2016)
  - Alternate Delegate : H. E. Mr Atanas Ignatov Mladenov, Ambassador
  - 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 Yuri Sterk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (since May 2017)
- Vice-Chairperson: Ms Maria Spasova (since May 2017)
- Secretary-General: Mrs Iskra Andreeva (since May 2017)

**9. Bulgarian personalities linked to UNESCO's activities:**

- Mr Hristo Stoichov (Bulgarian football legend), UNESCO Champion for Sport (2016-2018)
- Mr Theodosii Spasov (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: 51** (6 primary, 36 secondary schools, 8 vocational and technical institutions and 1 National High School for Plastic Arts and Design "Academician Dechko Uzunov"). 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)
- Parangalitza (1977)
- Srébarna (1977, extended in 2017)
- Tchervenata sténa (1977, extended in 2017)
- Tchoupréné (1977)
- Central Balkan (2017)

**15. Global Geoparks Network : none**

**16. World Heritage Sites: 10** (7 cultural, 3 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: 3*

- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (2007, 2011, 2017) (jointly with Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine)
- Pirin National Park (1983, extended in 2010)
- Srebarna Nature Reserve (1983)

**17. Tentative List:** 15 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)
- 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)

**18. Intangible Heritage Lists:** 6 elements

*5 elements on the Representative List:*

- Cultural practices associated to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March (2017), jointly with Macedonia, Moldova and Romania
- 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 Shoplounk Region (2008)

*1 element on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices:*

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

**19. Memory of the World Register:** 3 inscriptions

- Gospels of Tsar Ivan Alexander (2017), jointly with the United Kingdom
- Boril's Synodicon or Synodicon of King Boril (2017)
- Enina Apostolos, Old Bulgarian Cyrillic manuscript (fragment) of the 11<sup>th</sup> century (2011)

**20. Creative Cities Network:** 2 cities

- Gabrovo, UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art (2017)
- Sofia, UNESCO City of Film (2014)

**21. 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)

**22. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated:**

*2016-2017:*

- 1100<sup>th</sup> 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)
- 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Pencho Petkov Slaveykov, writer (1866-1912) (with the support of Italy and Germany)

*2018-2019:*

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

**23. 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

**24. Fellowships:**

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

**25. 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)

*Foundations and Similar Institutions: 1*

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

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

Assessment rate: 0.045%

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

**27. 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

**28. Representation within the Secretariat:** over-represented, with 6 professional staff in geographical posts (min. 2, max. 4)

- 5 international professional staff at Headquarters in geographical posts:
- 1 international professional staff in the Field in geographical posts: