



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**DEADLINE 15 FEBRUARY 2019
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2019**

*File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

Società Geografica Italiana Onlus

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Italian Geographical Society Onlus (non-profit organization)

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

ONG-90064

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Società Geografica Italiana Onlus

Address: Via della Navicella, 12 - 00184 Rome

Telephone number: 0670018279

Email address: presidenza@societageografica.it

Website: www.societageografica.it

Other relevant information:

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Prof.

Family name: Giordano

Given name: Alfonso

Institution/position: Delegate for international relations

Address: Via della Navicella, 12 - 00184 Rome

Telephone number: +390670018279

Email address: relazioniinternazionali@societageografica.it

Other relevant information:

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

- B.1.** *Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The Italian Geographical Society Onlus (SGI) has established several memorandum of Understandings at national and International level. Among these, the most important in the ICH sector are the ones with the ICCROM - International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, with whom the SGI is putting great effort in the adoption and financing of measures and programmes concerning the ICH awareness raising, recognition and valorization.

¹. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

- B.2.** Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).

Not to exceed 250 words

The SGI cooperates frequently with the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research and National Research Council (Italy) for the organization of projects aiming at the promotion and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. Among these, for example, there is the adoption of the portal "Internet Culturale" (Cultural Internet), own by the Directorate General of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, and where everybody can access to the Italian bibliographic heritage. Its main scope is the promotion and diffusion of knowledge and a better and greater awareness of the Italian cultural heritage through digital and multimedia insights concerning Italian literature, science, music and oenological traditions and heritage.

Besides, there is the project financed by the Ministry of Education which focused on the use of GIS technology for the valorization of environmental and intangible heritage. The project was carried on in several high schools and universities of different regions, and aimed at localize those natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for the expressing local intangible cultural heritage

- B.3.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).

Not to exceed 250 words

- B.4** Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

Not to exceed 250 words

- B.5.** Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

The SGI, thanks to the support of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, was able to identify such an important intangible cultural heritage the so called "Perdonanza celestiniana". It was established in 1294, when the Celestine V became the new pope, who created the "perdonanza" (forgiveness), namely it was possible to get divine forgiveness for those who attended the Basilica of L'Aquila. Over the centuries this belief and tradition was followed by all resident in Abruzzo region, becoming a symbol of faith but also of identity and cohesion among local population. To this end, the SGI has worked closely to local communities, has made several trips in the city of L'Aquila and in the region, interviewing elderly and young people, in order to understand the value of this intangible heritage and realize if it has changed over the years and across generation. The cooperation with local religious institutions was also fundamental in proposing the "Perdonanza celestiniana" as part of the intangible cultural heritage.

The SGI has identified another important heritage, the "Parata dei Turchi" (Parade of Turks), occuring each 29th of May in Potenza, near to Matera (recently nominated European capital of culture). SGI staff is conducting researches on the characteristics of this parade, its original story, mining and the value that nowadays generation give to it in order to present a candidacy for the inclusion in the Intangible Heritage List.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

The SGI is committed in fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies aiming at an effective safeguarding of the intangible heritage. To this end, it is a member of the project called Gruppo 130) that proposes to test the use of Korean paper to assess its quality in comparison to the best-known Japanese one, which is commonly used and is part of the Western restoration tradition. This project would achieve a triple result, increase the range of materials available on the market and, thus, achieve better results in terms of restoration and conservation of ancient document, consequently improve the preservation of the intangible heritage tied to those documents where are described about national or local traditions, part of our history, and finally valorize two restoration technique traditions, the Japanese and Korean ones.

SGI takes part in the national network SBN (Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale); it is part of the platform Lazio'900 aimed at improving digital heritage, through a system of management of data, metadata and digital resources, that increase more and more thanks to the creation of a network composed of cultural institutes.

In addition, the "Carta da Navigare" (Map to Sail) by Albino de Canepa (1480) was requested by the National Museum of Medieval and Modern Art of Basilicata in Matera, for the exhibition entitled "The Renaissance seen from the South. Matera, Southern Italy and the Mediterranean between '400 and '500". This exhibition will open next April on the occasion of the appointment of Matera as European Capital of Culture 2019.

B.7. Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

The SGI has organized several activities for a greater recognition and respect of intangible cultural heritage, both national and international.

For instance, SGI has organize several training programmes for young students and their teachers in selected high-schools of several Italian region, in order to make them acquire new skills about using GIS technologies, how widespread cultural heritage is on the national soil and how to integrate scientific knowledge for the localization, preservation and promotion of tangible a intangible cultural heritage. SGI organizes also several training courses for university students and professionals concerning the restoration and preservation technique of maps, photography and books, that represent fundamental tools of preservation and dissemination of intangible heritage.

Moreover, each year a scientific travel is organized abroad with a specific theme, in order to

improve knowledge and awareness about cultural heritage in other countries. These were organized, for example, Eritrea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Turkey (along the Via Egnatia), Marocco and Armenia.

In 2018 SGI participated to the international expedition "Polar Quest 1928-2018" in wich an international team of arctic researchers, today's explorers of the unknown, looking for answers to some of the greatest enigmas of science, from climate change to the origin of high energy cosmic rays , from measuring the impact of human pollution at extreme latitudes to creating awareness of the micro- and nano-plastic contents in the Artic Ocean. A voyage to the last untouched wildernesses on earth, to convey the importance of the Arctic for our sustainable future.

Finally, SGI organizes constantly exhibitions where through the observation of maps, ancients books and old photos common traditions and stories are described. Often, public performance showing local arts traditions and heritages are organized within these exhibitions. Among which, one that is held annually is the Festival della Letteratura di Viaggio, 4 days of reading, art performing opened to the public. Each year is chosen a theme and a country/region and are organized several activities (book reading, concerts, movies) to show the traditions and heritages of the host country/region.

C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);*
- b. *participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
- c. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*

Not to exceed 250 words

As far as international cooperation and network building capacity, SGI is part of several projects, some of them financed by the EU.

Among these, there is the project "Per Viam – Pilgrims' routes in Action" composed of national bodies, private and public universities and private institutions of the countries where take place the Francigena Route. The project was about promoting the Via Francigena and the other trans-national pilgrimage routes certified by the Council of as tools of sustainable cultural tourism development and community participation to the enhancement of Europe's cultural and heritage diversity, both tangible and intangible. One of the aims is to foster tourism along the Via Francigena and, at the same time, promote and valorize the cultural and environmental heritage.

It is beneficiary of the EU funded project FOP – Future of Our Past, that includes universities and cultural-tourism private institutions from Malta, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Spain, which all intend to achieve the restoration of the historical centers of selected cities (as pilot to be applied in other locations) so that the restoration, preservation of local tangible heritage can foster the awareness and valorization of intangible cultural heritage, not to mention the economic impact of the project, as it will be created a portal where people can reserve a room in scattered hotel located in the historical centers.

Finally, SGI is part of Europeana Photography, a network that includes several libraries and it will allows to access even from abroad to the archives contained in its portal.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

- D.1 *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

Not to exceed 250 words

SGI representatives took part to the General Assembly on June 24th 2012, affirming his consideration on some of the issues arised during the debate.

- D.2 *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

No

- D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):

- E.1 *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

As participating in several international cooperation projects and networks our organization has a very good command of both languages. In particular, at least two members within the SGI has a C1 level of English and other 2 member are C1 in French. All other member can speak esaly English.

- E.2 *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

None at the moment

- E.3 *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Over the hears SGI have participated to several call for bids, both at national and European level, this requests a great efficiency in knowing how to write a project in order that the commission can evaluate easily the characteristics, the logical framework, the impact and the applicability in other territorial context. Therefore, we acquired a pretty good experience in knowing how a proposal or application should be.

Besides, being part of several regional and international project, we had to issue different call for bids and, subsequently analyze and evaluate them, as happened in the case of the European

funded project FOP – Future of Our Past, or in the case of the selection of young student for the National Civic Service.

Finally, part of our staff is composed by university professors, researchers and PhDs who are confident with presenting and evaluating numerous call for papers, applications and proposals at national and international level.

E.4. *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Part of our activities are in English or other languages. Very often we organize roundtables, workshops and international conference where participates academics, politicians and professionals coming from all around the world. At the end of such meetings we are used to draft, write down, a report or a mutual commitment concerning what has been discussed and achieved during the debate, as happened at the end of the round table ERITREA-ITALIA: scenari politici, economici e culturali, which organized in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was wrote down and accepted a synthetic and official document of intent concerning recent historical phenomena, the main challenges and opportunities of the State of Eritrea and the bilateral cooperation between Eritrea and the EU. Particular attention was paid to the role that the European Union and Italy can play in this scenario, focusing in particular on the commitment of Italy in Eritrea to stabilize the Horn of Africa.

E.5. *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The SGI has several international experience as it is the beneficiary of a ENPI CBC-MED funded project, whose name is FOP - Future of Our Past that aims to share, in the whole Mediterranean area, a cross-border model of socio-economic cooperation, focusing on the promotion and implementation of plans to develop tangible and intangible cultural and environmental heritage tourism of selected historic centers, in order to improve public awareness and achieve economic sustainability. Once the pilots have been completed, the networks intends to apply the project in other international context, taking care of adjust the policies and measures according to the features of the area. In general, it is expected it can be applied 300 historic centers, among which 20 at least are located in the Mediterranean basin.

Besides, SGI has completed, in collaboration with the University of Perugia (University Centre for Science Museums - CAMS), a project in Ethiopia, where was first restructured and expanded a primary school in let Marefià and, later on, was built a Centre for Studies and Research on Biodiversity of Mountain Habitats where researchers and scholars from all around the world is welcomed. The centers is not only a place where can be studied the environmental heritage and diversity of this territory, but also discovered and valorized local intangible cultural heritage handed over orally from generation to generation. SGI is fully committed to support the countries in the Horn of Africa, and is looking for funding to export this project in the neighboring countries.

F. Cooperation with UNESCO

Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).

Not to exceed 250 words

Every year, during the week dedicated by UNESCO to the Education for Sustainable Development, SGI organizes scientific and cultural activities (such as international roundtables,

seminars, workshops and exhibitions) concerning a related issue.

G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: Filippo

Title: Bencardino

Date: 19/02/2019

Signature:

SOIETÀ GEOGRAFICA ITALIANA - ONLUS
IL PRESIDENTE
Dott. Filippo Bencardino