

Quadrennial Periodic Report on Measures to Protect and Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

General guidelines ?

- (i) The number of pages of the periodic reports should not exceed 20, excluding Annexes;
- (ii) Declarative statements shall be supported by facts and explanations;
- (iii) Information and analysis are to be derived from a variety of sources and be illustrated with examples;
- (iv) Long historical accounts are to be avoided;
- (v) Links may be added directly in the text.

Languages:

The Report is to be prepared in English or French, the working languages of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Parties are encouraged to submit, to the extent possible, their reports in both working languages of the Committee.

Parties that are in a position to do so are invited to also submit their reports in other languages (e.g., national languages) for purposes of information sharing.

Structure of reports:

Section Number	Heading	Suggested number of pages
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The original version(s) of the Report, signed by the official designated on behalf of the Party, is (are) sent to the following address: UNESCO, Section of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 1 rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. The deadline for receipt of the reports is 30 April 2012. ?

The electronic version of this PDF form is to be sent through email to reports2005c@unesco.org or uploaded to : <http://www.unesco.org/tools/filedepot/>. ?

Parties are invited to contact the Secretariat for any clarification or information. The Secretariat would also welcome feedback which will be used in the development of the supporting tools and also contribute to future reporting cycles.

1. General Information

(Estimate: 250 words)

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a) Name of Party

Bulgaria

b) Date of ratification

2006/11/22

c) Ratification process

Ratified by Law, adopted by the 40th National Assembly on 22 November 2006, State Gazette No 97 / 2006, in force for the Republic of Bulgaria since 18 Mars 2007

d) Total contribution the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (in USD)

e) Organization(s) or entity(es) responsible for the preparation of the report

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria

f) Officially designated point of contact

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g) Description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report

Letters sent to NGOs, "people' chitalishta", museums, libraries

h) Name of representative(s) of participating civil society organization(s)

Title	First name	Family name	Organization	Position
Mr.	Nikolay	DOYNOV	Union of People' Chitalishta (Local Cultural Centres)	President

Executive Summary of the Report

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In writing this summary, please include the main achievements and challenges in implementing the Convention and, where appropriate, an outlook for the future. ?

(Maximum 500 words)

In the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the Ministry of Culture develops its policies on the basis of the shared understanding that cultural diversity is stimulated by the free exchange of ideas and interaction between cultures. The policy of the Ministry is aimed at encouraging creativity, artists and all people working in the field of culture, which has a positive effect on the renovation of forms of cultural expression. A key principle of the country's cultural policy is guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms, expressed by access to information, communication, free choice of forms of cultural expression. The fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria and they found an expression in the legislation in the field of culture. In this sense, the policies of the Ministry of Culture are devoted to the principles of equal merit and respect for all cultures; equal access to cultural heritage and to the diversity of forms of cultural expression, protection of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. A key principle of the policies of the Ministry of Culture is that of sustainable development, and more specifically the understanding that the preservation, encouragement and maintenance of cultural diversity are a major precondition for sustainable development to the benefit of the present and future generations. Special protection is provided to traditional forms of cultural expression, including language diversity, as an important condition for the exchange of ideas and values between people and communities (Cultural Development Act, Cultural Heritage Act). In its legislation the Republic of Bulgaria guarantees the right of people from various ethnic communities to disseminate and convey their traditional forms of cultural expression, as well as to have free access to them in order to use them for their own development (Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, Protection and Development of Culture Act). In addition to improving legislation towards achieving the goals of the Convention, the Ministry of Culture develops the respective policies, measures and programs to encourage creativity among individuals and social groups, for increasing citizens' awareness of the diversity of forms of cultural expression. The Ministry's programs are aimed at expanding opportunities for development of cultural activities on the local, regional, national and international level, providing equal access to resources for the production, distribution and exchange of cultural products and services. Among others, the measures include granting specific financial aid for specialized institutions so that they are encouraged to participate in the creation of diverse forms of cultural expression. The achievements of the Ministry of Culture include the cooperation established with NGOs, public and private institutions, artists and other professionals in the field of arts and culture to solve problems, develop adequate policies and measures encouraging creativity and entrepreneurship in the sphere of culture. A great challenge and achievement is the cooperation created between the various ministries to apply the integrated approach to the strategic planning of measures for sustainable development of society. Thus, culture became an important, integral part of national plans to overcome demographic problems, to decrease poverty, to guarantee social inclusion, regional development, development of youth policies, in terms of the national concept of active living of the elderly, which is an acknowledgement that the abundance of forms of cultural expression contributes to the achievement of these goals, which are also included in the millennium development goals. This model is applied in the draft 2020 National Development Program (NDP) of the Republic of Bulgaria, which comprises only measures guaranteeing development in the years to come. Considering that the Program is being developed in times of crisis, the place culture has found in it is indicative of the potential of this field among the general measures for influencing the welfare of people. In compliance with the 2020 NDP of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Ministry of Culture develops the 2020 National Strategy for Development of Bulgarian Culture and Arts. The strategic vision of the development of culture will be in line with the purposes of the present Convention.

2. Measures

(Estimate: 6000 words)

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Parties shall provide information on policies and measures adopted to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions within their territory (at the national, regional or local levels) and at the international level (including trans-regional or trans-national levels).

Information to be presented in this Section of the report is to be organized according to the following themes:

- i) cultural policies and measures;*
- ii) international cooperation and preferential treatment;*
- iii) the integration of culture in sustainable development policies;*
- iv) protecting cultural expressions under threat.*

Key questions:

Parties shall respond, to the extent possible, to the following questions for each theme:

- (a) What are the main objective(s) of the policy or measure? When was it introduced?*
- (b) How has it been implemented, which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation and what resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?*
- (c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?*
- (d) What has been the effect or impact of the policy or measure? What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?*

2.1 Cultural policies and measures

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2.1 Cultural policies and measures ?

The purpose of this section is to report on cultural policies and measures in place to promote the diversity of cultural expressions at the different stages of creation, production, distribution, dissemination and participation/enjoyment.

Measures may be understood as those that:

- *nurture creativity,*
- *form part of an enabling environment for independent producers and distributors*
- *provide access to the public at large to diverse cultural expressions.*

They may be regulatory or legislative, action or programme oriented, institutional or financial measures. They may be specifically introduced to address the special circumstances and needs of individuals (e.g. women, young people) or groups (e.g. persons belonging to minorities, indigenous people) as creators, producers or distributors of cultural expressions.

For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to [Article 6, Rights of Parties](#) at the national level, and the [Operational Guidelines adopted on Article 7](#) on measures to promote cultural expressions.

2.1 Cultural policies and measures

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Policy / measure 1

Name of policy / measure

The state's cultural policy in the field of community cultural centers ("chitalishta")

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
☒ creation	☒ regulatory	☒ artists/creators
☒ production	☒ legislative	☒ producers/entrepreneurs
☒ distribution	☒ institutional	☒ cultural enterprises
☒ dissemination	☒ financial	☒ young people
☒ participation/enjoyment	☐ other (please specify below)	☒ women
☐ other (please specify below)		☒ persons belonging to minorities
		☒ indigenous peoples
		☐ other (please specify below)

a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

In Bulgaria there is a network of people's community cultural centers ("chitalishta"), a total of 3 500, located throughout the whole country. They are self-governing associations which are not-for-profit entities whose activities include state cultural and education tasks. The Minister of Culture oversees their development, analyses their activity and provides methodological and financial support. The main purpose of this policy is to maintain the viability of the community cultural center system, to bring modernization therein and to gradually turn them into contemporary cultural centers attractive for all ages and circles of society. Other goals include creating conditions for creativity, utilization of cultural values, solidarity between generations and exchange of ideas and traditional values.

b) How has it been implemented?

The creation, management and operation of people's community cultural centers ("chitalishta") are governed by the People's Community Cultural Centers Act. This Act undergoes regular updating to respond to the needs of community cultural centers and the expansion of their activities. With the last amendments of 2009, community cultural centers are allowed to associate at their own discretion, mostly on territorial principle, so that they can implement larger projects in the field of culture. In 2011, a new draft was developed for amending and supplementing the People's Community Cultural Centers Act, which provides for certain functions of the district administrations in order to introduce better regional policies. In addition, certain conditions were procured for attracting more young people in the administration of community cultural centers to improve their management. The draft has reached the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria,
Resources US Dollars 2 million per annum from the State Budget
of the Republic of Bulgaria

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$0.00

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

2.1 Cultural policies and measures

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c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

The major challenge identified in relation to the policy in the field of community cultural centers is related to attracting young people in their management and operation, which involves better payment for workers within the system, as well as the creation of a favorable environment for their modernization, more specifically in rural areas which is related to improvement of the quality of life there.

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local ☒

Regional ☒

National ☒

International ☐

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, what was the impact :

As a result of the policy of the Ministry of Culture and the legislative, institutional and financial measures taken, the number of community cultural centers throughout the country is increasing, as is the number of people who get assistance so that they can implement their initiatives and ideas in the field of culture to the benefit of the local population. It should be noted that in the last ten years ethnic communities in Bulgaria have created community cultural centers as well so that they can maintain their idiosyncratic cultural identity. Within the system of community cultural centers, there are about 8 000 permanent employees, professionals and amateurs in all domains of art, librarians, language teachers, regional ethnographers, managers, etc. As a result of the state policy implemented in the last two years, 900 libraries of community cultural centers are connected in a global network for better access to information and to human knowledge. More and more community cultural centers have modern equipment; for example, the government has provided 6 355 PCs and 1 636 community cultural centers have an internet connection. Classes in community cultural centers – dance, singing, music, etc., are now 2 158, the greatest number of them being designed for children (1 204). There are 501 circles and 1 763 clubs in the field of art and traditional culture. Community cultural centers also host language courses, now 388, mostly foreign languages followed by Bulgarian and mother tongues. There is considerable interest in theater as well – there are 444 theater schools, groups and companies, the greatest number being those for adults followed by children's groups. There is an exceptionally large number of singing groups – 2 904, mostly for traditional folk music. Choir art is endangered in terms of its development among children and young people. There are 231 choirs of which only 38 are for children and 24 are for young people. As at today, community cultural centers maintain 1 901 dance groups, the greatest number of which again cover traditional folk dances, but their number is balanced between children, young people and adults. 866 community cultural centers have attracted for their activities representatives of the various ethnic communities which helps intercultural dialogue and the creation of new forms of cultural expression. To preserve the local historical and cultural memory of the settlement, community cultural centers maintain archive collections (currently a total of 240), which also receives support from the government. The number of community cultural centers which have undergone modernization and renovation is still small, this is a slow process because it requires financial resources and administrative capacity in the field of community cultural centers.

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

Every year community cultural centers fill in a questionnaire developed by the Ministry of Culture in which they provide the number and type of activities, the forms they maintain, the equipment they have at their disposal, the condition of the buildings and facilities, additional protected projects under national and international programs, which is used by the Ministry of Culture to perform analyses and accordingly to identify priorities in this field for the next year.

2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment Page 8

The purpose of this section is to report on measures aimed at facilitating international cooperation and preferential treatment  to artists and cultural professionals, as well as cultural goods and services from developing countries.

Measures are understood as legal, institutional and financial frameworks, policy and programme activities that, for example:

- support the mobility of artists and cultural professionals abroad (sending and receiving);*
- provide greater market access for the distribution of cultural goods and services from developing countries through specific agreements;*
- strengthen independent cultural industries as a means to contribute to economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development;*
- aim to build institutional and management capacities through international cultural exchange programmes or partnerships among civil society organizations and networks.*

For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to [Article 12](#) (Promotion of international cooperation), [Article 14](#) (Cooperation for development), [Article 16](#) (Preferential treatment for developing countries) and their corresponding Operational Guidelines.

2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

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Policy / measure 1

Name of policy / measure

Promoting Culture

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Frameworks	Type of intervention	Target
☒ mobility	☒ cultural cooperation agreements	☒ institution building	☒ artists/creators
☒ market access	☐ trade agreements	☒ financial investment	☒ producers / distributors
☒ strengthen independent cultural industries	☐ culture and trade agreements	☒ technology transfer	☒ cultural enterprises
☒ develop management skills	☒ co-production / co-distribution agreements	☒ capacity building	☒ young people
☒ exchange information and expertise	☐ other (please specify below)	☒ networking/partnership development	☒ women
☒ needs assessment ?		☐ operational action plan ?	☒ persons belonging to minorities
☐ South-South cooperation		☐ other (please specify below)	☒ indigenous peoples
☐ North-South-South cooperation			☐ other (please specify below)
☐ other (please specify below)			

a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

- Establishment of the Bulgarian national and cultural identity as part of the European cultural space;
- Organization of media campaigns, weeks and days of Bulgarian art in national and international festivals, in Bulgaria and abroad, and spread through targeted cultural WEBSites.

b) How has it been implemented?

To achieve the objectives of this policy priorities the Ministry of Culture focused on:

- Participation in decision-making in the European Union and implementation of policies on culture;
- Strengthening the place of Bulgarian culture in global cultural processes;
- Promotion of the positive image of the Bulgarian culture abroad and expanding its presence and influence;
- Recognition of Bulgaria as a destination for international cultural projects.

The Ministry of Culture actively participated in the process of decision making in the EU and the bilateral cooperation in culture.

Work has started on drafting the Strategy for Bulgarian culture activities in the section "international activities" and on a new concept for the Bulgarian cultural institutes abroad.

An interministeriel working group started elaborating standards for digitization of cultural content and cultural statistics.

This policy (measure) is implemented through the Ministry of Culture programme: "Cultural cooperation and promotion of cultural products and values."

The Ministry of Culture is leading the Working Group 18 "Policy on culture and audiovisual, protection of intellectual and industrial property" to the Council for European Affairs within which are discussed all important issues of Community policy in the areas of culture and audiovisual policy.

2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

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The Bulgarian Minister of Culture or his Deputy are attending the regular meetings of the EU Council for "Education, Youth and Culture" in Brussels as well as informal Council meetings held in other EU member countries.

The EU Council documents adopted with Bulgarian participation are related to the following actions and themes:

- European Union Action for the European Heritage Label;
- The "European Capital of Culture" for 2015;
- Contribution of Culture to implement the strategy "Europe 2020"
- Information services for the benefit of the mobility of artists and cultural actors;
- European Convention for the Legal Protection of Services based on, or consisting of, conditional access;
- Children protection in the digital world;
- Cultural and creative competencies and their role in building the intellectual capital of Europe;
- Contribution of the cultural sector to economic growth, job creation and social development;
- Digitization, providing and storing of cultural material through Internet;
- Current state and prospects for the audiovisual sector in the digital age;
- European programme "Creative Europe";
- The Contribution of Culture to implement the Strategy "Europe 2020";
- Access to European audiovisual heritage;
- In 2011 the Ministry of Culture was the national coordinator for the European Year of Voluntary Activities (four regional and one national conference organized).
- Participation in the process of digitization of European cultural heritage and the formation of the Bulgarian contribution to European digital library "Europeana";
- Participation in EU programmes :
 - Culture 2007 - 2013
 - Media 2007 - 2013
 - Europe for Citizens 2007 - 2013
 - Safer Internet 2009 - 2013
 - European Year of Intercultural Dialogue - 2008
 - European Year of Creativity and Innovation- 2009
- Participation in the work of the Council of Europe Committees for Culture, Cultural Heritage and Landscape;
- Bulgarian participation in the work of UNESCO in the field of culture: In 2011 Bulgaria was Deputy Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and regularly participates in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Regional Center for Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO was established;
- Cultural cooperation in Southeastern Europe within the formats Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe (CoMoCoSEE);
- Signed bilateral cooperation treaties in the field of culture:
 - between Bulgaria and the Czech Republic;
 - between Bulgaria and the Russian Federation;
 - between of Bulgaria and Azerbaijan;
 - between Bulgaria and Croatia;
 - between Bulgaria and France.

The work of Bulgarian cultural institutes abroad has been intensified and new Bulgarian Cultural Institute were established.

Bulgaria participates in the network of European cultural institutes in many joint projects organized in various European capitals.

2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

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Which public agency(ies) is (are)
responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

Cultural Institutes of foreign embassies in Bulgaria

Cultural Institutes of Bulgaria abroad

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated
to ensure implementation?

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

Limited funding and limited staff

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local ☐

Regional ☐

National ☒

International ☒

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, what was the impact :

Positive impact:

- Preservation of national cultural identity and its integration into the cultural diversity that exists in Europe and worldwide;
- Widening and deepening of relations and contacts of Bulgarian culture in the world.
- The number and the quality of events representing the Bulgarian culture abroad significantly increased.

Negative impact:

- Impact of globalization on the peculiarities of national cultural characteristics.

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

1. Membership in international and regional governmental organizations; participation in EU bodies in the field of culture and audiovisual: Number of organizations, working groups and committees (36);
2. Participation of Bulgarian artists in international projects and events: number of participations (300);
3. Representative performances of Bulgarian culture abroad: number of performances (390);
4. Completed forms of information policy for promoting Bulgarian culture: number of forms (750)
5. Membership in international governmental and regional organizations: number (20)
6. Participation in EU bodies for Culture and Audiovisual: number (16)
7. Bulgarian culture performances abroad: number (99)
8. Participation of Bulgarian artists in international projects and events: number (300)
9. Participation in events in the field of cultural industries: number (30)
10. Representative performances of Bulgarian culture abroad: number (450)
11. Participation of Bulgarian artists on the international art market: number (64)
12. Participation in international competitions, festivals, fairs, joint projects: number (272)
13. Completed forms of information policy for the presentation of Bulgarian culture : number (653)
14. Establishment of new Bulgarian cultural institutes abroad: number (3)

2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

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2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

The purpose of this section is to report on measures aimed at integrating culture as a strategic element in development policies and assistance programmes at all levels (local, national, regional and international) and indicate how they are linked to human development goals, notably poverty reduction. ?

It is understood that sustainable development policies are to be formulated, adopted and implemented with relevant authorities responsible for the economy, environment, social affairs and culture. Measures to be reported on this section should take this interrelatedness into account.

For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to the [Operational Guidelines adopted on Article 13](#), Integration of culture in sustainable development.

In addition to measures, Parties shall report on whether and which indicators have been adopted in their country to evaluate the role and impact of culture in sustainable development policies and programmes.

2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

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Policy / measure 1

Name of policy / measure

Integrated approach in the development of cultural policies and inclusion of culture in national strategies, plans and programmes for poverty eradication, social inclusion, demographic development, for youth and for active aging for older people, regional development and rural areas, and others.

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
☒ participatory governance of culture ?	☒ inter-ministerial cooperation	☒ artists/creators
☒ economic empowerment through the cultural industries	☒ awareness-raising of the cultural dimension of development	☒ producers / distributors
☒ building inclusive and creative societies	☒ capacity-building for development actors	☒ cultural enterprises
☒ nurturing contemporary creativity and production of cultural expressions	☒ institution-building for viable cultural industries	☒ young people
☒ equitable access to cultural life and diverse expressions	☒ long-term financial investments	☒ women
☒ increased literacy of diversity and its expressions	☒ developing legal frameworks	☒ persons belonging to minorities
☐ other (please specify below)	☒ skills development / training	☒ indigenous peoples
	☒ networking/partnership development	☐ other (please specify below)
	☒ exchange of information and expertise	
	☒ indicator development / collection of data	
	☐ other (please specify below)	

a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

The main objective of the policy is to use culture as a resource for changing the quality of life, for decreasing poverty, mastering new knowledge and skills, encouraging creativity, as a precondition for social realization, access to cultural heritage, to cultural commodities and services.

b) How has it been implemented?

The Ministry of Culture implements 8 programmes – for cultural heritage, for stage arts, for libraries, for community cultural centers, international activities, etc. In the last two years a reform was implemented in stage arts increasing the number of visitors, of productions, of consumption in theaters, and thus increasing the income in the sector. For community cultural centers it is characteristic that as a result of the state financial support they maintain activities with lower fees than those of private schools, they offer price discounts and free services for disadvantaged people. The same policy shall be applied in all spheres of culture. Special attention is brought to the application of measures related to culture and art training of people with special educational needs. The measures so introduced include physical access to the buildings of schools of arts and culture, improvements in the legislation governing the admission of children with disabilities, provision of resource teachers. There is a special program for giving scholarships to talented children. Another important measure is the provision of accessible environment of cultural sites. Improved internet access through public libraries allows people to get informed about the labor market as well. Informal learning, life-long learning opportunities increase people's chances of personal realization and social inclusion.

2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

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Which public agency(ies) is (are)
responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Ministry of Culture; Regional History Museums; Theatres; Operas and Philharmonic orchestras; Libraries; Municipal Cultural Departments;

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated
to ensure implementation?

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

The challenge is to develop programmes that help the implementation of measures for social policy in the field of culture and in the activity of the cultural institutions to enable them to meet the needs of the population of cultural products and participation in creative processes

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

? Local ☒ Regional ☒ National ☒ International ☒

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, what was the impact :

The free education at secondary schools and reduced training fees in the community cultural centres ("chitalishta") provide benefits for large families, children from poor families, ethnic communities (many of them - from the Roma ethnic community), lonely elderly people, women, and people with disabilities. In the schools of arts and culture, nowadays, 26 children with disabilities are trained. Government grants that receive gifted students, support the process of their preparation for a better career. Over the past two years the Ministry of Culture has signed 32 new projects for rehabilitation of cultural institutions' buildings covering the requirement for accessible architectural environment. Programmes of the Ministry of Culture supported numerous regional, national and international festivals and competitions, for manifestation and discovery of talented young people, for intercultural interactions, for the promotion and development of the diversity of cultural expressions.

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

The indicators are the number of people that accessed and used services in the field of culture, the number of participants in cultural activities, the number of children who received scholarships, the number of modernized facilities, the number of supported activities of cultural institutions within programmes developed by the Ministry of Culture.

2.4 Protecting cultural expressions under threat

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The purpose of this section is to report on public policies, measures and actions taken by Parties to protect cultural expressions that are determined to be under threat. This is only in the event when a Party has previously identified a special situation  under [Article 8.2 of the Convention](#).

For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to the [Operational Guidelines adopted on Articles 8 and 17](#) on measures to protect cultural expressions at risk or in need of urgent safeguarding.

2.4 Protecting cultural expressions under threat

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Have you identified a special situation under Article 8.2 of the Convention? 

No ☒ Yes ☐

If no, please proceed to Section 3.

If yes, can the special situation be subject to action under other UNESCO Conventions (for instance, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage)?

No ☐ Yes ☐

If yes, please proceed to Section 3.

If no, please answer the questions below.

Special situation **1**

Name of the cultural expression

Please describe the risk or threat to the cultural expression and the source of the threat, inter alia, with factual data

Please determine the vulnerability and importance of the cultural expression at risk

Please determine the nature of the consequences of the risk or threat to the cultural expression, and demonstrate the nature of the cultural consequences

Please explain the measures taken or proposed to remedy the special situation:

Short-term and
emergency
measures

Long-term
strategies

Has your country provided assistance to other Parties, technical or financial, to remedy a special situation determined under Article 8 of the Convention?

No ☐ Yes ☐

If yes, please describe:

3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

(Estimate: 1500 words)

Page 18

Parties have acknowledged the fundamental role of civil society  in protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and have committed to encourage their active participation in activities, designed to achieve the objectives of this Convention.

The purpose of this section is to report on what Parties are doing to involve civil society in their activities, what resources they are providing to ensure their involvement, and what results have been achieved.

It is also designed to engage civil society in reporting on what they have done to implement the Convention as per their roles and responsibilities outlined in [Article 11 of the Convention](#) and its [Operational Guidelines](#).

3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

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3.1. Parties

Parties are to provide information on how they have involved civil society in activities such as:

- promoting the objectives of the Convention through awareness-raising and other activities

National public expert and advisory councils are created under the Ministry of Culture and operate for each direction in the field of culture. Members of the councils are civil society representatives, representatives of academies, NGOs, and additional experts are invited, if necessary. The councils are discussing and proposing measures to overcome problems, elaborating new policies / measures.

- collecting data and sharing and exchanging information on measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions within their territories and at the international level

The Ministry of Culture collects data on measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions in the annual reporting of activities, upon records provided by the National Statistics Institute, upon registers which are maintained in the field of culture as well as upon data provided by international implementation of the Convention by activities of different formats of Council of Ministers of Culture, international cooperation, etc.

- developing policies while providing spaces where the ideas of civil society can be heard and discussed

The policies developed by the Ministry of Culture are implemented through programmes supporting the activities of museums and galleries, libraries, theatres, schools of arts and culture, community cultural centres ("chitalishta"), and NGOs working in the field of culture. The civil society views and proposals are discussed during workshops, conferences, forums, etc. organized by the Ministry of Culture to improve policies.

- implementing operational guidelines

The Ministry of Culture provides methodological assistance in the elaboration of regional and municipal development plans in order to synchronize efforts to implement measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

- other

Organizing of press conferences, media campaigns, entering information into the WEB Site of the Ministry of Culture, publishing books, brochures, advertising materials, etc.

3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

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3.2. Civil society

Civil Society may provide information on activities they are pursuing such as:

- promoting the objectives and principles of the Convention within their territories and in the international fora

Professional unions, Union of community cultural centres (“chitalishta”), directors and professors in Schools of Arts and Culture as well as NGOs are the main partners of the Ministry of Culture in promoting the objectives and principles of the Convention throughout the territory of the country, and in international fora.

- promoting ratification of the Convention and its implementation by governments

The Civil Society is not only a consumer but an active participant in policy making and development of measures to implement the Convention.

- bringing the concerns of citizens, associations and enterprises to public authorities

Problems in implementing policies and measures under the Convention are presented and discussed at meetings of the National Councils already mentioned, and where appropriate, working groups are established to propose changes in policies, including legislation.

- contributing to the achievement of greater transparency and accountability in the governance of culture

The Civil Society in Bulgaria is increasingly developing its functions to remedy the policies implemented.

- monitoring policy and programme implementation on measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions

The professional unions of creators, the Association of Library Workers, the Association of Bulgarian book, the Union of Bulgarian cultural centres (“chitalishta”), and NGOs monitor the policy for implementation of the Convention.

- other

Civil society may also wish to share information on:

- activities they have planned for the next four years to implement the Convention

The Union of community centres (“chitalishta”) apply for membership in the European network of cultural centres for international exchange of cultural values, ideas, and development of creative processes in a new environment.

3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

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- main challenges encountered or foreseen and solutions found or envisaged to overcome those challenges

Please specify which civil society organizations contributed to this section of the Report:

Union of community cultural centres ("chitalishta")

4. Main achievements and challenges to the implementation of the Convention

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(Estimate: 1750 words)

Parties and other participating stakeholders are to share information on:

a) main results achieved in implementing the Convention

The most important achievement of the Republic of Bulgaria through the Ministry of Culture is that a policy of free exchange of ideas and interaction of cultures is conducted. This policy aims mainly at promoting cultural diversity and the diversity of cultural expressions. Measures are undertaken for protecting traditional forms of expression, including linguistic diversity, the ethnic cultures in the country. The policies are applied through integrated approach for gender equality and improving the status of women in society.

b) main challenges encountered or foreseen

One of the biggest challenges is the development of sustainable regional cultural policies that are part of strategic plans for regional development, according to their specificity and in accordance with national priorities. The challenge is implementing reforms in the system and the effect of these actions undertaken in performing arts. Analysis of results and contribution to the creative process will be made as well as of the impact on the creative process and the consumption of finished productions in theatres

c) solutions found or envisaged to overcome those challenges

Currently the Ministry of Culture has 28 working groups with experts from other ministries, NGOs, professors from universities, academies of arts and scientists from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, whose task is to prepare a draft National Strategy for Development of Bulgarian Culture and Arts up to 2020.

d) steps planned for the next four years towards implementation of the Convention and priority activities to be undertaken during that period

As a first step an Action Plan will be developed for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Culture and Arts. The National Strategy (still in draft) has found its place in the National Programme for the development of Bulgaria 2020, whose first version is ready. The Ministry of Culture is actively involved in developing the Programme Priority 3: Sustainable Development - use of local potential, which is reflected in the existing cultural infrastructure, including the diversity of cultural expressions, considered as a rich asset for individuals and local communities.

Date and Signature Information

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Date when report was prepared

2012/05/21

Name of the designated official(s) signing the report

Title	First name	Family name	Organization	Position
Mrs.	Deyana	DANAIOVA	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria	Director of "Cultural Policy" Directorate

(!) To be completed on the printed copy

Date of signature

Signature